

## **Library Search – a new service from the National Library**

### **1.**

The National Library is in the process of completing the first version of its new Library Search online service. This service is part of the National Library Strategy, presented by the Minister of Culture in August 2015.

Library Search first appeared in the Norwegian library strategy in 2006. At that time, the National Library started to produce a search tool for librarians for use in retrieving books from other libraries.

Library Search has been in operation since 2011, and until now it has been open only for inter-library loans. It has been relatively little used because the service has not been fully developed.

### **2.**

The Library Strategy presented by the Minister of Culture in the autumn of 2015 states that Library Search should be expanded and have new functions added.

The National Library's universal Library Search service will constitute a single gateway to all Norwegian library catalogues, make it possible to loan books from all libraries in Norway and give direct online access to literature that has been digitised by the National Library.

Library Search helps counteract inequalities between Norwegian libraries and provides all inhabitants with the same access to literature, irrespective of the size of their local library.

The National Library's depot will be the main supplier for Library Search. As a goal, all libraries should gradually be provided with the same bibliographic data from a single source.

Library Search should be developed into a gateway for the general public to Norwegian library collections. Here, the public will find material and be able to order a book to be delivered to the library closest to them.

### **3.**

The first solution was ready in the spring of 2017, and the service became operational in five counties. Now, the service is available in fourteen counties, but some are still excluded. When the service was introduced, we discovered many unsolved problems.

But first a little about technology: Catalogue data must be delivered to Library Search via the [OAI-PMH](#) protocol. This software ensures that bibliographic data from the library in question are made available to the system.

### **4.**

#### **Problems upon the introduction of Library Search**

New protocol for remote loans.

This protocol was new to the Norwegian libraries. In Norway, we have a number of large suppliers of library systems.

### **Differing systems in the libraries**

The university and academic libraries use the international Ex-Libris system. This system was implemented simultaneously with the development of Library Search.

In the public libraries, two systems dominate: Bibliofil, which is used by the majority, and Mikromarc, found mainly in smaller libraries. We quickly succeeded in installing the protocol in all of these three systems.

However, the cities of Stavanger and Kristiansand used an old system called Aleph, which could not use the protocol. Nor could the library in Oslo, which had created its own KOHA-based system, or Drammen, which has implemented the Axiell system.

As a result, four of the largest cities in Norway cannot access Library Search.

### **Differing data in the library catalogues**

The second major problem has consisted in de-duplicating metadata. In Library Search we have de-duplicated catalogue entries from numerous libraries, catalogue entries that in principle should have been identical, but nevertheless contain major discrepancies. The most common problem is that the same book appears with multiple titles. For example, titles such as:

- The Snow Man: crime fiction
- The Snow man – 1 WEEK LOAN
- The Snow Man – audiobook!

## **5**

### **Who can use Library Search?**

**Everybody** can use Library Search for as a search tool.

**The public** can use it for placing orders with their national library card, linked to a local public library. The national library card is a universal card that can be used in all public libraries in Norway. In addition, the national library card gives access to various online library services.

**All libraries** that deliver data to Library Search can use the service as a tool for remote loans.

## **6**

### **What can I find in Library Search?**

In Library Search you will mainly find the libraries' printed books, but audiobooks, video, etc. will also be included. As a rule, you will not find individual articles or parts of books and journals.

Another essential point is that Library Search provides access to books that the National Library has digitised. The National Library has digitised and made available all books published in Norway before 2000. All these books are available for reading in Norway. I am unable to demonstrate this here, because the service is inaccessible from abroad.

Nor are e-books included in Library Search. To loan e-books you will still need a separate service such as eBokBib, provided by Bibliotek-Systemer.

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#### **Loan procedures**

Library Search will always attempt to provide borrowers with the book closest to them.

If it is located in the local public library, the system will come up with this copy. If it is located in the neighbouring library, it will be retrieved from there.

If the book cannot be found in any of the nearby libraries, the order will be forwarded to the National Library's depot.

8.

#### **The road ahead for Library Search**

The current plan is to add new counties to Library Search in the autumn and launch the service nationwide early next year. In other words, Library Search will be fully implemented in 2019.

A service such as Library Search will never be completely error-free, partly due to variations between the catalogues in different libraries. The National Library will continuously seek to improve the service. We therefore depend on feedback from users and librarians reporting errors or omissions.

The National Library also aims to continue developing Library Search, adding new functions and services. Our goal must be to make all library content accessible with the aid of Library Search.

9.

Library Search shall provide a public gateway to the Norwegian library collections.

Library Search shall provide users with a fast delivery service and locally sourced documents.

[bibsok@nb.no](mailto:bibsok@nb.no).

**10.**

Thank you for your attention

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