Examples of projects in the area of manuscript digitalising selected by Rosalind Johnson.
The Icelandic project Saganet (http://sagnanet.is) includes more than 200,000 manuscript pages of Icelandic sagas and other documents. Site available in Icelandic and English (click on the US flag).
See 'Exhibitions-Education' for examples of illustrated documents.
The National and University Library of Iceland and Cornell University with the association of the Arni Magnússon Institute in Iceland have started this cooperative project of large scale digitalization which will total about 380,000 manuscript pages and 145,000 printed pages.
The material will consist of the entire range of Icelandic family sagas.
It will also include a very large portion of Germanic/Nordic mythology (the Eddas), the history of Norwegian kings, contemporary sagas and tales from the European age of chivalry.
A great number of manuscripts contain Icelandic ballads, poetry or epigrams.
These Collections are kept in The National and University Library of Iceland, The Arni Magnússon Institute in Iceland and in the Fiske Icelandic Collection at Cornell University.
All manuscripts, on vellum and paper, and printed editions and translations of the Sagas as well as relevant critical studies published before 1900 will be included and available through the Internet.
In the Netherlands, a website about Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts has been established by the National Library of the Netherlands:
http://www.kb.nl/manuscripts
According to the diglib posting, the National Library has digitized 15,000 images (miniatures) from 400 different medieval manuscripts from its collection and from the collection of the Museum Meermanno Westreenianum.
The Manuscript Department of the Library at Lund University in Sweden has recently digitized 18,000 pages (?) of medieval manuscripts and made them available online at http://laurentius.lub.lu.se/
Although "medieval" in Scandinavia normally means 1100-1500 AD, these 67 volumes range from the 10th century to the 1640s.
The Library at Lund University has set up a small digitization department.
According to the diglib posting on this particular project, they use full colour TIFF format for scanning at 300 dpi (?) and scale that down to JPEG in various resolutions for online presentation. They use TEI XML for detailed documentation of the digitized volumes, and clever scripting for converting that into a useful web presentation. There is also project documentation in English on the same website.
Another poster wrote that almost a decade ago, work in this area occurred in a joint project of IBM with the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. See: HMG, F.C. Mintzer, and Fabio Schiattarella, Safeguarding Digital Library Contents and Users: Digital Images of Treasured Antiquities, D-Lib Magazine, (July 1997).
at http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july97/vatican/07gladney.html
Details on digitisation projects are included in the new NINCH Guide to Good Practice. This facility is a joint venture between HATII at the University of Glasgow and NINCH. Use the Google search (and cached results) for medieval manuscripts on the page at http://www.ninch.org/guide

HATII: Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute
NINCH: National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage
Rosalind Johnson BA MA MCLIP
European Consultant
CILIP: The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE
Direct Line: +44 (0)20 7255 0640
Reception: +44 (0)20 7255 0500
Textphone: +44 (0)20 7255 0505