



# A University Library for the future



UiO : **University of Oslo Library**



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# Foreword

An excellent university needs an excellent university library. The University of Oslo Library should help make our students more competent and our research better. Our contribution to this end is our knowledge sources and learning environment – and the associated services.

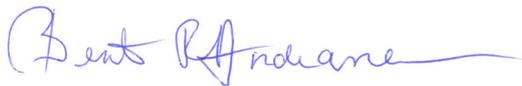
Our general strategy was drawn up in 2010 and runs to 2020. Much happens in five years. The University of Oslo Library is and will continue to be a proactive and relevant contributor to high standards. Our strategic aims will have to undergo continuous critical assessment. This leaflet links our strategies to a number of trends and developments

which are currently considered to be crucial: openness, growth, globalization and technology. Each of these trends is associated with a set of our strategic aims.

It is the University of Oslo's objective to strengthen its international position as a leading research university. It intends to offer higher education programmes based on leading research – and will disseminate research-based knowledge in dialogue with society.

We wish to highlight the University of Oslo Library's key role in enabling the university to achieve its aims and objectives.

Oslo, December 2015



Bente R. Andreassen  
*Library Director*



Petter Laake  
*Chairman of the Board*

# Openness

Increased openness is a global trend. In academia transparency and accessibility are important key words in this context.

The university will offer research and education programmes on a high international level, disseminate research results and cooperate with society's other actors.

Open Science will play an increasingly important role through Open Access, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), open data, open networks, more open disciplinary boundaries and interdisciplinary approaches.

## Strategic aims:

- Contribute to the implementation of the University's open access policy with respect to the institution's own research, and work to advocate other initiatives that promote open access to research results, nationally as well as internationally.
- Further develop the University of Oslo Library as an arena for debate, participation and dissemination.
- Give users increased access to physical and digital collections.
- Provide the best access possible to learning facilities at our own premises.
- Work to ensure that our organization is flexible and effective, and infused with a spirit of openness and cooperation.

*«The university library is the very backbone of a modern and well-functioning academic institution. I want and expect the University of Oslo Library to spearhead developments by not only providing access to knowledge, but by lending assistance with how to acquire and disseminate knowledge. The library has developed into one of the University's most important windows on the world. Keep up the good work!»*

**Ole Petter Ottersen, Rector**

# Growth

There is exponential growth in the volume of information. For universities, this especially means growing amounts of publications and research data. For the University of Oslo Library the implications are more expensive and more complex infrastructure in relation to procurement and access. We are therefore being challenged with respect to costs as well as competence.

New user groups and new patterns of use introduce new demands with respect to buildings and infrastructure.

## Strategic aims:

- Further develop support provided for researchers.
- Further develop a stimulating and flexible learning environment in cooperation with other units at the University of Oslo
- Provide good retrieval facilities for an ever-growing volume of information.
- Utilize the library's metadata skills when organizing the university's research data.
- Ensure that students acquire good information management skills.
- Secure sustainable funding to ensure that the University of Oslo Library can offer the university's primary users what they need for their research and learning.

*«It is important that the University of Oslo Library constitutes a constantly updated gateway to all the world's knowledge! The university library must be able to offer the very best physical learning environment at all times, while being a good role model for the rest of Oslo University. We also hope that the university library will be a resource for us, the students, for instance with respect to academic writing, by providing a writing centre.»*

**Line Willersrud, the Student Parliament**

# Globalization

Globalization means increased internationalization of research and study programmes and involves tough competition to attract the best researchers and students.

Economic inequalities and international conflicts require the university to adapt to a more diverse society.

As cultural diversity becomes a hallmark of the University, the Norwegian language, as an academic language, may be further weakened.

## Strategic aims:

- Be on a level with the best international libraries and give the University of Oslo a competitive edge.
- Cooperation across institutional and national boundaries in order to become as good as possible.
- Develop strategic partnerships through international and national cooperation.
- Offer multilingual services tailored to the needs of international researchers and students.
- Help recruit the best students and researchers.

*«I want the University of Oslo Library to become an even more important and attractive resource for freelancers by filling the growing gap between Google and the public libraries' focus on cultural experiences. I hope that the university library will provide inspiration through robust academic debate and events that other venues cannot or will not host.»*

**Eirik Newth, freelance writer**

*«I want access to as many electronic periodicals as possible. And I want a university library that offers coffee and puts on talks, leaves academic journals out on the tables, etc. Comfortable chairs. Like a bookstore café.»*

**Inger Sandlie, professor**

# Technology

IT developments will continue with growth in cloud services, smart data analysis, the Internet of Things and autonomous control systems. There will be a stronger focus on the individual, involving more customized web experiences. At the same time, technology will allow for the introduction of new forms of cooperation.

Other ways of retrieving and producing data will emerge, complementing today's computers, tablets and smartphones. Ownership of user-generated data will be a prime theme. The challenges associated with personal data protection will also increase.

The need for human interaction is growing at pace with digital communications, and the university library's human resources will therefore become increasingly important.

*«I expect the university library to be up-to-date on technological developments and that they develop and integrate useful services on platforms that we use on a daily basis. And I expect these services to be customized for the users and the ways we think, read and search.»*

**Arnt Maasø, professor**

*«Five years from now I want the university library to be providing courses and guidance based on a wide range of educational methodologies. And I want the library to be a lively arena for the dissemination of academic knowledge.»*

**Eystein Gullbekk, University Librarian**

## **Strategic aims:**

- Know the users' needs and be able to meet them.
- Deliver knowledge sources and services through effective user interfaces on an increasing number of platforms.
- Further develop personal digital meeting points in partnership with our users.
- Provide appropriate procedural and ethical safeguards for our users whose personal data is handled by the University of Oslo Library.



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