

Opinion leader, developer, forum for cooperation

Council for Finnish University Libraries



The Council expresses the views of Finnish university libraries and develops their activities.

Activities

- Expert statements
- Proclamations
- Development projects
- The exchange of experiences
- Meetings
- Surveys
- Seminars
- Communication
- The appointment of common representatives
- Cooperation with stakeholders

Project achievements

- Personnel competence development evaluation model until 2010 (competence map, implementation experiences)
- Funding survey (statistical development needs, funding proposals, indicators)
- Quality and impact evaluation development (descriptions of core processes, network of quality evaluators, quality handbook, seminars)
- Survey on the research needs of University libraries (research program planning)
- Collection map (national presentation of collection-level information and library-specific evaluation, seminars)
- Development of information literacy (network, study plan recommendation, Q&A bank, book, seminars)

Vision 2007-2012

Council:

- Creates the future of the usability and accessibility of research knowledge.
- Acts as a central figure of influence in its field within Finnish society.

The rules, strategy and plan of action drawn up by the network lay out the activities.

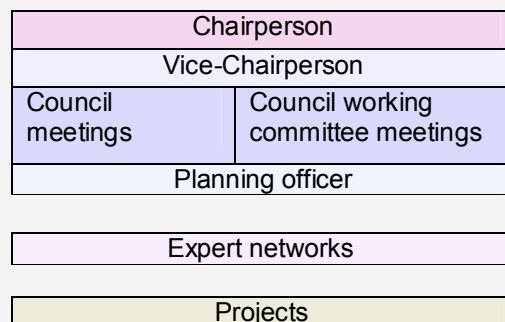
Historical achievements: the Council of Finnish University Libraries has been creating the base for a national electronic library (FinELib) and for acquiring a common library system.



Voluntary network cooperation organisation

- Membership: 27 library directors
- Background organisations: 21 university libraries and two national service centres
- Established in 1996

Chairpersons and Council members participate in the network as part of their daily work. A planning officer hired jointly by the libraries does preparation work for meetings and activities. Development projects are initiated with separate funding.



Topical issues in the network and stakeholder cooperation

Finnish library sectors are drawing up a joint future program for Finnish libraries and a related compilation of articles.

Finnish higher education will be reformed by 2020 by merging institutions of higher education. Structural development will influence the organisation of university libraries as well.

Policies of the Ministry of Education:

- The legal status of universities will change from state institutions to public corporations or private foundations in 2010
- Institutions of higher education are developed with a dual model ► the separate functions and the degrees of universities and universities of applied sciences will remain
- New universities and university libraries will be created by merging old ones
- Closer cooperation with other scientific and general libraries ► joint regional libraries
- More emphasis on profiling than before
- Harmonisation of information systems, further development and regularisation of digital and national services

Council's views on structural development:

- Equal access to information must be secured in Finland also in the future ► the state should provide the most essential scientific information from the point of view of research innovation and international competitiveness
- University libraries must be an integral part of the teaching and research process
- The funding of university libraries must be secured; the jointly chosen targets and results of university libraries should be part of the University's target and result negotiations
- University libraries must remain open service centres for consumers of scientific knowledge ► funding for the social service function of university libraries must be negotiated

The Council influences structural development by participating in a project initiated by the Ministry of Education of Finland.

The Council identifies service needs related to information systems and information architecture:

Council working group starting points:

- Existing university library information systems will be recorded
- Service needs will be reflected far ahead into the future
- Services that should be offered locally, jointly or nationally from the viewpoint of university libraries will be identified

Council views on developing information systems:

- The object of national and global development should be to offer interfaces for the joint use of systems
- Information system design must be customer oriented for teaching and research

University library services - a central research infrastructure

The basic services of university libraries in Finland are services related to the acquisition, organisation and distribution of scientific information, training in information literacy, and special services related to information resources and the use of library systems. Some university libraries are also responsible for publication and learning centre functions, and produce and maintain databases. University libraries' collections and most of their services can be accessed free of charge by all information seekers.