

Helsinki University Library

The National Library of Finland

## **Annual Report 2003-2004**

Helsinki University Library. 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](mailto:kai.ekholm@helsinki.fi)

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

## **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, and, more recently, electronic resources licensing (FinELib) 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 2005.

A new Legal Deposit Act is currently being formulated and possible will come into force already in 2005. It will include the digital deposit, including online and offline materials. HUL has been harvesting the internet in cooperation with its Nordic partners for a

couple of years. This new task will not include radio and TV broadcasts that task will be taken care of by the Finnish Film Archive.

The new National Library Strategy for 2004-2006 is very ambitious: its main goal is to develop the Library into 'a 100% service organisation'. The mission of the Library is to serve and build the whole knowledge society with its collections, services and professional staff.

The strategy suggests building a value chain for all the customers of Library. The national digital value chain will include the acquisition (FinELib), delivery (library system,, information retrieval portal, , DOMS – the Digital Object Management Software) and archiving (digital deposit) of electronic materials (FinELib) as well as content production (digitisation). This will be a powerful tool not only for the national library services but also for the academic community, the virtual university and the library network as a whole. An ambitious proposal to have the core national heritage digitised by 2010 has been put forth recently. Helsinki University Library is extensively involved in this process. Library's unit, The Centre for Microfilming and Conservation / National Digitisation Centre is coordinating both the national digitisation programme for research and public libraries and the national digitisation co-operation of memory institutions.

## **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 CDNL, CENL (chairs 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, , 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 was recently accepted as the first non-American member to NISO to give the European perspective and know-how to the work of that organisation. In 2003 the Library participated in the following projects, for example: MINERVA – MInisterial NEtwoRk for Valorising Activities in Digitisation, CoBRA+, Nordic Metadata II, Nordic Web Archive NWA, ONE-2, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue and The European Library TEL.

HUL has been hosting several international conferences and workshops, received numerous international visitors, groups and executive members of different states and libraries. . Among the organised conferences there was the first international conference on users in digital environment "the Digilib conference" in September 2003. It was well received and attended by over 200 participants from all over the world.

HUL has been visited and benchmarked for the FinELib solutions, for the active role in promoting libraries cooperation in the country, for the new 'triangle' concept of the library system (Voyager), 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 is explained in the annual reports for 1999-2000 and for 2001-2002. Funding for 2004 has improved slightly if compared to that of 2003.

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 Library has received grants from the Ministry of Education, the European Union, the Nordunet2 initiative and NORDINFO. The grant needed for financing the measures required by the revised Legal Deposit Act has been included in the Library's regular budget in 2002, and this funding continues in 2003 and in 2004. 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 2003 was approximately €1 million. A similar sum was raised from priced services. The Library's total budget in 2003 was almost €17 million and in 2004 around €17 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 Staff**

At present the total number of permanent staff is 199. The total number in staff-years is about 230.

The Library completed a strategy for the development of its personnel. The main focus is in increasing the competence and new skills. Both the Library's new enlarged role and the Digital Library environment demands a strong 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 purchasing of the portal, and DOMS software).

## **The technical basis of the Digital Library of Finland**

The Digital Library of Finland produced by the National Library will consist of three central modules: ILS (Voyager: in production), the Information retrieval portal software (MetaLib/SFX: in test production) for accessing remote and local databases and other electronic resources, and the Digital Objects Management System (ENCompass: being implemented). 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. Added value services will be implemented later on to support the use of the digital library.

In 2001 all university libraries, which form the LINNEA2 consortium together with a few special libraries, switched to a new integrated library system, Voyager. Given the large size of the project – 26 databases were involved – the system change went very well; the planned schedule did not slip at all as far as the library databases were concerned. However, its implementation as regards the Union Catalogue Linda was a little more problematic. The vendor, Endeavor Information Systems Inc., had to make some special changes to our union catalogue solution which slowed the process down. Linda has been available for searching since January 2002 but daily updates from the local databases did not start until January 2003. The National Library is negotiating with Endeavor and other Universal Catalogue hosts to get the software enhanced. In August 2004 the Universal Catalogue is in full production, but the software functionality is not satisfactory due to some software problems and general immaturity of the application. Merging all Linnea databases into a central server and outsourcing the server has proved to be an excellent decision. University libraries have saved a lot of money both in server support costs paid to the hardware vendor and especially in server maintenance carried out by CSC, the Center for Scientific Computing. The quality of service has been good, and due to the reliability of the Finnish Universities and Research Network, FUNET, the usability of the system has been excellent.

In addition to Voyager, the LINNEA libraries are using Bookwhere Z39.50 client in order to maximise the efficiency of copy cataloguing. At present, up to 95% of new records can be copied from elsewhere, either from our own Union Catalogue Linda, or using freely available sources such as the Library of Congress. OCLC's WorldCat database has been used as the final resource if the record has not been available in any of the free databases. The copied records are converted to appropriate format and character set with UseMARCON.

Another initiative which simplifies copy cataloguing is the Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue. In this project, union catalogue hosts in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden have agreed to make their databases available for free, in return for access to all other databases. Similar agreement has been concluded with the Estonian union catalogue Ester and the German GBV and negotiations are underway with the other Baltic countries and Germany.

After a thorough evaluation an application was chosen for the information portal for the national network at the end of 2002. It was decided to purchase Metalib and SFX, by ExLibris Ltd. . The national information retrieval portal has been implemented. The name of the service is Nelli (The National Electronic Library Interface). One of the major tasks during the implementation has been the division of work between national library and local libraries. The work division has been documented in a service agreement. The Nelli portal will be in use in all twenty universities in September 2004. It

will be also available to Finnish public libraries at the beginning of year 2005. The polytechnic sector and the specialized libraries will join the system later on. Thus, Nelli is truly a service for the nation.

The application will be officially launched in September 2004. Our vision 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.

The third component of the National Library Network, the Digital Object Management System, was chosen in June 2003 and the contract with Endeavor signed in December 2003. EnCompass will be in production in late 2004.

## **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 outcome of the international evaluation carried out in 2002 was that FinELib has now its first strategy for a three-year period of 2004-2006. The central financing allocated by the Ministry of Education is today about €3.5 million and the total turnover about €10.5 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 109 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 14,500 scientific journals, more than 175 databases and a number of reference works and dictionaries in electronic format.. New forms of material is now e-book collections. 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 some more have been started which exploit this usage information as raw data.

Our major challenge now is the implementation of the IR portal in twenty universities. As described above Metalib software has been implemented for this purpose. The portal will be opened for the public in September 2004.

Our present major challenge is the usability of the Nelli portal. We try to achieve deeper understanding of customers needs by collecting feedback, preparing customer analysis and using questionnaires to focus on segmentation customer groups by needs.

More information about the National Electronic Library Programme can be found on its homepage: <http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/finelib/english/index.html>.

## **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.

### *Activities*

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 Digital Working Group for the Cultural Heritage 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. Technical and special collections expert groups have been established.

The Historical Newspaper Library is the primary object for digitisation at the moment. In 2003 the Historical Newspaper Library had about 1,2 million information retrievals. The work is carried out by the Centre for Microfilming and Conservation/National Digitisation Centre. Scientific journals and ephemera belonging to the digitisation programme have also been digitised in 2003-2004. This work will continue and books are due on a large scale in 2005, as well. As the digital programme has been established on a voluntary basis, the domestic libraries can, of course, run digitisation projects on their own.

**The future challenges of digitisation in Helsinki University Library include extending the national digitisation programme into a policy, coordinating the projects involved in the digitisation programme together with the libraries, and developing digitisation functions.**

Finnish museums, archives and libraries started to organise their digitisation co-operation in 2003 in the form of eKAM (electronic libraries, archives, museums) meetings and working groups. Centre for Microfilming and Conservation/National Digitisation Centre coordinates the meetings and other functions. Directors of the major memory organisations follow up, lead and strengthen the activities within eKAM. The goal is to select a common entity to be digitised, cross-sectorally.

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.

### *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. In August 2004 The Finnish Historical Newspaper Library, available at <http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi>, contains 413,000 pages of data. It has rapidly become a very popular service with a million page searches per year. In addition to the full text searches the user has available a newspaper index which has been digitised in the project. The user will receive the facsimile of the original on the display.

During the Historical Newspaper Project the database, workflow and access were built from a digital library perspective. In 2003-2004 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 results of the test period are internationally interesting and will be reported later.

The PERI+ project, which is digitising scholarly journals, has digitised about 200,000 pages from these journals. The service has been available from the beginning of 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.

Industrial price lists belonging to the ephemera collection have been digitised since the beginning of 2004. 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 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. The National Library is getting prepared for archiving electronic resources in different ways, e.g. by setting up digital repositories with a digital object management system. In addition other applications will be used as well. At present we are already harvesting and managing freely available Web resources using specialised applications. Web archiving efforts are being developed with international co-operation. The Library is also carrying out trials of the deposit of certain types of online publications based on voluntary agreements with the publishers.

### **Acquisitions**

The majority, with €10.5 million, of serial acquisitions are at present carried out centrally via the National Electronic Library Programme. 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 €900,000 the library increased its collections with 9,000 monographs and 1,600 periodicals.

The Library got a remarkable donation of printed music and monographs of music from 'the Centre de musique baroque' in Versailles.

### **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 will be made in 2004 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 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.

### **Services to Readers**

The Library aims to improve its reader 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 try to 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. The Library will respond to these challenges by both carrying out digitisation projects and launching a new "triangle service" which consists of an IR portal, an Integrated Library System and DOMS

Implementing new services in the old historical buildings after the renovation of the library premises has not been very easy. The library introduced a new Electronic Users Guide to its open-access premises and its services at the end of 2003. The guide was released in Finnish, Swedish and English and it is available also on the Library's website.

There has been an increase in local usage in 2003.

### **Cultural Events, Exhibitions and Publishing**

The library arranged fifteen exhibitions.

Both National Library Gallery exhibitions, i.e., 'St. Petersburg, the European and Finnish City' and 'The Holy Birgitta and Finland', were very successful.

The Library arranged eighteen public lectures , four authors´ meetings, and eighth concerts. All the exhibitions and events were highly visible in the mass media. The visitors increased by 30%.

In the autumn 2003 Helsinki University Library took part in the Helsinki Book Fair. During 2003-2004 the Library's published a number of books, including 'St. Petersburg, the European and Finnish City' and a highly popular Finnish translation of an old Finnish detective novel. 'The Mr Corpwith' was written by three swedish-speaking and writing librarians in early 1900's and the scene of the novel is set in the Library.