




**The
Norwegian
Literary
System:
A Miniguide**



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The background features two large, overlapping teal shapes. One is a circle in the upper right, and the other is a larger, more irregular shape on the left side, partially overlapping the circle.

The Norwegian literary system

Since the 1960s there has been broad political agreement in Norway that it is society's responsibility to safeguard working conditions in the literary field. With around five million inhabitants, Norway is a small language community. The authorities have therefore introduced a number of support schemes in order to promote literary diversity, stimulate the writing of new Norwegian literature, and ensure that a good part of the world's literary heritage is published in Norwegian.

Today, the Norwegian literary system is characterised by three primary features:

- direct and indirect state support to all points in the literary circuit
- collective schemes
- collective and mutually binding agreements between all parties in the system

State support for literature

The Norwegian state supports literature and the literary system in many different ways. The objective of all such artistic support is to distribute the support and to create schemes that incentivise innovation.

VAT exemption

In 1967, books were exempted from value added tax (VAT) in order to keep prices down and encourage the public to buy and read books. Traditional audiobooks were exempted in 1995, and from 2019 on, this also applies to e-books and digital audiobooks.

Book-buying schemes

The Norwegian state also supports literature through the so-called book-buying schemes, whereby the state, as represented by Arts Council Norway, purchases a certain number of copies of select titles every year, which are then distributed to Norwegian libraries.

Stipends

The state provides direct support to writers in the form of grants and stipends. These are administered by the Government Grants for Artists programme under the auspices of Arts Council Norway. Further, the state-sponsored Public Lending Right scheme (*bibliotekvederlaget*) generates funds for the various writers' organisations, funds that are largely distributed as stipends to authors and translators. For more on state-sponsored remuneration schemes, see page 22.

Other state-sponsored grants

The Norwegian state also supports cultural development through schemes that are not directly linked to the various artists' organisations. Arts Council Norway provides support to all manner of individual projects, from seminars to exhibitions and conferences. Such support is also afforded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which unlike the Ministry of Culture has an operative remit as well and can be directly involved in the practical dissemination of the arts. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' international promotion of Norwegian culture includes the presentation of Norwegian art and culture abroad, courses in Norwegian at foreign universities, and pan-Nordic initiatives.

A key principle underpinning all of these support schemes is that of “an arm-length's distance”, which is meant to safeguard freedom of expression and artistic freedom. In brief, the principle entails that the state shall “support, not steer”: the allocating authorities establish an overall framework and distribute the financial resources on a general basis, but these resources are allocated to a fund or council comprising professionals who, independently of political trends, distribute the money as stipends to practising artists.

The book industry

The Norwegian publishing industry is dominated by four major actors: Gyldendal Norsk Forlag, Aschehoug, Cappelen Damm (all based in Oslo), and Vigmstad & Bjørke (based in Bergen). In total, these four publishing houses have an 80 per cent share of the Norwegian book industry.

The three major Oslo-based publishers each own a bookstore chain: Ark (Gyldendal), Norli (Aschehoug), and Tanum (Cappelen Damm). Gyldendal and Aschehoug, together with the minority shareholder Pax, also own the book club group De norske Bokklubbene, while Cappelen Damm runs its own book club system. In recent years, the industry has been characterised by precisely such vertical integration, whereby a publisher increasingly owns its entire supply chain, from publishing and distribution to book clubs and bookstores.

The latter half of the 2010s has also witnessed a significant increase in audio-book streaming. The two major actors here are Storytel (co-owned by Cappelen Damm and the Swedish audiobook group Storytel) and Fabel (owned by Lydbokforlaget, which in turn is co-owned by Aschehoug and Gyldendal).

Another feature of the Norwegian system is that all the parties involved in the literary system, such as authors, playwrights, publishers, film producers, bookstores, and theatres, are organised in their own associations.

Main writers' organisa- tions

Norway has separate associations dedicated to fiction writers, non-fiction writers, and translators, which independently see to the particular interests of their members. The various associations work together, and they often release joint statements on issues concerning cultural policy.

Television subtitlers, government-authorised translators, interpreters, and film subtitlers all have their own associations.

Most of the Norwegian artists' organisations are characterised by their mix of both discipline-specific and political objectives, their somewhat guild-like nature (with admission requirements for potential members), and their high degree of membership among practitioners in the field.

The associations are recognised as being the collective representative of the particular artist group, both by their private sector counterparts and by public and semi-public organs. As such, they are empowered to negotiate on behalf of their members and in certain instances also to administer funds distributed to arts practitioners who do not hold membership in the respective associations.

As with most other artists' organisations in Norway, all the writers' organisations have admission requirements based on assessments of the applicant's work. The writers' organisations also administer funds from collective remuneration schemes, including funds stemming from the Public Lending Right scheme and from the licensing organisations Kopinor (photocopying and digital use of texts) and Norwaco (television, film, and music content).

Norwegian Society of Authors (*Forfatterforbundet*)

The Norwegian Society of Authors, founded as recently as January 2018, is a trade union for authors and aims to improve authors' income and working conditions and to promote Norwegian fiction. Moreover, the society seeks to enhance the professional development of its members, foster the growth of new literature, and strengthen and defend the freedom of expression.

Authors who have published a work of fiction can become members. As of 2019, the Norwegian Society of Authors has around 400 members, most of whom have several works available for lending in Norwegian libraries.

forfatterforbundet.no



Norwegian Authors' Union (*Den norske Forfatterforening, DnF*)

The Norwegian Authors' Union, founded in 1893, is an association for authors of works of fiction for adults. Its aim is to promote Norwegian literature and uphold the interests of Norwegian fiction writers. DnF's board and literary council are elected by the annual meeting. The broadly composed nine-member literary council serves as DnF's advisory committee and makes recommendations for stipend allocations. Both members and non-members can apply for stipends and receive help from the union. DnF's international panel presents an annual freedom of expression award. DnF's operating costs are covered by collective funds, primarily from the Public Lending Right scheme, Norwaco, and Kopinor. The remaining funds are then earmarked for various stipends.

forfatterforeningen.no



Den norske Forfatterforening

Norwegian Writers for Children

(Norske barne- og ungdomsbokforfattere, NBU)

NBU was founded in 1947, and the association's aim is to uphold the professional and financial interests of all authors of books for children and young adults.

NBU has an administration, a board, and a literary council. With the exception of the head of administration, all the elected representatives are authors. The annual meeting is the association's supreme decision-making body. NBU provides assistance to authors, works on contracts and collective agreements, and engages in cultural policy. Its literary council administers NBU's stipends (which stem from the various remuneration schemes) and recommends children's and young adult book authors for the Government Grants for Artists scheme.

nbuforfattere.no



Writers' Guild of Norway

(Norske Dramatikeres Forbund, NDF)

The Writers' Guild of Norway was founded in 1938 and is a special interest organisation for authors who write for the stage, film, television, radio, and festivals. The guild's aim is to uphold and promote the artistic and financial interests of Norwegian playwrights and to strengthen copyright protection. The guild also serves as a venue for social and professional interaction, and it is open to guest and student members.

The Writers' Guild of Norway is a member of the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO). The aim of this membership is to ensure that Norwegian playwrights have regular working conditions.

dramatiker.no



Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association

(Norsk faglitterær forfatter- og oversetterforening, NFFO)

Founded in 1978, the Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association is a trade union for non-fiction authors and translators of non-fiction. The association protects the members' professional and financial interests by negotiating agreements and contracts with publishers and other public and private institutions.

NFFO seeks to promote high-quality non-fiction and to bolster the Norwegian language. The association participates in the national conversation on non-fiction and organises courses and seminars for both members and the public. NFFO publishes Norway's premier literary journal, *Prosa*.

nffo.no



Norwegian Association of Literary Translators

(Norsk oversetterforening, NO)

Founded in 1948, the Norwegian Association of Literary Translators has members who translate from over 50 languages. The association seeks to gather Norwegian literary translators, raise the quality of Norwegian translations, improve the field's standing, call attention to the translator as a creator, and promote the understanding of the social importance of linguistic skills.

NO negotiates remuneration agreements and runs or participates in several projects relating to the field and its working conditions. The association awards the Bastian Prizes for excellence in translation and runs a website on Norwegian literary translations (Norsk Oversetterleksikon).

oversetterforeningen.no



Norsk Oversetterforening



Other writers' organisa- tions

Norwegian Association of Audiovisual Translators (*Norsk audiovisuell oversetterforening, NAViO*)

NAViO was founded in 1997. As of 2019, the association has around 150 members, most of whom are television subtitlers. Unlike the book industry, the subtitling agencies are not affiliated in a common employers' association, and NAViO negotiates with each individual agency. NAViO is actively engaged in making industry contracts more clear-cut, increasing job security, strengthening rights, and raising salaries. The association wants to create awareness among its members on the importance of working together to accomplish these goals. NAViO also administers rights and collective royalties through its membership in Norwaco.

navio.no



Norwegian Society of Composers and Lyricists (*Norsk forening for komponister og tekstforfattere, NOPA*)

NOPA is a society for popular music composers and lyricists in Norway. The association aims to promote Norwegian music and songwriting, develop the professional community, create meeting places, and work for its members' artistic and financial interests. This involves for example working on copyright issues, handing out awards and stipends, and providing financial backing for miscellaneous projects. As of 2019, the association has over 1,100 members. NOPA is a member of the performing rights organisation TONO and is a sister organisation of the Norwegian Society of Composers (*Norsk Komponistforening*) and the Norwegian Music Publishers Association (*Musikkforleggerne*).

nopa.no



Norwegian Union of Journalists

(Norsk Journalistlag, NJ)

The Norwegian Union of Journalists is both a trade union and an organisation engaged in shaping media policy. The union works on improving its members' salaries and working conditions, as well as looking out for their copyright interests. The organisation's principal tasks include protecting and promoting ethical standards and integrity, the freedom of expression, and its own media policy. As of 2019, NJ has over 8,000 members, of whom 600 are students and around 1,350 are retired journalists.

nj.no



Norwegian Critics' Association

(Norsk kritikerlag)

The Norwegian Critics' Association is a membership organisation for critics within three broad fields: the visual arts; literature; and theatre, music, and dance. As of August 2019, the association has a total of 376 members distributed among these three fields.

The association seeks to uphold its members' professional and financial interests and increase the quality and independence of cultural criticism. Through a variety of initiatives, the association works to elevate critical thinking in the public debate on culture. Every year, each section presents its own critics' awards.

kritikerlaget.no



Norwegian Comedy Writers' Association (*Norsk revyforfatterforening, NRFF*)

NRFF is a membership organisation whose purpose is to manage the professional, artistic, and financial interests of revue and comedy writers. As of 2019, the association has around 50 members. The association negotiates agreements and serves as a professional network where members are informed on developments on rights issues.

The association has established a fund for revue and comedy writers, which aims to support projects and measures that raise public interest in revues and entertainment and can help recruit authors to the field. The association awards the Aristophanes Prize to up-and-coming revue writers, as well as the honorary award the Leonard Statuette.



Collective agree- ments

As described above, the Norwegian system is characterised by all the parties in the literary system – authors, playwrights, publishers, film producers, bookstores, theatres, and so forth – being organised in associations. One of the main tenets underpinning these associations is the idea that people are stronger together. That is why each association negotiates collective agreements that regulate various conditions within the industry. In doing this the associations act as a bridge in the relationship between authors on the one hand and publishers and libraries on the other.

The associations negotiate independently of one another. This leads to certain variations, such as fiction authors having different royalty rates than non-fiction authors, and translators having agreements that are highly dissimilar to the various ones that authors have.

The body of collective agreements is based on a fundamental solidarity, namely the standpoint that first-time authors shall have the same conditions as veteran or bestselling authors, and that most actors, on either side of the negotiating table, are better served by collective agreements than by individual negotiations.

Book Agreement

The Book Agreement is a voluntary agreement between the Norwegian Publishers Association and the Norwegian Bookstores Association. The agreement regulates the terms of competition in the book trade in Norway and allows the rights holders to negotiate collective agreements with the publishers. Further, the agreement is based on the principle of a fixed book price, which makes it possible to offer a broad array of titles through a variety of platforms and sales venues and to stimulate the emergence of new authors.

The Book Agreement is available in its entirety (in Norwegian) at [**bokhandlerforeningen.no**](http://bokhandlerforeningen.no)

Standard contract

The agreements that are made between the writers' organisations and the Norwegian Publishers Association are called the standard contract. These agreements define the rights and obligations of the given writer and publisher. The agreements ensure for example that authors published by a publisher who is a member of the Norwegian Publishers Association are entitled to royalties in line with the current rates.

All the agreements and attendant contract templates are available at the individual association's webpages.

The Book Agreement and the standard contract presuppose a formal exemption from section 10 of the Competition Act.

Bookshelf Agreement

The Bookshelf Agreement (*Bokhylla-avtalen*) is a joint effort to provide online access to literature published in Norway, as formalised in an agreement between the National Library of Norway and Norwegian rights holders as represented by Kopinor. As of 2019, the service includes around 250,000 books published in Norway up to and including the year 2000. The books are available at the National Library's website for all users with a Norwegian IP address. Books that are no longer copyright-protected can also be downloaded. Authors, other creators, and publishers are remunerated for such public access through extended collective licensing. The agreement allows rights holders to withdraw their works from the service. Norway is so far the only country in the world to feature such a service.

Framework agreements

The rights of copyright holders within the theatre, film, and television sector have for years been regulated through framework agreements between the copyright holder organisations and the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), the Association of Norwegian Theatres and Orchestras (*Norsk teater- og orkesterforening*, NTO), and the Norwegian Film and TV Producers Association (*Virke Produsentforeningen*). The audiovisual sector has undergone a major transformation in recent years, which has increased the pressure on copyright holders to sign over ever more rights to producers, and for ever longer periods of time.

The various parties are free to enter into agreements in this area. The Writers' Guild of Norway has entered into framework agreements with most of the major parties. The guild also provides individual advice to members and non-members alike before they sign a contract. Anyone who wishes to enter into an agreement in this area may contact the guild.

NRK Agreement

The Writers' Guild of Norway has a long-standing framework agreement with the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK). In 2017, the parties entered into a new, temporary framework agreement. This temporary agreement ensures a shared understanding between NRK and the copyright holders on the right to produce and use the audiovisual work that is based on the authors' manuscripts and literary works. The agreement also addresses the right to compensation for services performed, the right to remuneration for having one's work shown on NRK's own platforms as well as on platforms where NRK has editorial control, and the right to remuneration for further use of this work.

Theatre agreements

For several years, the Writers' Guild of Norway and the Association of Norwegian Theatres and Orchestras have had a framework agreement that regulated production, performance, and presentation rights. The agreement was terminated with effect from 1 July 2019. The parties have subsequently begun negotiating a new framework agreement.

Amateur Theatre Agreement

The Writers' Guild of Norway has entered into a framework agreement with Dramas, an umbrella organisation of amateur theatre groups. The agreement regulates the recommended remuneration when amateur theatres produce, show, and perform works.

Film Agreement

The framework agreement between the Writers' Guild of Norway and the Norwegian Film and TV Producers Association continued after the latter joined the enterprise federation Virke. The agreement regulates compensation for services performed and remuneration for film rights from the production of motion pictures.

TV Drama Agreement

The Writers' Guild of Norway and the Norwegian Film and TV Producers Association had an agreement that regulated the rights and obligations associated with the production of TV drama series. Virke assumed responsibility for the agreement when the Norwegian Film and TV Producers Association joined the enterprise federation Virke.

Government-sponsored remuneration schemes

Public Lending Right scheme

Norway introduced its Public Lending Right scheme in 1947 to remunerate authors and other rights holders for the Norwegian state making their works available free of charge in public libraries.

The scheme is anchored in Norwegian cultural policy and seeks primarily to stimulate the creation of new literary works. Remuneration is not paid to foreign copyright holders or to Norwegian or foreign publishers. The remuneration is calculated on the basis of the number of works in Norwegian libraries, and the current rate is set during the negotiations between the associations and the governmental representatives.

The remuneration is paid to various discipline-specific funds, with 85 per cent going to literary copyright holders and 15 per cent going to other artist groups. The funds then distribute the remuneration to the various artists' associations, which then allocate most of the money as stipends. The remuneration can also be used to implement other measures or to run the associations. This is one of the reasons that Norwegian artists' associations enjoy such a strong position.

Remuneration for private copying

Copyright holders are entitled to a reasonable remuneration as compensation for the legal copying of publicly available works. Previously, the compensation scheme for private copying included compensation for the private duplication of audio works and films. Following the introduction of the new Copyright Act in 2018, the scheme was expanded to include visual and literary works. The compensation is provided as an annual allocation in the national budget. This compensation is allocated in part collectively, in part individually. The collective compensation is allocated as financial support for productions and is administered by the Audio and Visual Fund (*Fond for lyd og bilde*). The individual compensation is funnelled through Norwaco, which has empowered its various member organisations (representing the various copyright holder groups) to make the final allocations.

Such compensation may be provided to copyright holders who are Norwegian citizens as well as to EU/EEA citizens living and working in Norway. Compensation must be applied for annually. The right to apply for compensation cannot be signed away or inherited. Copyright holders who fall into this group, and who can make a plausible claim that their work has been copied legally, may apply. The individual application is submitted directly to the member organisations. Organisations that pay compensation shall treat members and non-members equally.

In 2017, NOK 38 million (€3.8 million) was allocated in collective support as administered by the Audio and Visual Fund, while NOK 47 million (€4.7 million) was allocated to support individual compensation as administered by Norwaco. In 2018, the scheme was expanded to include visual and literary works, though this has not yet led to increased allocations in the national budget.



Other remunera- tion schemes

Extended collective licensing

By means of extended collective licensing, an agreement between a rights holder organisation and a user to use copyright-protected material is expanded to also include protected material produced by rights holders who are *not* members of the organisation. Thus, the user receives an all-inclusive licence that encompasses all the rights holders in the given area.

The Copyright Act contains several specific provisions concerning extended collective licensing, for example in regard to broadcasts, copying for educational purposes and retransmissions of broadcasts. Since 2015, it has been possible to use a general extended collective licensing in certain areas where the Copyright Act does not specifically provide for such licensing.

In order for an organisation to be able to invoke extended collective licensing, it must represent a significant number of rights holders and be approved by the Ministry of Culture.

Other rights holders shall be treated equally when the remuneration is to be distributed, and in certain cases they also have the right to ban the use of a work.

Kopinor

Kopinor is an organisation of copyright holders and publishers in 22 member organisations for authors, fine artists, journalists, composers, and their various publishers. Kopinor's administration provides information about copyright and enters into agreements on the use of creative work within education, public administration, churches, NGOs, and businesses.

Kopinor runs a digital service for compendia used in higher education (bolk.no). A separate agreement with the National Library provides online access to books in their entirety (bokhylla.no). The collective remuneration is distributed to rights holders in Norway and abroad (in 2018 this amounted to NOK 330 million, or €33 million).

kopinor.no

Kopinor

Norwaco

Norwaco is an organisation that administers the rights to creative audio and visual material for copyright holders, performing artists and producers. The remuneration is distributed to the rights holders and helps lay the foundation for new creative activity.

Norwaco actively administers rights related to TV distribution, the use of TV, film and music in teaching, museums and libraries, and NRK's use of older in-house productions. In addition, Norwaco distributes the individual, government-sponsored compensation for legal private copying.

Norwaco is an umbrella organisation owned by its 35 member organisations, which together represent more than 65,000 individual members. Moreover, Norwaco's agreements are often supplemented by provisions on extended collective licensing in the Copyright Act.

norwaco.no



Norwaco



Other actors

Arts Council Norway (Norsk kulturråd)

Arts Council Norway is a government agency that allocates art and culture grants to practitioners throughout the country, stimulates new art and culture projects, carries out research and development, and advises the government on cultural matters. The council consists of an administration and collegial bodies appointed by the Ministry of Culture. In several instances, these collegial bodies delegate their authority to various panels and committees. Within the literary field, Arts Council Norway's primary measures include the allocation of stipends that stem from the Government Grants for Artists scheme, the book-buying schemes, and other literary grant schemes overseen by the Norwegian Cultural Fund.

kulturradet.no



KULTURRÅDET
Arts Council
Norway

Government Grants for Artists

The Government Grants for Artists scheme encompasses work grants, one-time grants, grants for elderly, meritorious artists, and long-term stipends and guaranteed incomes. In 2019, authors and translators were allocated around 140 annual stipends of NOK 268,222 (€27,000) each, while the money earmarked for one-time grants for the same artist groups amounted to around NOK 3 million (€300,000). The grants are meant to support individual artists and thereby ensure that the Norwegian arts scene is diverse and creative. When grants are to be allocated, artistic activity and artistic quality are the sole criteria.



STATENS
KUNSTNERSTIPEND
Kulturrådet

The Norwegian Cultural Fund and book-buying schemes

Arts Council Norway, through the Norwegian Cultural Fund, administers grant schemes for literature projects, literary production, and literary festivals as well as an operations scheme that provides financial support to individual enterprises within the literary field. The book-buying schemes for literature include fiction, non-fiction, comic books, and translated literature. Following an assessment of the quality of the various books, around 600 titles are purchased each year, in most cases as both a printed book and an e-book. If their books are purchased, publishers and copyright holders receive a payment that depends on variables such as genre, format, and variant of Norwegian (Bokmål or Nynorsk). The purchased books are distributed at Arts Council Norway's expense to every public library in Norway. In addition, books for children and young adults are distributed to a selection of school libraries.



NORSK
KULTURFOND
Kulturrådet

Norwegian Bookstores Association (*Bokhandlerforeningen*)

The Norwegian Bookstores Association aims to strengthen the status of literature and books in society and ensure that Norwegian bookstores enjoy as stable and predictable conditions as possible. As of 2019, the association has 550 members over the entire country, including online bookstores and all of the bookstore chains. The association's mission is to offer readers the full breadth of literature, regardless of format.

The Norwegian Bookstores Association is one of the parties to the Book Agreement. The association is active in the field of cultural policy, engages in lobbying activities, and participates in public debates in support of the standing of bookstores and books in contemporary society.

bokhandlerforeningen.no



Norwegian Publishers Association (*Den norske Forleggerforening*)

The Norwegian Publishers Association was founded in 1895 and is a special interest organisation for publishing enterprises in Norway.

The association seeks to maintain and strengthen the Norwegian literary system and its basic cultural, legal, and economic conditions. This pertains to issues such as the Book Agreement, VAT exemption for books, library policy, and teaching material policy. Copyright and the freedom of expression are issues the association works on both nationally and internationally.

Most Norwegian publishers with more than two employees are members of the association. At the beginning of 2019, the association had 91 member publishers and represented around 76 per cent of the total book market.

The Norwegian Publishers Association publishes annual statistics for the book market.

forleggerforeningen.no



DEN NORSKE
FORLEGGERFORENING

Association Read! (Foreningen !les)

Association Read! is an idealistic association founded in 1997 with 40 member organisations from the book industry. The association is funded by its member organisations and receives support from Arts Council Norway, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training, and others. The association's mission is to promote reading among all ages and social groups. Through its reading-related measures, the association reaches around 300,000 children and youth and 6,000 teachers and librarians every year. The association presents awards to both authors and readers, organises several promotional activities for reading, publishes a non-fiction magazine (*Faktafyk*), and organises the Norwegian championship in poetry slam.

foreningenles.no



Grafill – the Norwegian Organisation for Visual Communication

As of 2019, Grafill has 1,400 members within visual communication in Norway and works to safeguard their interests. The organisation receives collective royalties from Kopinor, Norwaco, and the Public Lending Right scheme. These funds are intended to help create new cultural expressions in the form of collective and individual projects. Grafill is a nationwide organisation and offers activities, professional courses and guidance on pricing, salary conditions, tendering processes, competitions, and other issues that are relevant in the sector. Grafill also works on influencing policy-making, for example in order to improve working conditions for members who work on books. The organisation's stipend scheme is a vital contribution to the professional and cultural development within the various fields of visual communication. Grafill organises a competition for visual communication (Visuelt), presents an annual award for the year's most beautiful books, and runs its own exhibition venue in Oslo (R2I).

grafill.no

Grafill

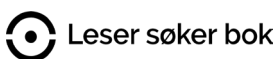
NORSK ORGANISASJON
FOR VISUELL KOMMUNIKASJON

Books for Everyone *(Leser søker bok)*

Since 2013, Books for Everyone has worked to ensure access to good books for everyone, regardless of their reading proficiency. Their goal is a true cultural democracy.

Books for Everyone cooperates with authors, illustrators, comics creators, and publishers to develop new literature for people with reading difficulties. The association has support schemes for practitioners who want to create and publish specially adapted literature, and the association helps ensure that the books are available and widely disseminated. The association cooperates with libraries across the entire country and runs the online book search service Boksøk.

lesersokerbok.no



Norwegian Library Association *(Norsk Bibliotekforening)*

The Norwegian Library Association is a special interest organisation for libraries and library users. The association's mission is to fortify and raise the standing of libraries in society and promote their interests to public authorities and society at large.

The association is engaged in issues such as digital resources, libraries as venues of social integration, the significance of libraries in advancing reading and writing skills, libraries as debate arenas, and the ongoing process of merging Norwegian municipalities. Every day, the association fights on behalf of libraries concerning local branches, book buses, opening hours, media offerings, special events, and all the other high-quality library services that people deserve.

norskbiotekforening.no



NORLA

NORLA (Norwegian Literature Abroad) seeks to boost the export of Norwegian literature through promotional activities and translation stipends. The organisation spreads knowledge about Norwegian books and authors abroad, and its operations are funded by the Ministry of Culture. It was founded in 1978, and since 2004, it has provided support for the translation of around 5,500 Norwegian books to no less than 66 languages. The organisation offers a range of grant schemes aimed at stimulating the translations of Norwegian books.

norla.no



Norwegian Writers' Center (*Norsk Forfattersentrum*)

The Norwegian Writers' Center establishes contact between authors and the public and ensures that authors are remunerated. The centre is a membership organisation for authors, with 1,590 members from the entire country (as of 2019).

Promoting an active, vibrant presentation of contemporary literature, the Norwegian Writers' Center provides authors for public recitations, onstage interview sessions, lectures, writing courses, and similar events. Important patrons include libraries, schools, the national Cultural Rucksack programme, public institutions, the book industry, and organisations. The centre also organises its own events.

The organisation was founded in 1968 and has offices in Kristiansand, Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim, and Tromsø.

forfattersentrum.no



Norwegian PEN

(Norsk PEN)

Founded in 1921, PEN International is the world's largest organisation for writers and the freedom of expression. The Norwegian branch aims to actively defend the freedom of expression, both nationally and internationally, and be on the alert, react, and take action when the freedom of expression faces direct or indirect pressure, whether acute or long-term. Norwegian PEN works on behalf of people who face oppression for speaking out, for example through the Cities of Refuge initiative for persecuted authors, journalists, and artists. All authors, journalists, and others who exercise the freedom of expression in their professional life and who depend on this right may become a member of Norwegian PEN.

norskpen.no



norsk pen.

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Founda- tions, institutes and festivals

Norwegian Institute for Children's Books (*Norsk barnebokinstitut*)

The Norwegian Institute for Children's Books promotes specialist knowledge on literature for children and young adults. In addition to conducting and presenting research, the institute offers writing and literature presentation classes for authors as well as online courses on contemporary children's and young adult literature. The institute is also currently developing a master's programme in writing books for children. The institute spreads knowledge both on web pages and social media and through publications, courses, seminars, and events. The institute's facilities in Oslo house a library with specialist literature, children's books, a reading room, and space for researchers.

barnebokinstituttet.no

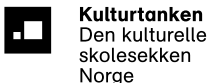


Cultural Rucksack (*Den kulturelle skolesekken*)

The national Cultural Rucksack scheme helps ensure that all schoolchildren in Norway are able to encounter professional art and culture. The scheme is coorganised by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, with the Kulturtanken agency being in charge of day-to-day operations.

The Cultural Rucksack scheme shall give pupils and schools the opportunity to experience, become familiar with, and develop an understanding of professional artistic and cultural expressions of all kinds. The cultural events on offer shall be of high quality and showcase the entire gamut of cultural expressions, including film, cultural heritage, literature, music, the theatrical arts, and fine art.

denkulturelleskolesekken.no



Fritt Ord

The Fritt Ord Foundation is a private foundation that works to protect and promote freedom of expression, public debate, art, and culture. The foundation also works internationally, focusing on projects directly related to the freedom of expression and free journalism. There are six funding application rounds every year. The foundation receives over 3,000 applications every year, approving around one-third of them either entirely or partially. Every year Fritt Ord supports around 300 non-fiction books. In addition to allocating funds upon application, the foundation engages in several of its own initiatives and collaborations. Fritt Ord is open to most forms of presentation in all the areas the foundation supports, such as written publications, visual media, audio media, lectures, debates, seminars, and conferences. What is crucial is that the activities and products are publicly available.

frittord.no



FRITT ORD

Norwegian Centre for New Playwriting

(Dramatikkens hus)

The Norwegian Centre for New Playwriting has a national responsibility for developing new Norwegian plays and establishing a meeting place between playwrights, directors, actors, dramaturges, and the audience. The centre organises workshops, seminars, lectures, and stage readings. Using a dedicated web portal, artists may apply for financial backing, dramaturgical support, and stage resources in order to develop new plays. In various rehearsal rooms throughout the centre, playwrights are allowed to develop and explore their texts with actors and directors.

dramatikkenshus.no

Dramatikkens | **hus**
The Norwegian Centre for New Playwriting

Norwegian Network for Performing Arts (Scenekunstbruket)

Scenekunstbruket, the Norwegian Network for Performing Arts, is the largest nationwide presenter of the performing arts to a young target audience in Norway. It is also a network within the performing arts for children and adolescents, with an emphasis on cooperation, guidance, audience growth, and national and international projects. Every year, the network presents over 2,500 performances to around 250,000 children and adolescents. Scenekunstbruket helps develop and advance the performing arts among children and adolescents and creates fora where new ideas, experiences, and discussions can be shared, thus providing a common frame of reference.

The network also organises the annual performing arts festival Showbox in Oslo.

scenekunstbruket.no

SCENEKUNSTBRUKET
Scenekunst i hele Norge

Houses of literature

The House of Literature, Norway's first such house, opened in central Oslo in autumn 2007 and is currently the largest of its kind in Europe. In the wake of its success, similar literature houses were founded in Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, Tromsø, Skien, Bodø, and many other cities throughout Norway. These houses feature a wide range of activities both during the day and in the evening and attract a great many visitors.

Literary festivals

Literary festivals are important arenas for presenting literature. A few such festivals are held around Norway, varying both in scope and in focus. Here are some of the most noteworthy festivals:

February

Bergen International Literary Festival (*LittfestBergen*), Bergen
littfestbergen.no

May

Norwegian Festival of Literature (*Norsk Litteraturfestival – Sigrid Undset-dagene*), Lillehammer
litteraturfestival.no

June

Norwegian Festival of Language and Arts (*Dei nynorske festspela*), the Ivar Aasen Centre, Hovden
aasentunet.no

August

Bjørnson Festival (*Bjørnsonfestivalen*), Molde
bjornsonfestivalen.no

September

Kapittel, international festival of literature and the freedom of expression, Stavanger
kapittel.no

October

Ordkalotten, international literary festival, Tromsø
ordkalotten.no

Norsk sakprosafestival, Norwegian festival of non-fiction, Oslo
nffo.no

For a complete overview of Norwegian literary festivals, please consult forfattersentrum.no

