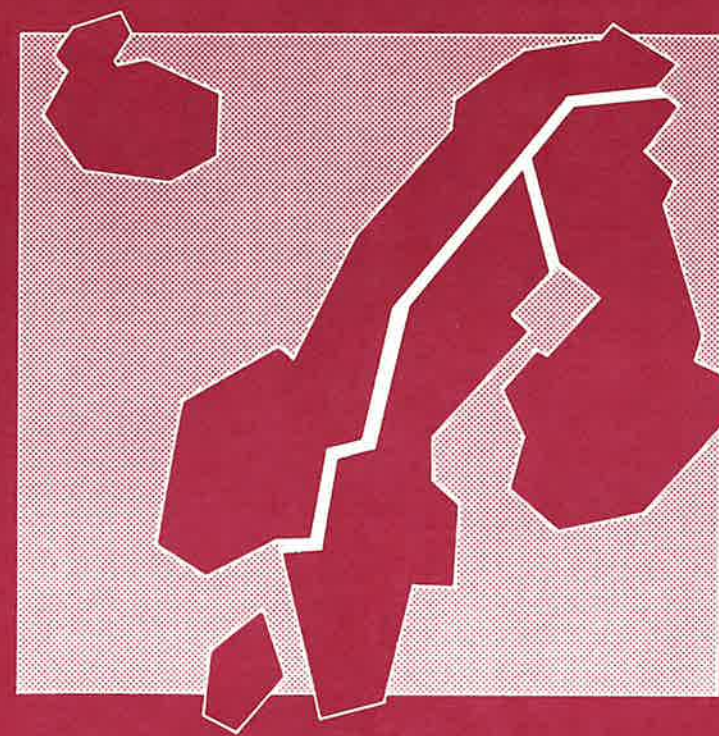

W I T S

WISCONSIN
INTRODUCTIONS
To
SCANDINAVIA



5

Dennis Auburn Hill

ICELANDIC LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES:
A Selective Guide for Researchers

WITS—Wisconsin Introductions to Scandinavia—is the acronym for two pamphlet series published by the Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. WITS (quarto size—ISSN 0742-7018) is an ESSAY SERIES designed to provide short and authoritative introductions to various aspects of Scandinavian Life and Civilization—geography and languages; history and politics; health, education, and welfare; art, literature, and music, etc. Each pamphlet is written by an American specialist in a form suitable for undergraduate instruction or self study, with maps, diagrams, and bibliography. WITS II (octavo size—ISSN 0742-7026) is a TEXT SERIES, offering translations of Scandinavian plays, poetry, and short stories, selected for use in Literature in Translation classes. Each text selection is edited and introduced by an American scholar. The two series are planned and edited by HARALD NAEISS and NIELS INGWERSEN, with the assistance of the following colleagues: Kim Nilsson, Dick Ringler, Faith Ingwersen, and Susan Brantly.

THE AUTHOR:



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This number of WITS is published in cooperation with the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, Minneapolis.

Icelandic Libraries and Archives:
a Selective Guide for Reasearchers

By
Dennis Auburn Hill
University of Wisconsin-Madison



The Þjóðarbiblíótekið, a new facility to house the combined collections of the national and university libraries. (Photo by Ívar Brynjólfsson)

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(with chief librarian or archivist as of November 1986)

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to respond to the present increasing interest in Iceland by making practical information about library and archival resources there more accessible to researchers who may wish to use them. Although scattered descriptions of Icelandic libraries have appeared in various publications, the only separately published directory of Icelandic research and special libraries to date is Skrá yfir rannsóknar- og sérfræðibókasöfn opinberra stofnanna og félagasamtaka í Reykjavík by Ingibjörg Árnadóttir (Reykjavík: Bókavardafelag Íslands, 1977).

In an unpublished directory of libraries in Iceland prepared in 1985, Margrét Lilja Magnúsdóttir and Sigurlína Gunnarsdóttir list 156 libraries in the country, including research, special, public and school libraries. Of the 76 research or special libraries listed only four are located outside Reykjavík. The concentration of such libraries in Reykjavík should, of course, not be surprising. Reykjavík is the capital, the site of the university and virtually all major institutes, and home to half the Icelandic population.

All the libraries included in the present guide are in Reykjavík, as is the National Archives. The National Archives is the chief archival repository in the country, oversees local archival units and is the starting point for most archival research in Iceland.

As numerous as Icelandic libraries are, this guide is selective. The libraries included are all research or special libraries and apt to be of interest to scholars and researchers going to Iceland. These libraries range from the obvious larger ones, such as the National Library and the University Library, to smaller libraries with particularly Icelandic specialities, such as those of the Marine Research, Energy, and Arnarnagæan Institutes. Then there are included the pan-Scandinavian library of the Nordic House and the Women's History Library housed in the apartment of one of its founders and current life's blood, Anna Sigurdardóttir.

The text of this guide was originally completed in 1983, making use of scant published material, often difficult to get hold of, and by corresponding with many people. I benefitted then from the cooperation of Icelandic librarians and have since benefitted from being able to meet and talk with them while in Reykjavík in November 1986. During that stay I gathered a great deal of new or current information and have therefore been able to completely revise and update the text, which is now current through 1986.

The format of the description of the libraries follows that used by Erwin K. Welsch in his excellent German and French guides. Professor Welsch also provided the initial impetus for my work on the present guide to Icelandic libraries and archives. Each description includes the following parts: name/address/phone heading; introductory note, when necessary or helpful; specialization; hours; holdings; catalogs; access; collection use; photocopying; and notes, where appropriate.

Háskólabókasafn

(University Library)

Sudurgötu

IS-101 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 25308/25088

Telex: 2307 isinfo

The main library occupies the rear wing of the university's main building on Sudurgata, a short distance from the corner of Hringbraut. The building faces away from Sudurgata and the main entrance is on the east, or opposite, side; the entrance to the library is on the first floor. A large reading room is located on the second floor directly above the library proper.

Take bus no. 5, which goes down Sudurgata, or bus nos. 6, 7, 13, 14, which stop at the corner of Sudurgata and Hringbraut. From the center of town the university grounds are a short walk the length of Tjarnargata and across Hringbraut.

In addition to the main collection there are seventeen branch collections located in thirteen buildings. The standard abbreviation (used on catalog cards), name, address, and specialization of each of the branches are:

(Árn) Árnagardur. 3rd floor of Árnagardur, on Sudurgata. Language and Literature.

(Dansk) Danska lektoratid. Norræna Húsið (Nordic House). Danish.

(Ensk) Enskukennsla. Aragötu 14. English.

(Finn) Finska lektoratid. Norræna Húsið (Nordic House). Finnish.

(Gudfr) Gudfræðideildarstofa. Rm. 5, Main Bldg. Theology.

(Heil) Rannsóknarstofa í heilbrigðisfræði. Sigtúni 1. Health Sciences.

(Hjúk) Namsbraut í hjúkrunarfræði. Eiríksgötu 34. Nursing.

(Jard) Bókasafn í jardfræði og landafræði. Jardfræðahús (Geology Bldg.). Geology and Geography.

(Lag) Lagabókasafn. Lögberg (Law Bldg.). Law.

(LL) Lyfjafræði lyfsala. Íþrottahús Háskólans. Pharmacy.

(Nátt) Lesstofa í líffræði. Grensásvegi 12. Biology.

(Norsk) Norska lektoratid. Norræna Húsið. (Nordic House). Norwegian.

(RH) Bókasafn Raunvísindastofnunar Háskólans. Dúnhaga 3. Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.

(RL) Rannsóknarstofa í lyfjafræði. 1st floor, Main Bldg. Pharmacology.

(Sænsk) Sænska lektoratid. Norræna Húsið (Nordic House). Swedish.

(Sjúk) Namsbraut í sjúkraþjálfun. Vitastig 8. Physical Therapy.

(VR) Bókasafn verkfræði- og raunvísindadeildar. Hjardarhaga. Engineering.

There are six additional locations for material that is part of the main collection:

(Bþ) Benediktssafn. The 8,000 volume collection of the late Benedikt S. Þórarinsson consisting of rare Icelandic and foreign works.

(G/GI) Geymsluhúsnæði utan safns (Remote storage).

(Les) Handbóka- og lestrarsalur (Reference and reading room, 2nd floor).

(Les A) Afgreiðslu- og spjaldskrársalur (Circulation desk and card catalog room).

(Stein) Steinklefi (Vault).

(Ör) Örgagnasafn (Microform collection).

Specialization

With its establishment in 1940 the University Library assumed responsibility for collecting materials in the areas of science and technology which was previously that of the National Library. The entire acquisitions program, however, supports all areas of study and research carried on by the university. These may be identified by the names of the various faculties or divisions: Dentistry, Economics, Humanities (including Language, Literature, and History), Law, Medicine, Science, Engineering, Social Sciences, and Theology.

Although the library is a legal depository for all works printed in Iceland, approximately three-fourths of the material in the collections are in languages other than Icelandic, namely English, the other Scandinavian languages, German, and other Western European languages.

Hours

Main collection:

9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Monday - Friday (Jan.-May and Sept.-Dec.)

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday (Jun.-Aug.)

Reference and reading room, 2nd floor:

8:00 am - 10:00 pm, every day of the week

Branch libraries:

Hours vary; they are available at the main library.

Holdings

As of the close of 1985:

243,898.volumes, including serials
1,677.current foreign serial titles
726.Icelandic serial titles

Icelandic newspapers in microform are being acquired as they are filmed by the National Library.

Access

Reader's cards are not used. The library is open to all insofar as faculty and students of the university are not hampered by this. Foreign researchers should report to the library's circulation desk, explain their research needs and give their address, how long they intend to stay, etc.

Collection Use

On entering the main library you find yourself in the Circulation and Card Catalog Room, where major bibliographical works are also to be found. The location designation on catalog cards for the non-circulating material in this room is Les A. Recently cataloged books are also located here. The books are arranged according to the major classes of the Dewey Decimal Classification.

The library has open stacks and patrons may browse and retrieve their own material. The entrance to the stacks is through the doorway opposite the entrance to the library. Use the stairway on the left to reach the upper stack level and the basement stack level.

There is a Reference and Reading Room on the 2nd floor of the main building, just above the library proper. Reference works with the location symbol "Les" are located here. Recent issues of periodicals are also displayed here, although in some cases recent issues are to be found in the appropriate branch library. Recent periodical issues do not circulate. This reading room is also the location of the Reserves Collection. Books on reserve are available either for use in the library only or for loan periods of from one to three days.

For each book borrowed a charge slip must be filled out. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of one's borrowing privileges. A copy of the charge slip is reproduced below. An explanation of the information requested has been added in parentheses in English.

HÁSKÓLABÓKASAFN	
SÍMI 25088	
Hef að láni:	
Nafn höfundar	(Author's name)
Bókarheiti og bindi	(Title and volume)
Útgáfustaður og ár	(Place and date of publication)
Marktala	(Call number)
Dags.	/ 19
(Day/month/year)	
Nafn	(Your name)
Heimilisfang	(Address)
Nafnnúmer	
Sími	(Phone)
Vinsamlegast skrifið greinilega	
1)1268 Gutenberg	

Books may be borrowed for four weeks, periodicals for one week. Renewals may be requested.

The library also has an inter-library loan service and will borrow books or acquire copies of articles from libraries in Iceland and abroad. A copy of the request form is reproduced below.

A sample card is reproduced below:

Nátt
577 Miller, Stanley L.
+ 574.01 The origins of life on the earth.
Mil [By] Stanley L. Miller [and] Leslie
E. Orgel. Englewood Cliffs [N. Jer.]
1974. x, 299 s., myndir, línurit,
tölur. (Concepts of modern biology series)

- Nátt - The collection designation; in this case, the work is in the Biology reading room (Lesstofa í líffræði) at Grensásvegur 12.
- 577 - The call number by which the book is to be located on the shelf;
Mil "577" is its Dewey class number and this book will be found in the classified catalog under this number, subfiled by Miller, Stanley L.
- + 574.01 - An additional class number indicating the work covers more than a single subject as identified within the classification scheme.

Printed union catalogs of foreign titles held by Icelandic libraries exist in two forms. The Samskrá um erlenda ritauka íslenskra rannsóknarbókasafna (Union Catalog of Foreign Acquisitions by Icelandic Research Libraries) began to appear in 1970 under the auspices of the National Library, but ceased publication in 1982. It was published twice a year in two parts. Part A covered the humanities and related fields; Part B the sciences and related fields. The catalog listed the semi-annual foreign book acquisitions of the National Library, University Library, and several other smaller research libraries. It was mimeographed and available gratis at the Circulation Desk. (The National Library maintains a card catalog of these titles that is complete from 1970 on.)

The Samskrá um erlend tímarit í íslenskum bókasöfnum og stofnunum (Union List of Foreign Periodicals in Icelandic Libraries and Institutes) first appeared in 1978, with a Vidbætur (Supplement) published in 1980. This alphabetical list includes the foreign periodicals holdings of ca. 100 libraries and institutes and is available for purchase in the University Library and the Bóksala stúdenta (Student Bookstore). A new edition was due to appear in December 1986.

Photocopying

A self-service copying machine is available in the library, but only for copying material in the library's collection. The charge is 5.00 kr. per exposure.

There is also a copy center (Háskólaflöritun) in the student union (Félagsstofnun stúdenta) at the corner of Hringbraut, as well as self-service machines at various locations on campus.

Publications

Material in English on the University Library does not really go beyond the discussion in the article "Iceland, Libraries in" in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Vol. 11 (New York: Marcel Dekker, 1974, pp. 138-141).

The library has issued several guides to its use and services. The most helpful of these is the Leidarvísir (Reykjavík, 1983), an almost pocket-sized guide containing virtually all the practical information one needs. A shorter version of this was issued in June 1986. A general discussion of libraries and their objectives, with reference also to the University Library, is contained in the 19-page pamphlet Háskólabókasafn - til hvers? (Reykjavík, 1980). There are also a number of brochures containing information on the collections and special services, such as data base searching (Heimildaleit í Gagnabrunnum), interlibrary loan (Millisafnalán), and user education (Notendafræðsla).

Information on the library, its holdings and services is updated in the library's annual report (Ársskýrsla). The report for 1985 appeared in 1986 and consisted of 22 pages.

Landsbókasafn Íslands
(National Library of Iceland)
Safnahúsinu, Hverfisgötu
IS-101 Reykjavík Phone: (91) 16864/13080

Take any bus to Lækjartorg. The library is a short walk from there. (A new National Library building, the Þjóðarþókhlaða, which will house an amalgamated National and University Library, is under construction and will be completed in 3-4 years.)

Specialization

Icelandic works and works concerning Iceland or Icelandic subjects; originally also acquired foreign works in all branches of science, literature, the arts, technology, and contemporary affairs. Since the founding of the University Library in 1940, foreign acquisitions have been limited to the humanities. Icelandic manuscripts, mostly paper manuscripts from later centuries, and foreign manuscripts dealing with Iceland, including photographic copies of originals not acquired outright.

Hours

9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Monday - Friday
9:00 am - Noon, Saturday (September through May only)
Holidays: New Year's Day, Holy Thursday through Easter
Tuesday, First Day of Summer, Labor Day (May 1), Ascension
Day, Whit Monday, Independence Day (June 17), Bank Holiday
(First Monday in August), Dec. 24-26 and 31.

Holdings

379,576 volumes, 13,831 cataloged manuscript numbers (at the close of 1985); 1,265 periodical titles (650 Icelandic, 615 foreign).

Access

There is no reader's card or the like to be applied for. The library is open to all scholars with an interest in using the collections.

Collection Use

The main reading room, with seating for thirty-eight, is located on the second floor to the right, first door on the left. The Manuscript Department is on the first floor and has seating for six or seven. Getting a seat is sometimes a problem, especially in the afternoon during the winter.

To request material for use in the reading room use the white form labelled "Bókalán", filling out one for each title requested. A sample is reproduced below.

1	 LANDSBÓKASAFN ÍSLANDS · REYKJAVÍK BÓKALÁN Skrifað greinilega Undirrit. óskar að fá að láni á lestrarsal Höfundur <i>Author</i> Títtill <i>Title</i> Útgáfustaður og ár <i>Place & date</i> Nafn <i>Name</i> Heimili <i>Address</i> 0402 Gutenberg
2	
3	
4	
Fyllist út eftir spjaldskrárspjaldi 1 Safndeildartákn ekki á öllum spjöldum 2 Stærðartákn ekki á öllum spjöldum 3 Flokkstala 4 Raðstafir	

The information required on the right-hand portion of the call slip is explained in English in italics under the Icelandic. The information requested on the numbered lines on the left-hand side of the form should be taken from the catalog card and is: 1) Section symbol, if any; 2) Size indicator, if any; 3) Classification number (Dewey number); 4) Letters (Book number, usually first three letters of the author's name).



Catalog Room, National Library

To borrow material for use outside the library use the blue form (untitled). A sample is reproduced below with an explanation of the information required added in parentheses.

Skrifið greinilega.	
Hef fengið lánað heim úr Landsbókasafni	
Nafn höf.	(Author's name)
.....	
Bókarheiti	(Title)
.....	
Flokksmerki í spjaldskrá	(Call number)
.....	
Bókinni skal skilað innan vikna, óskaddaðri; að öðrum kosti greiðist skaðabætur að mati bókavardar. Blýantsstrik og annað krot telst til skemmda. Framlán er óheimilt.	
Rvík, (Day)	dagmán. 19.....(Year)
Nafn	(Your name)
Ritað fullum stöfum.	
Heimili	(Address)
.....	
Sími	(Phone)
.....	
8408 2000 Gutenberg	

In general, circulation of material outside the library accounts for a very small percentage of the use of the National Library's collections. Only foreign works that are not in the Íslandsdeild (see below) nor in the reference collection may be borrowed for use outside the library. These may be checked out in the Útlánssalur on the second floor between 1:00 and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday only.

In the manuscripts department there is a register for signing in on the desk straight ahead on the right. The six desks available for users are on the left. The manuscripts themselves are shelved in four large sets of metal compact shelving. Manuscripts are requested using the same "Bókalán" form at the desk in the front of the room.

Catalogs

The main card catalog is located in the card catalog room on the second floor, although part of it is also located in the hallway outside and in the hall on the first floor. The card catalog is in two main divisions which correspond to the two divisions of the library's collections. Each division of the catalog consists of two sections. The Icelandic division (Íslandsdeild) includes Icelandic works and foreign works dealing at least in part with Icelandic or Old Norse subjects. Its catalog consists of an author/title section (höfunda- og titlaskrá) and a classified subject section (flokkud skrá). The catalogs of the Icelandic division are in the Útlánssalur on the second floor. The author/title catalog is being revised to convert author entries to given name first, rather than to continue the practice of entry under patronymic. At the time of writing there were two author catalogs to

consult. The classified catalog of the Icelandic division is also under revision. Records for works acquired since 1972 and those that have been reviewed are in the newer catalog cases on the right. In the Icelandic division catalogs the letter "Í" appears before the call number in the case of foreign works and this should be noted on the call slips when requesting books. Foreign works that have been received but are not yet available for use are recorded on pink cards (rauð spjöld) in the author/title section.

The foreign division (Erlend deild) includes all other works and its catalog consists of an author/title section and a classified subject section. The author/title catalog of foreign works prior to 1969 is in the Útlánssalur on the second floor; the classified subject catalog for pre-1969 foreign works is in the first floor lobby, immediately to the right. The post-1968 catalog of the foreign division is on the second floor in the hallway outside the Útlánssalur. A list of the classifications in which foreign works are housed in remote storage facilities is posted on the wall above this catalog.

The subject catalog sections are arranged according to the Icelandic version of the Dewey Decimal Classification. A copy of Flokkunarkerfi fyrir íslensk bókasöfn is available on top of the catalog cases and serves as an index to the classified subject catalogs.

An Icelandic periodicals index in card catalog form is located in the hall on the first floor, along the wall outside the entrance to the Handritadeild. This is an author index covering articles, stories, poems, and theater and book reviews appearing in newspapers and magazines and consists of more than 130,000 entries, taken from over 100 periodicals and newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries. Reviews are under the name of the author whose work is being reviewed. Unfortunately it has not been possible to keep this catalog up to date.

The library's annual accessions list (Ritaukaskrá) was published from 1888 through 1944, covering the years 1887 to 1943. The Icelandic portion of this, covering the years 1944 through 1973, appeared in the yearbook (Árbók) of the Landsbokasafn from 1945 to 1974. The annual Icelandic National Bibliography (Íslensk bókaskrá) was issued separately beginning with the volume covering the year 1974, published in 1975. Five year cumulations of this are planned, the cumulations to include serial titles. The first cumulation, covering the years 1974-1978, was published in 1984. A serials titles cumulation is to appear separately. An accessions list for foreign works was issued (mimeographed) for each year 1944-1969. Since 1970 the National Library has published a Union Catalog of Foreign Acquisitions in Icelandic Research Libraries (Samskrá um erlendan ritauka íslenskra rannsóknarbókasafna) in two sections twice a year. Thirteen libraries contributed (as of 1982) to this catalog. Computerized cataloging will eventually change the form of this catalog. (See further description under Háskólabókasafn.)

A Union Catalog of Foreign Periodicals in 86 Icelandic research libraries and institutions (Samskrá um erlend tímarit) was published by the National Library in 1978 and a supplement appeared in 1980. Since 1978 Iceland has participated in the NOSP project (Nordic Union Catalog of Periodicals). A cumulated computerized catalog of foreign periodical titles in Icelandic libraries appeared in 1986.

A complete retrospective Icelandic Bibliography is in preparation, with the first volume covering the period from the beginning of printing in Iceland to 1844. The next installment will eventually be a complete bibliography of Icelandic periodicals from 1773 to the present.

A number of shorter, specialized bibliographies have been prepared over the years and have been issued separately or published in the Árbók, or exist in typescript or manuscript form. These include bibliographies of early printed books, works on chess, doctoral dissertations, both published and unpublished, from 1666 to 1980, and natural history accounts of foreign travellers to Iceland.

The basic catalog of the manuscript collection is the printed catalog, Skrá um handritasöfn Landsbókasafnsins (3 vols., Reykjavík, 1918-1937), which describes 8,600 manuscript numbers and includes a subject and name index. Three supplements have appeared (in 1947, 1959 and 1970) with descriptions of 3,577 more numbers. A fourth supplement is in preparation.

An index of poems contained in manuscripts in the collection exists in card catalog format. This is arranged alphabetically by first lines and each entry gives catalog and page numbers of the manuscript, number of strophes, number of lines per strophe, title, afterword (if any), refrain, indication of the tune, and author (if named in the manuscript). This index is being compiled mostly by date of the manuscripts from the earliest to the latest.

A card catalog of letters in the Manuscript Department provides access by name of the writer and of the recipient of the letters. Each card also gives the catalog number of the manuscript, the number of letters it contains from writer to recipient and the date of each. Both the poetic index and letters catalog have suffered due to lack of adequate staff to continue work on them.

Other bibliographies or catalogs in the Manuscript Department include bibliographies of manuscripts by date, autograph manuscripts, grammatical manuscripts prior to 1860, a card catalog of letters from and to Icelanders which are part of Danish collections, and a bibliography of material dealing with Iceland which is held in German archives.

Photocopying

There is photographic service in the library. There are, however, no self-service machines. Photographs, photocopies and microfilms must be ordered in the reading rooms, or you may write for them. Use the pink form "Myndabeidni" which is available on the first desk upon entering the reading room. Certain rules apply to copying material in the Icelandic division. Material cannot be copied if it may suffer damage in the process. The binding, paper and size of the item are taken into account. No copies may be made of newspapers. A photocopy costs (1986) 5 kr.

LANDSBÓKASAFN ÍSLANDS · REYKJAVÍK			
MYNDABEIÐNI			
Höfundur			
Titill		Bla.	
Blað/ útgáfa	Árg.	Töl.	Bla.
Handrit			
Beðið er um	Fjöldi	Verð kr.	Undirrit. skuldbindur sig til að hlíta ákvæðum höfundalaga nr. 73/1972 um meðferð þess efnis, sem myndir eru fengnar af.
☐ ljósrít			/ 19
☐ mjófilmur			
☐ ljósmynd			
☐			
Greitt:			Nafn
			Heimili
			Stími

Publications

The principal publication of the library is its Árbók (Yearbook) which has been published since 1945. In addition to what has been said above, the Árbók contains significant articles on Icelandic bibliography and bibliology and the National Librarian's annual report. All articles of substance descriptive of the National Library, its departments and collections, have appeared in the Árbók and are in Icelandic. In the new series of the Árbók, launched with Árbók 1975-77, there are English summaries. An historical account of the library in English by the National Librarian is to be found in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science, Vol. 11 (NY: M. Dekker, 1974.) under the title "Iceland National Library." A revised account will appear in a new edition of the Encyclopedia which is in preparation.

Þjóðskjalasafn Íslands

(National Archives of Iceland)

Safnahúsinu v/Hverfisgötu

IS-101 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 13201

The National Archives occupies five floors in the west wing of the Safnahús on Hverfisgata, which also houses the National Library. The entrance to the archives reading room is on the second floor. Take the staircase across from the entrance to the building and turn to the left. (The National Archives has acquired new and spacious quarters in a former dairy processing plant at Laugavegi 164. These will require considerable renovation before the archives will be able to move.)

Specialization

Preserves official documents relating to Icelandic history from the end of the 16th century, but especially from the 18th, 19th, and the first part of the 20th centuries. Possesses also a notable collection of original documents, principally church and land records, as far back as the 12th century.

The mission of the National Archives according to the law of June 27, 1985 is to:

1. acquire and preserve all documents of those offices and institutions which are covered by the depository regulations,
2. oversee the document collections of parties with a depository obligation, give them advice, provide instruction in document preservation and computer listing and decide on the destruction of documents which there is no reason to preserve for the future,
3. provide training in document preservation for those persons with archival responsibilities in public institutions, e.g. through courses and written manuals,
4. record archival collections and issue published and mimeographed catalogs of them to aid in their use,
5. build a reference collection of archival and historical works,
6. oversee the activities of district archives and other archival agencies preserving public documents,
7. provide visitors assistance in the use of archival documents and the resources of the collection, give guests advice on available resources, promote knowledge of national history and support research in it,
8. maintain a reading room open to the public where it is possible to pursue research and make use of archival documents and other resources of the collection,
9. collect other recorded sources of national history both within the country and from abroad, including photo- and other copies, if originals are unavailable, and promote their preservation,
10. operate a bindery and restoration workshop and make use of that technology which at any time is considered desirable to carry out the work of the archives.

The collections are divided into closed and open ones, the latter being those of offices still functioning.

The archives also includes a map collection, microfilms, and books and periodicals dealing with Icelandic affairs, as well as reference works.

Hours

10:00 am - Noon, 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Monday-Friday
10:00 am - Noon, Saturday (Winter only)

Holdings

Documents, books, periodicals, microfilm, and maps, occupying more than 7,000 meters of shelving in the main building and a remote storage facility.

Access

Open to all who wish to consult the collections.

Collection Use

The collections are organized strictly on the basis of provenience. Within an agency's documents, however, runs of documents that appear serially, such as annual reports, are kept together and are not separated chronologically. Collections or parts of collections not already calendared when received are grouped logically, and then chronologically within each group.

It should be pointed out that the archives has not, due to lack of space, received but a small portion of the vast amount of material produced since 1940. Beginning in 1986, however, more post-1940 material has begun to be received.

On entering the reading room sign in in the guest register first. There are eleven places for readers at the two large tables in the reading room. Two places are equipped with microfilm readers. A small desk brings the total number of seats to twelve. Assistance is available at the place with the sign "Afgreidsla/Upplýsingar" (Circulation/Information) at the large table nearer the windows. Next to this is a small desk where the request slips are to be found, the text of which is reproduced below (with English rendering added in parentheses).

AFGREITT: (Delivered) SKILAÐ: (Returned)

Til notkunar á lestrarsal þjóðskjalasafns óskast: ____
(Requested for use in the National Archives reading room)

Dags: (Date) _____ Nafn: (Name) _____

Fill out one slip for each volume or packet requested, using the carbon paper available on the desk to make a duplicate copy. Include the catalog number for each item from the printed or mimeographed catalogs located at the Afgreidsla.

You may have no more than five books, packets, or boxes for use at a time. Each item should be returned to the attending archivist after use and not be left on the table. Requests will not be accepted during the last half hour before closing and material should be returned no later than ten minutes before closing. No material circulates outside the archives.

There is a short list of rules to be observed concerning the use of the materials entitled "Leidbeiningar fyrir gesti í Þjóðskjalasafni." These deal with proper handling of documents when in use and they should be read and observed.

Catalogs

The principal catalogs consist of printed lists in book and mimeographed form. These are:

Skrár Landsskjalasafns I,1 - III. Each of these is called: Skrá um skjöl og bækur í Landsskjalasafninu í Reykjavík, and all are by Jón Þorkelsson.

I,1. Skjalasafn hirdstjóra, stiptamtanna og landshöfðingja. (Reykjavík, 1903)

II. Skjalasafn klerkdómsins. (Reykjavík, 1905-1906)

III. Óxarárþing, ýfirréttur hinn forni, Landsýfirdómur, Sýslur, Hreppar, Sáttanefndir, Umbod. (Reykjavík, 1910)

Skrár Þjóðskjalasafns.

I. Skjalasafn landlæknis 1760-1946, by Björn K. Þorólfsson (Reykjavík, 1952)

II. Prestþjónustubækur og sóknarmannatöl, by Jón Guðnason (Reykjavík, 1956)

III. Biskupsskjalasafn, by Björn K. Þorólfsson and Stefán Pjetursson (Reykjavík, 1956)

Brádabirgdaskrár þjóðskjalasafns (Mimeographed)

I. Skrá um skjalasöfn sýslumanna og sveitarstjórna 1-4. (Reykjavík, 1973)

A new series of printed catalogs, entitled "Skrár Þjóðskjalasafnsins-Nýr flokkur," was launched in 1986 with the publication of the first volume:

Skjalasafn landfógeta 1695-1904, compiled by Björk Ingimundardóttir. (Reykjavík, 1986)

Official departments and agencies are expected to include lists of documents as they are deposited, but this is not always the case, nor do the lists provide access uniformly. There is a typewritten list of books in the collection available.

Work has continued on the preparation of new catalogs of the offices of "Stiftamtman, amtmenn, stiftsýfirvöld, landshöfðingjar, og landsýfirréttur."

Photocopying

A copying machine is available at a cost of 5 kr. per copy. Microfilm readers are available, but no reader printers.

Notes

Enabling legislation passed in 1947 opened the door to the formation of district and/or municipal archives (hérads- og/eda bæjarskjalasöfn), including joint archives for more than one county or town. The oldest of these is that of the city of Reykjavík, founded in 1948. Others include Skagafjörður (1951, located in Saudarkrökur), Ísafjörður town and the two Ísafjörður counties (1952, Ísafjörður), Sudur-Þingeyjar county and Húsavík town (1958, Húsavík), Borgarfjardar- and Mýra county, not including the town of Akranes (1961, Borgarnes), Austurhúnavatn county (1966, Blönduós), Vestur-Húnavatn county (1969, Hvammstanga), Akureyri city and Eyjafjörður county (1969, Akureyri). Others are located at Siglufjörður, Dalvík, Egilsstaðir, Neskaupstaður, Höfn í Hornafirði, Vestmannaeyjar and Selfoss.

These district archives collect and have received from the National Archives the documents of offices with functions solely limited to the areas covered, including those of other local agencies receiving public funds. Many of these archives also collect private documents and materials as appropriate. All district archives are overseen by the National Archivist.

Publications

In addition to its printed and mimeographed catalogs (see above), in 1979 the National Archives began a new series of source editions called Heimildaútgáfa Þjóðskjalasafns. The first two volumes in this series to appear are: Bréfabók Þorláks biskups Skúlasonar (Reykjavík, 1979) and Prestastefnudómar og Bréfabók Gísla biskups Þorlákssonar (Reykjavík, 1983).

There is virtually no information in English on the National Archives. An excellent overview in Icelandic is Sigfús Haukur Andrésson's Þjóðskjalasafn Íslands: ágríp af sögu þess og yfirlit um heimildasöfn þar, 2nd revised edition (Reykjavík, 1982). The present discussion is based to a large extent on the National Archivist Bjarni Vilhjálmsson's "Um Þjóðskjalasafn Íslands og Héradsckjalasöfn" in the Árbók 1970 of the Landsbókasafn (Reykjavík, 1971), pp. 109-120.



Reading Room, National Archives

Bókasafn Alþingis
(Library of the Althing)
Vonarstræti 8
P.O. Box 370
121 Reykjavík, Iceland Phone: (91) 11560

The library occupies the first floor of the building and makes use of the basement as a storage facility. These are somewhat close quarters, but accommodating nevertheless.

A new building is planned to house the administrative offices of the Althingi and the staff of the political parties. The library would receive ca. 430 m² of space in the new building.

Specialization

Emphasis on publications on Icelandic and Nordic politics, economics, law and history (incl. biographies of politicians).

By means of exchange the library receives parliamentary papers from the other Nordic countries. From the Nordic Council the library acquires reports of its general meetings, opinions of its committees, and periodical literature. The library has a complete collection of the reports of the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe.

The main part of the manuscripts held by the library consists of various requests received by the Althingi, i.e., applications for grants and citizenship; and minutes of the parliamentary committees, except those of the Committee for Foreign Affairs which are kept by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday and while the Althingi is in session

Holidays: New Year's Day, Holy Thursday through Easter Tuesday, First Day of Summer, Labor Day (May 1), Ascension Day, Whit Monday, Independence Day (June 17), Bank Holiday (1st Monday in August), Day of Opening the Parliamentary Session (Oct. 10), Bank Holiday (Dec. 24-26, 31).

Holdings

About 27,000 volumes of books and periodicals; ca. 100 titles of periodicals; requests received from 1845 to the present; just over 300 volumes of minutes; ca. 900 bound volumes of Reykjavík daily newspapers from 1950 to the present; 6 foreign newspapers are received and retained for 6 months.

Access

No reader's card needed for admission. The library is open to all scholars interested in using its collections. You should register in the "Gestabók." (Priority is set on serving members of the parliament).

Collection Use

On entering the library the librarian's office is to the right. The card catalog and periodicals catalog are located here. From this room you enter the reading room which seats three. Current issues of some periodicals are shelved here; others are on shelving in the hall straight ahead from the entrance to the library. The Alþingistíðindi collection is also shelved in the reading room.

The next room is the reference room with seats for two readers. Standard reference works, the Stjórnartíðindi, and part of the parliamentary papers of the Nordic countries are here. Through the reference room you reach the other two rooms of the library, housing the remainder of the parliamentary papers collection in one and the book and bound periodicals collections in the other.

Stored in the basement are the documents collections, bound volumes and back issues of newspapers and some unbound periodicals.

Catalogs

The library has a card catalog divided into two sections: an alphabetical section and a subject catalog section arranged by the Dewey Decimal Classification. Participates in the Union List of Foreign Periodicals in Icelandic Libraries.

Photocopying

There is a photocopying machine in the library; it is preferred that photocopying be done by staff of the library upon request. The charge is 5-7 kr. per exposure.



Reference Room, Library of the Althing

Búnaðarfélag Íslands

(Agricultural Society of Iceland)

Bændahöllinni v/Hagatorg

Pósthólf 7080

IS-127 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 19200

The Society is on the second and third floors of the west wing of the Hótel Saga at Hagatorg. This is a short walk across Suðurgata from the main building of the university and bus number 4 (Hagar) stops at Hagatorg. The library occupies the equivalent of two rooms on the third floor.

Specialization

Agriculture in general; animal husbandry, incl. cattle, sheep, horses, birds and fur-bearing animals; horticulture; botany; soil research; water resources; and architecture. The library of the Society is one of four that together form the core of Icelandic agricultural collections. The others are that of the Rannsóknastofnun landbúnadarins (Agricultural Research Institute, in Reykjavík), Búnaðarbókasafnið á Akureyri (the Agricultural Library of Akureyri) and the library of Bændaskólinn á Hvanneyri (the Farmers School of Hvanneyri).

Hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Holdings

Ca. 2,000 cataloged book titles; ca. 200 current periodicals, both Icelandic and foreign; 1,000 pamphlets; reprints; and maps.

Access

Staff of the Society. Others by agreement.

Collection Use

On entering the library the reading room is on the left, the librarian's office, card catalog and current periodical shelves around the corner to the right. A large reading table seating ca. 12 occupies the center of the reading room. The book collection and bound Icelandic annual publications are on the shelves in the room. Current issues of periodicals are on open shelves near the catalog; the next older issues are in pam boxes, one for each title; and back runs are kept together in pam boxes on compact metal shelving.

Circulation of material is by agreement and forms are in preparation for this purpose. Interlibrary loan within Iceland is available, as are reference service and assistance in use of the collection.

Catalogs

Cataloging and classification of the collections has been in progress. There is an author/title card catalog; Dewey Decimal Classification is used. A computer is expected in early 1987 which will be used to catalog the entire collection. Participant in the Union List of Foreign Periodicals in Icelandic Libraries.

Photocopying

Service by staff is available and is gratis for small amounts of copying; otherwise the charge is 6 kr. per exposure.

Publications

The Society publishes Freyr, Búnadarrítid (which includes the library's annual report), and Handbók Bænda.



Compact shelving, Agricultural Society Library

Hafrannsóknastofnunin
(Marine Research Institute)
Skulagötu 4
P.O. Box 1390
IS-121 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 20240

The institute is located in a building formerly also housing the national radio offices and a large lighted sign reading "Útvarp" rises above the building. It is a short walk from Lækjartorg, the second building on Skúlagata from the corner of Ingólfstræti.

Specialization

Marine biology and geology, natural history, oceanography.

Hours

8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Holdings

6,000 volumes; ca 600 current periodicals, including technical reports series and annuals; 20,000 reprints (12,000 cataloged)

Access

Open to the staff of the institute, staff and students of the university, and others by agreement.

Collection Use

The library is now a one-room facility occupying ca. 60 m² but will expand in the near future by some 200 m². Some of the material in the collection resides in the offices of staff of the institute. As you enter the library you face the shelves for the collection. To the right of these and running the length of the room is an aisle. On the right side of the aisle are the librarian's desk, current periodical shelves, the reprints catalog and the card catalog.

The current issues of periodicals are displayed in a manner not encountered elsewhere. There is a shelf for each day of the week and the periodicals displayed on each shelf are changed weekly, with shelf and issues being color coded. Older issues are on the regular shelves; the most heavily used are bound.

Circulation of materials is a "self-service" procedure. A card is filled out for each volume or unbound periodical issue and placed in a plastic envelope, which is, in turn, placed on the shelf where the volume or issue resides.

Reference service and database searching are available with access to DIALOG and a variety of British databases.

Catalogs

There is a card catalog with an author/title section and a classified subject section. Dewey Decimal Classification is used and a broad key to the classes is available. There is also a card catalog by author and some key words of the reprint collection (12,000 of 20,000). For periodicals a printed list exists. Participates in the Union List of Foreign Periodicals in Icelandic Libraries and participated in the Union List of Foreign Acquisitions of Icelandic Research Libraries.

Photocopying

A copying machine is available.

Publications

The institute publishes the series Rit Fiskideildar and various reports. A report on the library has appeared in the annual report of the institute, Hafrannsóknir, the latest in 1984.

Kennaraháskóli Íslands

(Teachers College of Iceland)

v/Stakkahlid

IS-105 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 688700

Take bus number 3 (Nes-Háaleiti) east from Lækjartorg. The college buildings are in view of the bus stop at Háteigsvegur and Stakkahlid. There are two adjoining buildings. From the bus stop the second, or more southerly of the two, houses the library on the second floor.

Specialization

Education and psychology, especially in English and the Scandinavian languages; schools, pedagogy, and teacher education; Icelandic literature, history, and social studies.

Hours

8:30 am - 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday; 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday (September - May)

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday (June-August)

The reading room on the floor above the library proper is also open for use at times the library is closed.

Holdings

Ca. 35,000 books (including Icelandic elementary school textbooks); 5,000 volumes of periodicals (2,100 Icelandic; 2,900 foreign); 83 Icelandic, 188 foreign current periodicals and indexes. B.Ed. theses from the college. A small number of video cassettes, other audio-visual materials and computer programs.

Access

Intended for use by the teachers and students of the college, but open to anyone with an interest in its subject fields. Outside users must register and apply for a reader's card.

Collection Use

The library moved into new premises in June 1984 and occupies the second and third floors of the college's new building. There are seats for about 105 users in the third floor reading room and in work areas on the second floor. Most material circulates, except reference works, periodicals, and books on reserve for class use. Reference and reserve books are marked with red and yellow spine labels, respectively. The loan period is two weeks. Each book is prepared with a slip at the back on which borrowers write their name and phone number (or class) and which they leave at the circulation desk when borrowing a book. Outside users must have registered first.

Reference service and interlibrary loan are available. Online information services are also available (e.g. ERIC and DIALOG) and databases of educational and psychological works by Icelandic authors are in preparation.

Current issues of periodicals are on the display racks just inside the entrance to the library, the older issues on the shelves to the right. The circulation/reference desk is straight ahead. Reprints, pamphlets and photocopies of articles are in the five cabinets near the desk and are arranged by subject.

Catalogs

There is a card catalog of books in two parts: a classified catalog, with an index to the classes in education, psychology and sociology; and an author/title catalog. Dewey Decimal Classification is used. Cards for non-circulating reference works are red (i.e. pink), for reserve books yellow. Periodicals are not included in the card catalog. A list of periodicals and indexes currently received by the library is available. There is also a computerized catalog of book acquisitions from September 1, 1985. The library is a participant in the Union List of Foreign Periodicals in Icelandic Libraries.

Photocopying

Photocopying facilities are located elsewhere in the college (e.g. at the student bookstore "Bóksala nemenda"); the charge is 6 kr. per exposure.

Publications

Annual report, 1974 - .



Teachers College Library

Kvennasögusafn Íslands

(Women's History Library of Iceland)

Hjardarhaga 26

Pósthólf 7005

127 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 12204

The Women's History Library is located in the private apartment of Anna Sigurdardóttir on the fourth floor of Hjardarhaga 26. Take bus no. 4 (Hagar-Sund) west to Hagatorg. The library is also only a short walk from the university grounds. The collection will remain a private one until such time as a suitable place is found for it in the Þjóðarbókhlaða or some other national collection. It is the desire of the founders that it continue to be maintained as a separate collection, however. As of 1986 the library received some small support from the government, which is only enough, however, to support the daily operation of the library and Anna's writing. There is no real acquisitions budget.

Specialization

The library was founded January 1, 1975, the first day of the International Women's Year of the United Nations. The core of the collection consists of the books, manuscripts and other materials contributed by Anna Sigurdardóttir on that day. The goals of the library are inter alia:

- to collect and preserve:
 - any and all printed materials about women and women's issues;
 - publications by women regardless of subject matter;
 - unpublished manuscripts and letters by women (or copies of them) and other documents concerning the life of Icelandic women and their work in various areas of national life;
 - minutes, reports and other records of women's organizations which are not preserved elsewhere, e.g., in district archives;
 - audio-visual materials relating to women's issues;
 - foreign works on the history of women
- to promote research in the history of Icelandic women by providing bibliographic and other assistance
- to encourage others to preserve sources of any kind that may have value for the history of women
- to publish scholarly works and bibliographies as the occasion arises and resources allow
- to cooperate with other women's history collections, especially Nordic ones

Hours

Since the library is in a private residence an appointment should be made beforehand and an arrangement for using the library agreed upon with Anna.

Holdings

1,500 books; 15 file cabinet drawers of clippings, pamphlets, unpublished essays, etc.

Access

The library is open to use by anyone interested in the history of Icelandic women, or history of women in general. As indicated above, an appointment should be made beforehand, however.

Collection use

The collection is housed in two rooms of a private apartment. The book collection is in the room to the left upon entering, as is the card catalog. Eleven of the vertical files are in the first room on the right on proceeding straight ahead. The other four files are with the book collection. All materials are arranged by subject terms. There is not a great amount of room to accommodate readers, but every effort will be made to do so.

Catalogs

There is a card catalog of the book collection consisting of an author catalog and a subject catalog using locally devised subject terms. The books are arranged on the shelves according to these terms.

The material in the vertical files is not cataloged nor indexed, but is also arranged by subject.

Photocopying

A photocopying machine is available for use at a cost of 3.5 kr. per copy.

Notes

Anna Sigurdardóttir, founder and principal force behind the Kvennasögusafn, was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Iceland in October 1986.

Publications

In 1985 the library published Vinna Kvenna á Íslandi í 1100 Ár by Anna Sigurdardóttir (Reykjavík: Kvennasögusafn Íslands, 1985), a 482-page, illustrated history of women's employment in Iceland. Anna herself was honored with a festschrift published in 1980, Konur skrifa til Heidurs Önnu Sigurdardóttur (Reykjavík: Sögufélag, 1980).



Anna Sigurdardóttir, Women's History Library Honorary Doctorate, University of Iceland, 1986.

Norræna Húsið
(Nordic House)
IS-101 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 17030

Nordic House, designed by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto and opened in 1968, is the center of Nordic cultural activities in Reykjavík. It does not have a street address, but is located on the marshy plain east of the main university grounds at the end of a short driveway and walk. It is both noticeable and easily recognized, with the flags of all the Nordic countries flying outside it.

Specialization

Modern Nordic literature, all genres; secondary works; general reference works; and periodicals. All Nordic languages are represented, including minority languages. Sheet music, scores and sound recordings. Nordic prints (graphic art).

Hours

For circulation:

1:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Monday - Saturday

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Sunday

For reading only:

9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday - Saturday

Holdings

47,000 books; 80 periodicals (back runs not always kept); 1,200 sound recordings and scores; 430 graphic prints.

Access

The library is open to all who wish to use it. You must obtain a library card to borrow material from the library. To do so, register at the desk. There are two types of cards, each costing 200 kr. per year. One card (blue) allows the holder to borrow books, periodicals, music and sound recordings. Another (green) allows the borrowing of prints.

The loan period is 30 days or 15 days, which is indicated by a yellow or blue date card in the item, respectively.

Collection Use

The library consists of a main floor, an open lower level in the center of the main floor, and a basement storage area and classroom. There is seating for 25-30, with additional seating for 5 in the music listening room at the back of the main floor.

The registration/circulation desk is straight ahead on the left inside the entrance. Beginning with the shelves behind the desk and going around the main floor clockwise are to be found: general works, drama, poetry, children's literature, music and sound recordings (at the back of the room) and fiction. The periodical shelving/display is to the right upon entering the library. Scores are in the listening room. On the lower level are reference works, history, and works on special areas, such as Åland.

In the basement are kept sets of collected works for which room is lacking in the library proper, back issues of periodicals and some newspapers, and a classroom.

To borrow material bring the items and your library card to the circulation desk. Renewals are permitted if no one has requested the item be held for them. Sound recordings are played at a machine at the desk for listening in the library.

Catalogs

There is a card catalog with an author and title section and a classified section based on the Dewey Decimal Classification. An "L" before the call number indicates a non-circulating item shelved either in the "Lestrarsalur niðri" (lower-level reading room) or behind the circulation desk with the "Alfræðisbækur."

A separate "Tónlistarskrá," or music catalog, is at the back of the main room near the music collection itself. This catalog covers music books, sound recordings and scores.

There is also a separate catalog of the print collection, the "Myndaskrá."

Photocopying

A photocopying machine is available in the library. The charge is 8 kr. per exposure.

Notes

There is a very nice coffee shop in the Nordic House with a fine view back toward the downtown area. Daily newspapers from the Nordic countries are available for reading in the cafe.



Nordic House Library

Orkustofnun
(Energy Institute)
Grensásvegi 9
IS-105 Reykjavík

Phone: (91) 83600

The Energy Institute is on the east side of the city. Take any bus, or walk to Hlemmur, a main transfer point at the intersection of Hverfisgata and Laugavegur. From Hlemmur bus number 10 (Selás), 11 (Breidholt) and 12 (Vesturberg) all go to Grensásvegur. The stop is just before the intersection with Miklabraut. Cross the street and walk back north along Grensásvegur about a block. The institute occupies the upper floors of a long white warehouse-like building.

Specialization

Geology, geochemistry, hydrology; energy resources and technology; engineering.

Hours

8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Holdings

10,000 books; 220 periodicals (some retained for two to three years only); 28 shelf meters of documents; 28 file cabinets of correspondence and shorter documents.

Access

Primarily serves staff of the institute, but others are welcome. By law the institute is required to provide information to the public. In most cases foreign visitors are, or soon become, known to the staff.

Collection Use

You reach the entrance to the library through a combination reading room and lecture room of the institute. The library itself then extends the width of the building from left (Grensásvegur) to right.

The collections are broadly divided into one of published material, including books and periodicals, and one of documents. The latter is further divided into working, departmental, archival and the library collections. The documents actually maintained in the library are called the "málasafn."

A circulation or charge card (útlánakort) should be filled out for each book borrowed. Short term use and long term use are distinguished. If a book is needed for an indefinite period this should be noted on the card. Otherwise short term use is assumed. In any case, books should be returned as soon as they are no longer needed by the borrower. A separate card is used for periodicals, but current issues may not be taken out of the library.

Current issues of periodicals are on display shelving and newly acquired books on a book truck near the catalog. The library maintained clippings files until 1984, at which time it began using the service "Midlun" for newspaper articles in the areas of industry and energy.

There is some material in microform and a reader is available.

Catalogs

There is a card catalog of the book collection with an author/title section and a classified subject section using the Dewey Decimal Classification. Icelandic works are shelved separately from foreign works. There are two special locations indicated on catalog cards. "Ska" refers to a closed area from which material must be requested; "Sal" refers to the reading/lecture room.

The "málasafn" is classified according to a locally devised scheme which is referred to as the "málasafnskerfi." It is a numeric system that is arranged from the broad to the specific, an example of which is as follows:

- 4. Vatnsorkudeild (Hydropower Division)
- 44. Mannvirkjajardfræði
- 442. Vatnsorkuver (Hydropower Plants)
- 442.1 Sudurland

Users should request staff to retrieve material from the documents collection. Documents may be copied only with the permission of the library staff.

Photocopying

Photocopying is available at a cost of 5 kr. per exposure.

Publications

The annual report of the institute (Orkustofnun. Ársskýrsla) includes mention of the library and its activities. This report also includes an English summary and a bibliography of reports and articles by staff of the institute for the year.



Energy Institute Library

Stofnun Árna Magnússonar á Íslandi
(Arnarnagagnæan Institute in Iceland)
Árnagardi v/Sudurgötu
IS-101 Reykjavík Phone: (91) 25540

Árnagardur is on the university grounds, the second building south of the main university building. Bus number 5 (Skerjafjörður) goes down Sudurgata and stops across from Árnagardur. The institute occupies two floors of the building. The entrance, exhibit hall, offices, reading rooms and library are on the second floor. The manuscript vault, photographic shop and other facilities are on the first floor (also referred to as the basement).

Specialization

Founded in 1962, the institute preserves those manuscripts and documents which it has received from the Arnarnagagnæan Institute and the Royal Library in Denmark. It also maintains a collection of other manuscripts and films or photocopies of manuscripts it is able to acquire, or which it is entrusted to preserve. It carries out research toward the increased understanding of Iceland's language, literature, and history. There being no separate Icelandic folklore institute, the institute has assumed responsibility for work in this area as well. It has collected material in all districts of the country and in Icelandic settlements in North America. The library of the institute collects text editions and works in the areas of literature, history, and linguistics, with special emphasis on medieval studies and folklore.

Hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Holdings

20,000 volumes; 50 current periodicals; ca. 1,000 manuscripts; 10 incunabula; 250 microforms; reprints; ca. 1,500 hours of sound tapes.

Access

Open to staff of the institute, university students writing a thesis, and others by agreement. Foreign scholars are welcome. There is a guest register just inside the entrance.

Collection Use

The entrance to the institute is on the second floor of Árnagardur. Ring the doorbell to the right of the double doors. There is a speaker/microphone there and you may be asked to identify yourself. The doors admit you to a long corridor. Immediately to the right is the exhibit area. Offices of the staff are on either side of the corridor. On your left midway down the corridor is room 205, the "Málstofa," housing the folklore and literature collection of the library. At the far, or south, end of the corridor is the entrance to the main reading room. To the left of this entrance is an open area of reference works, especially printed lists of manuscripts, and the card catalog. New acquisitions are kept on top of the catalog cases. The catalog uses the Dewey Decimal Classification. There is no indication in the catalog of which reading room a work is to be found, but apparently this soon becomes clear upon use.

Books in the main reading room, room 208, consist primarily of printed editions and are arranged by country, author and title. The reprint collection, including a tremendous number from the estate of Einar Ólafur Sveinsson, is also housed here. There is a separate card catalog of the reprint collection. Forms are used for charging out material and loan periods are by agreement. Reference service is available, with the librarian on duty from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Catalogs

There is a card catalog of the collection using the Dewey Decimal Classification; and a separate card catalog of the large reprint collection. An accessions list is also maintained. The library participates in the Union List of Foreign Periodicals in Icelandic Libraries.

Publications

The institute issues editions of manuscripts in its collections, works of textual and critical research, and facsimile editions of manuscripts. Its annual publication, Gripla, includes shorter research articles. The institute and library are included in the annual report of the University of Iceland (Árbók Háskóla Íslands). A useful, concise summary of the history of the institute and its activities is the eight-page pamphlet, Stofnun Árna Magnússonar (Reykjavík, October 1986), issued on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the University of Iceland.



Manuscripts Vault, Arnarnagæan Institute. Ásdís Egilsdóttir, Librarian