



University Museum of Bergen

Research Strategy 2016-2022



Introduction - The research at the University Museum has its basis in the scientific collections and forms the foundation for all the museum's other activities. Our research is globally oriented, but as a museum we also have a particular responsibility for Western Norway. The great academic breadth of the museum, spanning both natural and cultural history, provides an opportunity to cross the traditional boundaries between the two disciplines. Also, research at the museum usually has a historical dimension: we study cultural history, the history of the Earth, the history of our fauna and vegetation, as well as

evolutionary history. Knowledge of the past and its processes is often a prerequisite for understanding the present. Our scientific collections play a fundamental role as inspiration, data source and research documentation as we seek to discover, map and understand the natural and cultural heritage of Norway and on a global scale, and thus to contribute to a responsible use thereof.

Research profile

Department of Cultural History

Perspectives from below

- religious practices
- technology, work and identity

This approach has its origin in the cultural history collections. These collections mainly consist of objects that belonged to ordinary people rather than the elite and offer unique opportunities to study the lives and surroundings of these people over long periods of time.

Man and the landscape

- society in stability and change
- landscape use, social organization and economic strategy

This theme is primarily based on findings from the museum's archaeological field investigations and studies human geography, relationships and processes linked to people's social organization and landscape use through time.

Department of Natural History

Evolutionary history and taxonomy of species

- the species diversity of the Earth
- evolutionary relationships among species
- processes that lead to biological diversity

This area of research is linked to the museum's natural history collections and seeks new knowledge about the diversity of species, their phylogenetic relationships and the evolutionary processes that lead to biological diversity. In line with the strategy of the University of Bergen, there will be a special focus on marine organismal groups.

Paleobiology

- the history of fauna from the ice age to the present day
- natural and man-made vegetation changes over time

Within this research area, which is connected to the palaeobotanical and palaeozoological collections, new knowledge is sought about changes in species composition and diversity over time and how these are affected by human activity and climate.

Geology

- the geological development of Western Norway and the North Sea

The research within this topic is anchored in the museum's geographical area of responsibility, our museum tradition and our expertise in Western Norway's bedrock and newer and complementary knowledge about the North Sea basin in the west.

Ambitions

The University Museum aims to:

- be recognized as a leading university museum based on our expertise and the quality of our research and our scientific collections.
- promote basic research of high international quality in the breadth of the museum's disciplines.
- build strong academic environments and strengthen the research profile within the department's focus areas
- increase the number of publications in high-quality scientific journals with peer review
- increase the proportion of externally funded research projects
- increase palaeobiological research based on material generated through cultural heritage management

This document is a translated excerpt from the document "Forskningsstrategisk plan for Universitetsmuseet i Bergen 2014 – 2020" dated Oct 2013.