

Collating three centuries of bibliographic data

Norwegian Books 1519–1850, a retrospective bibliography project

Scope and definitions

The bibliography covers the hand press period in Norway and has 1519 as its starting point because that is the year the first Norwegian books were printed.

- By Norwegian books, we mean books printed in Norway, or books written by Norwegian authors, wherever they may have been printed.
- By book, we mean non-periodic prints of 48 pages or more, in all their editions.
- Language is not in itself a criterion for inclusion: The bibliography encompasses both books translated into a foreign language – if the author was Norwegian – and from a foreign language – if the translator was Norwegian.

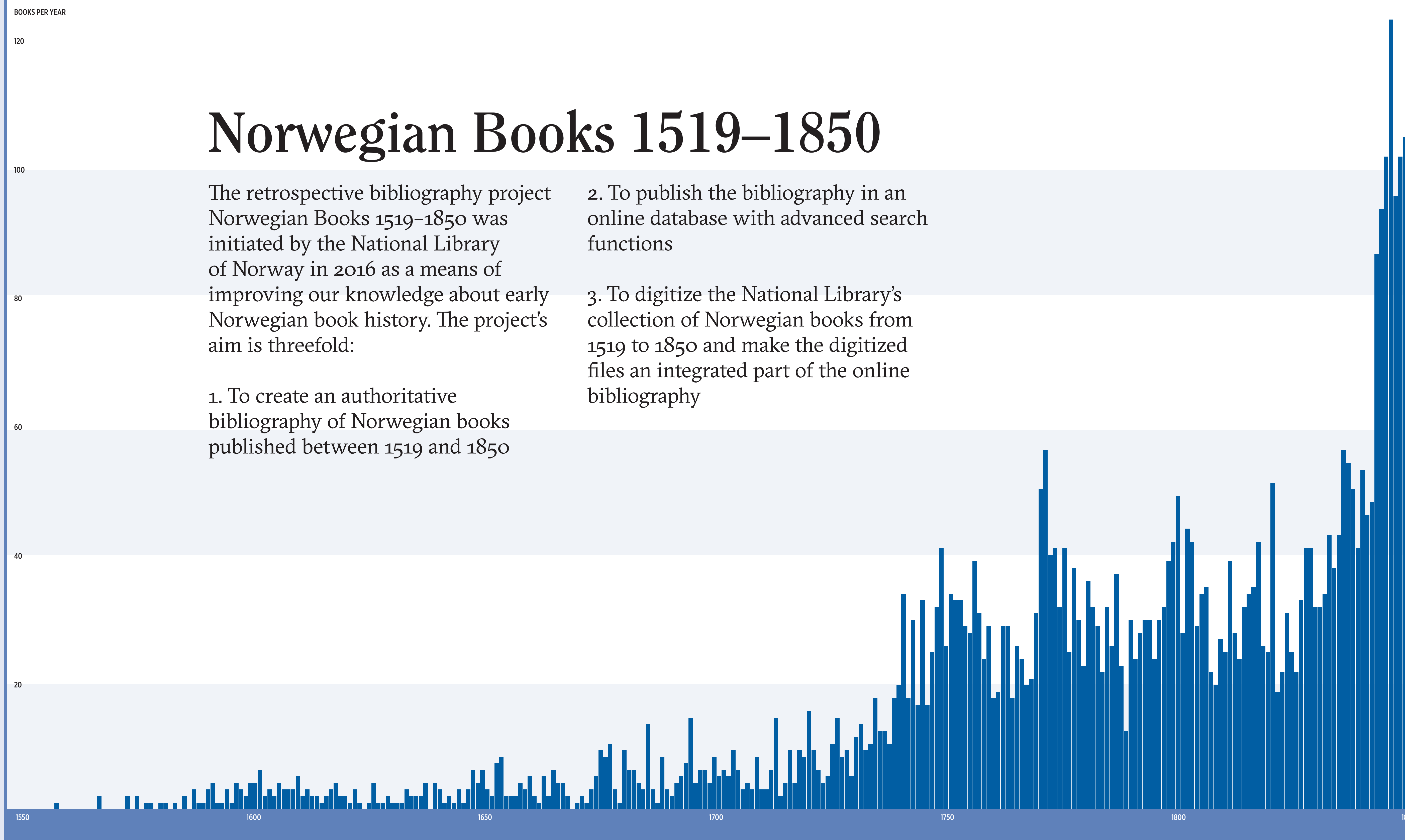
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Norwegian Books 1519–1850

The retrospective bibliography project Norwegian Books 1519–1850 was initiated by the National Library of Norway in 2016 as a means of improving our knowledge about early Norwegian book history. The project's aim is threefold:

1. To create an authoritative bibliography of Norwegian books published between 1519 and 1850

2. To publish the bibliography in an online database with advanced search functions

3. To digitize the National Library's collection of Norwegian books from 1519 to 1850 and make the digitized files an integrated part of the online bibliography

How to use the bibliography

All recorded bibliographic information can be searched in a simple search option. An advanced search option offers specific searches on titles, personal names, subject headings, publishers, and place and year of publication. The search can be limited by the use of navigators: personal names, publishers, year of publication, subject heading or language.

Search results are displayed in a simple short list, and in full format based on simple leading texts. The display screen offers links to digitized versions and to the full bibliographic record in the library catalogue system Oria



One of the most ambitious projects of early Norwegian printing history, wearing out four consecutive printers and finally the author himself: the *Postilla Catechetica* by Christian Staphenssøn Bang, a text in eight volumes published in Christiania (Oslo) between 1650 and 1662, deliberating over Martin Luther's Small Catechism.



Ludvig Holberg, Danish or Norwegian? The immensely popular 18th century author exemplifies the problem facing all Norwegian bibliographers: namely, what is a “Norwegian” author? Norway's long union with Denmark makes the distinction between Danish and Norwegian difficult, both before and after the union was dissolved in 1814.