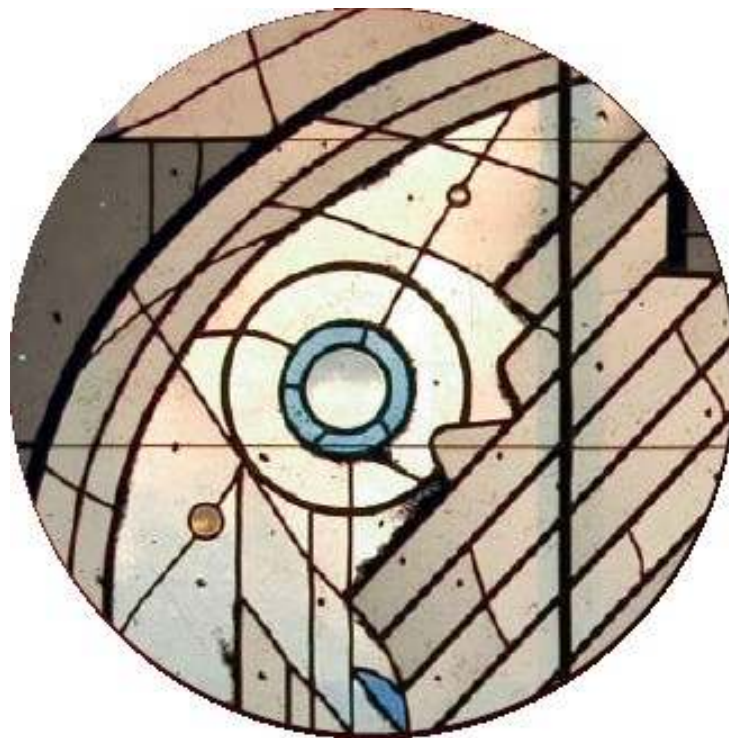


Access to Knowledge for Everyone

Policy for the National and University Library of Iceland

2009 – 2012



**National and University
Library of Iceland**

Board of the National and University Library of Iceland

Hörður Sigurðsson, chairman

Rögnvaldur Ólafsson

Eydís Arnviðardóttir

Birna Arnbjörnsdóttir

Jóhanna Einarsdóttir

Magnús Jónsson

National Librarian

Ingibjörg Steinunn Sverrisdóttir

Policy Group

Áki G. Karlsson

Bryndís Ísaksdóttir

Hafþís H. Vilhjálmsson

Halldóra Þorsteinsdóttir

Ívar Jónsson

Kristinn Sigurðsson

Ragna Steinarsdóttir

Vigdís Edda Jónsdóttir

Örn Hrafnkelsson

Consultants from Stjórnhættir ehf.

Sigurður H. Helgason

Hólmfríður Sveinsdóttir

Reykjavík

National and University Library of Iceland

June 2009

Cover: Part of the art work *The Human Spirit: Past – Present – Future*, by Leifur Breiðfjörð, created for the inauguration of the National and University Library of Iceland in 1994

Access to Knowledge for Everyone
Policy for the National and University Library of Iceland
2009 – 2012

FOREWORD

A new strategy for the National and University Library of Iceland was worked out during the winter of 2008-2009. In autumn 2008, the Library's board, which is legally responsible for creating strategy, decided to base it on broad consultation, the aim being to produce a comprehensive strategy for the coming years, both as a guideline for the Library's activities and as a flexible instrument to accommodate change and developments. The strategy focuses mainly on the following principal points: services to the Library's users, electronic solutions, the harvesting and preservation of digital materials and collaboration with other parties active in the same sphere. The strategy is based on the Library's previous strategy, *Þekkingarveita á Norðurlóð (A Knowledge Resource in the North)*, dating from 2003, when a new organizational chart for the Library was presented.

CHANGES

Great changes have taken place in the Library's environment in recent years. The university environment has been completely transformed; including the merger of the University of Iceland and the College of Education in 2008. The Library legislation has been reviewed, and a new bill was presented to the Althingi in autumn 2008; this has not been passed as yet. Contents of the bill were taken into account in preparing the new strategy, but if the bill is revised the strategy will have to be revised accordingly. Technological changes are constantly taking place in the Library's environment which affects working methods and procedures, and acquisitions are made in new ways and via new media. Holdings of digital material account for an ever greater proportion of the whole, which makes it vital to develop the Library websites in order to maintain and broaden access. In addition, the Library is obliged to provide efficient quality electronic services in accordance with the government's strategy on the information society, *Netrikið Ísland (Iceland, the e-Nation)*.

ELECTRONIC DISSEMINATION

Two of the main pillars of the Library's online services are joint projects involving other Icelandic libraries. One of these, the online catalogue Gegnir, is operated by the Icelandic Library Consortium, but the Library contributes a large amount of the work involved. The other is the Iceland Consortium for Electronic Subscriptions, hvar.is, which the Library runs under a service contract with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Other aspects of online services which have undergone extensive development in recent years include digitisation and dissemination of Icelandic materials, such as

periodicals and newspapers (timarit.is), antique maps of Iceland (kort.bok.hi.is), Icelandic medieval literature (sagnanet.is) and the web harvesting of the national domain .is. Attention must be given in the coming years to the development of new services including the collection and dissemination of digital materials and taking the first steps on the long-term preservation of such materials.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES

The Library has established eight goals corresponding to its strategy and guidelines for the future. For each goal three courses of action have been defined and within those smaller units with definite milestones for their progress and completion. The next step is to tie the new strategy to the Library's yearly project plan and begin implementation.

Reykjavik, June 22, 2009

Ingibjörg Steinunn Sverrisdóttir
National Librarian



ROLE	<p>The National and University Library of Iceland is a source of knowledge for everyone. It serves the Icelandic community in all areas of reference and academic discipline and plays a leading role in the collection, preservation and dissemination of information, thus making a vigorous contribution to culture, research and creative work.</p>	ROLE
------	---	------

ABOUT THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF ICELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Library is both Iceland's national library and that of the University of Iceland. ▶ It makes many kinds of data available both on its own websites and also through collaborative projects including Gegnir and the Iceland Consortium for Electronic Subscriptions. ▶ It provides library and information services for the educational, scientific, business, administrative and cultural sectors. ▶ The Library building offers good study facilities for scholars and students. ▶ Library staff provide both scholars and the general public with guidance and assistance in finding information and using the Library's holdings. ▶ The Library is a legal deposit library and collects for preservation all materials defined in the Icelandic Legal Deposit Act. ▶ The Library's holdings include most items that have been published in Iceland, such as books, journals, maps, sound recordings, films and digital materials, and also manuscripts and private archives, in addition to many foreign academic books and journals. ▶ The Library runs a range of educational and cultural activities including exhibitions, courses, conferences and lectures, both on the premises and via various web applications. ▶ The Library participates in developmental projects both in Iceland and abroad relating to the collection, preservation and dissemination of materials.
--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Library should play a leading role in innovation and development in the preservation and dissemination of digital materials. ▶ The Library should be in the forefront of moves to open access to digital materials for the public. ▶ The Library should aim to have all public Icelandic cultural databases accessible via a single web portal. ▶ The Library should take an active part in the work and development of the University of Iceland. ▶ The Library should take the initiative on developing formal partnerships with interested parties, including other universities. ▶ The Library should further consolidate its position as a knowledge centre by participating in, and exploiting, the development of the web. 	FUTURE VISION
--	---------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Initiative ▶ Development and creativity ▶ Ambition and professionalism ▶ Collaboration 	VALUES
---	--------

STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To develop and expand online services and improve access to the Library's holdings.
 - ▶ By ensuring that electronic services are a fundamental element in the Library's operations and that its staff is in the forefront in developing knowledge and skills in this field.
 - ▶ By ensuring that foreign scientific and academic materials are accessible via the Iceland Consortium for Electronic Subscriptions, special subscriptions or smaller consortia.
 - ▶ By forming closer links with the Icelandic Library Consortium, supporting Gegnir and taking steps to integrate Icelandic data sources.
2. To expand acquisition and cataloguing.
 - ▶ By developing digital repositories and stepping up the acquisition and cataloguing of digital materials.
 - ▶ By further developing web harvesting and making Icelandic web materials available.
 - ▶ By formulating strategy on the collection and processing of private archives.
3. To stimulate retroactive digitisation.
 - ▶ By increasing the retroactive digitisation of the Library's holdings both for dissemination and preservation.
 - ▶ By ensuring that older digital materials are updated and restructured.
 - ▶ By taking the initiative on more open access to copyright materials.
4. To ensure long-term preservation.
 - ▶ By formulating strategy on the long-term preservation of digital materials.
 - ▶ By establishing repositories for the long-term storage of digital materials and ensuring the effectiveness of methods of preservation.
 - ▶ By formulating strategy on the conservation and preservation of the Library's older holdings.
5. To enter into closer collaboration with the University of Iceland and other users.
 - ▶ By ensuring active participation in the work and development of the University of Iceland and other universities.
 - ▶ By building up collaborative networks and improving the Library's image and contact between it and the general public.
 - ▶ By stimulating greater cooperation and joint financing of projects.
6. To expand services.
 - ▶ By raising the Library users' skills and ability to handle IT resources.
 - ▶ By increasing the dissemination of information about the Library and its holdings.
 - ▶ By streamlining and improving user services.
7. To raise efficiency levels in organization and operations.
 - ▶ By assessing the efficiency of the current organizational chart and clarifying the delegation of decision-making.
 - ▶ By reviewing the usefulness of the various professional divisions and the results they achieve, and by raising the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of working procedures.
 - ▶ By raising the effectiveness of project schedules and improving project management.
8. To ensure that the Library continues to be sought after as a workplace.
 - ▶ By encouraging members of the staff to show initiative and by increasing consultation and the flow of information.
 - ▶ By promoting more effective retraining, job mobility and interpersonal communication.
 - ▶ By formulating strategy and establishing frames of reference to assess research done within the Library.

