

# The Norwegian Electronic Health Library – open access, collaboration and sharing

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## OBJECTIVE

Norwegian Directorate of Health decided in 2004 to establish a publicly funded online knowledge service for healthcare professionals and students in Norway.

The purpose was to raise the quality of healthcare by providing professionals free access to key medical sources and reliable knowledge to minimize differences in access to quality content.

The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Health Services was appointed to host [www.Helsebiblioteket.no](http://www.Helsebiblioteket.no) “The Norwegian Electronic Health Library”.

The website was officially launched 6 June 2006 by the Minister of Health and Care Services and was appointed “Library of the Year 2011” by the Norwegian Library Association.

The screenshot shows the Helsebiblioteket.no website interface. Key sections are highlighted with red lines and labels:

- Topics:** Akuttmedisin, Allmennmedisin, Anestesi, Barn og ungdom, Blod, Eldre, Endokrinologi med diabetes, Fergelshelse, Forgiftninger, Fysio- og ergoterapi, Gynekologi - obstetikk, Hjerte og kar, Hud, Infeksjon, Kreft, Kvalitetsforbedring, Laboratoriemedisin, Legemidler, Luftveier, Mage og tarm, Muskel og skjelett, Neurologi, Nytt og utnyttet, Psykisk helse, Radiologi og nuklearmedisin, Samfunnsmedisin og folkehelse, Sykepleie, Tannhelse, Øre-nese-hals, Øye.
- Journals:** Tidsskrifter (Velg emne: Annals of Internal Medicine, BMJ, JAMA, The Lancet, The New England Journal of Medicine, Norske/kandinnavske tidsskrifter, Alle tidsskrifter).
- Databases:** Databaser (Velg database: Søk i databaser for å finne mange artikler, PubMed - fulltekst, Lexicon med Martindale).
- Topic Libraries:** Emnebibliotek (Velg emne: Emner med egne redaksjoner og mye innhold).
- Useful websites:** Nyttige nettsider (Velg nettside: Ulike nettressurser av nytte for norsk helsepersonell, Flere nyttige nettsider).
- For librarians:** For bibliotekarer, For forskere.
- For researchers:** Lover og regler, English.
- Other features:** Patient information leaflets, Search, Log in, Contact us, About us, User guides, “Point-of-care” tools and reference works, Guidelines, Summarized research, News, National network for evidence based procedures.

The website provides free access to point-of-care tools, guidelines, systematic reviews, scientific journals, and a wide variety of other full-text resources for health-care professionals and students

## COLLABORATION AND SHARING

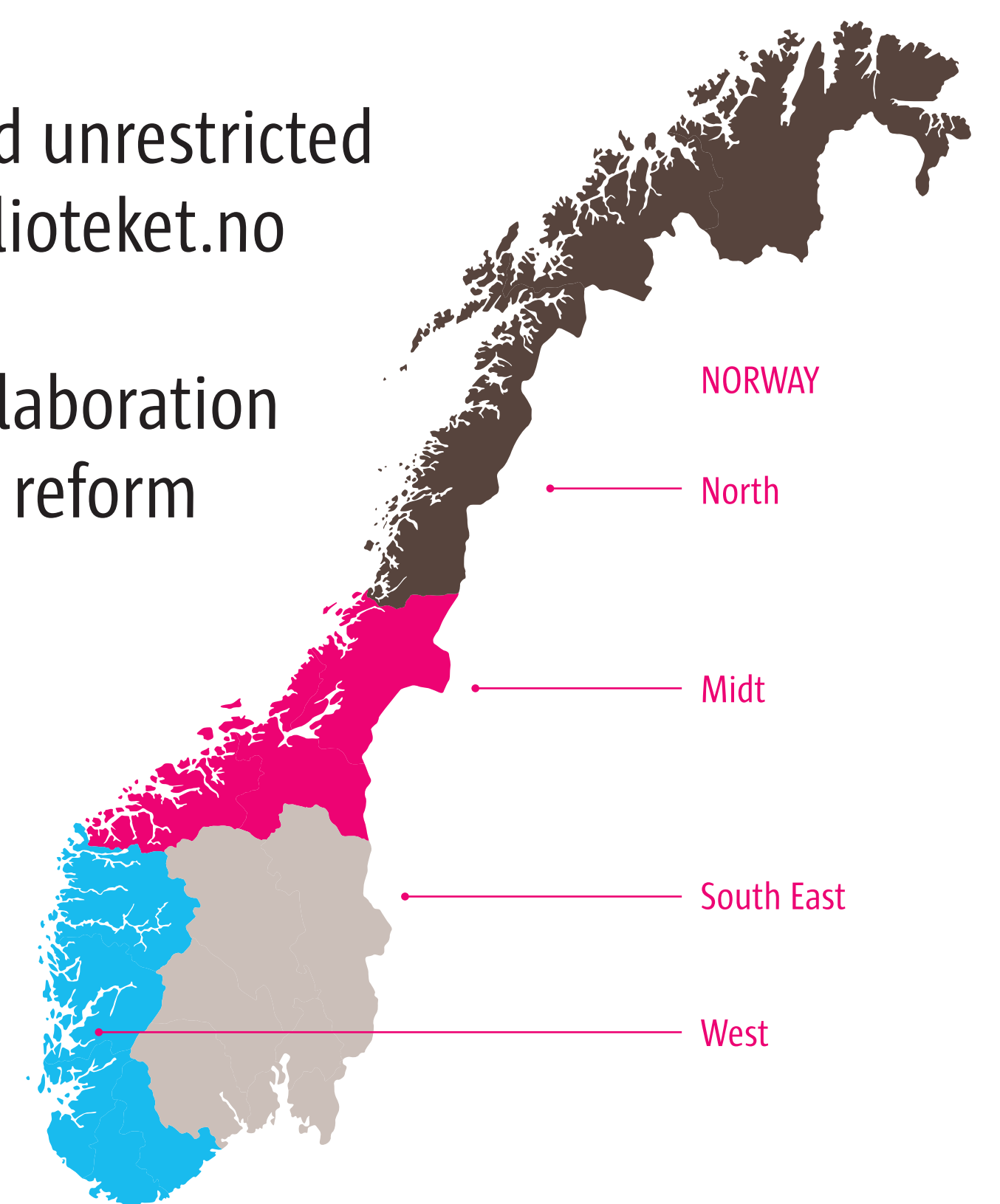
- Close cooperation with librarians within the field of medicine and health
  - Helping to find the key sources
  - Reduce costs through a change from local to national procurements
  - Better user guides to sources by collecting and sharing the best
  - Marketing the website by professional user education by librarians
  - Professional librarians have high impact on local users and all gain by cooperation
  - By daily use of the website, librarians give feedback on usability problems
  - Take part in courses in key sources made available through Helsebiblioteket.no
- Funded by Norway’s National Budget and the four regional health authorities
- Consortia work and national licensing of key sources of knowledge
- Establishing user groups of experts within main subjects
- Marketing and branding the website through presentations and stands on conferences
- Improving quality by user tests and by providing good technical knowledge.

## LOCAL LIBRARIANS AS AMBASSADORS

In 1975 librarians in hospitals established a Section for Medicine within the Norwegian Library Association. This section has been very vital and important for collaboration between librarians within the field of medicine and health, both in Norway and internationally. [www.Helsebiblioteket.no](http://www.Helsebiblioteket.no) benefits from the cooperation with SMH members working all over Norway in different health institutions. We make each other better.

### Public libraries

Quite recently all Norwegian citizens gained unrestricted access to most of the resources of [Helsebiblioteket.no](http://Helsebiblioteket.no) through national IP address. The staff at [Helsebiblioteket.no](http://Helsebiblioteket.no) now work for closer collaboration with public libraries in Norway. With a new reform in health care “The Coordination Reform”, stressing the need of more collaboration between community and hospital care, this is important.



## SOME OF OUR PROJECTS

### Clinical procedures and guidelines

Many hospitals in Norway wish to collaborate and share clinical procedures and guidelines. A national network was established and [Helsebiblioteket.no](http://Helsebiblioteket.no) made a website for health professionals to produce and share evidence-based clinical procedures and guidelines of high-quality. Such documents will support the work of health professionals, contribute to high-quality care and reduce practice variation.

### Norwegian MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)

There is no Norwegian standardized vocabulary within medicine and health. In 2009 a project for MeSH translation to Norwegian was established. The MeSH project focuses on collaboration between libraries, health services and The Language Council of Norway. It will be finished in 2013. Valuable collaboration and support from National Library of Medicine (NLM) and Karolinska Institute in Stockholm has been important.

### Open repository for all health institutions in Norway

HeRA (Helsebiblioteket’s Research Archive) was established in 2008 as an open research archive for hospitals and other health institutions in Norway.

### Open access of publications by outstanding persons.

Peter Fredrik Hjort (1924-2011), MD, PhD, was an outstanding practitioner, educator, researcher and creator of health policy. Also a proponent of medical ethics and quality of life for patients and their families. He was honored by collecting and making most of his publications available in [www.Cristin.no](http://www.Cristin.no) (Current research information system in Norway), with links to full text in HeRA and other open archives within 2011. This is much appreciated by health professionals.

