



New life for old newspapers online

**The first shipment of historic editions of *Flensborg Avis* is on its way to Switzerland, where they will be scanned and digitalised.**

By Jan Christensen ([jc@fla.de](mailto:jc@fla.de)), *Flensborg Avis*

FLENSBORG. On Monday the official starting signal was issued for the large-scale digitalisation project that will make all editions of *Flensborg Avis*, dating back to 1869, freely accessible and searchable online.

It was the Holstein-South Schleswig Committee in the Danish Parliament that earmarked the DKK 1,850,000 needed for the scanning and digitalisation of some 400,000 printed newspaper pages. Behind the project are *Flensborg Avis* and the Study Department of the Danish Central Library for the Holstein-South Schleswig Region, and the numerous past editions of the newspaper have been made available by the Study Department and Flensborg's City Archives.

The project is being carried out in partnership with Visiolink, a Danish company which manages the online edition of *Flensborg Avis* and those of several other Danish and European newspapers. Following a competitive bidding process, Visiolink and *Flensborg Avis* selected the supplier, which yesterday received the first shipment of old newspapers to be transported to Switzerland for scanning. Once the newspapers have arrived safely, the next shipment will be sent from Flensborg tomorrow.

The scanning process will take place over most of 2013, and, once complete, it will then be up to Visiolink to make the content available as e-newspapers, in which the old newspapers and editions from the last ten years will be released online for computers, smartphones and tablets. The 140 years of *Flensborg Avis* editions constitutes a unique historical collection that will be of value to researchers, historians, librarians and, not least, teachers and students from north and south of the German border.