

National background: Norway 2018

Bente Granrud (National Library of Norway)

The most significant repositories of manuscripts and private archives are the National Library of Norway, The National Archives, the regional archives, The Archives and Library of the Labour Movement, the University Library of Trondheim and the University Library of Bergen.

University Library of Bergen

<https://spesial.w.uib.no/>

The Department for Special Collections forms part of the University Library of Bergen, itself a continuation of the old Bergen's Museum's Library, founded in 1825.

Major holdings:

- The Special Collections incorporates gifts, donations and acquisitions of images, especially photographs, manuscripts, diplomas, maps, antiquarian books and newspapers

Bergen Public Library

<https://bergenbibliotek.no/grieg/griegsamlingen>

Major holdings:

- Bergen Public Library houses the 'Edvard Grieg arkiv': the papers of the composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

The National Library of Norway

<https://www.nb.no/>

The National Library of Norway was established as an independent institution in 1999. Previously it had been a part of the University Library of Oslo (established 1811), whose collections were divided between the University Library and the National Library in 1999. All holdings of manuscripts (except for papyri) went to the National Library; the University Library of Oslo does not collect that sort of material. Manuscripts and private archives are kept in the department for Research and Dissemination. The main focus is on papers of authors and other persons in the cultural sphere/science, as well as private organizations and firms, of national interest.

The National Library has digitized its entire book collection and a major part of the manuscript collection, using the IIIF-standard.

Major collections:

- Medieval Latin manuscripts: some 60 codices, mostly of non-Norwegian medieval provenance. Notable is a small 12th-century psalter, probably of domestic production and use.

- Medieval Norwegian manuscripts: a couple of important law codices from early 14th century
- Islamic manuscripts: Ms.fol. 4313. A collection of 144 catalogue entries containing manuscript codices and documents from the Islamic world, mainly in Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Turkish.
- In addition, the collection contains books and documents in Urdu, Malay, Hebrew, Pashto, and Mongolian. The earliest codex is dated 1167, and the latest 1888.
- 17th and 18th centuries: a number of historical and topographic manuscripts
- Post 18th century: The bulk of the collection consists of manuscripts, letters and private archives from 1800 to the present day.
- A large amount of important personalities in the arts, culture and society are represented. Politicians are more scarce, cf. National Archives below. Particularly substantial are papers (Nachlasse, archives etc.) of the following categories:
 - literary authors. Highlights: Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), Nobel prize winners Bjornstjerne Bjornson (1832-1932), Knut Hamsun (1859-1952), Sigrid Undset (1882-1949)
 - literary institutions. Highlights: archives of the Norwegian Authors Union
 - artists. Highlights: letters from Edvard Munch (1863-1944); other leading Norwegian painters
 - Ivar Aasen (1813-96), creator of the 'New Norwegian' language: his extraordinarily comprehensive archive
 - polar explorers. Highlights: Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930), Roald Amundsen (1872-1928)
 - women's organizations
 - theatre, film and music
- The Map Collection consists of 150.000-180.000 maps, which includes manuscript maps, printed maps and atlases. The oldest item is from 1482, the newest ones from 2014.

The National Archives

<https://www.arkivverket.no/>

Major holdings:

- archives from private persons, companies, organizations, political parties
- repository for medieval parchment fragments of domestic origin as well as for Norwegian medieval charters/diplomas

Arbeiderbevegelsens arkiv og bibliotek, Oslo

<https://www.arbark.no/>

Major holdings:

- archives of political parties, organizations and individuals in the Labour movement and the political left

Gunnerusbiblioteket / NTNU University Library, Trondheim

<https://www.ntnu.no/ub/bibliotek/gunnerus>

The Gunnerus Library is the oldest scientific library in Norway, and dates back to 1768 when it was the library of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters. From 1984 the library has been a part of NTNU University library. The library focuses nowadays especially on the academic fields of archaeology, botany and zoology, but is also a general scientific library, and is open to all public.

Major holdings:

- archives, manuscripts, old maps, rare books and a collection of old photography's, al mostly from 18th-19th century
- a theatre-collection
- music-notes
- broadside ballads
- seal-collection and plenty smaller collections related to the history of Trondheim or the mid-Norwegian region