

Helsinki University Library

The National Library of Finland

## **Annual Report 1999-2000**

Helsinki University Library. The National Library of Finland

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The report year 1999-2000 has been an exceptionally important and successful period. The rebuilding and renovation of the Library's public space was completed and the construction work of the new large underground warehouse was completed. A National Library Strategy for 2000-2003 was adopted. The contract for a new shared library automation system for the Finnish research libraries was signed. The National Electronic Library programme (FinELib) was put on a permanent footing. The University awarded the Library a prize in acknowledgement of the quality of its performance.

Helsinki University Library, with its broad range of tasks, offers one of the most comprehensive range of services among European national libraries. The role of service provider for the whole library network is gaining additional importance with the growth of the information society.

## **Management of the Library**

The new National Library Strategy for 2000 to 2003 was approved by the Library Board in November, 1999. It clarifies the Library's position in relation to the other libraries and defines the services provided by the Library under the rubric of National Library funding. Although the Strategy was well received, reactions of libraries concerned revealed that, in spite of all information which has been distributed, they were not fully aware of the broad scope of services and developmental work offered by the National Library.

The Library wants to be the National Library of the whole nation. However, according to law, its responsibilities are limited to services for research libraries only. With the reality of the wired environment, this stricture is increasingly difficult to follow because all libraries are in need of the same services and naturally make use of what is available, despite formal regulations to the contrary.

In fact, the Library would like to be a common resource for all Finnish research libraries. But it should also develop its role as one of the most important institutions in the information network for the whole country. New electronic services are needed by anyone who produces e-publications on the Internet. In addition to its activities in the electronic field, the Library aims to be an active preserver of the country's cultural heritage in its paper-based form, the leading research library, and an important cultural institution.

In order to integrate the National Electronic Library Programme into its ongoing responsibilities a new organizational unit and new positions have been established including the Secretariat for National Planning and Co-ordination.

The University has commissioned an extensive evaluation of its library system which will be carried out during 2000. The study aims at evaluating how the University makes use of its local services, so the study will not be an evaluation of the National Library functions. The complete National Library evaluation will be a separate project, commissioned by the Ministry of Education.

According to the decision of the Ministry of Education, separate contract negotiations between the Ministry and the National Library will be carried out annually and the results will be included in the contract of the University. This means that the Ministry will directly determine the annual goals and resources of the National Library activities.

### **Handling of Electronic Publications and Formats, including New Legislation**

The Library has utilized several projects for handling electronic publications in order to develop the necessary procedures for the management of the legal deposit of the e-publications.

Additionally, the Library has participated in international co-operation to develop methods for the permanent naming of e-publications and has also created a service for publishers for generating URN identifiers. The Library maintains the national metadata standards and has been instrumental in developing guidelines for the state administration for production of metadata. Permanent archiving of electronic publications has been investigated within the project EVA II and the European project NEDLIB. Methods for harvesting web pages from the Internet have been developed for the NEDLIB project in co-operation with the Finnish company CSC; as a continuation of the Nordic project NWI (Nordic Web Index), an indexing programme for the web archive is being developed.

Although electronic publishing as such does not belong to the core functions of the Library it has developed a production programme of doctoral dissertations and other electronic publications for the University called *E-thesis*. During the report year about one hundred eighty (180) doctoral dissertations have been published on the Internet. At present, the Library catalogues only electronic dissertations, making them available on the Internet and archiving them.

The final government proposal for the new Legal Deposit Act has been prepared and sent out for comments (hearing). The proposal will be sent to the Parliament in the autumn. The new law will cover all kinds of electronic publications. The amount of traditional publications to be delivered will be slightly reduced; newspapers and audiovisual recordings will be delivered in one copy only, brochures and advertising material in two copies and unaltered reprints will be discontinued. To secure a legal basis for the handling and use of the electronic legal deposit the copyright regulations will be revised simultaneously. This may cause some delay because the government has to wait for the decisions and the directive of the European Union.

The Library was instrumental in drafting the proposal and it based its views both on the experiences of other countries and on the results of its own extensive development work. Publishers have also shown an interest in the possibilities of solving their own archiving needs and some of them obviously hope that the Library would take care of them with the help of the legal deposit. The same arrangement will also offer the publishers a neutral and permanent authentication service.

In connection with the drafting of the government proposal, a question arose on the legal deposit of radio broadcasting and television programmes. A consensus now exists that the Legal Deposit Act must be amended to accommodate these programmes. Parties also agree that the National Library has to assume the responsibility for archiving the programmes. However, more time will still be needed to prepare an appropriate proposal and resolve the incumbent financial issues.

On the initiative of the Ministry of Finance the general Finnish thesaurus, originally created for library purposes, was made available for all citizens in the Internet. Because the thesaurus (VESA) will be used, for example, by the public administration for describing electronic publications, it will from now on be maintained for broader

needs of the society. Therefore, co-operation with authorities has been launched to guarantee the availability of the necessary expertise.

The service to grant URN (Uniform Resource Name) identifiers to electronic publications is now operational and more than 500 URN:s have been given. The Library has participated in developing the URN solutions also internationally. For that purpose the Library participated in standardization projects both within ISO and the Internet-community. The focus has been on the national bibliographic ID numbers. For the Internet Engineering Task Force the Library drafted an Internet standard for the use of national bibliographic ID numbers as identifiers and registered these numbers a name space within the URN scheme.

The Library was instrumental in drafting recommendations for the metadata format for public administration. It also participated in the work to develop an identification system for radio programmes which now has been adopted also by EBU as a European standard. The Library was represented in the Dublin Core Advisory Committee.

## **Funding**

The national library tasks of the Library are funded from the country=s joint university budget with a certain percentage reserved for various types of national tasks. Because the Library supports the University by its local services the University has to share this part of the costs.

The annual budget is basically approved for a period of three years. Individual projects can be renegotiated on an annual basis. Negotiations for the next period of three years, 2001-2003, have been completed and the Library will receive additional funding due to its new needs such as the costs of the new underground warehouse, preparations of the legal deposit of electronic publications, recurrent costs of the National Archives of Recorded Sound and the National Electronic Library, which will be included in the Library=s regular budget.

The main part of the development work is being carried out with the help of externally funded projects. Grants have been received from the Ministry of Education, European Union, from private sources, NORDINFO as well as from the University.

The income from the Library=s charged services was totally FIM 5.7 million (little less than 1 million euro), which is half a million more than the previous year. The increase is due to the fact that the production of microfilms was transferred to the Library from the University=s Audio-Visual Centre.

The Library=s total budget in 1999 was 89 million FIM (about 15 million euro).

## **Buildings**

The construction of the Library's new underground stacks continued and the fourstorey stacks (180 metres long) have been completed. The Library will have a total of 10 000 square metres (about 80 kilometres linear shelving) of appropriately fitted storage. All Library's collections in the Helsinki area will be concentrated in these stacks. The removal starts at the beginning of September.

The Main Library's public spaces opened after repairs in September 1999. The Open Access Collection was enlarged substantially when the old temporary offices were removed. The old underground stack under the Library's yard is being repaired and later in the year 2000 two floors for the Open Access Collection will be opened there. After having completed all its rearrangements later in 2000 the Library will have about 450 000 volumes in open access. A new modern cafeteria has also been opened and a new exhibition gallery was furnished. The renovated reading areas, which are a beautiful space, were provided with computers and network connections.

Repairs have started also in the Library's other buildings in Helsinki and Mikkeli.

## **The Staff**

The total number of permanent positions is now 168. Additional staff have been hired mainly for development, research and conversion tasks and for other temporary tasks. The total number of staff is about 200.

There are several issues related to the staff which have to be considered seriously. Due to the budget cuts at the beginning of the 1990's and their consequences, such as reduction of the staff posts, it was possible during a great number of years to hire new people to projects only. The average age of the permanent staff is, therefore, high. The amount of sick leaves was extraordinary high. Measures have been taken to keep up the staff's ability to work especially by improving the development of the work environment. The problems also indicate that the library work as well as individual responsibilities have been changed and that the changes have proved difficult for some staff members. The management of the Library will pay special attention to these issues.

## **Information technology and networks**

On behalf of the universities and some other institutions the Library has been preparing to purchase a new library automation system. After thorough testing and negotiations the Voyager of the Endeavor Information Systems Inc. was chosen for all participating libraries. The contract was signed on February 4, 2000.

From the very beginning the majority of participating libraries wanted to replace the present network architecture, consisting of local installations, by mounting all databases on one common server. This was to allow libraries to rid themselves of the basic maintenance of computers and to concentrate on developing their services. At the same time they wanted to reduce the annual costs of the library system and, improve the level of maintenance support. The basic assumption was that due to the powerful academic data transmission network FUNET, distance no longer plays any role and that it, therefore, is no longer relevant to have the server in the vicinity of the library.

Therefore separate competitions for tender were arranged both for the purchase of the server and for the selection of the maintenance organization. Three different options were investigated: 1) a centralized solution, 2) a combination of 3-5 servers and 3) a fully decentralized solution. The centralized option proved to be by far the cheapest, when factoring in also the annual maintenance and support costs. After a rather complicated process the universities finally accepted the proposal and the centralized solution was chosen. All 25 databases will be mounted on a common server which will be a powerful SUN E10000 and which will be maintained by the Centre for Scientific Computing CSC, a company owned by the Ministry of Education. CSC is also in charge of the academic data transmission network and the country's supercomputers. The National Library was authorized to sign the contracts.

The universities share the costs of the system. A consortium will be established and a formalized contract regulating the rights and duties of its members will be signed. Until another organization is established, the Council for Finnish University Libraries will continue functioning as the Steering Committee of the project. The implementation of the system will be completed in June 2001. The National Library has been authorized to function as the administrator of the consortium and to represent the members to the providers of the software, hardware and the maintenance of the server.

The National Library is happy to report on the consensus reached by the Finnish universities. We feel that this decision lays a firm foundation for a modern, powerful and economically advantageous library network. The obvious benefits are one reason, why the polytechnics also want to become members of the consortium. We will begin negotiations with them in the autumn. The process has required great efforts of the Library as well as of other libraries who have participated in it. The benefits of such a concerted action are obvious because individual libraries have been able to limit their obligations and concentrate on their own functional needs. The National Library has handled the negotiations as well as all technical and legal aspects.

The union catalogues should also be mentioned in the context of current network services. The total size is about 5.4 million records. After the introduction of a web based user interface their use has steadily increased, in spite of the fact that users from outside the universities are charged for the use of the databases.

The conversion or, more accurately, the recataloguing of the collections printed in cyrillic alphabet, has also been completed. About 95 per cent of all Library catalogues are now accessible on the Internet. The entire National Bibliography starting from 1488 is available on the Internet.

Locally the local area network including the workstations has been upgraded and is using a NT server. Restructuring of the web pages is under way and a full use of intranet pages are being fully utilized.

## **The Digital Library**

In addition to the preparations of the new legal deposit act and the purchase of a new library automation system the National Electronic Library Programme (FinELib) has been integrated into the Library's regular work and a national digitization programme is being prepared. For the National Electronic Library Programme the Library has set up a new Steering committee consisting of top level representatives of the university and research community. The aim is to improve the visibility of the programme and to increase its coverage beyond the academic community. The programme will be carried out as a joint programme of the participating libraries, which are playing an active role in implementing it.

The National Electronic Library Programme has been granted 6 million euro as an annual grant. This is supplemented by the contributions of the universities which share the costs according to a special financing scheme. About 80 per cent of the central money is being used for purchasing licences to electronic publications and the bulk of the remaining 20 per cent is being used for development projects.

For the time being licences to about 3000 scientific trade journals and 80 databases have been purchased. The most important development project aims at creating a common portal for all electronic services and is meant to provide search tools also to all licenced full-text journals. It will be based on the OCLC WebZ, a Z39.50 gateway. At the same time we are investigating new possibilities for creating an electronic library by using the ENCompass software, which is being developed by the Endeavor Inc. (Voyager). The new portal will be a major step towards a real electronic library and there is a strong demand from the library community to develop it. Thanks to the central funds we are confident that this complicated task will be completed in a reasonably short time.

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

In November 1999 the Council for Finnish University Libraries adopted a national digitisation policy. As proposed by this document and the National Library Strategy, the Library is preparing a national digitisation centre which will be established in the Library=s Centre for Microfilming and Conservation located in Mikkeli in south-eastern Finland. Several projects are in process. In particular, efforts have been made to digitise earlier newspapers from microfilm and also to use OCR to make the texts searchable. Results have been encouraging. The Library is also co-operating with the biggest newspaper publisher of the country for this project. After having purchased a powerful new scanner (SMA 0 6650) for large format material in colour, historical maps have also been digitised.

A new project (PERI+) will be set up with the aim of digitalizing Finnish scholarly journals. One of the main tasks of the project is to create a collective copyright management model to help in tackling the copyright issues. As long as no such procedure is available the copyright protection will remain an unsurmountable barrier preventing from digitising copyrighted periodicals and newspapers. The great number of authors and their later right owners are difficult if not impossible to identify, not to speak of the huge work which would be needed to negotiate contracts with all of them. The Library co-operates with the Finnish collecting agency KOPIOSTO, which already has participated both in the Library=s own project ELEKTRA and the EU-project TECUP.

## **Legal Deposit**

Preparations of the new legal deposit act have already been mentioned. The Library is responsible for the central receipt of all legal deposit copies which are then distributed to the legal deposit libraries. Because there are six legal deposit copies the task is a major logistic enterprise. Therefore, the Library has explored possibilities for outsourcing the handling of the whole process. The investigation required a thorough analysis of all details of the work chain. It was a surprise to discover that it was cheaper not to outsource the work but to continue to perform it by the Library itself.

## **Acquisitions**

During the report period the Library developed its humanities collection in particular by purchasing a great number of items for the enlarged Open Access Collections. The National Electronic Library Programme, which is the Library=s most important acquisition scheme at the moment, has been described already above. Other notable acquisitions have been made in the field of music.

The Library has the responsibility for the National Archives of Recorded Sound. Priorities are to create a complete collection of recorded sound from 1901 onwards, either as original records or newly recorded copies from other collections, to compile



an electronic catalogue of the collection, and to organize the user services, which will be placed in connection with the Library's other music library services. Today the Library already owns about one half of the commercially produced recordings of Finnish music from the 1920's to the end of the 1960's. The objective is to get a complete collection of sound recordings from 1901 onwards and to compile an online catalogue of them. For that purpose the Library investigated possibilities to buy services from outside and signed a contract with Yleisradio (the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation). A considerable part of the Corporation's register of Finnish recordings has already been included in the Library's database.

The Library also purchased a unique collection of historical gramophones consisting of 51 devices which date from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until the first electric players. A permanent exhibition of gramophones has been built in the music library.

Within the framework of the project Lyyra the Library collects manuscripts by Finnish composers and makes a survey of the existing Finnish music archives. By the end of 1999 the Library had received 53 collections including both art music and light music. For the first time the Library is now actively collecting manuscripts by composers of light music also. Important additions have been received. The Library is already in a position to offer the best possibilities in the whole country to do research in Finnish music.

## **Preservation and Conservation**

Due to organizational changes at the University the Library had to take over microfilming operations which until April 1, 1999 had been carried out by the University's Audiovisual Centre. The Library would have preferred to outsource this technical service, but such an option was no longer available. Therefore, the Library now performs also the microfilming itself. On the other hand, this makes it easier to supervise the whole production chain from the beginning to the very end.

All current Finnish newspapers are being microfilmed. Due to weaknesses in the technical process in the 1950's in particular when the microfilming was started a great part of newspapers have to be refilmed. Therefore, the Library is keen on the quality of its work because the present microfilms will be the only means to preserve the contents of the newspapers in the future. Quality is a crucial issue not only from the view point of permanence. New requirements have to be met also when microfilms are being used for scanning in connection with digitisation. In many cases microfilm will also be used as the archival medium of the material which has been digitised.

In co-operation with the Department of Polymer Chemistry of the University of Helsinki the Library is carrying out research in paper conservation methods. It has proved that the use of mass deacidification methods are problematic because it is difficult to take into account the differences in the quality of the paper of individual items. Differences in the age and storage conditions as well as the origin of the paper

mean that the same treatment can not be universally applied. More research will be needed to discover acceptable methods.

Digitisation as such is not, at least not today, a method of preserving publications for the future although digitisation may protect publications from heavy use. Digitisation is, first of all, a means to improve the access. To further the conservation purposes hybrid methods, a combination of digitisation and microfilming, are being investigated.

The main emphasis at the moment lies in digitising newspapers from microfilm. The work is being done within the projects AURORA and TIDEN which aim at digitising historical newspapers. The projects are financed by the Ministry of Education and the NORDINFO. Three other Nordic libraries participate in TIDEN. The aim is to create a Digital Newspaper Library with good search possibilities.

The active conservation measures of the Library are primarily reserved for the Library's unique materials, such as manuscripts. During the report period much attention has been paid to the treatment and cleaning of all the collections to be removed into the new underground stacks.

## **Services to Readers**

The newly renovated library buildings with their new reading rooms offer excellent working conditions for a larger number of readers. The Open Access Collection is twice as large as before. Of course, the introduction of new services in the old historical buildings has not been very easy in all aspects and certain adaptations will certainly be needed afterwards. Users have been keenly following the changes. Foreign scholars even presented protests against changes slotted for the internationally renowned Slavonic Library. However, the changes were accepted once scholars had familiarized themselves with the proposals.

## **Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing**

The Library has placed a high priority on cultural activities leading to their expansion and diversity. Collections are being presented through exhibitions and lectures. The recital evenings have been a success and the turnout for all the cultural events has surpassed all expectations. The Library has actively looked for co-operation partners in this field, one of the most important ones during the year 2000 being the Helsinki City of Culture Foundation.

Meeting for music scholars have been arranged as part of the preparations for the publication of the critical edition of Jean Sibelius's Collected Works. In 1999 the first printed volume of the series was published and it was followed in the beginning of 2000 by the second volume. As a product of another major research project the so called typographical atlas of Finland was published in two large volumes. A

bibliography of Finnish children's literature from the period 1799-1899 was also published.

The Finnish National Bibliography is being published also on CD-ROM and the edition is updated four times a year. The Finnish thesaurus was published in Finnish and Swedish on CD-ROM called ASSI.

## **Library Co-operation**

The Library's mission is to promote co-operation between Finnish libraries. It is also the main instrument of this co-operation. The Finnish university libraries have been able to establish an excellent co-operation which has led to impressive results, such as the common computer network and the National Electronic Library. In addition to the willingness to co-operate an operative body is needed to prepare initiatives and to carry out the practical arrangements. This is the task of the National Library. There are also a number of co-operative arrangements with other libraries individually.

On the national level the Library is also seeking co-operation outside the library community. It has already been mentioned above that the Library co-operates with the Finnish Radio Broadcasting Company as well as with newspaper publishers and publishers in general. It also co-operates with the learned societies in order to develop their electronic publishing, just to give some examples.

On the international level the Library is active in a number of fields and participates in the work of several organizations.

The Library participates e.g. in the following projects:

- the European projects CoBRA+, DIEPER, NEDLIB, ONE-2, TECUP, and the New Book Economy

- the Nordic projects Nordic Metadata, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue, TIDEN

The Library is a member of CENL, CERL and EROMM.

On behalf of CENL the Library chairs the Working Group on network standards (URN, Z39.50, ISO-ILL etc.)

In addition to formalized projects and programmes the Library participates in a number of other initiatives both on a European and a Nordic scale. One noteworthy example is the licensing of electronic publications.

The agreement between the University and the American government was renewed and the American Resource Center will continue to be administered jointly by the US Embassy and Helsinki University Library for the next five years.

## **Major celebrations**

On November 16, 1999 the renovated public areas of the library block were officially opened by Minister of Education Ms. Maija Rask in the presence of the representatives of the University, the Ministry, diplomatic corps and other quarters relevant to the Library. As a special guest Mrs. Eeva Ahtisaari, the spouse of the President Martti Ahtisaari, attended the celebration.

On May 8, 2000 an exhibition on Finnish women scientists was opened inaugurating at the same time the Library's new exhibitions area. The exhibition was opened by the President of the Republic Ms. Tarja Halonen.

## **Publications**

*Sibelius, Jean*, Symphony No. 2. Edited by Kari Kilpeläinen. Wiesbaden: Breitkopf & Härtel 2000. (Jean Sibelius, Complete Works. Series I. Orchestral Works. Vol. 3.)

*Perälä, Anna*, Suomen typografinen atlas. Finsk typografisk atlas. Typographischer Atlas Finnlands. 1642-1827. Vol. 1-2. Helsinki: Helsinki University Library 2000. 702 + 597 pp. (Publications of the Helsinki University Library 64, 65.)

*Brummer-Korvenkontio, Markus*, Lapsuuden kitrjat Suomessa 1799-1899. Barndomens böcker i Finland 1799-1899. Children's books in Finland 1799-1899. Helsinki: Helsinki University Library 2000. (Publications of the Helsinki University Library 66.)

The Library publishes an annual *Bulletin* in English reporting the most important developments. The Bulletin is sent free of charge to interested libraries and other institutions.