

IFLA 2009

Theme: "National Libraries in the Digital Age: Leadership and Collaboration"

Abstract

National Digital Library of Finland - enabling access to digital cultural material to users of today and to future generations?

Ministry of Education of Finland has started a project called "National Digital Library" (2008 – 2011), which encompasses digitization of prioritized cultural heritage material of museums, archives and libraries, and online accessibility and long term preservation of both digitized and born-digital cultural material.

The aim of this project is to establish one national access point, a public interface, to digital resources - collections, databases and repositories - and services of libraries, archives and museums.

The new information and communication infrastructure will be divided to front-end user services and back-end management systems. The public interface provides the front-end services. Back-end management systems are library systems, digital archives, museum collection management systems, linking resolvers, metasearch systems and the long-term digital preservation system.

The public interface functionality is based on harvesting of resources of libraries, archives and museums. In addition, the system also will also enable use of metasearch/federated search. The system is based on metadata and the actual content is usually displayed in a native interface.

The public interface will have its own identity as "the national gateway" to resources of libraries, archives and museums, and it will also be integrated into institutional web pages, portals, and other systems.

In addition, the Finnish National Digital Library aims at creating a common infrastructure for long-term preservation of digital cultural material and scientific information of libraries, archives and museums.

National Digital Library of Finland encompasses:

- digitisation of cultural heritage collections of libraries, archives, audiovisual archives and museums
- access to digital resources of libraries, archives, audiovisual archives and museums; and
- long-term preservation of digital cultural heritage.

The aims

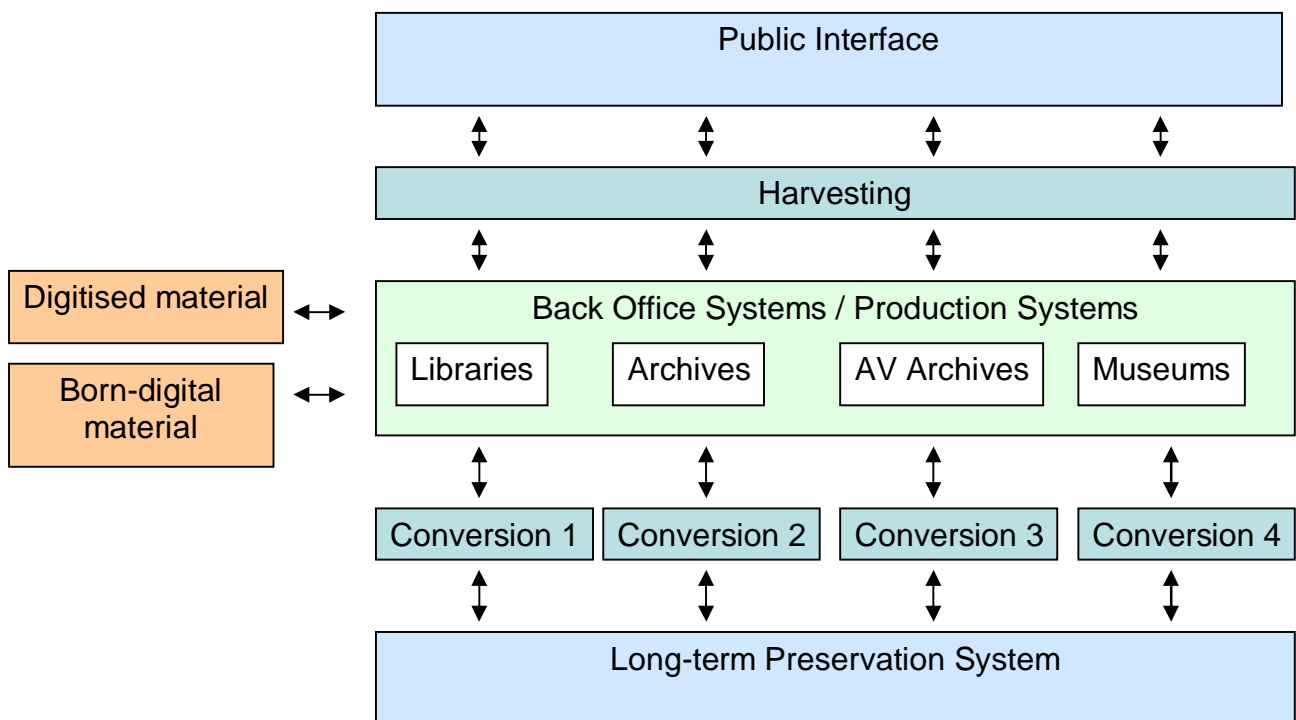
- to build one national access point, a public interface, to digital resources of scientific and public libraries, archives and museums (in operation 2011)
- to make the most essential collections of Finnish memory organisations both digitised and searchable through one public interface

- to create sustainable solution for long-term preservation of digital cultural material (finalised plan in 2010)

The benefits

- easy and fast access to digital cultural resources
- interoperability (standards, metadata)
- efficiency: streamlined processes, no need to maintain many interfaces
- synergies between autonomous institutions (selection of content, clear roles, common tasks)
- nation's memory preserved for future use
- coordinated dialogue between all the stakeholders

Information Architecture



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