

The National Library of Finland

Annual Report 2006-2007

The National Library of Finland

Director: Doctor Kai Ekholm

P.O.Box 15, FIN-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

Phone +358 9 1912 2721

Telefax +358 9 1912 2719

email: kai.ekholm@helsinki.fi

URL: <http://www.kansalliskirjasto.fi/english/index.htm>

The Expanding role of the National Library of Finland

The status of the National Library of Finland as the central service unit of the Finnish library network was legally confirmed in August 2006. After the change the National Library is serving university and polytechnic libraries as well as special and public libraries. The library network has defined the services that have been included in the first stage and the range of services will most probably be expanded in the future. Particularly at the beginning of the strategic period, the Library will prioritize the enhancement of services to the libraries and measure their impact. As the strategic period progresses, the Library will also strive to significantly improve the quality of local services and digitization.

The National Library's new role – a service unit for the library network – has resulted in certain practical administrative changes, the most visible of which has been the change of the organization's name. The Helsinki University Library – the National Library of Finland has become simply the National Library of Finland. The new name emphasizes the importance of the Library's national responsibilities. The steering mechanism of the library has also changed. Within the library network, the National Library is one of the two libraries conducting budgetary negotiations directly with the Ministry of Education. Cooperative mechanisms between the library network and the National Library are also being developed. Another important administrative development area is the budgetary system, where the aim will be to streamline the library's fairly complex financing arrangements, even though most of the funding is allocated by the Ministry of Education.

As a result of the Library's new role and the strategic steering the organization has been renewed. The organization now consists of four strategic divisions: Library Network Services, Research Library Services, Collection and Description of the National Cultural Heritage and The National Digitization Centre The Centre for Microfilming and Conservation in Mikkeli.

The mission statement of the library describes the different service roles: **“The National Library ensures the availability of the published national heritage in the community. The National Library disseminates and produces information content for the citizens and the community and builds services together with the library network and other actors in the information society.”** The responsibility to safeguard the availability of cultural heritage is common to national libraries in general. The task of developing services in conjunction with the library network, for example, maintenance and development of library systems or national licensing is almost unique.

. The Library will prioritise the enhancement of services to the libraries as well as measuring their impacts, especially at the beginning of the strategic period. During this strategic period, the Library will also strive to make significant improvements in the quality of local services and digitisation.

The expanding digitisation co-operation of the Finnish memory institutions is organised by the Library and its National Digitisation Centre / Centre for Microfilming and Conservation. The directors of the central archives, libraries and museums have committed to the development of the National Digitisation Centre and to the allocation of funding for this purpose. The directors visited both the Minister of education and the Minister of culture. The directors introduced a paper about the digitising co-operation between the three organisations with a motion suggesting a national digitising strategy including the no-mass digitising material and founding of a digitisation service centre.

The digitisation service centre is called Digitalia. Its business plan has been developed in co-operation with the central memory organisations and with the support of the national Regional Centre Programme. The plan will be further evolved. The National Digital Library of the memory institutions and the public sector is part of the National Knowledge Society Strategy 2007 – 2015.

The audit of the quality assurance system of the University of Helsinki will occur in November 2007. The quality work is based on the demands included in the Bologna Agreement and the evaluation is conducted by the Finnish Higher Education Council (FINHEEC). The National Library has prepared its own quality assurance system with a process chart and a quality handbook. The Library will continue by developing its performance indicators and processes.

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 (chairs the work group of the network standards), LIBER, IASA, IAML, ISO, ISSN Governing Board, Dublin Core Board of Trustees, IGeLU – The International Group of Ex Libris Users, National Libraries Ex Libris Advisory Board, Elsevier Library Advisory Board, Springer library Advisory Board, Blackwell Library Advisory Board, SPARC Europe, Project COUNTER, ELAG – European Libraries Automation Group, 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). PARTNER IN THE European Register of Microform Master EROMM, a partner in the US National Information Standards Organisation

In 2006 the Library participated in the following projects, for example:

MINERVAPlus – MInisterial NETwoRk for Valorising Activities in Digitisation, MinervaEC, MichaelPlus, Bricks, CoBRA+, Nordbib, Nordic Web Archive NWA (epäilen, että NWA on jo loppunut – Juha tietää). The library is also a partner in, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue SVUC and in the European Library TEL.

Funding

The Library's total funding for 2006 has improved slightly if compared to that of 2005 but it mainly covers the increasing expenses.

The main part of the development work is still being carried out with the help of externally funded projects.. 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 size of external funding in 2006 was €3,1 million. The sum raised from priced services has decreased to €1,6 million. The Library's total funding in 2006 was €23,8 million of which the budgetary part was €19 million.

After the change in the University Law concerning the Library's status the Library has its own sub-item in the state budget. This requires that the Library will give its own financial statement in future though still being one of the institutions of the University of Helsinki.

The Staff

At present (May 2007) the total number of permanent staff is 228. The total number in staff-years was in 2006 about 287. The total staff cost was €9,3 million.

All the universities in Finland adopted a new payroll system. The system presumed that also the Library evaluated every member of its staff. Library tried to line a reasonable rate of pay to the information branch but did not quite succeed in this. Because of the new challenges in the information branch, the Library's new status and the renewed organisation as well as the state productive program with a hardening budget the Library stated to renew its personnel plan. There will be several structural changes in near future.

The Library carried out a work welfare study. The index was average of 3,14. The study will be repeated every three years.

The Digital Library: The technical basis

The national Digital Library services of Finland are produced and co-ordinated by the National Library. At present these services are called "The Triangle", for they consist of three main applications: , ILS (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, DSpace). 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.

The hardware for these applications is hosted by CSC (Center for Scientific Computing) .Until the fall of 2007 there are four shared Sun servers. Both university and polytechnic libraries have their own Voyager servers. In addition there are servers for MetaLib and ENCompass. In August/September 2007 these four servers will be replaced by one consolidated server, Sun M9000. The new server will be about 50 % more powerful than the existing ones are cumulatively, and the annual maintenance costs will also drop significantly. The project has proven the technical feasibility and usefulness of network level consolidation projects in library automation.

The Nelli portal based on MetaLib is now in production in all universities and polytechnics and in most regional public libraries. Thus, Nelli is a national service available for basically every Finn. It will play a major role in the Finnish information society. MetaLib will be the "one-stop-shop" application to access all kinds of material. MetaLib supports OpenURL, OAI , Z39.50 and SRU standards that are essential in linking to heterogeneous material.

The third component of the digital library services, the Digital Object Management System ENCompass has been the weakest link of the technical basis. Therefore other applications, mainly open source solutions, have been evaluated.. As the result of the evaluation DSpace has been chosen to replace ENCompass as the platform for institutional repositories. Some collections have already been moved from ENCompass to DSpace, but ENCompass will however be used to some extent at least until the end of 2007. Also DigiTool of Ex Libris is being evaluated and tested and might be one option for some sort of digital data.

In addition to the three main applications, a set of supporting tools have been developed and/or implemented. These include YAZ Proxy to improve Z39.50 server functionality, Bookwhere Z39.50 client to maximize the efficiency of copy cataloging, and USEMARCON for format and character set conversions.

In the future the Triangle won't be enough, for there are urgent needs for more applications. The Library already has a home-made ERM system, HALTI. Commercial ERM applications have been evaluated but for the time being HALTI is still fulfilling the needs. But there is nothing yet for long term preservation of digital data. This issue is getting most urgent and the Library is involved in several national and international projects within this area.

It is evident that all systems that are needed or would be nice to have, cannot be bought. Therefore the Library is compiling a strategy for Information technology. The strategy will define the technical infrastructure that the Library offers as a service to the Finnish libraries. The strategy is due to be ready by the end of 2007.

The Digital Library: The Content

Many present activities of The National Library are geared towards the creation of a digital library. Our “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 38 research institutes.

At present FinElib has purchased licenses to about 21 500 scientific journals, more than 270 databases, 278 000 e-books and a number of reference works and dictionaries in electronic format. The usage of the electronic resources is extensive, over 6 million articles in a year. FinElib is also carrying out user surveys to analyse user satisfaction. Two master's thesis are ready and more of them are being done every year which exploit this usage information as raw data.

The Library has together with the library network prepared motions about the electronic material needed by the top-ranked research and on the other hand basic electronic resources for public library audiences. The motions was given to the Ministry of Education.

Digitisation

The development of digitisation is carried out in the Library's National Digitisation Centre / Centre for Microfilming and Conservation 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 Centre's activities have an international, national and regional context in the form of partnerships, cooperation and coordination.

On the EU level Finland's goal is to support the i2010 programme and to make the European cultural diversity in heritage available digitally on a broad scale, with good quality, cost-effectively, in a user-friendly manner and to enhance the understanding of other cultures. Automation of the whole digitisation process 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 Centre was chosen to represent Finland in the meeting concerning Centres of Competence in digitisation, organised by the European Commission.

Activities and projects

eKAM (electronic libraries, archives, museums) aims at promoting digital cooperation between museums, libraries and archives according to the KULDI (Digitisation of cultural heritage committee appointed by Ministry of Education) strategy. The ongoing development in the digitisation of Finnish cultural heritage despite lack of funding and a more effective use of resources are also on the agenda. National Library has been coordinating the work from the start. It will form an important part of the activities of the National Digitisation Centre in the future as well.

Some eKAM activities have received government funding: the pre-study into a common interface for museum, archive and library material, the pre-study into a common digitisation project on the 19th century Finland and the benchmarking tool Mikaela. Mikaela (www.ekam.fi/mikaela) 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.

National Library / Centre for Microfilming and Conservation is a member in the Michael Plus consortium which is funded from the eTEN programme in 2006 - 2008. Michael is a project to launch a multilingual online service to enable European cultural heritage to be promoted to a worldwide audiences. National Library is responsible for launching the national Michael portal for museums, archives and libraries and for the liaison with the trans-European service.

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. New workflow processes have been taken into use in National Digitisation Centre. Automation is increasing considerably as well as productivity and the quality of the end product. The digitisation processes are constantly under development.

The National Sound Archive in the 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. The database is called Raita. 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. When copyright regulations allow the digitised music will be added as mp3-copies into Raita and is available online.

The mass digitisation of national sound recordings is beginning in parallel to Sounds of the Century at National Digitisation Centre as a project (autumn 2005 – Christmas 2007) and will continue as a permanent function.

The Mikkeli BScBA of Helsinki School of Economics organized a Digi Business course together with the National Digitisation Centre. The aim of the studies – to be organized again during the term 2007 – 2008 - is to facilitate the development of more usable products based on public and historical digital documents.

Legal deposit

For a few years progress with the Legal Deposit Act was slow, due to delays in processing of the Copyright Act. However, revisions of the Copyright Act came into force in the beginning of year 2006. The reformed Act includes regulations for harvesting web materials and for providing access to the collections. It also gave National Library the right to harvest protected material from the net.

At the moment the government bill for a new Legal Deposit Act is under preparation. The plan is that the new Act will come into force in the beginning of the year 2008. It will 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.

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 library increased its collections with € 800 000 acquiring about 12 000 monographs. These acquisitions include new research material for humanities, the supplementary acquisitions for older material with the special grant University allocated (€ 178 000) and also the acquisitions made via international exchange relations. The acquisitions are about 20 % of the grant Helsinki University allocates to the National Library. According to the library's collection politics the most emphasized subjects are history, research of Antique and Medieval Age, philosophy and research of Russia and the East-Europe. The majority of e-material acquisitions are carried out centrally via the National Electronic Library Programme, FinELib. These centralised acquisitions of licensed e-material add up to €12 million.

Preservation and Conservation

In 2004 the National Library founded a trust for the national heritage. The aim was to support the conservation, digitisation, supplementary acquisition and the use of the collections. In context with the trust runs a campaign called 'Save the Book'. During 2006 there has been donations for €0,5 million of which the share of the campaign was about €90 000. Most of the donators are individual citizens. More than 80 books have found their supporter, 30 of them are already to be scanned in the Library's website. Fund-raising will concentrate also on companies and enterprises, even more in the near future.

A condition survey is an effective planning and decision-making tool for the preservation sector. The National Library carried out the first stage of a larger survey of its National Collection between 2001 and 2004. This random sample survey has now proceeded to the Slavonic collection and the collection from the period of the Swedish rule 1488-1810 is going to form the third stage. The project is planned to reach completion in a few years' time.

The aim of the first stage of the Helsinki Survey was to chart the National Collection from 1810 to 1944. Brittle paper is a major problem in the collection. Urgent action is called for by those book groups 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. Due to the results of the survey a grant of 350 000 € was given from the Ministry of Education to the National Digitisation Centre for digitisation and preservation activities in 2004-2006. The most brittle 2000 books and journals in great demand were digitised and / or microfilmed. Another 98 000 books are waiting for further funding on the verge of extinction.

The evaluation on how to implement the Digitisation and Preservation Programme is being made jointly by the Library's management and the heads of the Collection, User and Preservation Services.. The Library 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.

In the area of preservation Computer Output on Microfilm is developing internationally and many national libraries are considering its use. The National Digitisation Centre has executed minor-scale testing on COM and is exploring future possibilities in this area.

Services to Users

The library's user statistics grew some 5 % comparing to the year 2005. The amount of loans (both home and reading room loans) was 550 000 and the amount of visitors some 210 000. The growing tendency of statistics has continued several years. Most customers are students or researchers of Helsinki University (59 %). Over half of all loaning was from foreign humanities collection, some 15 % of national collection. As half of the customers do research work in the library or use the reference material, the other half loans and returns material or visits library's exhibitions. 98,1 % of customers were pleased or extremely pleased to the library services.

Library has new workstations for customers e-material use and for other research work. In the same time with new computers the identification system for computer users were launched in order to improve the data security.

The self service in coping the national collection and old material was prohibited and library established a new copy service point. In the same time library's price list was renewed.

Library's digitisation programme continues. Raita-project digitises Finnish 78 rpm shellac records. The aim is that all those records are in digital mode in the year 2009. The bigger music digitizing program is to be begun in the Mikkeli digitizing unit later.

Save the Book –program has preserved and digitized valuable material from the collections of The National Library. Digital versions of those valuable items are freely used in the internet.

Cultural events and exhibitions

There were 13 exhibitions and 23 different cultural events organized in the Library in 2006. The most popular of all was the exhibition of the Finnish underground culture with several lectures and concerts. The Library has some touring exhibitions like the jubilee year exhibition for J.V.Snellman- the European thinker that tours in several European countries.

The Library published in its websites an electronic publication about the History of the hand printed book, the Enchanting Book (<http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/julkaisut/kihtovakirja/index.html>)