

## The National Library of Finland

### Annual Report 2007-2008

The National Library of Finland

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### The National Library of Finland - as a Service Unit for the Library Network

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. 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 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 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.

In March 2008 the Ministry of Education published *Policies for the Structural Development of Higher Education Institutions for the Years 2008-2011*. The vision is that by 2020, there will be less institutions and units of higher education in Finland than at present, but they will be larger with a stronger economic carrying capacity. Besides improving the capabilities for international cooperation, the prerequisites for cross- and multi-disciplinarity will be strengthened. To initialize the libraries' structural development, the Ministry of Education established a wide-ranging project in the summer of 2008 that includes representatives from the Ministry of Education, the National Library of Finland, and higher education institutions' libraries. The project will outline the organization of the libraries in question by taking into account their educational institutions' affiliations and cooperative agreements. The effects of the amended Universities Act on the financing, procedural operations and regulations of the higher education institutions' libraries are also being reviewed.

The audit of the quality assurance system of the University of Helsinki was accepted in the beginning of 2008. The quality work is based on the demands included in the Bologna Agreement and the evaluation was 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. The purpose is to integrate the quality system better into the library management and steering system.

### **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), 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 2007 the Library participated in the following projects, for example:

MINERVAPlus – Ministerial NETwork for Valorising Activities in Digitisation, MinervaEC, MichaelPlus, Bricks, CoBRA+, Nordbib. 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 2007 has again improved slightly if compared to that of 2006 but it mainly covers the increasing expenses and a larger part was external funding. The general goal by the state is to make the public-sector more effective.

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 but only for one year at a time. Additional resources for establishing a National Digitisation Centre has been received from the Ministry of Education, € 1,8 million for two years and from the County Administrative Board of Eastern Finland.

The size of external funding in 2007 was almost € 5 million. The sum raised from priced services has decreased to € 0,9 million. The Library's total funding in 2007 was € 24,8 million of which the budgetary part was € 18,9 million.

The Library has had its own fund-raising for 3 years, the profit has been about 700 000 euros. The Library has received financial support for the preservation of cultural heritage from companies, organizations and private citizens.

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 though still being one of the institutions of the University of Helsinki.

### **The Staff**

At present (May 2008) the total number of permanent staff is 228. The total number in staff-years was in 2007 about 264. The total staff cost was € 10 million.

A new personnel plan was formulated for years 2008-2015 and approved by library's board. It describes both the strategic action lines (that is building the national Digital Library) and basic competences to deal with the Library's tasks and future challenges. The Library will increase its productivity by reducing its vacancies, merging functions together, long-term space and action -planning and decreasing temporary staff but also establishing the permanent tasks.

### **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 (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, Finnish IT Center for Science. CSC and the Finnish library network completed the project of modernizing and consolidating the libraries' shared server environment in October 2007. Universities' and polytechnics' 50+ Voyager databases, the National MetaLib portal and some other applications have been transferred to a new Sun Enterprise M9000-32 server. It replaced five old servers, which were also hosted by CSC. The entire process was very successful both from technical and financial point of view. There were no delays or unplanned service breaks, and the planned breaks were relatively short. Estimated annual savings are approximately 400.000 €. The new server environment is more flexible and easier to manage than the old one, and at least 50 % more powerful.

The Nelli portal based on MetaLib is serving all universities and polytechnics and all regional public libraries. Thus, Nelli is a national service available for basically every Finn. 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, is still under development. Previously used application ENCompass has been replaced by open source solution, DSpace as the platform for institutional repositories. Requirements for long term preservation system are being compiled.

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. Procurement for a joint ILL system for the university libraries is in progress – decisions are to be made by the end of the year 2008. The new system will be implemented in 2009.

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.

The National library's IT strategy for 2008-2012 was published in April 2008. The strategy produced an outline of future IT system architecture for the national library's services and recommends, among other things, establishment of a public user interface and long term preservation system. "Public" means here not only libraries, but all memory organisations. The Ministry of Education established in June 2008 the National Digital Library –project, which aims at building these systems, which will exist alongside the current production systems – a prerequisite for all memory being able to cooperate in the same IT initiative. All key memory organisations

are participating in the project, which has high visibility and support from the Ministry. The National Library is responsible of the creation of the user interface, whereas the National Archive is overseeing the long term preservation –related work.

### **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 over €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 20 000 scientific journals, more than 300 databases, 300 000 e-books and a number of reference works and dictionaries in electronic format.. The usage of the electronic resources is extensive, it has increased 30% being over 8 million articles in a year. FinELib also carried out user survey in 2007 that showed libraries’ satisfaction to be between 65% to 88%. For the first time the survey asked what an impact the electronic material had on users work. Over 70% thought that it has helped hastened their work.

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 for the second time.

### **Digitisation**

The development of digitisation is carried out in the Library’s National Digitisation Centre / Centre for Microfilming and Conservation in the city of Mikkelä, 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.

During 2007-2008 library has also received substantial funding for digitisation. There are two main initiatives with a total budget of almost 3 € allocated over three year period. In addition, there are several smaller projects supported by private donors. The funding will be spent on, among other things, digitisation of Finnish newspapers 1890-1900 and on initiating mass digitisation of books. Automatic scanner which will be used in this process was installed in May 2008. Library has also completed building studios for digitisation of sound, and practical work is about to start in autumn 2008 following a test and design phase.

#### *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. At the end of 2007 the Ministry of Education took a new step by starting to prepare a new National Digital Library strategy. National Library is an important part of this strategy work: long-term preservation, accessibility and digitisation.

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 19<sup>th</sup> century Finland and the benchmarking tool Mikaela. Mikaela ([www.ekam.fi/mikaela](http://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 project was completed in May 2008 but the Library will support the portal.

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, now the book and sound processes are most current.

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.

## **Legal deposit**

The new law on collecting and preserving cultural materials (1433/2007) was confirmed by the Parliament at the end of 2007. 300 vuotisjuhla!!!!

The National Library receives free copies of all Finnish printed publications, sound, image and CD-ROM recordings and on-line publications. This is based on the law on collecting and preserving cultural materials, which repeals the earlier Legal Deposit Act (420/1980) and Decree (774/1980), as well as the Act on the Archiving of Films (576/1984).

The act covers Finnish on-line publications, film and radio and television materials in addition to printed publications and recordings. The National Audiovisual Archive is in charge of archiving radio and television materials, as well as materials which include moving images.

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.

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 € 630 000 acquiring about 10 000 monographs. The monographs are about 35% and the journals about 23% of library's acquisitions. These acquisitions include new research material for humanities. 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 more than €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 2007 there has been donations for 100 000 euros. 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, Preservation Programme and Collection Policy is being made jointly by the Library's management and the heads of the Collection, User and Preservation Services. The Preservation Programme will be completed in 2008. 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 was about the same as year before.. The amount of loans (both home and reading room loans) was about 550 000 and the amount of visitors some 200 000. The use by network has increased. Most local customers are students or researchers of Helsinki University. 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. 98,6 % 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.

### **Cultural events and exhibitions**

There were 13 exhibitions and several different cultural events organized in the Library in 2007. The Legal Deposit of Finland celebrated its 300th jubilee year and the Library organized an exhibition From Donald Duck to Agricola. It was also the jubilee year of Agricola and an exhibition was organized with tours in Germany.

Before this there was a very popular exhibition of the Finnish underground culture with several lectures and concerts. Library organized 9 concerts and several writer visits.

The new communication plan 2008-2010 was approved by library's board in January 2008. The library will concentrate in developing the internal communication as well as the external customer and interest group communication. Library will develop the means to evaluate impressiveness of its communication acts.