

The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority

The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM-utvikling) was established on 1st January, 2003 following the merger of the Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, the Norwegian Museum Authority, and the National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries. ABM-utvikling is a subordinate to the Ministry of Culture, and carries out the governmental archive, library and museum policy.

ABM-utvikling is currently under reorganisation. Effective from 1 July 2010, the National Library is responsible for all tasks relating to library services. As of 1 January 2011, ABM-utvikling will be co-organised with the [Arts Council Norway](#). All tasks relating to museums and archives will be continued within this new organisation. The new administrative director of Arts Council Norway will be Anne Aasheim.

Principal aim and vision

Adopted at the board meeting held on 18th February, 2009.

Underlying principle

The activities of ABM-utvikling are based on freedom of speech, a multi-faceted society, open dialogue and tolerance.

Vision

Knowledge and experience for all

Principal aim:

Archives, libraries and museums shall be active and relevant institutions in our society, with emphasis on innovation, critical reflection and creative insight.

Areas targeted for special attention from 2009

- meeting places for the spread of culture and knowledge
- the development of digital content and services
- education, research and lifelong learning
- prioritize, manage and secure the collections
- build institutions and networks

One of the tasks of ABM-utvikling has been to collect and publish statistics from archives, libraries and museums in cooperation with Statistics Norway. The Museums statistics will be continued in Arts Council Norway from 2011.

Number of museums

As a result of the museum policy, the number of museums has decreased. Small museums with poor resources have been encouraged to merge into larger museums where they can share competency, staff and economic resources.

In 2008 we looked into the cost/benefit of collecting statistics from museums with less than one full time employee, and found that this group of ca. 150 museums gave less than 5 % of the total numbers of objects, visits, exhibitions etc.. We concluded to focus upon the more

professional museums, and since 2008 we have collected data from museums that were open to the public and had at least one man year regular staff.

Yearly surveys

The statistics are collected by yearly surveys. The questionnaire is revised every year. Questions from the EGMUS Common Questionnaire has been introduced, but not all questions are relevant for Norwegian museums.

For collection of the statistics, ABM-utvikling has developed web questionnaires. The system will be demonstrated at the EGMUS meeting in Oslo. We achieve a response rate of almost 100 %. We compare the report from every museum with last year's results, and we need to contact most of the museums to gather more information or correct faults. When the data has sufficient quality, we send the data file to Statistics Norway, who also controls the data.

Publication of the statistics

24 June 2010 Statistics Norway published the most important data from 2009 on their web site: http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/07/01/40/museer_en/

The total results are published by ABM-utvikling in a printed publication. It can also be found as a pdf file on our web site: <http://www.abm-utvikling.no/publisert/abm-skrift/abm-skrift-57.html/> (2008 data). The data from 2009 will shortly be published.

Results of the 2009 survey

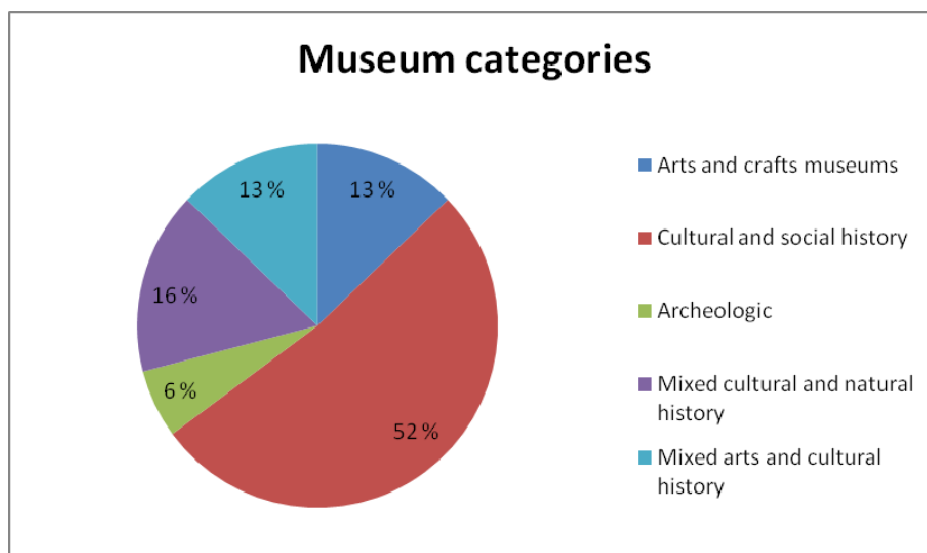
The statistics include data from 148 museums that were open to the public and had at least one man year regular staff. The data were collected 1st – 31st of March 2010.

1. Type of Collection

The museums are divided into five categories for statistical purposes:

1. Arts and crafts museums (20 museums)
2. Social history museums (103 museums)
3. Natural history museums (9 museums)
4. Mixed social history and natural history museums (26 museums)
5. Mixed arts and social history museums (15 museums)

The largest category is social history. These museums are municipal museums, many of them open air museums with a large number of buildings. As a result of the merging of museums, more and more museums will classify themselves into mixed groups. We are not sure that this way of grouping museums will be functional in the future.

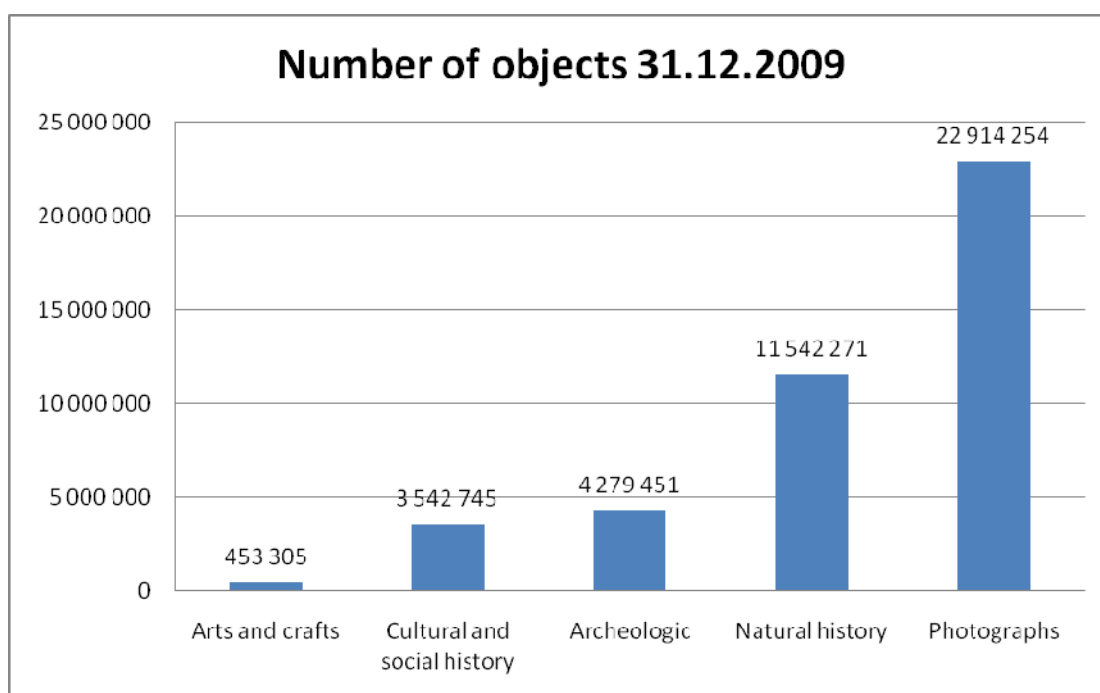


2. Legal state of the museum

State-owned museums	Local and regional-owned museums	Other public owned museums	Private-owned museums
12 (8 %)	23 (16 %)	113 (76 %)	0

All of the “other public owned museums” were foundations.

3. Size of the collection



Together there are 19,8 mill. objects and 22,9 mill. photographs in Norwegian museums.

The category that increases most is “photographs”. There are 5,8 mill. photographs more in 2009 compared to 2006. Some museums have taken over large photographic archives, for instance from local newspapers and photographers. The number of “items” (photographs”) are in many cases estimates.

The largest museums are university museums with large staffs and vast collections. There are 6 university museums in Norway:

- Natural History Museum, University of Oslo (Natural history)
- University of Stavanger, Museum of Archeology (Mixed social and natural history)
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norwegian Museum of Agriculture
- Bergen Museum, University of Bergen (Mixed social and natural history)
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU Trondheim (Mixed social and natural history)
- Tromsø University Museum (Mixed social and natural history)

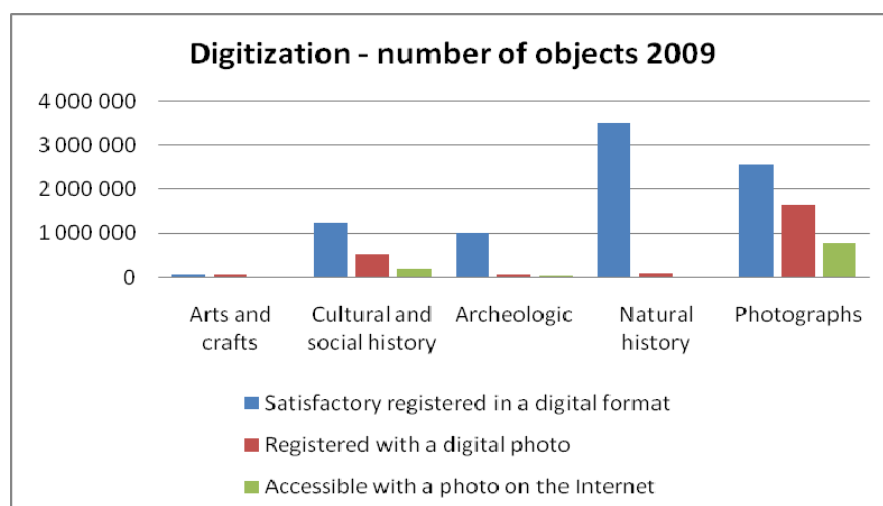
4. Digitization

Through the annual survey we try to gather information about the number of objects that are digitized and available on the Internet.

In the questionnaire for 2009 we had these questions:

- Number of objects that are satisfactory registered in a digital format
- Number of objects registered with a digital photograph
- Number of objects accessible with a photograph on the Internet

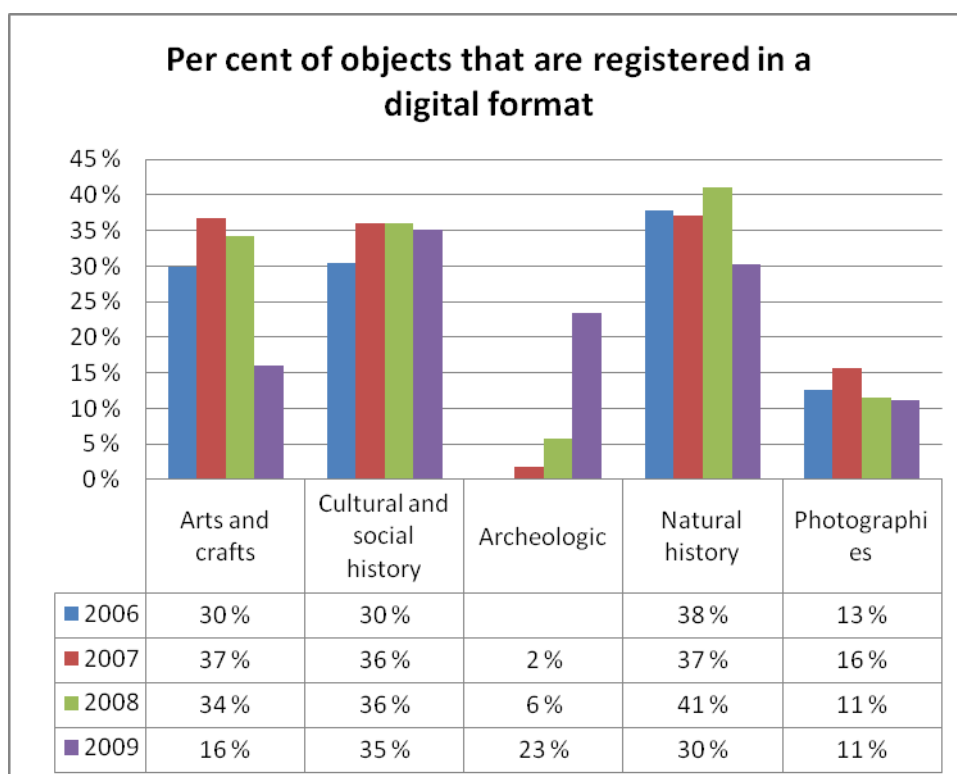
	Satisfactory registered in a digital format	Registered with a digital photo	Accessible with a photo on the Internet
Arts and crafts	72 642	52 032	2 768
Cultural and social history	1 246 970	513 854	187 787
Archeologic	1 005 377	71 771	46 504
Natural history	3 494 465	98 691	9 955
Photographs	2 556 271	1 649 781	766 328



Digitization – part of the collections that are digitized 31.12.2009:

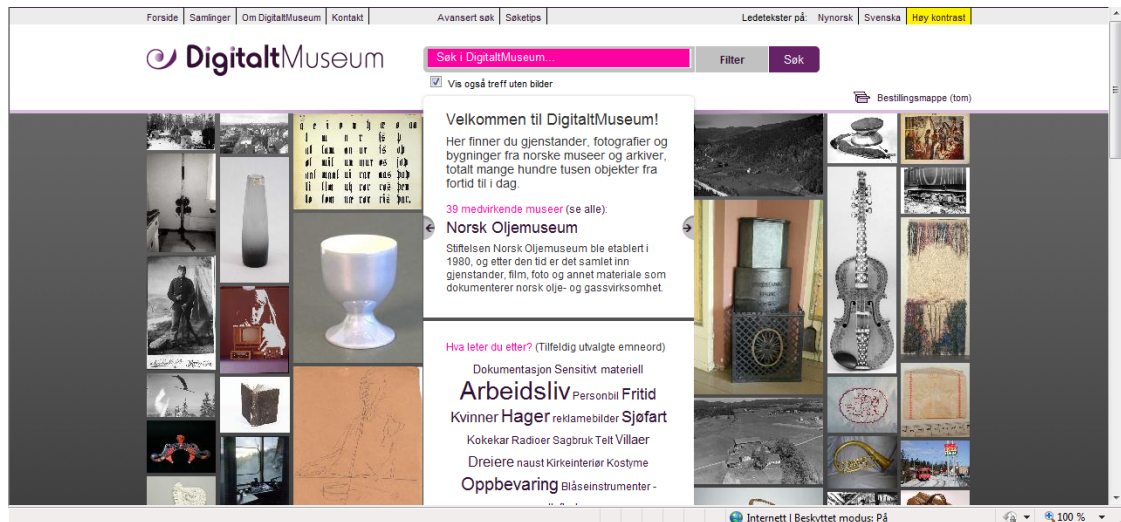
Objects	Satisfactory registered in a digital format	Registered with a digital photo	Accessible with a photo on the Internet
Arts and crafts	16 %	11 %	1 %
Cultural and sociological history	35 %	15 %	5 %
Archeology	23 %	2 %	1 %
Natural history	30 %	1 %	0,1 %
Photographs	11 %	7 %	3 %

The way we ask has changed somewhat over the years. From 2006 to 2008 we asked how many objects were registered in a digital format. In 2009 we asked how many objects were **satisfactory** registered in a digital format. With satisfactory we mean title and description of the object, a unique identification number, reproduced by photography and registered in a digital registration system. These changes may explain some of the variations in the data. If we compare data from 2006 -2009, we get these results:



Digital museum

From a portal called “Digitalt museum”, it is possible to access information about buildings, objects and photographs in 39. <http://www.digitaltmuseum.no/> “Digitalt museum” is a rather new project that will expand in the years to come.



Digital services

We also wanted to know about web-based services and had these questions:

- Number of Internet exhibitions (exhibitions made especially for the Internet)
- Did the museum have its own web site? (yes/no)
- Number of visits at the web site
- Was the museum's catalogue available at the Internet (yes/no/partly)
- Did the museum have web-based educational programs for children?
- Was the museum's web site according to the WAI standard?
- Did the museum have formal plans for digital programs? (yes/no)

5. Exhibitions

There were 2.964 exhibitions in 2009, in addition to 179 exhibitions made especially for the Internet. There has been a slight increase over the years.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Basic exhibitions	1434	1471	1559	1523	1 541
Travelling exhibitions	196	226	226	239	284
Temporary exhibitions	1028	1040	1073	1119	1 139
Internet exhibitions	146	174	204	211	179

The museums owned 4.855 cultural history buildings in 2009. 61 % of them were open to the public.

6. Open meetings, concerts, theatrical performances and educational events for children

Museums are arenas for cultural events related to the theme of the museum. Some museums give visitors short performances with costumes.

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Open meetings	4002	4691	5265	5 656
Concerts	1617	1539	1619	1 646
Theatrical productions	329	353	308	326
Theatrical performances	876	3490	4616	4 387

One important target group for museums is children and young persons. Most museums have special educational events for this group. Many museums also cooperate with schools in a project called “The cultural rucksack”. This is a national programme for art and culture provided by professionals in Norwegian schools. The programme helps school pupils to become acquainted with all kinds of professional art and cultural expressions.

Participation – children and young persons:

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Educational events	549 799	553 735	583 135	614 098
"The cultural rucksack"	353 106	343 420	393 255	362 915

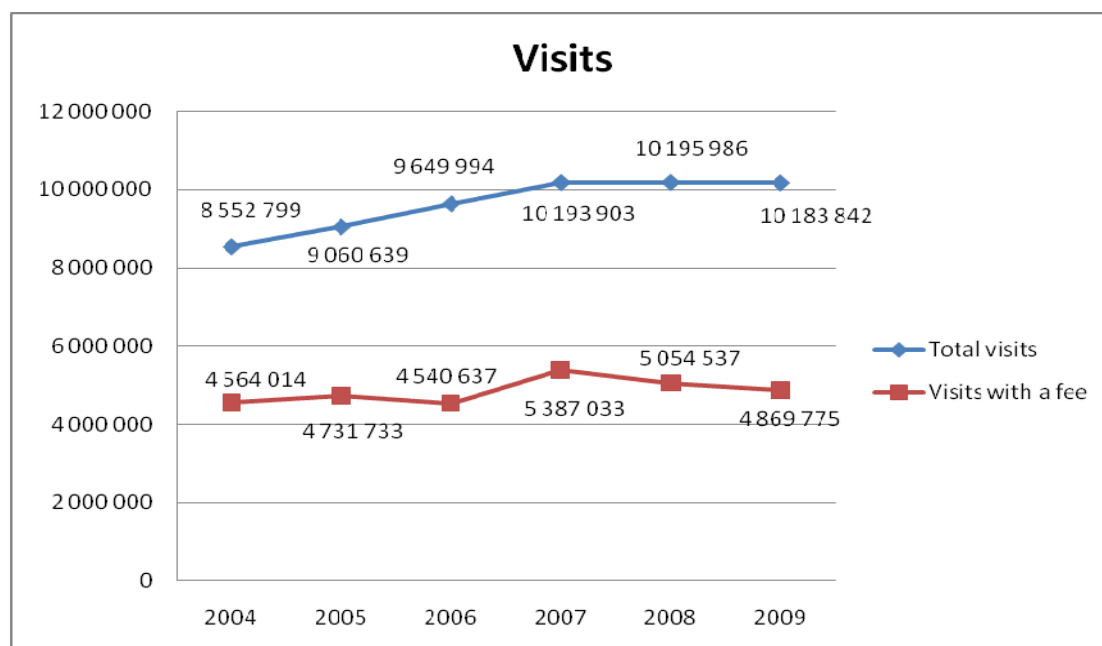
7. Visits

Norwegian museums had more than 10 mills. visits in 2009. This is equivalent to 2,1 visits per inhabitant.

Visits 2009:

Single visits adults	Single visits children	Adult persons in groups	Children in groups
6 154 941	1 477 814	1 372 729	1 178 358

The following graph shows the number of paid and free visits since 2004.



The 16 largest museums had together 50 per cent of the total number of visits, while 6 museums had less than 1 000 visits in 2009. In 133 museums there were entry fees for adults and in 129 museums there were entry fees from children.

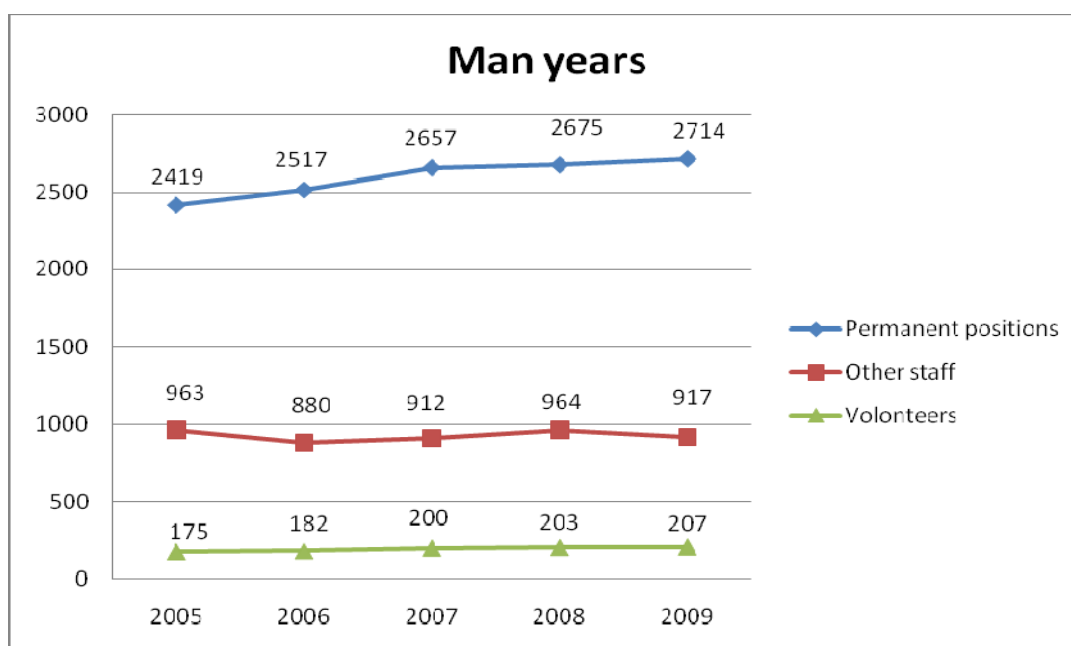
The following is a list of the 5 most visited museums in Norway with number of visits from 2009:

1. Nasjonalmuseet for kunst, arkitektur og design
(The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design) – 568 657
2. Naturhistorisk museum , University of Oslo
(Natural History Museum) - 546 673
3. Kulturhistorisk museum, University of Oslo
(Historical museum and Viking Ship Museum) - 439 794
4. Nidaros Domkirkes Restaureringsarbeider
(The Restoration Workshop of Nidaros Cathedral) – 439 154
5. Norsk folkemuseum
(The Norwegian Museum of Cultural History) - 383 535

The first museum on the list had free entry.

8. Staff

The museums had a total of 2,714 permanent full-time employees. Half of these (51 %) were persons with specialist training (curators, researchers, conservators, photographers etc.). The total number of man-years was 3,631. 207 man years were from volunteers. On average, museums employed 18 permanent employees, 12.4 of whom had professional training, museum directors not included. However, the number of permanent staff differs from 122 in the largest museum to 1 in the 12 smallest museums.



Positions by gender:

Administrative directors	40 %
Specialist staff (scientific personell, researchers, archivists, librarians, curators, educational staff, artists, guides)	59 %
Administrative staff	75 %
Technical staff (craftsmen, caretakers, cleaners, ICT)	29 %

All together there are 3.631 man years staff in Norwegian Museums. 1.920 are women (53 %) and 1.711 are men (47 %). Only 35 of 125 chairmen of the board were female.

9. Economy

Norwegian museum's total income in 2009 was 426mill. euro. Total expense was 439 mill. euro. (exchange rate July 2010).

