

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY OF ICELAND



The Library staff on 6 May 2010.

National and University Library of Iceland: ANNUAL REPORT 2009.

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

Other photographs in this report were taken on various occasions during the centenary year, e.g. at the opening of exhibitions, donation of manuscripts to the Library and at meetings.

The photographs were taken by the staff of the Library's photographic unit.

FOREWORD FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN



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.

The bank crash in 2008 and the ensuing recession had serious consequences for the Library. Its budget allocation was cut by 6.5%, and with a weaker exchange rate, foreign materials have doubled in price. Funding for the main purchase item, the National Access, was secured for 2009 and 2010, and in consultation with the Ministry it was decided to enter into three-year contracts with publishers.

Attempts to streamline and cut back operational outlays have produced a positive operating balance. Positions falling vacant have not been filled except where strictly necessary, which has reduced staffing positions by three and a half; shiftwork has been restructured, all purchasing has been scrutinized, trips abroad have been cut down, etc. The aim has been to keep staff in employment and maintain service levels.

One of last year's main tasks involved drawing up and adopting a new policy. This was approved in May under the title *Access to Knowledge for Everyone: Policy for the National and University Library of Iceland, 2009 – 2012*. I should like to thank the many individuals who were involved in this work.

To mark the Library's 15th anniversary on 1 December, a celebration was held, with a presentation of the Centre for Oral History and the launch of the electronic database *Skemman*.

TARGET AGREEMENT

Under the performance targets agreed in 2005 between the Library and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, the main emphasis has been on the Library's role as an information provider. A meeting with the Ministry was held in February to examine the main points of the agreement. The focus is on the Library's roles as a *digital national library* and a *digital research library*. Work was done on the following tasks under these headings during the year.

DIGITAL NATIONAL LIBRARY

Digitization of Icelandic materials

The state budget for 2007 included three years' funding for the digitization of Icelandic newspapers. This work, which was done mostly in Akureyri, continued last year and ended in March 2010. Funding was sought to digitize the Official Gazette, the Law and Ministerial Gazette and regional newspapers in Akureyri, but it was not granted. Applications for sponsored projects have secured funding for work in Akureyri until autumn 2010. The total number of digitized pages now available on *timarit.is* is now c. 3.3 (2.6) million, and scanned (OCR) pages have now reached nearly 3.2 (2.0) million; this technology makes textual searches possible. Digitization of manuscripts from the Reykjavík division of the Icelandic Literary Society (ÍBR) began last year, and work continued on the manuscript site *handrit.is* in collaboration with the Árni Magnússon Institutes in Reykjavík and Copenhagen. A 'beta' version of the site is open, with formal opening set for 2010. Preparations were started for a website of digitized books.

Harvesting of Icelandic websites

Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Minister of Education, Science and Culture, opened the Icelandic web archive, *vefsafn.is*, on 29 September. Searches by web addresses (URL) are possible in this initial version, but work will continue on further search facilities. Icelandic websites have been harvested regularly since 2004. A copy of the web archive is hosted at Skýrr. It currently contains about 1,000 (450) million documents, and there were 26,609 (23,000) websites at the end of 2009. The quantity of data is 15.6 (10.0) terabytes, with a back-up copy. Iceland is the first country in the world to give the public

access to material harvested from its national domain. The web archive is expected to be of great reference value e.g. for historians and journalists in the future.

Reception of Icelandic digital material

Preparations went ahead for the reception of digital material; the Library now receives digital material in pdf format for preservation via the e-mail *tgogn@bok.hi.is*. Material is also collected from certain parties, and some have made contracts providing for automatic deposit as soon as materials are generated. The Centre for Oral History opened in the Library in 2007. Its digital materials are housed on the Library's servers. The Minister opened a catalogue of its contents on 1 December; this is available on *munlegsaga.is*. The Library took over the operation of *Skemman*, an open-access collection of final-year student dissertations and staff research papers. *Skemman.is* is in a Dspace repository, an open-source database. It began as a collaborative venture between the University of Akureyri and the College of Education, and now the University of Iceland, Bifröst, the College of Agriculture and the Icelandic Academy of the Arts have joined in. At the end of the year it held 3,952 works by 4,645 authors. Another Dspace database was set up at the end of the year to house Icelandic legal deposit materials that are born digital.

DIGITAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

National Access

Discount terms for materials under the National Access (NA) for 2009 were negotiated to offset the weakening of the ISK in the economic crash, and funding was secured for 2009 and 2010 in collaboration with the Ministry. Future funding remains to be secured. New contracts were made with publishers at the end of 2009 covering 2010-12. Few changes were made to materials under the NA, save that *ProQuest 500* is to be replaced by *Proquest Central*, offering considerably more material for the same price. In a collaborative venture between the Library and the Icelandic Library Consortium, the SFX link solver was installed for the NA and the nationwide university system, opening on-line access to periodicals in the NA and the individual institutions' libraries. Simultaneous searches are now possible in the subscription titles of the individual institutions and the NA. The use of these databases is constantly growing.

The Library's websites

A review of the Library's websites is in progress, aimed at harmonizing their design, interactivity and facilitating easier navigation between them. The review takes account of the priorities identified in a survey of webs in Icelandic public institutions by the company *Sjá ehf*, and applies the WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) regarding access by people with disabilities and impaired vision. The main web was opened in its revised version in March, as was a web covering Icelandic doctoral theses, updated in accordance with the new design theme of the Library's webs. The web archive was opened in September with the new design. The version of *Skemman* that was opened in April will be reviewed next year.

Open Access

Since 2006 the Library has participated in Nordbib, a four-year Nordic project to finance open access to scientific and research data. This will end in 2010 and a possible continuation is under examination. An open-access web periodical produced in Open Journal Systems, *ScieCom Info*, has been developed in order to make scientific material available on the internet. It is supported by Nordbib as a forum for Nordic and Baltic academic interchange, with the emphasis on OA. Some articles from Iceland have been published there. The week 19-23 October was dedicated to Open Access in research libraries all over the world, the aim being to draw attention to the need for unrestricted access to these materials; the OA concept is becoming increasingly popular. Information about OA was put on the Library's website, with links to further materials. Open Access was presented at a meeting of the Science Council in November.

This report gives an account of the main projects carried out over the year at the Library, with statistics reflecting performance, key figures covering operations and the main figures from the financial statements.

Ingibjörg Steinunn Sverrisdóttir
National Librarian

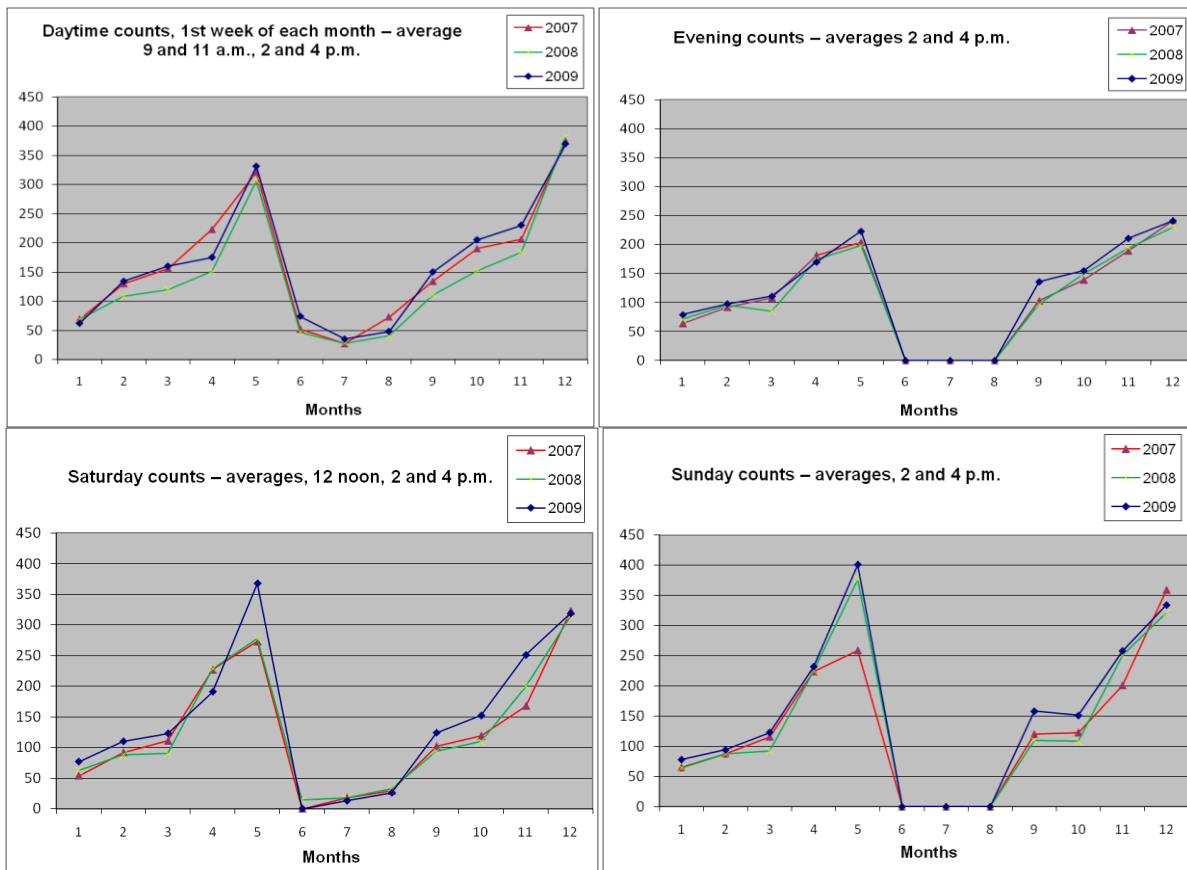
KEY STATISTICS

At the end of each year, statistics are processed covering the number of Library users and the services provided, and also the Library's holdings, acquisitions and various aspects of its operations, such as the work of the Photographic Unit and the Bookbinding Room, staffing levels and the Library's financial position. Some changes have been introduced to the presentation of these statistics, with the aim of simplifying them and bringing them into line with changes in operations.

USERS AND SERVICES

Library users include both those who visit the Library and those who make use of its websites. Guests using the Manuscript Department and National Department reading room are counted; precise counts of other users are not feasible, but surveys are made of users of the open access areas on the 3rd and 4th floors in the first week of each month. On weekdays during the university examination season, their numbers can reach up to 400.

GUESTS USING 3RD AND 4TH FLOORS, 2007-2009



WEBSITE USAGE

	Users		Pages opened	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
timarit.is (Digitized newspapers and journals)	93,348	163,545	1,811,484	4,654,560
landsbokasafn.is (Main Library website)	137,845	141,692	690,328	580,316
skemman.is (Final-year student dissertations)		67,774		673,272
vefsafn.is (Archived web pages)		17,143		205,711
doktor.bok.hi.is (Icelandic doctoral theses)	14,064	16,342	52,832	52,974
utgafuskra.is (Icelandic national bibliography)	10,343	11,844	22,990	24,982
jonashallgrimsson.is (The poet Jónas H.)	10,294	11,206	51,300	44,591
kort.bok.hi.is (Antique maps of Iceland)	13,982	8,275	103,541	76,657
sagnanet.is (Medieval Icelandic manuscripts)	8,710	8,001	21,490	18,774
hask.bok.hi.is (Cataloguers' handbook)	3,693	3,113	75,202	59,613
kvennasogusafn.is (Women's history archive)	2,326	1,436	9,849	6,019
hvar.is (National Access)	91,840	93,524	300,835	299,830
Total	386,445	543,895	3,139,851	6,697,299

Statistics on use of the Library are derived from data from Modernus, which monitors the use of more than 100 Icelandic websites. The Library maintains eleven webs. Hvar.is is the web of the National Access to digitized databases and journals. The web archive Vefsafn.is and Skemman were added in 2009.

Use of all the webs except Skemman and Vefsafn.is in 2008 and 2009 can be compared from the above table. Excluding these two new webs, total usage rose by about 20%, the increase being mainly due to a rise of 40% in the use of timarit.is over the period. Including Skemman and Vefsafn.is, the increase was about 35%.

USE OF DIGITAL JOURNALS AND DATABASES

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Articles downloaded via the National Access ¹	722,139	850,871	837,105	892,277
Articles downloaded from Morgunblaðið. ²	51,655	58,000	625,525	667,546
Articles downloaded via special subscriptions ³			18,300	18,682
Articles downloaded, total	773,794	908,871	1,480,930	1,578,505

LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Students at the University of Iceland	3,229	2,889	3,268	5,079
University and Library staff	578	606	933	1,005
Other students	889	799	715	843
Other borrowers	1,099	924	963	1,087
Total	5,795	5,218	5,879	8,014

¹ Further information on the use of the digitized databases can be found in the annual report of the National Access on the website hvar.is.

² It has proved difficult to obtain reliable information on usage from some of the suppliers of materials to the National Access. The leap in the use of the Morgunblaðið archive (material 3 years old and older, available via the National Access) as compared with 2007 is explained by the fact that it was discovered late in 2007 that only a fraction of these downloads had been included in the count. This was corrected, which, together with various other changes made by Árvakur (Morgunblaðið's publisher), explains the increase. If use of the Morgunblaðið archive is ignored, the increase in downloads via the National Access during the year was 6.6%.

³ Figures on the use of the University's special subscriptions cover only part of the webs, and statistics are not available for them all.

READING ROOM FOR MANUSCRIPT AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS

Visitors	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total	8,120	7,270	7,010	7,350

CIRCULATION

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Circulation department – main Library and departmental libraries				
Students at the University of Iceland	40,913	39,751	38,916	45,436
University and Library staff	7,989	8,175	8,095	8,505
Other students	5,480	5,183	4,212	5,025
Other borrowers	8,335	8,767	9,374	8,760
Total	62,717	61,876	60,597	67,729
National Department materials used in the Reading Room	9,668	8,812	9,323	9,444
Manuscripts used in the Reading Room	3,097	2,968	3,344	3,868
Audio-visual Collection				
Sound recordings - loans	129	213	103	48
Films and related materials - loans	887	910	904	1,170
Digital materials - loans	46	110	121	56
Printed music - loans (first counted 2008)			244	100
Films and related materials used <i>in situ</i>	811	856	312	257
Sound recordings used <i>in situ</i>	677	667	280	174
Total	15,315	14,536	14,631	15,117
Total loans	78,032	76,412	75,228	82,846

INTER-LIBRARY LENDING

	2006	2007	2008	2009
To the Library				
Books, films, etc.	1,112	1,093	1,062	1,237
Photocopies	2,237	1,452	1,388	1,130
From the Library				
Books, films, etc.	517	595	662	652
Photocopies	957	795	888	914
Total	4,823	3,935	3,994	3,933
To the Manuscript Department	43	23	20	24
From the Manuscript Department	36	154	71	90
Manuscript Department, total	79	177	91	114
Inter-library loans, total	4,902	4,112	4,085	4,021

PRINTING AND COPYING BY LIBRARY USERS

Number of pages	2006	2007	2008	2009
Printed	194,227	196,412	322,656	403,526
Photocopied	467,602	363,758	372,821	455,213

REFERENCE SERVICES

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of users attending training courses				
Basic introd. courses for UI staff/students	1,190	1,221	1,051	1,490
Advanced courses for UI staff/students	680	827	768	1,037
Others	104	356	195	159
Total	1,974	2,404	2,014	2,686
Number of training courses				
Basic introd. courses for UI staff/students	41	29	44	36
Advanced courses for UI staff/students	43	47	58	54
Others	8	21	11	17
Total	92	97	113	107
Pamphlets				
New	5	2	2	5
Re-issued	37	39	12	25
Total	42	41	14	30
Enquiries handled	2006	2007	2008	2009
Reference department				
By e-mail	326	498	423	607
By phone or in person	101	98	91	214
Extensive reference searches	27	25	25	30
Audio-visual Collection	60	53	21	29
National Department		31	42	32
Total	514	705	602	912



The Library's first book vacuum cleaner, which was on view in an exhibition marking the Library's 100th anniversary.

COLLECTIONS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

ACQUISITIONS

Items received under legal deposit ⁴	2006	2007	2008	2009
Books (printed works registered as books)	6,227	6,325	7,794	7,349
Periodicals (individual issues)	8,352	9,131	8,626	8,598
Newspapers (individual issues)	7,913	9,601	7,602	5,592
Annual reports	883	648	580	630
Posters	579	897	583	456
Maps	51	98	77	68
Printed ephemera	9,000	8,660	9,560	9,000
Sound recordings ⁵	870	887	680	750
Video tapes and DVDs ⁶	39	52	72	72
Audio books	215	120	31	120
Multimedia discs/computer data			2	3
Digital materials (PDF-files)				2,492
Web archiving – documents (thousands)	2006	2007	2008	2009
The Icelandic web domain	80,448	77,495	153,540	228,886
Weekly selected archiving	22,960	42,640	49,289	93,088
Event-related collections	19,282	25,871	0	36,658
Total documents (thousands)	122,690	145,946	202,829	358,632
Other acquisitions	2006	2007	2008	2009
Books, purchased	2,275	3,085	2,923	1,837
Books, donations/exchanges	3,507	3,029	3,534	3,829
Foreign periodicals, subs. paid by Library	820	758	737	624
Foreign periodicals, subs. paid by UI inst.	50	50	56	52
Foreign periodicals, donations/exchanges	720	680	550	500
Periodicals, back-numbers (volumes)	250	387	175	129
Icelandic periodicals, purchased	88	103	124	123
Icelandic periodicals, donated	30	35	45	47
Sound recordings, purchased ⁷	165	93	58	88
Sound recordings, donated	9	30	2	12
Video tapes and DVDs, purchased	146	146	264	291
Video tapes and DVDs, donated	36	122	122	21
Acquisitions by Manuscript Department	68	55	41	61

⁴ The three copies of books, newspapers, audio discs and multimedia discs that are preserved in the Library; it also preserves two copies of printed ephemera and posters. The figures for ephemera are estimates.

⁵ Altogether 257 titles; in most cases 3 copies of each are received, one of which is preserved in the Akureyri Provincial Library (Amtsbókasafnið á Akureyri). This figure includes 134 published privately by individuals, choirs, orchestras or bands.

⁶ Titles.

⁷ 67 titles, including 64 in the category *Islandica extranea*.

PHOTOGRAPHIC UNIT

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Microfilms (newspapers) ⁸	0	111	0	0
Digital images (pages)				
- Newspapers and periodicals	385,201	531,508	651,436	543,777
- Books	1,794	120	4,136	7,807
- Manuscripts	11,178	3,037	16,697	82,335
Total pages	398,173	533,655	672,269	633,919

BINDING SERVICES

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Units	41,805	41,030	42,908	54,865

ISSN AND ISBN

	2006	2007	2008	2009
ISSN (International Standard Serial Numbers)				
ISSNs assigned	80	78	41	41
ISBN (International Standard Book Numbers)				
Registrant element ranges assigned	32	63	74	63
Individual ISBNs assigned	111	165	178	113

AVERAGE FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT STAFF PER UNIT⁹

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Librarian's Office	6.00	6.00	7.50	8.50
Operation of Library premises	4.25	4.00	4.25	4.25
Programming and Computer Services	3.50	4.00	4.00	5.00
Manuscript Department	7.15	6.75	5.00	5.00
National Department	20.58	21.15	20.75	18.03
Book Binding and Conservation Department	5.00	4.00	4.00	4.10
Women's History Archive	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Photographic Unit	4.17	5.17	4.67	4.67
Reserve Copy Collection	1.00	1.00	0.70	0.80
Circulation Department	17.65	17.20	19.16	18.17
Reference (information) Department	11.00	11.00	9.70	8.20
National Access	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Departmental Libraries	1.40	1.03	1.25	0.80
Total full-time-equivalent positions	83.70	82.30	82.98	79.52
Personnel by category (man-years)	2006	2007	2008	2009
Qualified librarians	32.40	28.90	30.05	25.60
Librarians with university degrees	23.78	24.20	22.00	27.23
Other librarians	12.10	15.13	14.01	10.87
Assistants and office staff	7.42	7.77	8.52	7.92
Other staff	8.00	6.30	8.40	7.90
Total full-time-equivalent positions	83.70	82.30	82.98	79.52

⁸ The Library stopped producing microfilm copies of its holdings in 2005; the copies made in 2007 were in response to orders from abroad.

⁹ At the beginning of the year, responsibility for exhibitions was transferred from the Manuscript Department, and responsibility for website maintenance from the Reference Department to the National Librarian's Office.

OPERATING EXPENSES (ISK '000)

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Payroll	344,731	367,001	407,999	404,475
Purchase of acquisitions	121,732	158,247	166,322	262,153
Other expenses	146,782	190,516	224,034	267,698
Total	613,245	715,764	798,355	934,326
Percentage breakdown	2006	2007	2008	2009
Payroll	56.2	51.3	51.1	43.3
Purchase of acquisitions	19.9	22.1	20.8	28.1
Other expenses	23.9	26.6	28.1	28.6

INCOME STATEMENT 2009 (ISK '000)

Income	2008	2009
University of Iceland's allocation for acquisitions	29,776	48,451
Fees for National Access to digital materials and periodicals	99,630	108,146
Other income	52,736	64,548
Government appropriation	635,938	725,874
Total	818,080	947,019
Expenses		
Payroll	407,999	404,475
Operation and maintenance of buildings	108,302	119,892
Purchase of acquisitions	43,695	70,344
National Access to Databases and electronic journals	122,727	191,809
Systems (Consortium of Icelandic Libraries, etc.)	18,351	19,359
Operation of computer systems and technical equipment	25,508	26,248
Other expenses	71,873	102,199
Total	798,355	934,326
Operating surplus	19,725	12,693



Happy staff.