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Swedish-French
/ French-Swedish
Swedish-German
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4 From the University of Oslo to a new life at the University of Bergen

In June 2014, the University of Oslo decided to end its commitment to Norwegian lexicography, and get rid of the Language Collections, which comprise archives going back to the 1880's and covering far more than the Nynorsk and dialect sections. NO2014 was half way through editing volume 12 when the project staff was sacked. Despite great difficulties, *Norsk Ordbok* did get finished in good order, but there was a delay of more than a year; volume 12 was sent to the publisher, Det Norske Samlaget, on November 24, 2015, and the launch came in March 2016.

By that time, the Norwegian government, through the Ministries of Education and Culture, had decided that the Language Collections, with the dictionaries *Norsk Ordbok*, *Bokmålsordboka* and *Nynorskordboka*, represent essential linguistic infrastructure, and therefore were too important to be left to the management of the University of Oslo alone.

Provided that funding was allocated, the University of Bergen had volunteered to house the Language Collections (comprising collections for Bokmål, Nynorsk, Old Norse and place names). After inventorying in the winter of 2015-2016, more than 70 tons of books and archives were moved in the summer of 2016. The transfer of the digital collections started about the same time, the first components being run from Bergen from September 2016. The total move is a very extensive operation still in process, involving recruiting and training of research, ICT and administrative staff. In February this year an application for revision and full digitisation of *Norsk Ordbok* a-h was submitted by the University of Bergen to the Ministry of Culture, and it was – so far and fingers crossed – well received (for revision plans, see Berg-Olsen et al. 2015).

This is how matters stand.

The cost of completing *Norsk Ordbok* through the Project NO2014 (2001-2016) stands at 260 million NOK, somewhere around 27.5 million Euro. This sounds like a lot of money, though it wouldn't buy many kilometers of road. However, it is enough not to be thrown away lightly, especially when there is visible and vocal public support for maintaining both the Language Collections and the dictionaries. In the future, Norwegian lexicographers will have to continue to serve the public, both in Norway and internationally, through developing Norwegian lexicography as best they can. At least we now know that we can do it!

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URLs

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- The Documentation Project (1991-1997):
http://dokpro.uio.no/engelsk/drawer_to_screen1.html
- ENeL Dictionary Portal: <http://dictionaryportal.eu/en/>
- Norsk Ordbok*: <http://no2014.uio.no/perl/ordbok/no2014.cgi>
- Nynorskorpuset*: http://no2014.uio.no/korpuset/conc_enkeltok.htm
- Redigeringshandboka 2016*: <http://no2014.uio.no/eNo/tekst/redigeringshandboka/redigeringshandboka.pdf>