

THE NATIONAL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY OF FINLAND, FinELib

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2009

Several changes taking effect on January 1st 2010 had to be taken into account in the FinELib service unit during the year 2009. The new Universities Act would extend the autonomy of universities. At the same time there would be changes in the VAT legislation. The FinELib consortium prepared for the legislative changes by consulting VAT experts, organizing training for the consortium members, and updating data systems and acquisition processes.

The mergers of organizations had to be taken into account when negotiating for license renewals. At the beginning of 2010, seven universities would merge into three new universities: Aalto University (formerly Helsinki School of Economics, Helsinki University of Technology and the University of Art and Design Helsinki), University of Eastern Finland (formerly the Universities of Joensuu and Kuopio) and the new University of Turku (formerly the University of Turku and Turku School of Economics). In addition, TAMK University of Applied Sciences and PIRAMK University of Applied sciences merged to form Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK). As a result, the amount of Finnish universities reduces down from 21 to 17. The amount of polytechnics is reduced from 28 to 27. According to the Ministry of Education and Culture the appropriate amount of universities would be 15 and amount of polytechnics 20 (including all polytechnics) by 2020.

Table 1: Licensed e-resources in 2008-2009

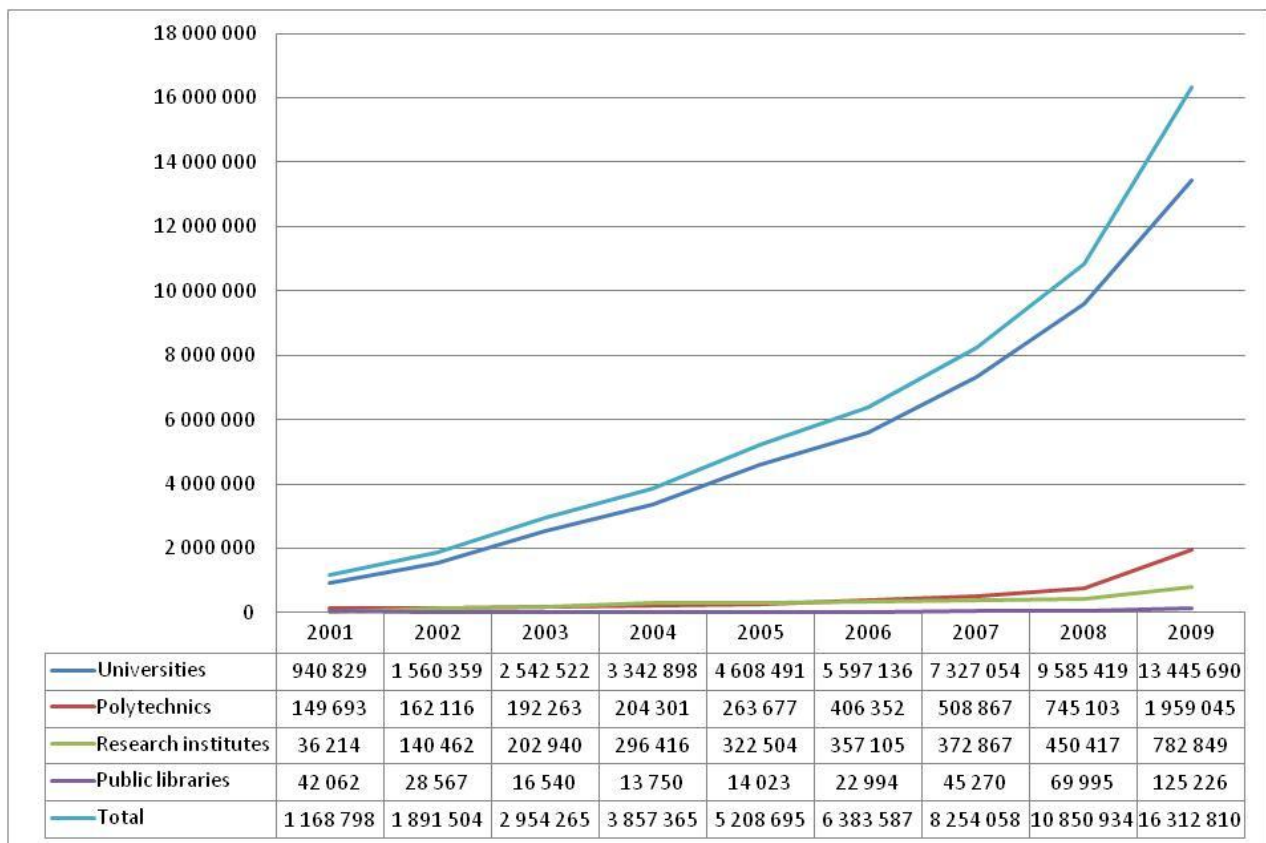
Indicator	E-resources in 2008	E-resources in 2009
Number of licensed resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 131 reference databases• 319 reference books• 8 e-book collections• 2 research management software programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 154 reference databases• 332 reference books• 8 e-book collections• 2 research management software programs
Number of e-journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 18 000 e-journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 000 e-journals
Number of e-books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 296 000 e-books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 307 000 e-books

FinELib has a total of approx. 60 license agreements. Renewals for the year 2010 included 83 different resources. The total amount of e-resources available is presented in Table 1.

The number of downloaded articles increased from 10.9 million in 2008 to 16.3 million in 2009 (Table 2). Part of the growth is explained by changes in the compilation of statistics, mainly Ebrary becoming COUNTER compliant. Total amount of e-book article downloads was 3.8 million. The total amount of searches was 56.4 million.

During 2009, the use of the national Nelli portal grew approximately 6 %. The Nelli portal is used in 16 universities (out of 17), 25 polytechnics (out of 27) and 15 provincial library areas (out of 20).

Table 2: Article downloads per sector 2001-2009



PROJECTS

In 2009, the central projects which FinELib participated in were The National Digital Library, structural development of licensing and JURE, the task force aiming to implement publication register services in Finland.

The Ministry of Education and Culture launched the National Digital Library project in 2008. The National Digital Library aims to improve the availability and usability of the electronic resources of libraries, archives and museums as well as develop a long-term preservation solution for the materials. In all, 35 different organizations are participating in the project. The National Library is responsible for the development of the public interface. During 2009 several workshops and meetings were organized. The procurement for the public interface software began in September 2009, and the process will continue during spring 2010.¹

Structural development of licensing is a project which aims to chart new licensing models for the FinELib consortium. The four prioritized subjects for developing the licensing were licensing for sub organizations, licensing for student and research groups going across organizational boundaries (incl. commercial education abroad), licensing for adult and supplementary education, and licensing for joint libraries. Three libraries were chosen to pilot the new licensing models in 2010.

In May 2009, the JURE task force was created, consisting of representatives of several Finnish universities, polytechnics and research institutes. The aim of the JURE task force is to create a national publication register, which would offer quality controlled and consistent information on the research in Finland. The FinELib service unit takes part in the project by mapping the possibilities and costs of using the publication and citation data of international databases. The JURE task force belongs to a wider RAKETTI data administration project, organized by the Finnish higher education institutions together with the Ministry of Education and Culture.²

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

In 2009, the total expenses of FinELib (acquisitions + Nelli) were approx. 18.1 million euros, which meant an increase of 9.4% from the previous year. E-resources accounted for 16.8 million euros, which is 93 % of the budget. The consortium members' self-financing share for the costs of e-resources was 13.7 million euros, the rest came from the National Library's general operating budget and the government subsidy for public libraries. The total expenses of the Nelli portal were EUR 0.5 million euros.

Total amount of personnel in the FinELib service unit was 16.5 person-years. The personnel in acquisitions (including the economic and training personnel) were 10.5 person-years. The staff in the Nelli office consisted of six person-years.

¹ <http://www.kdk2011.fi/en/>

² <http://raketti.csc.fi/en/jure>