

Public Libraries

The task of the public libraries is to promote enlightenment, education and other cultural activities by disseminating information and making books and other suitable material available free of charge to all citizens of Norway.

All municipalities are required by law to have a public library - many have several branches. In addition, the public library provides external services, including library services for public health institutions and mobile library services (book-mobiles and a book-boat).

County Libraries

County libraries are found in all counties. Their tasks are to organise inter-library loans, to assist public libraries with professional advice and to assist the Government authorities with planning, reports and statistics. In order to provide effective inter-lending, the county libraries act as deposit libraries for certain disciplines, in accordance with a national discipline allocation plan.

The Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries

The Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries is a directorate subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, with special responsibility for matters relating to public libraries. As laid down in the Public Library Act, the Directorate shall act as a coordinating and initiating body, working for development and promotion of public libraries by offering professional advice and consultancy services. The directorate is also a consultant and advisory body to the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs.

The directorate publishes the periodical *Bok og Bibliotek*, which reviews general library subjects.

General figures about Norway

Area	386 890 km ²
Local authorities	435
Counties	19

Population 01.01.2001

Total	4 503 436
Children under 13 years	791 828

Public Libraries

Service points 2001

Main libraries	435
Branch libraries	974
Mobile libraries*	44

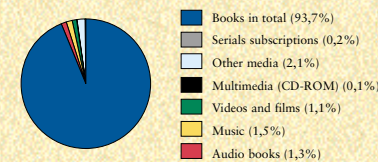
*including one boat servicing three counties

Total staff*	1 871
Vocationally-trained librarians*	931
Vocationally-trained managers	64 %

*man-labour years

Public Libraries

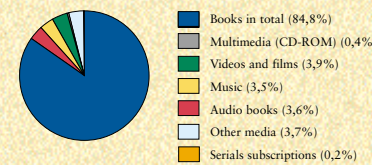
Stock 2001



Children's books	5 947 761
All other books	14 694 512
Books in total	20 642 273
Audio books	285 627
Music	330 268
Videos and films	240 526
Multimedia (CD-ROM)	15 746
Other media	463 106
Serials subscriptions	42 093
Total	22 019 639
Stock per inhabitant	4,89

Public Libraries

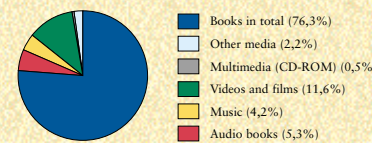
Additions 2001



Children's books	314 697
All other books	545 943
Books in total	860 640
Audio books	36 612
Music	35 569
Videos and films	39 864
Multimedia (CD-ROM)	3 900
Other media	37 107
Serials subscriptions	1 691
Total	1 015 383
Additions per inhabitant	0,23

Public Libraries

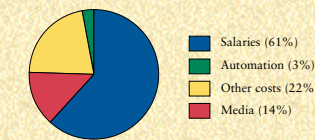
Loans 2001



Children's books	7 212 066
All other books	10 686 812
Books in total	17 898 878
Audio books	1 253 371
Music	978 990
Videos and films	2 713 974
Multimedia (CD-ROM)	116 238
Other media	506 215
Total	23 467 666
Loans per inhabitant	5,21
Number of visits	22 411 693

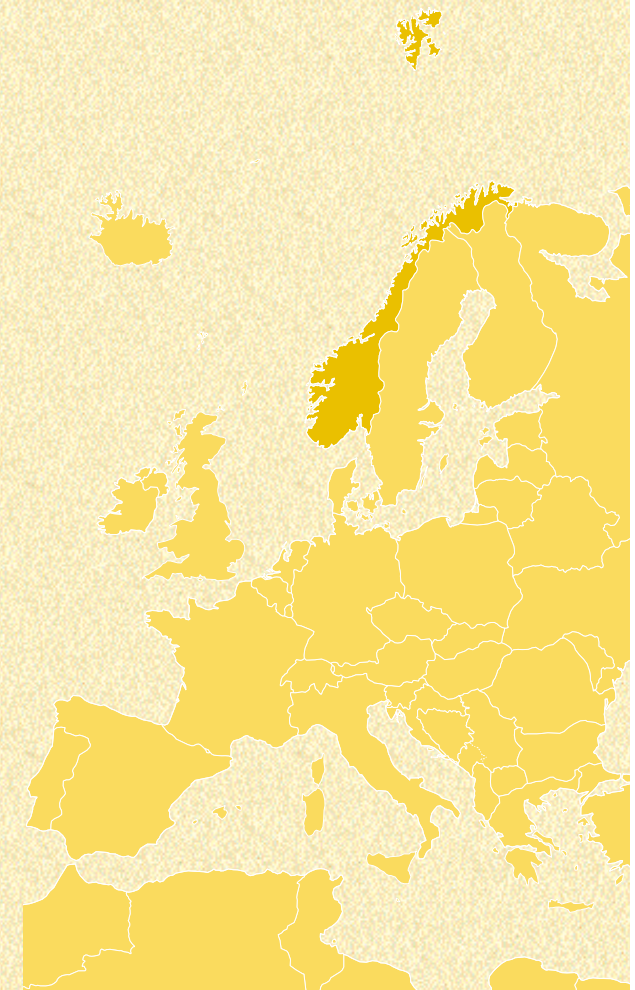
Public Libraries

Operating costs 2001



Salaries	NOK 610 248 000
Media	NOK 136 091 000
Other costs	NOK 218 262 000
Automation	NOK 28 132 000
Total	NOK 992 733 000
Expenditure per inhabitant	NOK 220,44
Income public funding	NOK 992 733 000

Library Statistics Norway



Information about Norwegian public libraries can be found on Statens bibliotektilsyn's homepage:
<http://www.bibtils.no/>

Academic and Special Libraries

Academic and special libraries primarily serve students and employees in research, higher education, public and private institutions and business.

In Norway academic and research libraries are mainly government funded, but many special libraries are privately funded.

The National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries

The National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries is the highest authority in the field of research documentation and the academic and special library sector in Norway. It is a government agency under the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs (moved from Ministry of Education and Research 1.1.2002).

Number 2001

Libraries in institutions of higher education	177
Special libraries	173
National library	2
Total	352

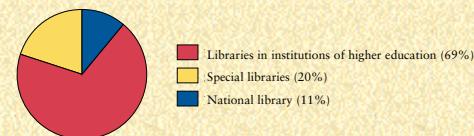
Staff 2001

Libraries in institutions of higher education	964
Special libraries	329
National library	320
Total FTE	1 613

Number of students and staff 2001

Libraries in institutions of higher education	218 022
Special libraries	84 973
National library	314
Total	303 309

Books and Periodicals 2001



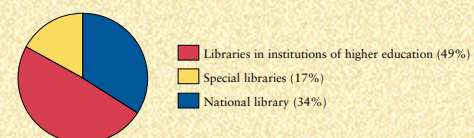
Libraries in institutions of higher education	12 847 148
Special libraries	3 826 623
National library	2 075 011
Total	18 748 782

Serials 2001

Libraries in institutions of higher education	59 323
Special libraries	46 820
National library	50 791
Total	156 934

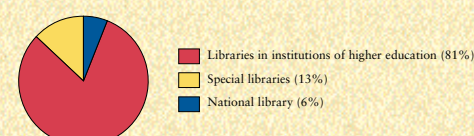
In addition there are patents, microforms, graphic documents etc - so that in total there are more than 44,4 mill. physical units in the collections.

Additions 2001



Libraries in institutions of higher education	291 236
Special libraries	103 473
National library	201 243
Total	595 952

Loans 2001



Libraries in institutions of higher education	3 138 801
Special libraries	520 664
National library	219 273
Total loans	3 878 738

Number of loans per student/staff	12,79
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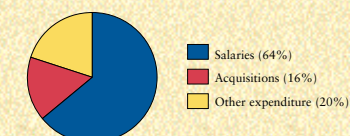
Interlibrary Loans Supplied 2001

Libraries in institutions of higher education	450 333
Special libraries	70 470
National library	74 005
Total	594 808

Interlibrary Loans Received 2001

Libraries in institutions of higher education	243 925
Special libraries	84 022
National library	1 983
Total	329 930

Operating Expenditure 2001



Salaries	NOK 612 419 000
Acquisitions	NOK 147 829 000
Other expenditure	NOK 191 795 000
Total	NOK 952 043 000

Average cost of additions	NOK 403,02
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Information about Norwegian academic and special libraries can be found on RBT's homepage:
<http://www.rbt.no/>



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