Minna Karvonen

The National Digital Library

The National Digital Library is now making the information resources of libraries, archives and museums available, and preserving them for future users.

Increased immaterial exchange and a profound change in the way information is produced and disseminated characterize the information and competence society. The mission of libraries, archives and museums as possessors, intermediaries and repositories of essential electronic information resources is of vital importance for such a society.

National information society policy definitions emphasize the development of common infrastructures and services that promote the utilization of mainly publicly funded electronic information resources as efficiently as possible. The National Digital Library project managed by the Ministry of Education (www.kdk2011.fi) is part of the development of national electronic infrastructures and customer-oriented electronic service entities. It is one of the public administration projects defined in the Ubiquitous Information Society Action Plan implementing the Government Resolution on the Objectives of the National Information Society Policy 2007-2011. Behind the Government Resolution lies the third national information society strategy "A renewing, human-centric and competitive Finland" (2007–2015).

The mission of the National Digital Library is to improve the prerequisites for general access to information as well as for educational and research purposes, to support the arts and creative activities by enhancing the digitization of the most essential materials in libraries, archives and museums, and to ensure the availability and long-term preservation of electronic information resources.

The National Digital Library is one of the research, innovation and creativity environments whose accelerated development has been set as a target by the Ministry of Education (Ministry of Education Strategy 2020). It will implement national culture and science policies by increasing the availability and preservation of the electronic information resources of libraries, archives and museums, by establishing a significant research infrastructure, and strengthening electronic learning environments.

The definition of the National Digital Library owes much to the enrichment of the European Union’s policy definitions during the past ten years. Regarding the information society, a decade ago the European Union’s activities relating to memory organizations and their materials were still limited to scientific libraries and digitization. In the European Commission’s i2010 information society strategy (2005) and i2010 digital libraries initiative (2005), which further elaborates the strategy, the electronic information resources of scientific and public libraries, archives, audio-visual archives and museums are, for the first time in the European Union’s activities, at the core of the information society.

Based on these policy definitions, both the Commission and a Council consisting of the European Union Member States have in recent years prepared a number of more in-depth and complementary documents that, alongside the digitization of physical materials and the management of digital materials, increasingly emphasize the development of use- and user-centered electronic services. Ensuring the availability and usability of born-digital and digitized materials in the decades and centuries to come is a goal towards which both the Commission and the EU Member States are working. The Commission and the Member States together have committed themselves to establishing a European digital library, Europeana.

The goal of Finland’s National Digital Library is to ensure the availability of the electronic information resources of libraries, archives and museums now and in the future. The project focuses on common services, operational models and solutions. Under the National Library of Finland, the project aims at creating a common public interface for the essential electronic information resources of libraries, archives and museums, as well as their online services. The most essential, prioritized materials of libraries, archives and museums will be digitized and made available for information.
searches via the public interface. The National Digital Library and the European digital library, Europeana, are cooperating closely. This collaboration ensures that the most essential materials of Finnish memory organizations will also be available on Europeana. The public interface will be put into operation in 2011.

Under the National Archives of Finland, the National Digital Library project will also prepare a plan, expected to be completed in the summer of 2010, for the long-term preservation of electronic cultural heritage materials. Competence and awareness regarding the digitization of materials in libraries, archives and museums, as well as the availability of their electronic information resources and long-term preservation of electronic cultural heritage materials, will be boosted by providing information, training and online services.

The implementation of the National Digital Library will merge the information resources of libraries, archives and museums across organizational borders to form a national selection of materials and services that will be actively used by the public as a source of information, creative activities, education, and research. The long-term preservation system will preserve and make available the digitized and born-digital materials of culture and science for future generations.

Besides creating common solutions, the implementation of the National Digital Library requires harmonized practices, continuous interaction, and agreement on the rules of the game.

A total of 70 members from 35 organizations in five groups are participating in the National Digital Library project. Extensive committees coordinated by a steering group are supervising the development of the common user interface and the long-term preservation solution.

At the same time, it has been noticed that certain national services are becoming increasingly relevant. These services cannot be realized within the scope of the project, but they are fundamental to attaining the project’s goals. These include, for example, the adoption and maintenance of services related to uniform resource names (URN), the retrieval of author information in different languages (authority database), ontologies, and geographic information. The establishment and expansion of these services would also serve other electronic services considered essential for citizens and authorities.

The services, practices and procedures generated by the project will have a substantial impact on the entire library, museum and archive sector. With the creation of the National Digital Library, the common utilization of infrastructures, as well as access to national information resources, will become more efficient. To maximize the benefits of these new solutions, organizations will be updating their processes, working hard to build interfaces, and committing themselves – in the future as well – to joint R&D work.

Minna Karvonen
Secretary General National Digital Library Ministry of Education
Developing National Digital Library

The National Library of Finland has chosen two strategic priorities that will guide its decision making and development activities over the next three to five years. Both objectives aim at the development of digital library services. The Library will further develop its existing service center for libraries to facilitate the provision of digital library services at the national level. Parallel with the development of national information infrastructures, The National Library is developing its own National Digital Library to provide access to its digital collections.

A major prerequisite for the development of national information infrastructures is the National Digital Library project (2008-2011) launched by the Ministry of Education. This article focuses on the development of the digital library at the national level.

National Digital Library Project 2008-2011


The National Digital Library project aims at promoting the online availability and usability of the essential information resources of libraries, archives and museums and at developing long-term preservation solutions for digital cultural heritage materials.

The focus areas of the National Digital Library project include the:

- creation of a national user interface for the access of the most essential electronic information resources and services of libraries, archives and museums;
- digitization of the most essential, prioritized materials of libraries, archives and museums and their integration into the national user interface;
- generation of long-term preservation solutions for electronic cultural heritage materials; and
- boosting of competence in the area of digitization and online availability of cultural and cultural heritage materials and the long-term preservation of electronic cultural heritage materials.

The project is extensive in many ways. The number of organizations participating in the project itself is high; the number of potential participants in the projects covers all libraries, museums and archives, as well as their users. The budget required to implement the national user interface project and the national digital long-term preservation system is larger than for any project previously undertaken in the Finnish library, museum and archive sector.

The utilization of metals has always been a prerequisite for cultural development. In the national economy of Sweden – to whose kingdom Finland once belonged – it has been of central importance since the Middle Ages. Sigfrid Aronius’s early study of the subject will later be included in the digitized “Save a Book” collection.

“It is necessary to continuously emphasize that the library institution represents basic culture and the core of basic services in Finland at their best. Libraries are the best way to equitably provide people with information, facts, adventures, education and the tools to develop as individuals.”

Stefan Wallin
Minister of Culture and Sport
Kirjastolehti 5/2007
Improving the user experience – developing the national user interface

The main aim in the development of the national user interface is to support the user in information retrieval and delivery. The user interface is expected to provide relevant search results quickly. The idea is to bring the service to users’ working environments, for example e-science or learning environments, social networking forums, Google, and to support users in their work processes.

The architecture of the national user interface is based on the separation of the user interface from back-end systems. This shifts the developmental focus from back-end systems and the needs of organizations to end-user needs. The architecture also allows organizations to renew their back-end systems independently. Libraries, museums and archives will be responsible for the production of metadata that will be indexed to a central database. Metadata quality is one of the key elements in the project.

The basic elements in the development of the National Digital Library are the:

- separation of the public interface from back-end systems (e.g. ILMS, catalogues of museums and archives, institutional repositories);
- development of a digital long-term preservation system that will utilize the national user interface as the interface to the preserved data;
- back-end systems that will provide the metadata needed in the national user interface and the long-term preservation system;
- integration of the relevant national and international infrastructures with the project (e.g. national user authentication and authorization systems, persistent identifiers, authority files);
- tools required for the transmission of metadata to third party services (e.g. Europeana, Google, World Digital Library, The European Library).

Besides a single national view to the collections and services of libraries, museums and archives, each participating organization or group of organizations will be able to tailor the user interface to meet their users’ needs. The selected system will be extremely flexible, also enabling individual users to personalize the interface and enhance the user experience.

The architecture is described in Figure 1.

The National Library is responsible for the development of the National user interface during the period 2008-2011. As planned, the system will be operable in 2011. The National Archives is responsible for the planning of the digital long-term preservation system. During the period 2008-2010, functional and technical requirements will be formulated and a small-scale pilot project realized.

National user interface project – development phases

Owing to the wide scope of the project, the expectations among organizations and their different user clusters vary. To reach agreement on common goals, it was decided to start the project with workshops. The aim of the workshops was to identify the needs of libraries, museums and archives regarding the national user interface, analyze and describe their user clusters, and formulate common goals. The workshops proved to be an excellent starting point in terms of establishing a common sense of purpose, but considerably more effort was needed to synchronize the functionalities of the national user interface and determine the types of value added that could be obtained.

Previously, the collaboration between libraries, museums and archives has not been particularly
intensive. There have been several joint projects, especially between museums, archives and the National Library of Finland, but relatively few with other types of libraries. During the first year of the National Digital Library project, intensive efforts have been made to activate cross-sector discussions, promote a familiarity with the services of different sectors, organize joint events, and find new ways to communicate, for example through social networking tools.

The main project phases are:
- Formation of common goals, 2008-;
- Preparation of software acquisition, including production of functional and technical requirements, 2008-2009;
- Software procurement, 2009-2010;
- Piloting the software, 2010;
- Production start-up 2011.

As planned, the tendering process would start during the last quarter of 2009. The procurement project’s pilot phase is extremely important; the functionalities of the chosen software will be tested to determine how many human resources will be required at the pilot organizations, as well as how much central support will be needed in the production phase; a functioning work division between pilot organizations and National Library will also be developed. The pilot project will also include an analysis of the production phase’s hardware requirements. Altogether, eight pilot organizations – representing libraries, museums and archives, different types of digital collections and the most commonly used back-end systems – have been chosen.

Integrating national infrastructures to form comprehensive digital library services

Nationwide infrastructures are also being developed in Finland to serve public administration; national authentication and digital payment systems can be mentioned as examples. The national user interface and the digital long-term preservation system can be integrated into other infrastructures. The knowledge of existing infrastructures and their cooperative possibilities can save considerable time and effort. The national user interface project is relying, for example, on national authentication systems.

National authority databases and ontologies, as well as URN resolution services, are among the infrastructures required for the National Digital Library project. The National Library is also studying the prerequisites for developing national authority databases within the library sector; one option will be to broaden the clientele to include museums and archives. This requires additional resources. The production of the URN resolution service is already underway. National ontologies are being developed in the international Semantic Web Project (http://www.yso.fi/?l=en).

In the digital age, the boundaries between administrative sectors are disappearing or becoming less obvious. Work carried out for one sector for a certain purpose can be effectively exploited in other sectors to develop new services.

Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen
Deputy National Librarian, Director of National Library Network Services
National Policy Guidelines Turn into a National Digital Library

Thirty-five organizations are involved in the National Digital Library project. Approximately 80 persons, ranging from a Permanent Secretary to IT specialists, participate in the meetings of its governing bodies. It is difficult to determine precisely how many persons are involved in other ways. Confusing? Yes, sometimes, but what everyone senses and shares is an atmosphere of commitment and enthusiasm.

The National Digital Library project unites in more ways than one. It has brought together people from very different organizations, but who are dealing with the same kinds of problems. Colleagues within the same organization have also found a new need to integrate and harmonize their work. And while the increase in cooperation among library, archive, and museum sectors has been remarkable, no less important has been the way the project has given each respective sector reasons to analyze and re-think its own methods and operations.

The project combines, urgent, more practical needs with advanced principles and objectives that might appear to have little to do with daily life.

More access for a longer time

The National Digital Library has its roots in several combined initiatives that were initially introduced separately. There are four main focus areas:

- A common user interface platform for web resources in libraries, archives, and museums;
- A solution for long-term preservation of digital national cultural materials;
- Intensified digitization of the most essential non-digital collections in libraries, archives, and museums;
- Increased research and know-how concerning the various aspects of the digital library.

Obviously, the National Digital Library will also affect the fundamental tasks of the National Library of Finland, which is one of the key participants in the project.

One-stop shopping with customized services

"Connecting people.". Beginning with clocks, information has become increasingly digitized and it also guides our thinking. Shrouded for a renovation, Helsinki's Main Post Office Building is emblematic of these changes as Nokia advertises its new pocket computers. The last mail trains departed from the Central Railway Station years ago.

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One-stop shopping with customized services
Finnish libraries introduced the Nelli information portal (www.nelliportaali.fi) in 2004. It has been a great success, but the world has changed since then. Nelli focuses primarily on current digital scholarly and textbook resources, as well as traditional library catalogues. Today however, archives and museums are generating an increasing amount of digital content, and libraries are contributing by digitizing their printed legacy collections. From historical land registries to butterfly collections, from 3D models of museum artifacts to digitized newspapers, this content belongs with current scholarly publications and printed national treasures; the users are the same, and different content sources are complementary. The same applies to research data that is becoming increasingly digitized and accessible.

The current Nelli portal has been tweaked to fit the conventions of the library world. Users often consider Nelli too complicated and perhaps too slow for their current needs and expectations. With the National Digital Library, the concept of a search portal will be taken to a new level in three ways.

First, where applicable, remote databases will be indexed instead of searched, thus greatly reducing the time needed for searches, and providing improved opportunities to normalize and pre-process heterogeneous data. Naturally, certain resources still require remote searching, but the trend seems to be that more and more data is becoming available for harvesting and indexing, even regarding scientific journals and databases. We are seeing a new form of business blooming around these services.

The new user interface will cover a wide range of digital resources, including those created by museums and archives. This is a major undertaking. Generally speaking, the systems used in those organizations are much more focused on data curation than dissemination, and they tend to differ among institutions.

By a “common user interface” we do not mean that every Finn needing information will flock to a single website. Rather, it means that a consistent technological infrastructure for all participating organizations will be used in a way that best suits them and their customers. What resources are given priority, what services are offered, how the interface looks like and how it relates to other resources and tools on the web – all this will be a matter of local customization.

Thirdly, the user interface is not just a gateway to information resources; it will also offer a wide selection of supporting services. Besides entailing user authentication, payment methods and other auxiliary services, the customer interface will provide users with the tools to process and reuse information. The aim is that the National Digital Library will be present in the natural working environments – such as online learning platforms – of its customers.

**The long way to long-term preservation**

The Bulletin of 2008 already described the early stages of the process that has now become part of the National Digital Library project. As a member of one of the working groups has stated that because memory organizations have more similarities than differences, there should be a unified national effort to find feasible solutions.

The problem of long-term preservation is not that it cannot be done; the problem is that it is not being done. It is a case of conflicting priorities. No one denies the importance of preservation, but in the digital world its needs are easily overshadowed by the more compelling concerns of quick output, perceived efficiency and immediate user satisfaction. And yet, preservation should be considered from the very incipient stages of a digital document’s life cycle.

Memory organizations will build a common long-term preservation system; the construction of the actual system however lies outside the scope of the present project. Instead, our aim will be to address the most immediate political and practical issues and be as ready as possible for the next steps; the preservation system alone requires a considerable amount of preparation.

Currently, the work with functional and technical requirements is proceeding smoothly. Much if the work is however fairly abstract in nature; in the autumn the project will concretize the plans with more hands-on experimentation.

**The Enterprise Architecture Method – solving the puzzle**

At first, some might have thought that the National Digital Library Project combined separate projects under one name to appear more impressive, but this notion was quickly dispelled. There are so many linkages – from digitization to dissemination, from dissemination to preservation and back – that the overall vision was at times unclear; a special effort had to be made to really grasp the entire system.
Consequently a convenient tool, The Enterprise Architecture Method for Finnish Government, was utilized in the project. It offers tools for government organizations to design functions and information, information systems, and technology solutions. This was actually the first time the method was implemented at this scale. There is no denying that, at the first sight, the model seemed rather intimidating. However, with the help of knowledgeable people it was tamed and proved to be extremely helpful in understanding and explaining the project's complex interdependencies.

As part of the architectural work, a standards portfolio currently being assembled will contain guidelines governing metadata formats, search protocols, document identification, user authentication, and other similar functions.

Fitting into the bigger picture

The National Digital Library project would not exist if it did not fulfil two critical preconditions. The memory organizations and specialists working for them must recognize it as something genuinely worthwhile. Secondly, its results must be something that the government considers important and relevant regarding its overall priorities. Happily, both conditions have been met. The Finnish government has encouraged the development of digital content and services in a number of strategy papers such as the:

- Information Society Programme 2007–2015;
- Government resolution on the objectives of the national information society policy for 2007–2011; and

National policies impact on, and are impacted by, EU-level policies. An important background document for the National Digital Library project is a 2005 document called "i2010 – A European Information Society for Growth and Employment" that summarizes the conclusions of the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. One of the outcomes of the EU's efforts is Europeana (www.europeana.eu), a gateway to the shared cultural heritage of Europe.

Internationality is the Word of the Day. In February the OCLC's president Jay Jordan and Chief Librarian Kai Ekholm signed an agreement for the Library’s participation in the WorldCat database.

The National Digital Library seems to be benefiting from a happy coincidence of practical and theoretical objectives. Why do such cases seem to be so rare? Is it that we crave diversity? Or is it that we want the same things but speak different languages? As much as we hope that the National Digital Library will be what our customers need, it may also turn out as a necessary learning experience for memory organizations.

Esa-Pekka Keskitalo
Senior Planning Officer, National Library Network Services
Tiina Ison

National Library of Finland: Digitisation within Context of National Digital Library and Infrastructure Developments

The National Library of Finland is meeting digitisation challenges front on. This article will provide a broad overview of steps taken between 2007-2009 in renewing digitisation processes, production and workflows under a scheme funded by the Education Ministry for Mass Digitisations. The focus of the article is to provide a digitisation production environment perspective into National Digital Library architecture and long term infrastructure developments in Finland. Museums, Archives, Libraries and Audio-Visual memory organisations with vast physical collections to be digitised, are faced with the challenge of examining their production environments within the context of national infrastructure development. The article provides a glimpse into such a development, from the field of digitisation at the National Library of Finland.

Paradigm Shift in Digitisation Infrastructure Development: Towards Enduring, Sustainable and Open Access

Cultural and research sectors are moving towards provision of global, open and free access to digitised content. Change is driven by user community shifts in how digital content is accessed, used and re-used. These community shifts have a direct impact on how digital content creation, capture, management, dissemination and preservation is enabled by cultural organisations; shifts in how sustainable IT infrastructure is developed to cater for research and community needs.

At a recent visit to the Library of Congress in May, Deanne Marcum, Associate Librarian for Library Services (LoC) referred to infrastructure shifts in the US, towards enduring access in digitisation; a shift towards national infrastructure developments and national consortia to ensure unified, sustainable solutions to access and long term preservation. The term was coined during discussions of a federated and state based system and the need for co-ordinated approaches in the US for infrastructure developments due to tightening budgets. In Europe, the European Commission’s push (ec.europa.eu, ec.europa.ec/i2010) towards National Digital Libraries might be seen as a parallel development with the exception that each European country is responsible for its own infrastructure development. In Finland, the responsibility for the National Digital Library Initiative is shouldered by the Ministry of Education under by Secretary General Minna Karvonen and the national DL's infrastructure development by Deputy National Librarian; Director, National Library Network Services Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen.

This article will provide an overview of how digitisation at the National Library of Finland is currently situated in 2009, into the broader context of national infrastructure developments – providing a digitisation production environment perspective to developments. Memory organisations have an opportunity to play a proactive role influencing national infrastructure decisions made and ensuring national infrastructure investments underway meet community needs in the future. Close co-operation among higher education and cultural organisations is needed to ensure open and free access to digitised content, are and remain core values of national infrastructure developments.

Current State of Affairs: National Infrastructure Developments and Digitisation

In a small country as Finland, consolidation of resources is vital for government funded service delivery; in the long run digitisation production, provision of access and preservation need to be technologically and economically sustainable. The National Digital Library architecture was developed in 2008 with wide consultation. A common understanding evolved in which the architecture was viewed as one production line between memory organisations (Museums, Archives, Libraries, Audio-Visual) and a National Digital Library (www.kdk2011.fi).
Specialization of Production Units by Format Type:

The National Digitisation Centre situated at Mikkeli, is a unit of the National Library of Finland and an integral part of DigitalMikkeli Digitisation Cluster (www.digitalmikkeli.fi). The National Digitisation Centre specialises in digitisation of paper and audio formats (digi.lib.helsinki.fi). Its production focus is in conversion of:

- Historical Newspapers (national/regional)
- Scientific Serials
- Journals
- Monographs
- Ephemera
- Maps
- Parchments
- Audio


- A public access interface for the information resources of libraries, archives and museums (2008 – 2011)
- Digitisation of the most essential information resources of libraries, archives and museums
- Development of a long-term preservation solution for cultural heritage materials (a detailed plan in 2010)
- Increasing competence in Finland
- Operate as an aggregator for the European Digital Library Europeana.

The first practice drafts for a National Digital Architecture in Finland, was depicted a National Digital Library Framework, where the National Digitisation Unit of the National Library could be best depicted as a back end, digitisation production unit. Its purpose being to serve the National library, library sectors in general, Helsinki University and customers by digitising paper and audio based material, converting these into digital format and ingesting into a uniform, access and preservation system. All other memory institutions (Museums, Archives, Libraries, AV), of which there are now 35 in the current National Digital Library Initiative, were to be seen in a similar fashion, as back end production units holding vast physical collections in paper, audio, video formats or artefacts of cultural or research value, each responsible for their own digitisation production environments, each responsible for provision of digital content for ingest into a National Digital Library. The initial architecture mirrored closely the early architecture of Europeana, the European Digital Library (www.europaeana.eu), a service developed for Museums, Archives and Libraries to provide access to critical mass of European digital content. The added layer for the Finish DL architecture solution was an early notion of incorporating a long term preservation system or trusted repository in step with provision of access, thus strategically positioning to consolidate national resources.

One Production Line: Digital Library Architecture and Production Environments....

Three concurrent initiatives funded by the Education Ministry, as if by sheer osmosis, have been complementing each other since 2007.

2. Long Term Preservation System Initiative, functional requirements currently being defined and to be implemented by 2015.
The initial DL draft architecture was to focus its attention to management of digital content from ingest onwards with a clear distinction of excluding production environments as out of scope. While at the onset, this appeared a sensible proposition, the Digitisation Centre for one, as a back end production unit, brought forward during the consultation phase a view that there was a clear need for incorporating a unified metadata approach within the context of any DL solution.

There are times, when practice can inform theory – therein is the healthy synergy between the national infrastructure project and the mass digitisation production project. The dilemma of any production unit is that specifications are required at the onset of digitisation production as metadata is created, captured and added during digitisation production processes - not at point of ingest. Clear specifications were therefore needed at the onset of a production line, be it for printed, audio or digital format with regards metadata specifications and standards used to ensure interoperability, authenticity and trustworthiness of digital material ingested. A SIP package alone, as depicted in the DL architecture, is only as good as its metadata contained…. the metadata contained might not be of high quality in terms of enduring access. Investment in good quality metadata and processes is well worth pursuing.

The Digitisation Centre had been operating in the field since 1999, the early days of the newspaper digitisation from microfilm. Since 2004, the National Digitisation Centre had been using METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard), as container or wrapper for digital objects and associated metadata created in its digitisation production. In theory, the production output, METS SIP packages produced were well placed for easy ingest into a potential national DL. In practice, the mass digitisation project 2007 was to review what NLF METS packages contained and to examine quality of metadata gather starting with monographs production.

Zooming in into One Production Line – Are We There Yet?
Digitisation Process Modelling and Workflow Design at the National Library

I had the great pleasure of joining the National Library of Finland in early 2007, at an exiting crux in developments in digital libraries, nationally and internationally. The word buzz…. is perhaps what best describes the working atmosphere at the moment, with several concurrent projects each working in unison to achieve common goals. The Ministry of Education granted the Digitisation Centre funding for 2008–2009 for developing library wide mass digitisation processes. The aim of the funding was to establish efficient logistics and workflows for digitisation and for securing ‘enduring access to a critical mass of digitised cultural content. The project objectives were set as:
The National Library of Finland Bulletin 2009

Metadata Re-use and Enrichment

Unique and Persistent ID's for digital objects

Two Bibliographic Records will be created into Fennica

Minimal Bibliographic Record for non-catalogued items

BARCODE ID's – Unique ID for Physical Items at Collections

Process Modelling, Library Wide Working Groups and more Working Groups

At the kick of meeting of the mass digitisation project, Anttolan Hovi, Mikkeli March 2008, a blue print was presented internally to the library for a need to review production process in digitisation and to identify gaps in use, creation and capture of administrative, bibliographic, technical, structural and long term preservation metadata attached to digital objects created in digitisation. A high level digitisation process solution for mass digitisation of monographs was modelled on CCS solution provided for BL and modified over 2008 to reflect National Library of Finland (NLF) organisational environment for in-house production and to incorporate quality metadata capture, use and re-use throughout the production processes. A library wide, process oriented approach was taken in which collections, cataloguing, transport, digitisation, conservation and network services were seen as one production line. Through several meetings and working group sessions, the process was modelled using QPR and is currently in final draft version for documentation. The top level approach was presented for NLF top management for acceptance as the solution presented would require strategic decisions affecting library operations, some more critical than others, impacting also change management required with regards to work practices. A summary of some of the gaps identified and new measures being put to place are listed below.

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Process Modelling, Library Wide Working Groups and more Working Groups

BARCODE ID's – Unique ID for Physical Items at Collections

- NLF decided to adopt and implement unique physical Bar Code ID's to items from collections being sent for digitisation. The decision ensured items can be tracked throughout the digitisation process and that a 1:1 relationship could be established between an original source material, physical item and its equivalent digital representation. The Physical ID would be indicated in Fennica Catalogue and in MARCXML – MODS fields.

Minimal Bibliographic Record for non-catalogued items

- Exhaustive cataloguing to a National Bibliographic Record standard is labour intensive and a bottle neck from a mass digitisation workflow perspective slowing selection and shipment of material to digitisation. A decision was made that non-catalogued items can be entered into Fennica Catalogue at a pre-defined minimal bibliographic entry level to allow for items to be sent to digitisation and that post-cataloguing to full National Bibliographic record could be tested utilizing the digital object as a post process procedure, after digitisation.

Two Bibliographic Records will be created into Fennica

- A decision was made to use two bibliographic records in Fennica; physical and digital. Both bibliographic records will be interlinked. The two bibliographic record solutions is based on a library metadata internal working recommendation that it is better suited for FRBR cataloguing rules and future cataloguing needs.

Unique and Persistent ID's for digital objects

- A decision was made to create persistent ID's for digital objects and to level of structural elements defined (page, issue, article, section). NBN:URN's would be generated and used as persistent ID's using urn.fi resolution. Link will be used for example in bibliographic record of digital object.

Metadata Re-use and Enrichment

- Decision was made to automatically ingest bibliographic metadata directly from Fennica into docWorks ensuring more efficient processes and less human error. Conversely, a decision was made to enrich Fennica catalogue after digitisation, by ingesting back and enriching the catalogue with previously missing metadata elements 'table of contents' and 'page numbers'. This is done by creating an enriched MARC record for the printed original at digital object export step. The MARC record is then ingested back to the catalogue.

Level of Structural Analysis

...
Level of structural analysis would need to balance mass digitisation and volume targets with work effort required in production. Level of structural analysis would be defined according to material type; newspapers, monographs, serials, audio – or by projects (specifications) Mass digitisation will be focused towards historical Newspapers with limited structural analysis at issue level, not article level for the time being. Structural analysis of monographs will be at significant section level, mainly chapter level. Table of contents will be identified for all. All material types will have following structural elements defined: pages, footnotes, running title, tables, advertisement; image (captions, picture categories (exLibris, chart, picture, portrait, scenery, item, event, decoration, map, notes)

Metadata formats already in use by the Digitisation Centre since 2004 were formally accepted as NLF library standards in digitisation. These standards being:

- MODS and MARCXML for descriptive and bibliographical metadata (http://www.loc.gov/standards/mods/) (http://www.loc.gov/standards/marcxml/)
- MIX for image technical metadata (http://www.loc.gov/standards/mix/)
- PREMIS for preservation metadata (http://www.loc.gov/standards/premis/)
- PREMIS for rights management metadata.

A further decision was made for recommending METS and PREMIS to be incorporated into the overall National Digital Library metadata standards portfolio as SIP package containers. The fine detail with regards to the standards and elements used (MODS, MARCXML, MIX, PREMIS), and contained within the METS SIP package, was under review in the mass digitisation project, starting with printed material type - monographs.

**METS Profiles for Monograph, Newspapers, Parchments, Audio...**

By having METS profiles, NLF ensures that the digital objects and the contained metadata are well documented, interoperable and preservable. The strategic position is to develop METS Profiles for each printed material type over the course of 2009-2010 envisaging multiple production lines ingesting to a National DL/long term preservation system. In practice, implementing the task was approached systematically by defining one production line, one format, and one material type first, starting with monographs – then replicating work done with minor modifications were needed for newspapers, parchments, audio etc. In-house knowledge and practical experience in digitisation production by NLF IT staff was well harnessed and key to the profiling work underway. The planned changes will be peer-reviewed and after finalisation a METS profile for Monographs is created and submitted for METS editorial board approval.

One benefit of using an integrated tool for digitisation production is the level and detail of metadata that can be captured during the process. This applies particularly to the recording of administrative metadata of the various process steps.

The major changes in METS are:

- Inclusion of the printed and the digital bibliographic records
- New technical and provenance metadata about events and agents related to the object and individual files inside it using PREMIS schema.
- Update of used metadata schemas to their latest versions

**Wrapping Up......**

The article aimed to provide an overview of national infrastructure developments towards a National Digital Library and an overview how National Library of Finland digitisation production environment is situated into the wider context. One production line and metadata are seen at the core of sustainable infrastructure development for enduring access. Working though the production details in the Mass Digitisation Project 2007-2009, has had the benefit of informing the national infrastructure of standardisation and metadata practices required throughout the production chain: administrative metadata, bibliographic metadata, technical metadata, structural metadata and long term preservation metadata – and only then wrapping up the fine bundle into a METS SIP package.

As project manager, I have had the great pleasure of working with a dream team. Director of Microfilm, Conservation and Digitisation, Ms Majlis Bremer-Laamanen allows innovation and creativity. Director of IT Development Juha Hakala, also chair of Technical Working Group who was roped into chairing the internal library metadata working group for his metadata expertise, the team gained a view into the national perspective and the national DL initiatives a view into a digitisation production environment – as one production line. In addition, special thank you is due to Eeva Murtomaa for her cataloguing expertise, Karo Salminen for his PREMIS expertise and Harri Ahonen from Collections for his contributions. Last but not least, Jukka Kervinen who is the technical IT guy working through the fine detail for the METS Profile, work that nobody else can do. I sincerely believe each organisation has a Jukka, and if not – they should.

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Written and revised by Tiina Ison.
Organizational change as a catalyst for renewal

The merging of the National Library of Finland’s two profit areas – the mapping and description of the cultural tradition and the Research Library – originated with the National Library of Finland’s human resources planning that was reviewed in conjunction with the Library’s core expertise and future development needs. The emphasis was strategic with a view towards the future. The decision to combine the two profit areas was the starting shot for the “building of the library of the future”. The organizational renewal has progressed to a structural solution in the spring of 2009, and in the autumn, the renewal will continue with decisions concerning the profit areas’ managerial tasks.

The vision guides, the organizational structure enables

As in any orthodox project management process, the first step was to formulate the new profit area’s vision and goals. The starting point for the vision began with the themes “customer-oriented library and information services” as well as “metadata expert services for the information chain”. Core operations were defined as content and metadata expertise, customer awareness, as well as networked cooperation with internal and external partners.

After the vision had been defined, the focus shifted to the organizational structure, the basic solution that establishes the division of work tasks and responsibilities – supporting work efficiency and ensuring the success of customer services – within the organization.

Discussions concerning the organizational restructuring took place within the National Library of Finland over a period of nine months. Most of the discussions took place with supervisors, but other personnel also participated in several large discussion events.

Supervisors wanted clear areas of responsibility, the opportunity to participate in the management and budgeting of the new profit area, and the preservation of monitoring sufficiently low in the organization. Other personnel were concerned about practical working efficiency and the preservation of cooperative mechanisms among the new operational units; there was a fear that existing cooperative patterns might get lost in the shuffle.

Over the centuries, the staff of the National Library of Finland has grown from a few employees and activities that concentrated solely on university matters to a full-fledged organization responsible for the entire country’s information management. The number of personnel now exceeds 200 and the organization is being developed according to its latest operational strategy.

Quality assured in processes

The organizational restructuring within the National Library of Finland was based on three points of view: the quantification of custom, the nature of the work tasks, and the controllability of the newly formed units’ sizes.

Three main custom areas were identified: documentation customers, other libraries and the publishing industry. For the National Library of Finland, the publishing industry is a developmental partner with whom cooperation is carried out to boost the effectiveness of each parties’ core processes. Other libraries’ services form a kind of spin-off of the National Library of Finland’s core processes. For example, the statutory National Bibliography work creates the possibilities for other libraries’ MARC cataloguing.
Various organizational models were discussed with the personnel, and the targets for an organizational structure were also created. The new configuration had to promote rapid and distortionless information flows, facilitate effective decision-making, define the division of responsibilities, and manage interfunctional cooperation.

A process or matrix organization formed the crux of the renewal. The National Library of Finland’s existing organization was based on a separation of functions; this safeguarded the expertise of each operation, but the cooperation among the departments' various experts was often inconvenient.

The new organization was shaped around customer-oriented processes. To implement the Act on Collecting and Preserving Cultural Materials, the Fennica Unit, Sound Archive Unit and Legal Deposit Unit were established. The scientific collections were assembled from two units, the Slavonic Collection and the Humanities Collection. Besides these, the Digital Library’s operation unit, as well as a Customer Service unit that will assume the primary responsibility for the development of customer services, will be constructed. An organizational structure based on academic disciplines – for example a segmentation into discipline-related services for History, Art and Russian Studies – was also discussed at different stages of the project. This alternative was however considered too complex at this stage because the intent was to maintain the project’s forward momentum. A discipline-oriented organizational scheme may perhaps be reconsidered in the future.

Typical of process organizations is their functioning as a kind of matrix; operational units are multidisciplinary. The quality of the functions dispersed among the various operational units is led transversely through the operational units by directional processes. In this case, the processes passing through the various operational units are collection work, bibliographic descriptions, customer services, and the construction of the Digital Library.

Besides its application to personnel, a new organizational structure was forged at the executive level. To implement the strong leadership concept formulated by the Management Group, hierarchical intermediate levels were created for the organization. It is highly probable that mid-level supervisors will also begin to become involved as the process’s owners.

**The customer is the judge**

An internal distribution of work that facilitates the provision of high-quality customer services is being specified within the organization. The renewal project’s next step will be the pinpointing of operational development targets. In the autumn of 2009, the next steps will be the publication of a development program for the profit area, as well as a program for knowledge management.

Strategic choices based on strengthen-reduce-create-relinquish models, as well as the definition of the National Digital Library’s operational unit, will be formulated at development sessions attended by the entire staff.

The renewal has two goals. The physical service environment is being upgraded to support customers’ self-service functions with less reliance on library personnel. On the other hand, a concentrated effort is being made to generate new online services that will provide customers with relevant and sensible content as well as distance services. The solutions developed for the National Digital Library of Finland, as well as the services provided by the Centre for Microfilming and Conservation located in Mikkeli, will form the basis for the construction of these online services.

The renewal is being carried out for customers. In the end, the organization’s degree of success will be gauged by the quality of the services obtained by the customer. The organizational restructuring easily shifts the point of view within the organization, but in these assessments one cannot linger for long. Keeping customers in focus is essential; if the external services don’t work, the internal operations will have to be reassessed.

*Liisa Savolainen is the Director of Research Library Services.*

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University libraries' structural development project

Finland's network of higher education is being renewed; the responsibilities of universities and polytechnics will be clarified and the university network will be consolidated. The structural transformation of the university network will also affect its libraries' operations. In the spring of 2008, the Ministry of Education initialized a project whose purpose is to direct and coordinate the university libraries' structural development.

The project's main recommendations concern a clarification of the division of responsibilities between the university libraries and the National Library of Finland, the strengthening of the National Library of Finland's service role, the more intensive integration of university libraries with the universities' research and education processes, as well as regional library services' development projects.

Structural development in universities and their libraries

Finnish higher education consists of two mutually complementary sectors whose universities and polytechnics have different tasks and profiles. Scientific research and the education based on it are emphasized in the universities' operations; the tasks of the polytechnics focus on work-based learning as well as regional needs.

The system of higher education is being developed in Finland as an overall entity based on new alliances formed by universities and polytechnics, as well as the cooperative agreements concluded among them. An effective and workable network of higher education requires intensified cooperation and combined resources. The universities' profiles and emphasis areas will be developed, and the network of higher education will be assembled as a larger entity through joint efforts and institutional integration. The intent will be to strengthen research and development operations, educational quality and influence, as well as international competitiveness.

The consolidation of the university network and the formation of larger units will also affect the structure of the universities' library network. In the spring of 2008, the Ministry of Education initialized a project whose purpose is to direct and coordinate the university libraries' structural development.

The task of the project is to outline the organization of university libraries within the context of the institution of higher education's restructuring to the degree that:

- the merging of universities, as well as their cooperative agreements, will take into account the reduced number of libraries, intensified cooperation and boosted operational efficiency; and
- in particular clarify the changes caused by the renewed Universities Act and their effects on the legislation governing university libraries' operations, financing and other procedures to ensure that the libraries' service capabilities are safeguarded.

The project will also:

- determine how the university libraries' maintenance expenses and other costs can be reduced by strengthening the National Library of Finland's position as a provider of centralised services,
- map the effects of the university libraries' structural development on the National Repository Library, and explore the possibilities of intensified cooperation between the National Library of Finland and The National Repository Library.

Working method

To implement the project, the Ministry of Education established a broad-based steering committee whose chairman acted as the Ministry of Education's representative, and whose members represented the broad spectrum of the higher education field. A project group whose members...
represent university libraries, the National Library of Finland and the National Repository Library was also established.

Several online surveys organized in conjunction with the project clarified the university libraries’ quantity, structure, financing and administration currently and in 2011, the libraries’ views and degree of satisfaction with the National Library of Finland’s centralized library network services, as well as the libraries’ planned transfer of collections to the National Repository Library. Additional surveys were commissioned regarding, for example, the cost efficiency of the project’s concentrated online materials. Based on the surveys and clarifications, an attempt was made to outline the university library network’s change factors by 2020.

The project group arranged several discussion events for the university libraries where the libraries’ views concerning the local and concentrated services that would be needed in the future were mapped. A draft of the report was sent to the university libraries for comments that were then taken into account in the report. The Ministry of Education also organized an event in which its main stakeholder groups were given the opportunity to comment on the report before its publication.

Operational environment’s main change factors by 2020

The digitization of the operational environment and content production was identified as one of the most significant change factor in the universities’ operational environment. A vision of university libraries in 2020 was defined as follows: “By the year 2020, the students, teachers and researchers at Finland’s institutes of higher education have the use of an international digital operational environment, as well as the skills required for its utilization. Library services are generated customer-specificly in a network whose active participants include Finland’s university libraries, as well as the National Library of Finland and international partners producing concentrated services. The library network’s service unit formed by the National Repository Library and The National Library of Finland produces concentrated services for libraries. A particular function of the university libraries’ task is the provision of services for its own organization’s teaching and research, as well as the formation of a collection supporting these capabilities. The library network’s service unit produces national centralized digital library services as well as collections’ preservation services.”

Other identified change factors include the formation of larger library units, as well as libraries formed by combining different sectors. Also as a result of changes in the university libraries’ financing structure, the Ministry of Education will no longer provide project financing; in the future, the universities will subsidize the operations of their own libraries. The Ministry of Education will however finance the libraries’ common services produced by the National Library of Finland and The National Repository Library.

Working group’s recommendations

Based on its assigned task, the working group drew up a set of recommendations. The main recommendations are:

**DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

- University libraries’ services will continue to be integrated more intensively with the teaching and research taking place within their parent organizations.
- Larger units with the requisite resources and expertise will be assembled by combining university libraries, thereby reducing the number of university library and polytechnic library branches by approximately 50%.
- Polytechnic libraries and university libraries will form a single common consortium/council that will function as a cooperation body for the university libraries’ operations.
- Preserving the openness and gratuitousness of the university libraries’ basic services (loaning of materials and use of electronic materials on libraries’ premises) for the public will be ensured.
- All institutions of higher education remain committed to the open availability of their own research publications (Open Access) by the year 2015.
- The possibilities to fully utilize materials for teaching and research, and in particular exploit digital technologies in the use and dissemination of materials, will be ensured in copyright legislation.
- University libraries will be responsible for providing localized and institution-specific profiled
content services, while the National Library of Finland’s service unit will generate the library network’s common services.

**DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES’ COMMON SERVICES**

- The production of the libraries’ centralized services will be organized at the National Library of Finland by joining the National Repository Library to the National Library of Finland.
- The direct national financing of essential centralized services shall be ensured.
- Infrastructure projects supporting the library network’s common and broad-based digitalization will be implemented concentratedly.
- To improve the flexibility and availability of interdisciplinary information materials required by research, essential information materials required for research will be procured concentratedly.
- As planned, the Finnish National Electronic Library (FinELib) will transmit approximately 80% of the universities’ electronic materials, thereby reducing the libraries’ own materials procurement work.
- The operation of publication archives will be based on a division of labor in which the upkeep and development of servers and software will be managed centrally; publication-related services will be handled at the local level.
- Memory organizations will promote and influence the development of copyright legislation to support their operational prerequisites.
- The National Library of Finland and the Ministry of Education will promote 1) retroactive digitizing 2) the recording and preservation of digital materials according to evolving legislation, and 3) the digitizing of the significant national corpus.

The Ministry of Education will circulate the working group’s report for comments in the autumn of 2009, after which it will issue its conclusions concerning the report’s recommendations.

The author is the director of the National Library Network Services department at the National Library of Finland.
Finland’s Internet Archive

The National Library of Finland is responsible for the collection, description, preservation and accessibility of materials related to the national imprint. The National Library of Finland serves the entire nation by preserving the published cultural tradition for future generations. Thanks to legal deposit legislation, almost all of Finland’s published cultural heritage is available as source materials for history and cultural researchers.

Besides printed products and sound recordings, the act on collecting and preserving cultural materials that went into effect in early 2008 also covers online materials as well as radio and television recordings. The law obligates the National Library of Finland to retrieve and record public online materials located on Finnish Internet servers as well as online materials located on foreign servers, but particularly intended for the Finnish public. The task of the National Audiovisual Archive is to archive radio and television programs. (Act on Collecting and Preserving Cultural Materials 1433/2007, and statute that will go into effect in 2009).

The Internet Archive is thus the newest expansion of the National Library of Finland’s legally mandated maintenance of the National Collection. Although the mapping of the National Collection began officially with a law that went into effect in 1707, Finnish printing presses had already been obligated to furnish legal deposit copies of their products to the Library since the 1600s.

Times change, as well as publication modes; in the Information Society an increasingly larger part of communication and public discussion has been transferred to data networks. For future generations and Internet researchers in particular, the archive forms a continuously expanding source of information pertaining to the Finnish online world as well as the phenomena it depicts.

The Internet Archive’s content and collection

At periodic intervals, the National Library of Finland retrieves and stores materials available on public information networks representatively and multifacetedly. Besides web harvesting, selected so-called thematic harvesting is also carried out. The term web harvesting refers primarily to the highly automated collection of online materials performed by applications developed for that purpose.

Web harvesting processes are divided into so-called Finland harvesting and its supplementary thematic harvesting. In Finland harvesting, domestic online materials are collected with automated collection programs. The annual collections are not based on the selection of specific subject; the objective is to obtain a wide-angled snapshot of the network’s content. The Library archives web pages whose domain name is “.fi” or “.ax”. Efforts are also made to archive domestic websites whose domain name is “.com”, “.net” and so forth. The harvesting of Finnish websites is implemented at least once a year.

Until now, the National Library of Finland has downloaded a total of 131 million files from the Internet; this includes millions of websites and image files as well as thousands of word, audio and video files. For example, there are 77 million .html files, or individual web pages, 41 million image...
files and hundreds of thousands of audio and video files. Among the recorded pages are materials produced by communities as well as private citizens.

Besides the annual collections, the Internet Archive is expanding the scope of its thematic harvests; these are conducted throughout the year and often concentrate on specific subjects or timely events. The purpose of the thematic harvests is to anticipate future research needs and supplement any areas missed in the annual harvesting. The subjects of the harvests can be, for example, significant national and political events, occurrences whose materials tend to disappear quickly from the Internet, as well as unexpected situations in world politics, natural catastrophes, and other similar phenomena. Thematic collections can also be carried out jointly with memory organizations and various research institutes. These collections are also implemented with automated web crawlers, but experts are employed in content planning and the checking of results. Examples of thematic harvesting already carried out include election websites and materials related to Finns living abroad.

Materials associated with use restrictions, chargeable online publications or a reliance on databases (for example publication banks) cannot be recovered fully automatically with the currently available tools. With respect to the recording of these materials groups, the National Library of Finland cooperates case-specifically with sponsors and publishers.

Online materials have been collected and recorded since 2006 based on copyright legislation. The act on collecting and preserving cultural materials made the opening of the Internet Archive for public use possible.

Use of the Internet Archive

The National Library of Finland opened its Internet Archive on 2 April 2009. As planned, the archive of radio and television programs maintained by the National Audiovisual Archive will become publicly accessible in 2010. The National Library of Finland’s customers can utilize the Internet Archive at specially equipped workstations on the Library’s premises. Initially there has been only one workstation for customer use, but two more will be activated in the early spring. Subsequently, the service will also be expanded for customer use at the country’s other legal deposit libraries, (the Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Oulu and Turku university libraries and Åbo Akademi Library) the National Audiovisual Archive and Library of Parliament. The radio and television archive in the University of Tampere’s journalism research units will also become available.

Customers working locally on the institutes’ premises can access the Archive’s resources only with hardware equipped for this purpose. The legal deposit workstation and Internet Archive are subject to strict security requirements. For that reason the machine has no Internet connection, nor can digital copies of the Internet Archive’s materials be made with normal storage devices such as, for example, a USB memory stick. The legal deposit workstation is connected to a printer where users can print out hard copies of the Archive’s documents for their own use. So-called indirect copying is allowed, and for example display screens may be photographed. Concerning the customer equipment, the intent will be to anticipate the Internet’s most common file formats and install the software necessary for the viewing of the Archive’s contents. The material harvested from the Internet consists primarily of websites as well as the images and other materials on the pages. Using the Internet Archive requires no recognition, nor is a register of users maintained. Access to certain auxiliary services planned for the Archive may require customer registration, but in principle the use of the Archive is fully possible without it.

This is a complex and unique project, even by global standards. The data security requirements for customer hardware are extremely high. Besides data security and data protection, other factors possibly limiting the utilization of the Internet Archive have arisen throughout the world. In Denmark, for example, data protection authorities have taken the position that online materials harvested for their Internet Archive may also contains sensitive personal information. There, for data protection reasons, the Internet Archive is closed to the general public and the use of the materials is limited to scientific purposes. In Finland, customer access to the archive is governed by Section 16 of the Copyright Act (28.12.2007/1436, Use of Works in Libraries Preserving Cultural Materials).

The Internet Archive’s users
In compliance with the Act on Collecting and Preserving Cultural materials 1433/2007, the National Library of Finland also archives, besides books and magazines, everyday printings (ephemera, advertisements, annual reports and posters), that have a tendency to vanish over time. The same principle has been applied to the archiving of Internet websites. At the Internet Archive, particular attention is paid to the preservation of materials exhibiting the Internet’s particular characteristics.

The most frequently used materials in the National Library of Finland’s National Collections are newspapers, magazines and ephemera. These are used as source materials, particularly in historical and sociological research studies. The Library expects the Internet Archive’s users to be at least partially the same as those using conventional materials, but besides researchers in the humanities and social science fields, it is expected that information technology researchers, those interested in the history of graphical design, as well as game researchers, will be among those benefiting from the Internet Archive’s resources. According to Researcher Jaakko Suominen, the Internet Archive is an excellent source for studying the Internet itself, but a researcher studying any phenomenon past the mid-1990s can benefit from the downloaded and archived websites. In the future, the use of websites as research sources will be inevitable. Until now, accessing radio and television programs has been fairly difficult. The opening of the radio and TV archives will bring a welcome addition to media researchers’ source materials.

**The Internet Archive’s usability**

For copyright reasons the service is not accessible over the Internet, but a directory for the Internet Archives will be opened in the spring of 2009. This is a service in which an Internet address can be used to check if a certain page has been downloaded into the Internet Archive. The directory can be accessed at: http://verkkoarkisto.kansalliskirjasto.fi.

There are two ways to search the Internet Archive: address and keyword search. With the website address search, pages can be searched directly on the basis of a website address. The keyword search is the well-known text search from Google.

Most of the web pages stored in the Internet Archive are not referenced in the Library’s databases. The intent is to only transmit information concerning thematic collections (Internet archiving related to certain themes or timely events) to the National Bibliography or National Discography, in other words the Fennica or Viola databases.

Leena Jansson, Planner
The National Library of Finland

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Self-made life, humor and pleasure

Modern Finnish folk art appears more relaxed, funnier, in the positive sense crazier than folk art in the rest of the world – in our opinion. If it is a question of an optical illusion, do we need to fix it? The strangest inventions, thoughts, ideas and performances stick in our minds. When humor is their semaphore, they lead directly to the sources of pleasure, momentarily revealing other possible realities. Because the enjoyment of art is deep, the enjoyment of humor superficial, their combination always connotes something controversial in this world.

At the change of century, modern folk art gained the sobriquet ITE, an acronym formed from the Finnish phrase itse tehty elämä ("self-made life"). The phenomenon has points of convergence with the creativity of primarily self-taught art-makers generally operating outside the sphere of established art institutions and systems, as well as its surprising, strange and original manifestations (outsider art) around the world. But at the same time Finnish ITE is in its own unique way gritty, "animalistic" (bears and elks are popular themes), ironic, heartfelt, and when viewed from afar, exotic.

In Finland as well, the ITE process has demonstrated that handicrafts skills have not disappeared, nor will they disappear as long as there are people – adroit, with a thirst for beauty and a desire to express themselves – possessed by skill, ability and the need to make things. The works created by the hand remain and are reshaped like other cultural practices and values. Today’s works of folk art also possess such magical power that a visual world alluding to the past also opens through them.

Inventive realism

The inventive realism characteristic of modern folk art demonstrates an interest in the rendering visible of all possible and sometimes even impossible matters. From the public’s viewpoint, it is obvious that a practical interest belongs to the examination of modern folk art. The impressiveness of modern folk art is not often based on the presentation itself but explicitly on the attraction of the object it represents. But what is also essential is that the object’s attractive power is noticed, visualized and justified differently in the works, their reception and criticism.

New creative activity, with its characteristic open-mindedness and insightful linkages, is often associated with the humor, comic twists and laughter that accompany failure, sometimes success, as well as the colorful spectrum of interstitial variants: (thinks he has succeeded, doesn’t know if he has succeeded, “invents the wheel” or perpetual motion machine, achieves something other than was intended). Young children laugh spontaneously when they succeed. With age they learn to laugh at others’ mishaps and years ahead – if ever – at their own gaffes.
The genuine combination of the expected and unexpected is always surprising and jumbles our thoughts – even if only for a split second. Broadly speaking, it is the basis of our common emotional understanding – heart and mind – as well as humor and comedy. Every so-called great theory of humor (superiority, incongruence, psychological contrast, value shift, relief, ambivalence) contains in one way or another the assumption of a conflict that can be emotional, intellectual, linguistic, logical, social, and so forth. Typically, many conflicting elements converge when humor and comic expression are combined.

A basic technique of comedy is a juxtaposition that creates a comic conflict when a certain expression gets "lost in translation" between two systems of meaning. The factors leading to the comic effect can be pinpointed from various cultural products (images, texts, performances) as well as everyday human behavior.

**What does ITE express?**

Works expressing something that is the world’s largest or the world’s smallest have also been taken into modern folk art circles in Finland. But the world’s largest, as well as the world’s smallest, bark shoes are only large and small in relation to the other birch-bark shoes falling in between. Inasmuch as the "world’s" largest and smallest objects are samples of their makers’ artistry, they only have display value instead of practical value.

Typical of humorous work of folk art is the surprising and at times clearly attitudinal juxtaposition of content and materials. Martti Hömppi’s now fairly well-known sculpture, the ITE classic *Trio Pönttöpäät* from the 1980s, depicts an orchestra constructed with discarded wooden planks; it is a sarcastic commentary on the ability of politicians (in this case Mauno Koivisto, Ulf Sundquist and Paavo Väyrynen) to manage “public affairs”.

A flair and talent for self-irony was also demonstrated by a portrait (1975) of President Urho Kekkonen; the head was a baker’s peel and the eyeglasses were the bits belonging to horse’s harness. This work was such a popular success that it was also copied. I myself bought a small copper-embossed portrait of Kekkonen from a second-hand shop in Pori for a fiver a few years ago.

In the anthropological study of humor and comedy, a popular approach has been to operate according to a so-called two-world theory where people construct “alternative realities” alongside their daily lives; the most recurring thesis is that in humoristic examinations, the world appears as it is and as it should be. In comical social relationships, authority and the power of command temporarily dissolve; narrators and listeners, doers and viewers, can experientially make contact with concrete utopias. But making authority, a stranger or an enemy laughable does not simply mean that humor can change the world. What is however important in all cases is that the external realism of experience does not destroy the internal realism of experience. According to the psychoanalyst Pirkko Siltala, the bridge between these realities “solidifies people’s ability to exercise their creative imaginations and share their perceptions, illusions and symbols”. This is what ITE expresses.

ITE has shown how the promises and living possibilities of localness can be implemented in the kinds of activities that are themselves part of a place and thus produce culturally specific and experientially new interpretations. The well-presented, but not necessarily best-presented past – narrated, painted, sculpted, crocheted, knit, sung – is invariably part of an evolving present that has been influenced by the future implemented by previous generations, and will continue to influence what the following generation will expect from the future.

Seppo Knuuttila is a Professor of Folklore Studies at the University of Joensuu.
Cultural export at its best is represented by the 200 copies of the work *Monrepos, Une Arcadie des Lumières Saint-Pétersbourg – Vyborg – Helsinki* that the National Library of Finland and the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs donated to the National Library of France last year. The National Library of Finland’s Director Kai Ekholm presented the work to Bruno Racine, President of the National Library of France, at an event arranged at the Finnish Embassy in Paris.

The Finnish Literature Society published the Monrepos work in the Finnish and French languages. Written by Licentiate in Philosophy Rainer Knapas, the work was prepared at the initiative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs’ Department for Communications and Culture for the 100% Finlande cultural export event.

The donation was timed to coincide with the conclusion of literary events held in conjunction with the Finnish cultural season in France, and was part of other European cultural events organized during France’s EU Chairmanship.

The book is based on the archive and library that was moved from the Monrepos Estate in Viipuri (Vyborg) to the National Library in Helsinki during the First World War. The library at the Monrepos manor house was assembled primarily during the 1700s, and it contains 9,000 volumes. Approximately one-half of the books are in French and one-fifth are in German. English-, Italian- and Latin-language literature each account for approximately 10% of the remaining one-third. The collection represents a crystallization of the 1700s French Enlightenment and Pan-European neohumanistic culture.

Monrepos: a northern oasis of French culture
Finnish Literature Society Publications 1157, Information

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The critical editions of Jean Sibelius’s collected works (Jean Sibelius Works) are proliferating all over the world as printed publications and live performances based on them. The Sibelius project at the National Library of Finland produces the actual blue-covered volume that contains, besides the critically examined musical manuscript, a thoroughly researched text that illuminates the work’s origin, performance and publishing histories, and provides detailed descriptions of source materials, differences between sources, as well as the solutions and justifications underlying editorial decisions. Based on this edition, the publisher Breitkopf & Härtel, manufactures practical editions of the works as well as materials for performers.

So far the Sibelius project has published 14 volumes containing solo songs, songs accompanied by orchestra, piano music, as well as orchestral works. Publisher information for the first part of 2009, indicates that the works in the volumes already published have been performed at about 85 concerts in numerous European countries as well as in the USA, Canada, Japan and Peru. Among the most popular works are the Symphonies No. 1 and 2, each of which has been performed about 30 times.

The Sibelius project also publishes Sibelius’s complete, but previously unpublished works; one of them is the symphonic poem for orchestra Skogsräth (Metsänhaltia/The Wood Nymph) op. 15, that was published as a critical edition in 2006. Subsequently the work has been performed several times a year. Besides Europe, it has also captivated listeners in Brasilia, Brazil, Tokyo, Japan, Quebec, Canada as well as the USA, where three of the most recent performances of Skogsräth took place in late April and early May. Led by Conductor Osmo Vänskä, the Minnesota Orchestra first performed the work in Minneapolis, where the second concert was also a radio broadcast. Later the orchestra performed the same program at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Skogsräth was inspired by a poem of the same name written by the Swede Viktor Rydberg; copies of the poem were also handed out to the audience at the work’s premiere in the spring of 1895. In the poem, a handsome young man becomes lost in a forest and falls under the spell of a wood nymph. After a romantic episode, the wood nymph vanishes and the unhappy man pines away for the rest of his life. The content of the poem was also clarified for the American audience, and the relationship between the music and the text was explained by an enthusiastic newspaper critic who had nothing but praise for the Minneapolis Orchestra, its performance, and the music, admitting “that even in this early work the visionary Sibelius of later years was lurking”.

This year the Jean Sibelius Works project has published two volumes: the First Symphony Op. 39, edited by Timo Virtanen, and more recently, two versions of the tone poem En saga Op. 9, edited by Tuija Wicklund.

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En saga was composed in 1892 and revised by Sibelius in 1902. The revised version was also published and has since become one of Sibelius’s most beloved and frequently performed works. The original score was momentarily lost for several years, but was recovered and is now being published for the first time.

Tuija Wicklund

Further information about the Jean Sibelius Works project:
http://www.nationallibrary.fi/culture/sibelius.html

Editor-in-chief Timo Virtanen
timo.virtanen@helsinki.fi
The Board of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) has named Kai Ekholm, Director and Chief Librarian of the National Library of Finland, as the Chairman of FAIFE for the term 2009–2011.

The objective of the IFLA's FAIFE (Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) is to enhance the public’s awareness of freedom of speech and expression in library operations. Besides publishing international reports and surveys, the Committee activates discussion in the library world and its immediate surroundings.


As FAIFE's new Chairman, Ekholm succeeds Emeritus Professor Paul Sturges of the Loughborough University’s Department of Information Science.

"Young people have no inhibitions about switching to any publication platform if they can make it their own, or it feels good, is easily available, free of charge, or simply “cool”. Marketing people move to the young people’s sandbox instead of waiting for the youth to come to their own.”

Kai Ekholm

"We have not stopped thinking. We have not stopped reading.”

Albert Manguel
Finland’s Web Archive opened

The Web Archive opened at the National Library of Finland on 2 April 2009 records and preserves online materials publicly accessible in Finland. The intent will be to archive all web pages with “.fi” and “.ax” suffixes as well as other domestic websites. Member of Parliament Jyrki Kasvi opened the Web Archive.

The National Library of Finland’s customers can utilize the Web Archive at specially equipped workstations in the Library’s main building. Subsequently, the service will also be expanded for customer use at the country’s other legal deposit libraries, the National Audiovisual Archive and the Library of Parliament.

Further information:
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Senior Planning Officer, National Library Network Services Esa-Pekka Keskitalo

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See also:
http://www.kansalliskirjasto.fi/kokoelmatjapalvelut/digitaalisetkokoelmat/verkkoarkisto.html
World Digital Library

The National Library of Finland has joined the World Digital Library. Director Kai Ekholm and The USA's Librarian of Congress James H. Billington signed the agreement at the Library of Congress on 20 May 2009.

The materials of different cultures can be obtained through the World Digital Library’s Internet website (www.wdl.org) free of charge. The objective is to enhance intercultural understanding, generate source materials for education and research, as well as improve the availability of non-English-language and non-Western materials.

The National Library of Finland and the Library of Congress will jointly determine which digitized Finnish materials will be transmitted to the World Digital Library. The Library already has a few Finland-related source materials, for example, from the collections of the Royal Library of Sweden and National Library of Russia.

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The National Library of Finland participating in the Europeana Travel project

The National Library of Finland is participating in the Europeana Travel project, funded by the European Commission and its Member States, whose objective is to digitize over a million travel-related material sources for the European memory organizations’ common Europeana portal during the next two years. The project is also part of the development of the European Digital Library.

The Europeana Travel service can be utilized when planning, for example, training, business, vacation and group trips; it also provides a vast array of source materials for the mass media.

The National Library of Estonia is coordinating the project, which is supported by the European Digital Library Foundation. The materials generated by the National Library of Finland include the first travel accounts of Finland written during the 1600s-1800s, as well as their related illustrations and maps. In particular, the compilation contains a substantial amount of Lapland-related materials.

The Europeana portal opened in late 2008 offers almost five million digitized works or other materials from the collections of European memory organizations.

HIGHLIGHTS

Theorica Pantegni

A scientific edition, English-language translation and publication of Constantine the African's Theorica Pantegni, one of the National Library of Finland's oldest parchment manuscripts dating from the 1100s, is currently being prepared. The University of Helsinki's research group consists of FM Outi Kaltio, Professor Matti Haltia and Professor Heikki Solin. The script has been digitized and it will first be published as an electronic facsimile edition.

Constantine the African was an influential figure in the translation of Arabic works and the dissemination of medical science in medieval Europe. The most important translation bearing his name is the Theorica Pantegni.

Theorica Pantegni (the important theoretical part of Liber Pantegni) was the first comprehensive treatise of medical science and textbook in the Latin language. The work became influential as soon as it appeared in medieval Europe, and rapidly became the leading textbook of medicine at the first European universities during the 1100-1200s.

To advance the project, an international symposium featuring scholars from Europe and the USA was organized in Helsinki 4-6 June 2009.

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The Missale Misnense

With funding from the Niilo Helander Foundation, the National Library of Finland has acquired a copy of the German missal Missale Misnense for its collection.

At least five editions of the missal were published during the period 1485–1500. The work acquired for the National Library of Finland is from the fourth of these, printed in Leipzig in 1499 for the Diocese of Meissen. According to the Catalogue of Incunabula maintained by the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, it is the only known copy from the printing in question. The book features wood covers clad in embossed pigskin, as well as metal hinges and corner reinforcements. Hand-decorated initials containing gold leaf adorn the pages. The work also includes an extensive and interesting musical manuscript section.

During the last several years, the National Library of Finland has systematically aimed at augmenting its incunabula collection, which currently consists of approximately 410 works.

Further information:
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The new Helsinki University Library

Effective 1 January 2010, the University of Helsinki’s campus and faculty libraries will be combined to form a single institution named by the University as the Helsinki University Library. In the national and particularly international scientific community, this may initially cause confusion because the present-day National Library of Finland was previously known as the Helsinki University Library during the years 1919–2006.
The Integrum Profi Portal

The FinELib consortium has acquired a license for the use of the Integrum Profi database beginning in January 2009. Integrum Profi is an integrated Russian data retrieval portal, consisting of several different information producers’ databases, from where materials published publicly in Russia and other CIS countries can be obtained. It contains newspapers and magazines, materials from press agencies and radio and television channels, Internet publications, works of literary fiction, as well as governmental publications and statistics. It also contains reference databases and library catalogues.

The documents are primarily in Russian, but they can be translated automatically into English; 10% of the materials are already in English. Search statements can also be translated automatically from English into Russian.
Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen appointed to LIBER’s Executive Board and chair of steering committee

The National Library of Finland’s Director of Library Network Services Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen has been appointed as Chair of the Association of European Research Libraries’ (LIBER) Digitization and Resource Discovery steering committee for the next two-year term. At the same time she became a member of LIBER’s Executive Board.

Hormia-Poutanen’s chairmanship provides Finland’s libraries with an excellent opportunity to influence the LIBER conferences’ programs and the steering committee’s activities.
Aleksis Kivi - Finland's national author

"Aika könsikkä!", Aleksis Kivi 175 years.
Exhibition in the Rotunda 11.5.–10.10.2009 in co-operation with the Aleksis Kivi Society
Exhibition design: Professor Anto Leikola, LP Esko Rahikainen
Free admission.

Aleksis Kivi was born into a tailor's family in the province of Uusimaa in Finland, at a village named Palojoki which is in the parish of Nurmijärvi, on October 10th, 1834. His parents were Eerik Stenvall and Anna-Kristiina Hamberg and they already had three sons. After Aleksis, they had a daughter named Agnes, who died when she was thirteen.

Kivi's great-grandfather had had a soldier's croft in Palojoki since 1766 but, from time to time, the family had also lived in Helsinki. According to Yrjö Blomstedt, his earliest-known ancestors came from Janakkala. His maternal grandfather, Antti Hamberg, was a blacksmith at a place called Nahkela in Tuusula, his paternal grandfather, Antti Juhana Stenvall was a seaman who had sailed as far as the Mediterranean. Uncle Kalle Kustaa was in the Finnish Guards and helped to put down the Polish uprising. The writer's own father, Eerik Stenvall, had lived in Helsinki as a child and gone to school there. Aleksis' parents could speak Swedish, a skill which the boy acquired himself by moving to Helsinki to go to school; it was a necessity for matriculation and for further study for the priesthood. In fact, Kivi seems to have spoken Swedish distinctly more than Finnish during his lifetime. Between the years 1821 and 1868, only seven boys from Nurmijärvi passed the matriculation examination to become university students. Of these, Aleksis Stenvall was the only commoner, the others were all children of persons of rank. In the year he matriculated, 1857, Kivi made a critical and historic decision from his own point of view and from the point of view of literature, to become a writer in the Finnish language instead of a priest.
Aleksis Kivi, which he used for the first time as a nom de plume in conjunction with the manuscript of Kullervo, in 1860, was unable to travel abroad for financial reasons, yet he did visit Turku. However, his reading and along with it his horizons, extended far beyond school and university textbooks, to the literature of the whole world. Only a fraction is known to researchers, but Kivi read everything he could lay his hands on, from Held and Corvin's History of the World to works dealing with chemical analysis, newspapers, the poems of Stagnelius and the plays of Shakespeare, which are known to have been an influence on him.

Kivi's most important literary works could be considered as beginning in the mid 1850s, with the play Bröllopsdansen (The Wedding Dance) and ending with the play Margareta, which was published in 1871. The play Nummisuutarit, which came into being as the result of the development of the Finnish language, was awarded the State prize for literature in 1865 and is still today the most frequently performed play ever written in Finnish.

Kivi's most important supporter was Fredrik Cygnaeus, professor of aesthetics and modern literature, who examined Kivi for the matriculation examination and who, from the time of Kivi's very first prize, right up to Kullervo, Nummisuutarit and Seitsemän veljestä (Seven Brothers), which has attained the status of a national novel, repeatedly placed his whole expertise and authority behind Kivi's talent and art. Of his opponents, those narrow-minded captives of literary tradition, the most famous was August Ahlqvist, professor of Finnish language and literature, who achieved an undying reputation by belittling Kivi's works.

Karl Bergbom, the theatre director who made Kivi's plays familiar to the general public, starting with a performance of Lea in 1869, became Kivi's friend and researcher as early as 1864. In his books, the writer named his school and university friend Robert Svanström, who later became a forestry official, as his best friend.

It seems probable that in the development of many of his important poems, and of Kihlaus, Nummisuutarit, Lea and Seitsemän Veljestä it was in fact an advantage that Kivi had to write them in a completely Swedish-language environment, at Fanjunkars in Siuntio, where he was forced into isolation from his friends through lack of funds. He took this very heavily at times and in his letters he expressed his longing for the company of his friends and his homesickness for the parish of Nurmijärvi.

Besides Cygnaeus, Charlotta Lönnqvist the mistress of Fanjunkars could, without exaggeration, be described as the writer's most important supporter. From a large group of admirers it is worth mentioning Kivi's beloved Albina Palmqvist, daughter of a Helsinki clothing manufacturer and Aurora Hemmilä, a Mäntsälä inn-keeper's daughter. Marriage was impossible, however, since in the society of the civil servant class, Kivi lacked the most essential things of all, an official position and the income that went with it. In his works, Kivi also wrote about his yearning for a family of his own. Socially, Aleksis Kivi fell between two stools in a rather ill-fated way; he was no longer a vulgar peasant but neither did he belong to the gentry. The fount of strength in Kivi's career as a writer was his incredible imagination, his knowledge of people and his literary talent and, at the same time, the love and sympathy towards ordinary people that appears over and over again in his works - incomparable humour as well as a sense of tragedy and comedy.

Aleksis Kivi was a product of three localities - Nurmijärvi, Helsinki and Siuntio - and all of them had their own essential importance to his growth as a person and as a writer. Kivi's mother's home parish of Tuusula provided a final resting place for the author, who suffered in the last years of his life from mental illness. At the time of his death on the night before the last day of 1872, Aleksis Kivi was only 38 years old, but as a writer he is ageless. Seitsemän veljestä and Nummisuutarit are classics of Finnish culture on a par with the Kalevala and the Kanteletar.

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Music as a Homeland. Fredrik Pacius 200 years

At first, some might have thought that the National Digital Library Project combined separate projects under one name to appear more impressive, but this notion was quickly dispelled. There are so many linkages – from digitization to dissemination, from dissemination to preservation and back – that the overall vision was at times unclear; a special effort had to be made to really grasp the entire system.

Consequently a convenient tool, The Enterprise Architecture Method for Finnish Government, was utilized in the project. It offers tools for government organizations to design functions and information, information systems, and technology solutions. This was actually the first time the method was implemented at this scale. There is no denying that, at the first sight, the model seemed rather intimidating. However, with the help of knowledgeable people it was tamed and proved to be extremely helpful in understanding and explaining the project’s complex interdependencies.

As part of the architectural work, a standards portfolio currently being assembled will contain guidelines governing metadata formats, search protocols, document identification, user authentication, and other similar functions. The main exhibition Music as a Homeland commemorating the 200th anniversary of Fredrik Pacius’s birth explains how the German immigrant, composer and violinist Fredrik Pacius (1809-1891) became “the Father of Finnish Music” – not only as the creator of the Finnish national anthem Maamme (Our Land), but as a versatile composer and significant organizer and driving force in Finland’s musical culture. Most of the exhibition materials are from the National Library of Finland; also included are objects, original drawings and photographs from private collections and the Helsinki University Museum Arppeanum. Displayed for the first time are unique letters, diaries and other biographical materials donated to the National Library of Finland’s Pacius archive.

The exhibition depicts Pacius’s violin and composition studies in Kassel and his stint as a violinist in the Stockholm Royal Court Orchestra with letters, photographs, drawings and early compositions. Pacius served as a music teacher at the University of Helsinki beginning in 1835 and he undertook such seemingly reckless projects as operas and large-scale oratorios performed with casts that included society matrons, amateur choirs and semi-professional musicians.

At the same time Pacius created a substantial compositional output that included operas and musicals, a violin concerto, a symphony (1st movement), cantatas, as well as songs for choirs and soloists. Musical manuscripts as well as music publications are displayed. Professor Eero Tarasti assesses Pacius as a composer, beginning with his roots in German music, his teachers Louis Spohr and Moritz Hauptmann, as well as Pan-European influences. Pacius’s operas, The Hunt of King Charles and Die Loreley, as well as the musical The Princess of Cyprus, receive particularly close attention. Although Pacius’s homeland was music – no longer Germany, nor even Finland, where he never applied for citizenship – he would have also deserved wider recognition as a composer in Germany, the land of his birth.
The exhibition concludes with Finland’s national anthem Maamme (Our Land); Researcher Petri Tuovinen presents its birth history and significance as a national musical symbol. Naturally its importance at sporting events is also noted, exemplified by the memorable moments experienced when spectators join to sing Our Land.

The exhibition is also associated with a jubilee publication implemented jointly with the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, as well as a national and international travelling exhibition featuring two different language versions (Finnish-Swedish and German-Finnish). The German-Finnish version has been mounted at the Hamburg Town Hall.

Queries concerning the travelling exhibition: Finnland-Institut in Deutschland. www.finnland-institut.de

Exhibition experts: Professor Eero Tarasti and Researchers Seija Lappalainen, Petri Tuovinen, Jani Kyllönen and Mikko Nisula.

Inkeri Pitkäranta

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Magnus von Wright’s painting depicting the final act from Pacius’s opera The Hunt of King Charles.

Print this article (PDF)  Print entire issue (PDF)
The View from Paradise
The history of the Maps of the Heavens

Exhibition in the National Library’s Gallery. 12.11.2009-10.4.2010
Exhibition design: Professor Tapio Markkanen

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+358 3 766 7178
International Cooperation
Organisations and the role of the National Library of Finland

Library cooperation and central organisation

Bibliotheca Baltica
Board member

CDNL Conference of Directors of National Libraries
member

CENL Conference of European National Libraries
member

CERL Consortium of European Research Libraries
member

IFLA
Active in several sectors and working groups

IIPC (International Internet Preservation Consortium)
member

MINERVA/MINERVA Plus
participant

NORON (Directors of Nordic State and National Libraries)
Member

OCLC (Online Computer Library Center)
Member; a representative in the Members Council

SVUC Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue
Full participant and co-ordinator

The European Library
full participant

Europeana
National representative and contributor for

NDHA (New Zealand National Digital Heritage Archive)
Peer review group member

Nordbib - WP3, Development of Information Environment Architecture for Nordic Countries

Other Library related organizations

ELAG, European Library Automation Group
member

National Libraries Ex Libris Advisory Board
member

European ICOLC, International Coalition of Library Consortia
Programme group, member

IAML International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres
Member

IASA, The International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives
Member

IGELU, International Group of Ex Libris Users
Product Working Group for Metalib/SFX, board member
Consortia Special Interest Working Group, Deputy chair
iGeLU Voyager Product Working Group, member

Publishers’ Advisory Boards
Active member in the advisory boards of Elsevier, Blackwell, Springer

Standardisation

Dublin Core Metadata Initiative
National affiliate and a member in the Board of Trustees and Advisory Board

ISBN Panel meeting for the delegates of ISBN agencies

ISSN, The International Standard Serial Number
ISSN Governing Board
Meeting of Directors of ISSN Centres, member

ISMN, International Standard Music Number
ISMN Panel meeting for the delegates of ISMN agencies

ISO, International Organisation for Standardization
ISO TC 46, board member
Active in several working groups creating and revising individual information and documentation standards, including International Standard Collection Identifier (co-ordinator), International Standard Name Identifier and Digital Object Identifier.

NISO, US National Information Standards Organization
The first non-American affiliate
Facts and Statistics 2008

- visitors 190,480 (2007: 199,460)
- local loans 512,700
- interlibrary loans to other libraries 1,930 and from other libraries 1,790
- the number of information service requests was 2,394, guidance in information retrieval was given for 478 persons and guided tours of the library were conducted for 950 persons
- accession of collections approx. 100 meters of shelving, at the end of the year the collection totaled 107,000 meters of shelving
- accession of the National Collection 79,200 units, of those 57,600 uncatalogued publications
- accession of monographs and series in other collections 9,345 volumes
- the sound recording collection grew by 3,670 legal deposit copies and purchases, the sheet music collection by 300 publications
- collections totaling over 3 million books and serials, 675,000 microfilms and microfiches, and over 3 million units of other items
- the number of digitized printed products' pages was over 500,400 items number of newspapers microfilmed totaled 2,149 microfiches, number of conserved small printings and manuscripts was 15,750 units
- the databases of the Library's own collections contain over 2.6 million references, a growth of 66,000
- the National Bibliography database FENNICA contains 848,000 bibliographic entries, the National Discography database VIOLA contains 794,100 discographer entries
- the Union Catalogue of the Finnish research libraries (LINDA) contains 5.1 million references
- staff: 265 full-time employees
- the Library has 4 service points, 2 in Helsinki, 1 in Mikkeli and 1 in Urajärvi

Loan services

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Databases of the Library's own collections, number of titles

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Premises 2008

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<td>Collection areas</td>
<td>19,600 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other areas</td>
<td>700 m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>