

– ICELANDIC NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY –

Policy for retroactive digitization and preservation of digital objects

The National and University Library of Iceland intends to provide improved access to Icelandic collections owned by the Library by:

- systematic retroactive digitization,
- collecting and receiving published digital material,
- preserving digital material for the future,
- making the digital collections available through the Web.

The development of the Icelandic National Digital Library serves three goals:

1. **Dissemination of Icelandic cultural heritage** to the fullest extent possible by making it available beyond the walls of the Library. This will be done in full cooperation with those that hold the copyright to the material.
2. **Preservation for the future** of original material collected by the Library in physical or digital form, digital material created by retroactive digitization and material harvested from the Web. When possible use of the original material will be minimized and a digital copy used instead.
3. **Service to the users** wherever they are at all hours. The Library will also make an effort to facilitate the location of a digital document by linking it to cataloguing posts, e.g. in Gegnir, the nationwide library system. In order to provide easier access for foreign users the user interfaces will be both in Icelandic and English.

Procedures

The retroactive digitization will follow accepted standards, procedures and methods. The digital material will in general be accessible to the public through the Library's websites without charge. Still there will be cases where access will only be allowed within the library.

The OAI/PMH (Open Archives Initiative / Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) methods will be used to facilitate federated search in all the Library's digital collections irrespective of cataloguing methods, and to enable the Library to exchange metadata with its co-operation partners like The European Library (TEL) and Europeana.

To facilitate search in text material all printed text will be made computer readable by using OCR (Optical Character Recognition).

For preservation purposes at least two copies are made and one is stored with a certified company outside the Library.

In order to obtain these objectives, the Library has divided the digitization projects into several defined units. The progress depends on the financial contribution to the projects.

Material now available in digital form and accessible on the Web

- **Antique Maps of Iceland;** all maps of Iceland published before 1900, see: <http://kort.bok.hi.is/>
- **Sagnanet;** manuscripts containing the Icelandic Sagas and related literature as well as books and journals related to the topic, see: <http://sagnanet.is/>
- **Newspapers and Journals;** all Icelandic newspapers and journals published from the beginning to 1920 as well as several newspapers and journals published in the 20th century, see: <http://www.timarit.is/>

Current and planned projects

- **Newspapers and Journals;** it is estimated that before the end of 2009 retroactive digitization of all Icelandic newspapers published before 2000 will be completed.
- **The Icelandic Web;** the complete Icelandic web (.is) and web material related to Iceland has been systematically harvested three times a year since late 2004. The material is preserved but access is not provided. That is being worked on.
- **Reception of Documents in PDF-form;** in the near future the Library plans to receive both newspapers and books in PDF-form.
- **Books and Manuscripts;** individual books and manuscripts have been digitized but are not available to the public.
- **Manuscripts;** The Icelandic Literary Society (Reykjavík Branch) manuscript collection (280 manuscripts and about 80.000 pages) will be digitized.
- **Oral History;** interviews and tales collected by The Centre for Oral History have been digitized. A small sample is accessible to the public.

Future projects for retroactive digitization

- All Icelandic books published before 1900 (about 1,600 books; about 400,000 pages).
- All Icelandic books published 1900–1949 (about 13,000 books; about 2,000,000 pages).
- Books published 1950–2000.
- The manuscript collection (about 13,500 manuscripts; about 3,600,000 pages).
- Icelandic journals and local newspapers published 1920–2000.
- Maps published 1900–2000.
- Posters and other graphic material.
- The music collection.