

Helsinki University Library
The National Library of Finland

Annual Report 2004-2005

Helsinki University Library. The National Library of Finland

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The Expanding role of the National Library of Finland

Helsinki University Library (HUL) has traditionally performed a dual role as the library of the University of Helsinki and the National Library of Finland. As the National Library it has acted as the central unit for the twenty-one university libraries in the country providing all the legal deposit, bibliographic and national bibliography, library system, electronic resources licensing (FinELib), national portal and library statistics services for them. From 2006 on the official national library services, in line with the new strategic plan, will also be provided for the country's public libraries, polytechnic libraries and special libraries. Many of these have already had cooperative or customer relationships with the Library, but now, it is suggested, the services will be funded centrally from the budget of the Ministry of Education. The position and the name of the Library will also change. It will be given a more independent role within the organisation of the University of Helsinki, but it will still remain an independent institute of the university. The name of the library will officially be changed to the National Library of Finland in 2006.

Parallel to the preparation of the expansion of the role of national library work on the new strategy of national library has been started. The major change related to the process compared to the previous process is that the customers of the library participate the work. There are three groups involved in the process: the board of the library, a strategy group and a team consisting of members of the management group of the library. The staff of the library will also have the possibility to participate the process. The new strategy will be a tool for the management of the library to prioritise activities – and manage the library.

A new Legal Deposit Act is still under development and will not come into force before 2007. The main reason for this delay is slow progress of the new Copyright Act, to which the Legal Deposit Act is closely connected. The planned scope of the new Act is still very broad; it will include the digital deposit, and both online and offline materials. HUL has been developing

tools for Web harvesting as a partner in international IIPC consortium, and these tools have been used in order to preserve the Finnish Web. Our policy has been to store everything once annually, and create some special collections (e.g. Finnish universities; Parliament elections 2004).

International Relations

On the international level the Library is active in a number of fields and is participating in the work of several organisations, including IFLA, CDNL, CENL (chairing the work group of the network standards), ISSN Governing Board, Dublin Core Board of Trustees, Endeavor User Group, European Endeavor User Group, National Libraries Endeavor Advisory Board, Endeavor's European Libraries Advisory Board, Elsevier Library Advisory Board, Nature Library Advisory Board, SPARC Europe, Project COUNTER, a partner in the consortium of TEL (The European Library), a partner in ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia) and the corresponding European one, partner in the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC).

The Library became in 2004 the first non-American voting member to NISO. Our aim is to give the European perspective and know-how to the work of that organisation. In 2004 the Library participated in the following projects, for example: MINERVA – Ministerial NETwork for Valorising Activities in Digitisation, CoBRA+, Nordic Web Archive NWA. The library is also a partner in ONE Association, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue and in the European Library, .

In 2004 OCLC and HUL agreed on a project in which records from Finnish national bibliography FENNICA were loaded into WorldCat. In the future, when the database is made FRBR compliant, the Finnish work level records will be generated. Depending on the results the partners may develop OCLC's FRBR algorithms further. HUL will be able to use these tools for free in order to frbrize its other databases such as the national discography, VIOLA.

HUL has been visited and benchmarked for the FinELib solutions, for the active role in promoting libraries cooperation in the country and in digitisation, for the new 'triangle' concept of the library system (Voyager), national information retrieval portal (Metalib/SFX) and DOMS (EnCompass).

In general, the Library has managed to reach its goal to be one of the leading national libraries in Europe.

Funding

The structure of the Library's funding was explained in the annual reports for 1999-2000 and for 2001-2002. Funding for 2005 has improved slightly if compared to that of 2004.

The main part of the development work is still being carried out with the help of externally funded projects, although the Library has been able to hire more development staff by internal restructuring. The grant needed for financing the measures required by the revised Legal Deposit Act is included in the Library's regular budget. Additional resources for establishing a National Digitisation Centre has been received from the Ministry of Education and the County Administrative Board of Eastern Finland. The European Union has provided funding for stimulating digitisation in Europe in the form of the Minerva project.

The size of external funding in 2004 was €0,7 million. The sum raised from priced services has increased to €1,7 million. The Library's total budget in 2004 was about €17,6 million.

The Helsinki University together with the Library founded a Fund for the preservation of the national collections as part of the National Cultural Heritage. The Library runs the Fund. The Library introduced the Save the Book - project that enables both the citizens as well as the companies to take part in preservation the national collections. The project was rewarded as the Book Act of the Year.

The Staff

At present the total number of permanent staff is 201. The total number in staff-years is about 244.

The Library completed a strategy for the development of its personnel. The main focus is in increasing the competence and new skills as well as organizing the teamwork. Both the Library's new enlarged role and the Digital Library services environment demand new skills and competence.

Training of staff has been active during this period also because of the preparation for the legal deposit of electronic resources and the digital library in general (the implementation of the portal, and DOMS software).

The technical basis of the Digital Library Services of Finland

The national Digital Library services of Finland are produced and co-ordinated by the National Library. These services consist of three central modules, all in production: ILMS (Voyager), the Information retrieval portal software (MetaLib/SFX) for accessing remote and local databases and other electronic resources, and the Digital Objects Management System (ENCompass). The goal is that these three applications would communicate and work seamlessly together, as well as with other applications, via API's and using open standards. As of this writing this triangle works reasonably well, but in order to achieve this the library has implemented diverse helper applications such as YAZ Proxy and USEMARCON in order to improve networking functionality of the central applications.

Libraries do not have local servers for these applications. Instead there are four shared Sun servers, all managed by CSC (Center for Scientific Computing). Both university and polytechnics libraries have their own Voyager server. In addition there are servers for MetaLib and ENCompass.

University librarians have made a decision in 2004 to modernise the Voyager server in 2007. The current Sun E10000 mainframe has been in production since 2001, and although it is still performing very well it is by now an old work horse. Voyager server modernisation project will also investigate the technical possibility and financial impact of consolidating all or at least some of the present servers.

The Nelli portal based on MetaLib is in use in all twenty universities. It has been also acquired by Finnish public libraries and polytechnics via central licences. Thus, Nelli is a national service available for basically every Finn. It will play a major role in the Finnish information society.

Our plan is to use MetaLib as a "one-stop-shop" application to access all kinds of material: the electronic contents and databases licensed by FinELib (the National Electronic Library programme), the Voyager databases and the digital objects stored in ENCompass. MetaLib supports OpenURL, OAI and Z39.50 standards that are essential in linking to heterogeneous material. Voyager did not support OpenURL correctly in all circumstances, but instead of

waiting for a but fix from Endeavor we decided to fix the problem locally. Therefore we can now use Voyager and SFX in parallel to provide dynamic linking. We have also improved Voyager's Z39.50 server functionality by implementing Index Data's YAZ Proxy, which addresses some technical issues of the Voyager Z server and adds new functionality such as SRU/SRW support to the application.

For the time being there are no standards for portal metadata, which prevents exchange of such metadata between portal applications. HUL is an active participant in NISO Metasearch Initiative, which among other things is developing metadata elements sets for collection and service descriptions. The university libraries' collection description initiative, Tietokartta (Knowledge map), uses already the future collection description metadata element set standard. The data will be stored into ENCompass.

The third component of the digital library services, the Digital Object Management System ENCompass, went into production in April 2005 when a database containing 4680 published works of the former president Urho Kekkonen was opened for public. From networking and standardisation point of view, ENCompass remains the weakest link of the triangle, and HUL works together with Endeavor to develop these aspects of the application.

The Digital Library

Many present activities of Helsinki University Library are geared towards the creation of a digital library. Our new "triangle concept" will provide the technical basis for the Finnish Digital Library. Content to the Digital library will be provided through licensing, e-publishing within the country and large-scale digitisation and work related to the new Legal Deposit Act. FinElib, the National Electronic Library programme, can be taken as an illustrative example of the creation of the digital library. The central financing allocated by the Ministry of Education is today about €4.5 million and the total turnover about €12 million. The Ministry is financing the universities, polytechnics and public libraries centrally. The share of central funding to different sectors vary. At the time of writing 108 institutions have signed a contract with the programme, including all universities, polytechnics, regional public libraries and 35 research institutes.

At present FinElib has purchased licenses to about 19,500 scientific journals, more than 230 databases, 25 000 e-books and a number of reference works and dictionaries in electronic format.. The usage of the electronic resources is extensive. FinELib is also carrying out user surveys to analyse user satisfaction. Two master's thesis are ready and four more have been started which exploit this usage information as raw data.

Digitisation

The development of digitisation is carried out in the Library's Centre for Microfilming and Conservation/National Digitisation Centre in the city of Mikkeli, in south-eastern Finland about 230km from Helsinki. The Library has created a permanent digitisation service which has the ability to digitise materials on a large scale. The Ministry of Education and the County Administrative Board of Eastern Finland have provided financing for establishing a National Digitisation Centre. The Centre's activities have an international, national and regional context in the form of partnerships, cooperation and coordination.

Activities

Digitisation of cultural heritage committee (KULDI) was set up by Ministry of Education to look into the digitisation of Finnish cultural heritage. Its mandate was to promote digitisation, access to digitised materials on the web and the creation of content production based on this material. The final report (2003) of the group is also the digitisation policy for the Finnish heritage institutions, but at the time of the report the funding forecast was unclear. The main players in the heritage sector regarded it important to continue the effort on a voluntary base. Helsinki University Library – the National Library has been coordinating the work from the start. Some eKAM activities have received government funding: the pre-study into a common interface for museum, archive and library material in 2003 and the benchmarking tool, which will have an important mission in gathering all digitisation projects in Finland into one database. It will also give the participants a possibility to evaluate and enhance the quality of digitisation.

eKAM aims at promoting digital cooperation between museums, libraries and archives according to the KULDI strategy, ongoing development in the digitisation of Finnish cultural heritage despite lack of funding and a more effective use of resources.

Helsinki University Library is coordinating the digitisation programme for research and public libraries in Finland. The Library was nominated coordinator of this programme in 2001 by the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage Committee established by the Ministry of Education. The coordinator has established a framework for the digitisation programme based on a digitisation survey carried out in the libraries in early autumn 2001. The cooperation with different library sectors is increasing and getting a more structured approach, according to the wish of the field.

Helsinki University Library/the Centre for Microfilming and Conservation has been responsible for the Benchmarking Framework Working Group of the Minerva Project, funded by the IST programme of the European Union. The aim of the project is “to create a network of Member States' Ministries to discuss, correlate and harmonise activities carried out in digitisation of cultural and scientific content, for creating an agreed European common platform, recommendations and guidelines about digitisation, metadata, long-term accessibility and preservation.” The domestic partners in the project are the National Archives and the National Board of Antiquities. The Minerva project continues until July 2005. Helsinki University Library / Centre for Microfilming and Conservation is a member in a consortium which has proposed a new project within the eTEN programme in May 2005.

On the EU level Finland's goal is to make the European cultural diversity in heritage available digitally on a broad scale, with good quality, cost-effectively, user-friendly and to enhance the understanding of other cultures. Automation of the whole digitisation process and large volumes of digitised test material as well as multilinguality and automation of text converting software also for older text and smaller languages (Finnish, Swedish...) are important steps in the European development.

The future challenges of digitisation in Helsinki University Library include strengthening the digitisation cooperation of memory institutions and libraries, coordinating the common projects evolving from the cooperation, developing its own digitisation processes and continuing the international dialogue.

Projects

The Library was responsible for running the Nordic Historical Newspaper project, TIDEN, launched in October 2001. This was one of the first newspaper digitisation projects in which Gothic text was interpreted by Optical Character Recognition to enable free text search to large newspaper contents in Sweden and Finland. All Finnish newspapers published between 1771 and 1860 have been digitised and the next phase containing copyright-free newspapers until 1890 is underway. The Finnish Historical Newspaper Library, available at <http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi>, will contain 1 000 000 pages in 2006 when it will be ready. It is already a very popular service with 150 000 users per year.

In 2004 new workflow processes have been widely tested in Mikkeli. The goal is to considerably increase automation and productivity as well as the quality of the end product. The test has been planned together with Kungliga Biblioteket, Sweden. Helsinki University Library has been responsible for the technical development together with the company providing the software. The aim is to finalise the automation process in 2005.

The PERI+ service with digitised scholarly journals has been available since 2004 via public libraries and national university data terminals. The Finnish copyright organisation KOPIOSTO has developed a procedure for helping us to solve the copyright issues related to making the material available on the Web, currently about 110 000 pages.

Industrial price lists belonging to the ephemera collection have been digitised in 2004-2005. The material from 1810-1944 reflects the history of the evolving industrial and everyday life in Finland and contains about 200 000 pages altogether. The multi-faceted and fascinating material will be available on the net within a year and is expected to be a vast resource for researchers, journalists, designers, teachers, students and so on.

The National Sound Archive in the Helsinki University Library has launched a joint project with the Finnish Institute of Recorded Sound and the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation. The project is called the *Sounds of the Century* and its objective is to transfer Finnish sound recordings into a digital format that is suitable for archival use. In addition to this the project aims to take care of the long term storage of the digitised recordings and to bring the material to the use of researchers as a service of the National Library.

At the first stage of the *Sounds of the Century* project the Finnish 78 rpm sound recordings published between years 1901 and 1961 are digitised. During these years approximately 9,000 records were published and their digitisation is urgently required to ensure their preservation. This is because the original records are easily breakable, and in digital format their use for research and the completion of the collection is more feasible. The estimated duration of this stage of the project is four years.

The Library maintains the E-thesis Database containing the University of Helsinki's electronic publications, primarily PhD theses. Approximately half of the all PhD theses published annually are available via the E-thesis service (<http://ethesis.helsinki.fi>). There are plans to extend the service so that it would contain at least an abstract of each thesis, and a selection of other publications.

Legal deposit

A Proposal for the new Legal Deposit Act was completed in June 2003, with complementary work with Copyright Act. The new Legal Deposit Act would cover a wide variety of electronic resources: electronic publications available on open networks will be archived in the National Library and radio and TV programmes in the Finnish Film Archives. The proposal for the

Copyright Act includes regulations for harvesting web materials and for providing access to the collections.

Since June 2003 progress with the Legal Deposit Act has been slow, due to delays in processing of the Copyright Act. As of this writing it is difficult to say when the new Deposit Act will come into force, but this will definitely not happen before 2007. Nevertheless funding from the Ministry of Education has helped the library to continue Web archiving, encourage voluntary e-deposit and design work flows for digital deposit.

There is a common belief that digital publishing will reduce the amount of print publishing. As of yet this is not happening in Finland. Maintaining two parallel systems for traditional and digital publications will be a challenge. One response to this is to automate, if possible, the work flows for digital content. This would not be possible without the triangle (Voyager, MetaLib and ENCompass) and the new functionality it provides.

Acquisitions

The majority, with €10.5 million, of serial acquisitions are at present carried out centrally via the National Electronic Library Programme, FinELib. As regards acquisitions of traditional library materials, additional funding is received from the University of Helsinki and the conversion of Russia's debt to Finland into licensing of Russian data sources and delivery of Russian publications to Helsinki University Library's extensive Slavic collection. These have helped the library to maintain its collections in spite of meagre acquisition funds. With €650,000 the library increased its collections with 11,600 monographs and 2,200 periodicals.

The library has received one of the most valuable gifts of books ever, the private library of professor **Heikki A. Reenpää**, former managing director of the Finnish publishing house "Otava". "The Reenpää collection", consisting of 25 000 titles, focuses on old Finnish literature. The Finnish fiction is well represented in the gift, the *belles lettres* being one of the main themes of the publishing house "Otava". The literary substance and the bibliophilic value of the collection are both exceptionally great since professor Reenpää, himself a great bibliophile and a pre-eminent Finnish collector of books, has always emphasized the material value of books.

The library has purchased two separate rare books: a previously quite unknown 17th century Finnish hymnbook *Yxi wäbä suomenkielinen wirsikirja*. Stockholm: Ignatius Meurer [ca. 1660] and a very rare psalter from South Germany *Psalterium*. Nürnberg: Friedrich Creussner, non post 1484. There are only two copies extant of this *Psalterium*, the other copy belongs to the collections of the British Library.

Preservation and Conservation

Helsinki University Library carried out a condition survey of its National Collection between 2001 and 2004. This random sample survey formed the first stage of a larger survey planned to reach completion in a few years' time. When the project is completed, it is possible to perform more in-depth analyses that will also allow a meaningful international comparison of the results.

The aim of the first stage of the Helsinki Survey was to chart the National Collection from 1810 to 1944. It was during this period that paper made from rags was giving way to more acidic paper made from wood pulp. Acidic groundwood paper "destroys itself" considerably faster than rag paper. Brittle paper is a major problem in the collection. Many other countries

have also conducted condition surveys - for example, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States (Yale, Stanford) – and the Helsinki Survey is mostly based on the American survey methods developed for the Finnish National Collection.

A condition survey is an effective planning and decision-making tool for the preservation sector. The preservation activities of Helsinki University Library have expanded, and it now has the capacity to respond not only to the preservation needs of the library but also to those of the country's library sector as a whole, for example, through microfilming and digitisation. It is important to know on which areas the preservation activities should be focused to guarantee best possible results.

Urgent action is called for by those book groups, or parts of them, that show damage to the paper, covers or binding and where the degree of damage is above average. This is because brittle paper and low pH will cause further damage to already damaged materials.

Because preservation measures concern a vast number of volumes, more resources are needed – both people and equipment – to realise them. The evaluation on how to implement the Digitisation and Preservation Programme is being made in 2004-2005 jointly by the Library's management and the heads of the Collection, User and Preservation Services. As the condition survey progresses, the results will be evaluated and the Digitisation and Preservation Programme will be expanded to include new groups of materials. Additional surveys will be carried out until all materials that need to be preserved in the long term have been surveyed. In 2004-2005 a survey of the Slavonic collection is being conducted and a random sample-drawing from the collection from the period of the Swedish rule 1488-1810 is being planned.

Due to the results of the survey a grant of 350 000 € was given from the Ministry of Education to the Centre for Microfilming and Conservation/National Digitisation Centre for digitisation and preservation activities in 2004-2006. The most brittle 2000 books and journals in great demand will be digitised and / or microfilmed. Another 98 000 books will be waiting for further funding on the verge of extinction.

Services to Readers

The Library aims to improve its public services continuously so as to make them even more suitable for researchers. At the same time, its goal is to offer an increasing share of its services to be used on its websites. As a national library it must also strike a balance between easy access to and the security of its printed collections. These are the main focuses of the Library's user services strategy.

As to implement new electronic services Library launched DOMS service called Doria. The first documents offered in Doria are the archive of President Urho Kekkonen's printed publications. The Historical Newspaper Library, launched earlier, has reached large popularity among the researchers. Nelli information retrieval portal was taken into use in winter 2004 – 05 and in general Library has remarkably increased the acquisition of e-materials.

Library reached its goal to deliver material from stocks in two hours. To make the public services even more effective library renewed the check-out automate and created new working

teams. In the future the developing of team working and customers self service will be on focus. Results of the customer survey will be used in the developing work.

There has been increase of over 10 % in local customers. This was mostly because of many cultural events and the increased usage of reading rooms. Local loans increased only a little meanwhile the most growing service was the usage of national collection, Slavonic and special collections.

Cultural Events, Exhibitions and Publishing

The library arranged fifteen exhibitions.

Both National Library Gallery exhibitions, i.e., 'J.L. Runeberg 200 years' and 'Trains of thought, Finnish Philosophers in the World - the World's Philosophers in Finland', were very successful.

The Library arranged ten public lectures , eight authors' meetings, six concerts and sixteen poetry sessions. All the exhibitions and events were highly visible in the mass media, the Library appeared in media about 1,3 times daily.

In the autumn 2004 Helsinki University Library took part in the Helsinki Book Fair. During 2004 the Library's published a number of books, including a unique book of Library's collections 'Printed in the Memory, Literary Treasures in the National Library of Finland' and 'The Trains of thought'.