

# THE NATIONAL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY OF FINLAND, FinELib

## OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2008

The year 2008 was marked by significant changes in the operating environment of FinELib consortium members. Mergers between member organisations continued to take place. The service unit negotiated on a case-by-case basis e-resource agreements for the new Metropolia and Novia polytechnics and began e-resource negotiations for the three new universities to be launched in 2010 (Aalto University, University of Eastern Finland and the new University of Turku). In 2008, a total of 37 research institutes were members of the FinELib consortium. Mergers between research institutes took place rather speedily. The National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES) and the National Public Health Institute (KTL) merged to form the National Institute for Health and Welfare, and the Finnish Institute of Marine Research was merged into both the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The European Chemicals Agency, the Finnish Security Police and the Institute for Russian and East European Studies joined FinELib as new members. As far as figures are concerned, the most dramatic change took place in the number of member municipalities. Between 2008 and 2009, the number of municipalities decreased from 415 to 348; the number of new municipalities formed was 32 and a total of 67 municipalities were abolished.

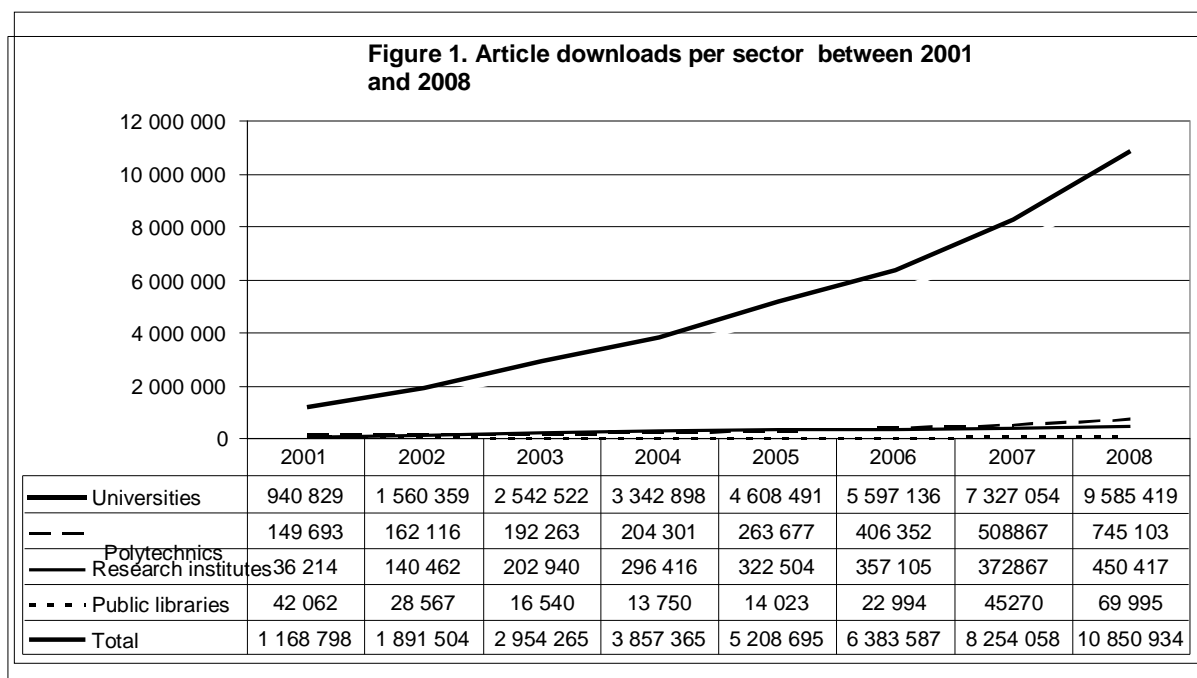
The number of e-resources available to the FinELib consortium remained at the same level as in late 2007, with only a slight increase in the number of available reference books (278 in 2007, 319 in 2008). New licenses were acquired for the Building Information Files, the medical journals by the LWW Total Access Collection and the Russian Integrum database. The FinELib service unit conducted negotiations concerning 80 different materials. FinELib received a total of 2443 orders for materials from libraries, of which 840 came from university libraries, 764 from public libraries, 582 from polytechnic libraries and 257 from research institutes. A total of 12 e-resources were acquired through a tendering process. An average increase of 5% could be seen in the price of materials; however, there was great variance between the prices of different e-resources.

**Table 1. Licensed e-resources in 2007-2008**

Indicator	E-resources in 2008	E-resources in 2007
Number of licensed resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 131 reference databases</li><li>• 319 reference books</li><li>• 8 e-book collections</li><li>• 2 research management software programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 128 reference databases</li><li>• 278 reference books</li><li>• 8 e-book collections</li><li>• 2 research management software programs</li></ul>
Number of e-journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 18 000 e-journals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 17 000 e-journals</li></ul>

Number of e-books	• 296 000 e-books	• 295 000 e-books
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The number of downloaded articles increased from 2.6 million in 2007 to 11 million in 2008. Articles were downloaded most frequently by users in universities. A total of 11 million searches were made through the national information retrieval portal, Nelli.



Thanks to the increase in user numbers, the price of article downloads has dropped for many resources. There are, however, great differences in price trends between various sectors and resources.

**Table 2. Article download prices per sector between 2003 and 2008**

Resource	Universities					Polytechnics					Research institutes				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
ACS	1,04	0,98	0,98	1,27		11,51	12,52	12,13	16,12		0,86	0,90	1,24	1,58	
Ebrary		1,07	0,92	0,97	0,58		3,87	2,78	2,72	1,79					
EBSCO Host	0,34	0,27	0,22	0,25	0,09	1,2	1,02	0,55	0,45	0,25	1,48	2,85	4,72	6,47	4,64
Elsevier *	3,02	2,75	2,81	2,72	2,27	5,25	3,79	4,42	3,82	3,42	3,31	3,30	3,50	3,54	3,70
Emerald	2,45	1,80	1,00	0,58	0,61	1,74	1,52	1,36	1,00	1,01	5,55	7,84	3,57	1,90	2,30
IEEE			1,49	0,65	1,04			35,25	9,39	14,07			1,82	0,86	1,66
Springer LINK	7,08	7,21	5,80	4,50	3,32	40,96	31,45	25,0	22,29	28,05	8,97	8,3	5,76	5,31	4,45
Wiley Interscience			6,96	7,09	6,45								21,55	6,26	6,65

Prices in EUR

\* including Freedom Collection, Cell Press and IESBS resources

The FinELib service unit conducted a survey among the consortium member libraries about the ongoing changes in their operating environment and the effects of these changes on the licensing of resources. The

aim was to shed light on the changes taking place in the operating environment of libraries and on the views of libraries concerning the importance of these changes from the point of view of licensing. The survey was part of a structural development project launched by the Ministry of Education. Generally speaking, the consortium members were of the opinion that there is an increasing need for tailored licensing. In spring 2008, the National Library of Finland carried out a survey among its customer libraries about the national library network services. The results revealed that the greatest development needs concern the National information retrieval portal, Nelli and Halti, the ERM system of the consortium, and the dissemination of information about terms of use of the e-resources. These development needs have been taken into account in the action plan for 2009. In 2008 the administration of IP addresses was automated and allocations were monitored in the Halti database. For the first time, statistics on the number of orders for materials were obtainable from Halti. During 2008, plans were made for a Halti reporting system as well as for a customer-specific communication system.

In 2008 the Nelli operating unit focused on the national digital library project, which aims to produce a user interface which will facilitate and accelerate the use of electronic resources and library catalogues. The project is a joint venture between Finnish memory organisations, which means that the service will include the information services of museums and archives as well. The technical development of Nelli continued with cooperation with institutions of higher education in integrating the portal into their learning environments.

In 2008 the service unit completed the development of FinELib's digital communication (website, extranet, Halti database and wiki). A functional website is of the utmost importance for a national service, and meeting the needs of a heterogeneous clientele requires continuous further development.

FinELib's total expenses amounted to EUR 4,115,396 in 2008, which meant an increase of 2.5% from the previous year. Operating expenses amounted to EUR 3,744,192, with e-materials accounting for EUR 3,147,392, in other words, 84%. The total expenses of the Nelli portal were EUR 528,967. The expenses of paid services amounted to EUR 76,049 and the expenses of external funding to EUR 295,155. In 2008 the customer organisations' self-financing share for the use of e-resources was EUR 12,378,897.

The model of centralised allocation for universities was revised in the course of 2008. A new model for the distribution of allocations was approved in the meeting of the Council for Finnish University Libraries in May. Libraries may monitor the materials-specific distribution of allocations also through the Halti database.

In 2008 FinELib was recognised as one of the 24 components of the national research infrastructure. The infrastructure survey launched by the Ministry of Education charted national research infrastructures as well as participation in international research infrastructures, and laid out a road map for future needs. The FinELib service unit supplied the project's steering committee with additional information and material.