



# The Finnish national bibliography 2022

## Fennica and Viola in numbers



Cover: the most common categories of non-fiction in 2021

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*The Finnish national bibliography 2022*  
*Fennica and Viola in numbers*



## *The Finnish national bibliography 2022 – Fennica and Viola in numbers*

How many books are published in Finland each year? What are the most common genres of music? Are books today shorter or longer than a hundred years ago? The answers to these questions and more can be found in this publication which presents themes and trends in the Finnish national imprint through the years.

The National Library of Finland has a statutory duty to collect and preserve Finnish publications for future generations. In addition to archiving the publications, it is important to preserve their

descriptive information, so that the contents of the growing collection can be searched and used. This information is stored in the Finnish national bibliography.

The national bibliography consists of two collections. Fennica contains information on Finnish literature, and Viola, the Finnish National Discography, information on music recordings and sheet music. In total, these two collections contain Finnish publication history for over half a millennium.

New publications are added to the national bibliography with a slight delay because legal deposit copies are delivered some months after their publication, sometimes even after their publication year. Furthermore, handling legal deposit deliveries, producing metadata, and organising the publications into the national collection are all manual tasks that require the work of skilled library staff. Books of each publication year are ideally processed during the following calendar year, but the delay is typically longer for materials such as recordings. Remote work due to the coronavirus pandemic has also slowed down the processing of publications since many stages of the process can only be completed on-site at the National Library. The most recent numbers in this publication are from 2021, and they are featured along with graphs presenting the long-term development of

the collection from the early 20th century to the year 2020.

The numbers in this publication are based on information for printed books published in Finland as well as music recordings made by Finnish artists published in Finland and abroad. Information on e-books and online music is also catalogued in the national bibliography, but due to delays it is not yet possible to provide an overall view of the volume of online publishing.

The national bibliography reflects the changes taking place in the publishing sector. As new publication forms emerge, the National Library begins their collection and cataloguing. Simultaneously, the accrual of outdated forms ends as they fall out of use.

## *Contents*

<b>The Finnish national bibliography 2022 – Fennica and Viola in numbers</b>	1
<b>Fennica – the national bibliography</b>	7
Number of books per year	8
Classification of non-fiction	10
Fiction	12
Number of pages	13
Children’s literature	14
Doctoral theses	16
Publication languages in 2021	18
Languages in the long term	18
Translated literature 2021	20
<b>Viola – the national discography</b>	23
Storage media for music recordings	24
The most common genres of music recordings	26
Languages of music recordings	28
Sheet music publications	30

20

8 366  
books

3 198  
fiction

5 168  
non-  
fiction

1 275  
doctoral  
theses

1 037  
children's  
books

1 802  
trans-  
lations



21



A large, light blue rounded rectangle containing a white circle with a grey border. Inside the circle, the text "3715 music recordings" is written in a grey serif font. To the right of the circle is a grey pencil icon.

A yellow rounded rectangle containing an icon of an open book. On the left page is a yellow musical note icon. On the right page, the text "204 sheet music" is written in a yellow serif font.

A red rounded rectangle containing a red icon of a cassette tape. Above the cassette icon, the text "67 C-cassettes" is written in a red serif font.



*Fennica –  
the national bibliography*

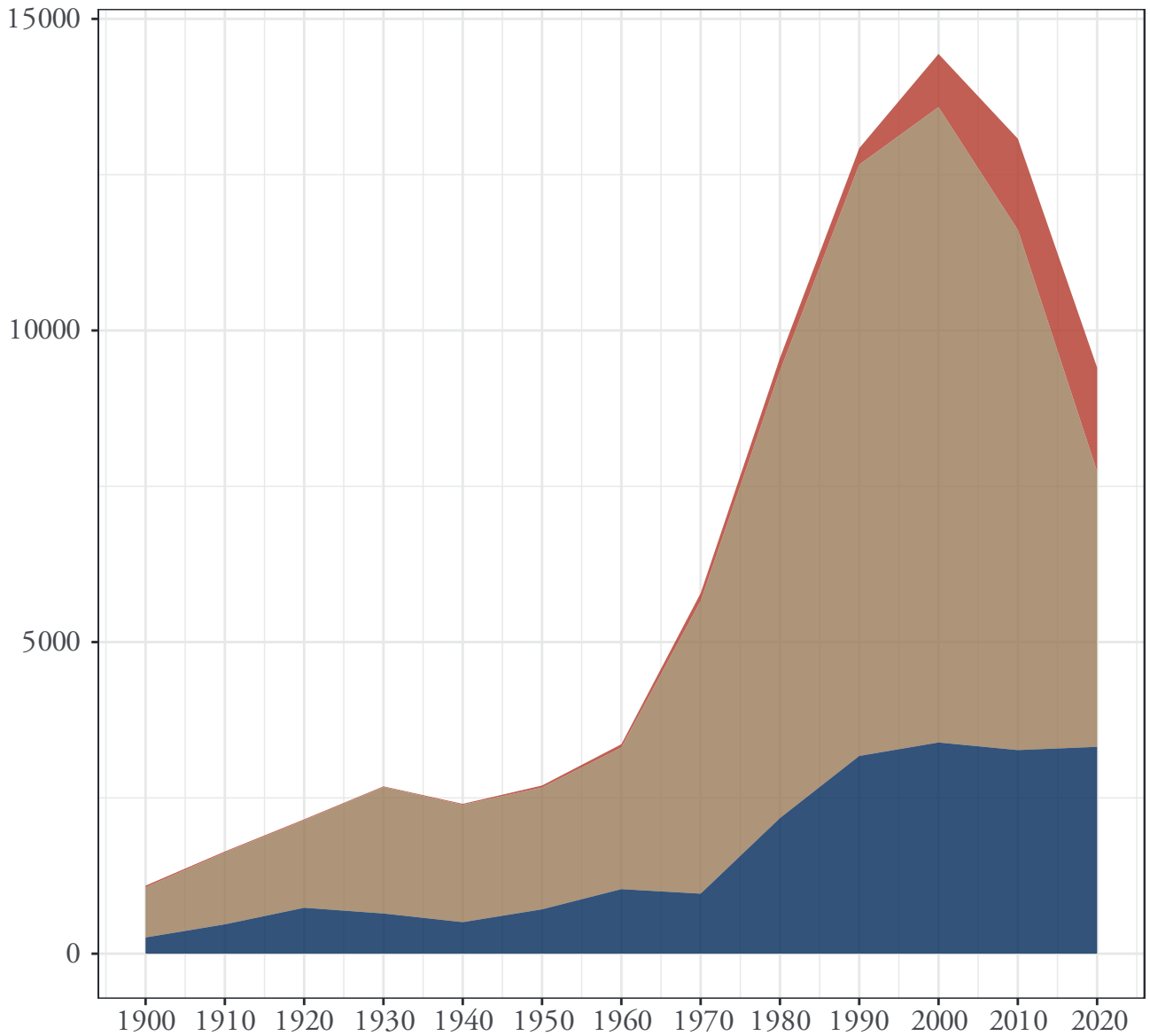


## *Number of books per year*

A clear downward trend can be seen in the annual publication numbers of printed books during the 21st century. In terms of total publications, we have fallen from the peak years at the turn of the millennium to less than 10,000 publications per year, a level last seen in the 1980s.

The rapid growth in published fiction, which began in the 1970s, seems to have levelled off to approximately 3,000 books per year from the 1990s onwards. The biggest drop was in non-fiction. Most books by major publishers are still published both in print and as e-books, but

publishers of “grey literature” in particular have often transitioned to online-only publishing. Grey literature refers to publications produced by government agencies, organisations, parishes, and similar institutions which usually fall outside the selections of libraries and bookstores. In addition, reference books, such as dictionaries and encyclopaedias have largely moved online over the past decade. As an exception in non-fiction literature, the number of doctoral theses has continued to rise.



Fiction

Non-fiction

Doctoral theses



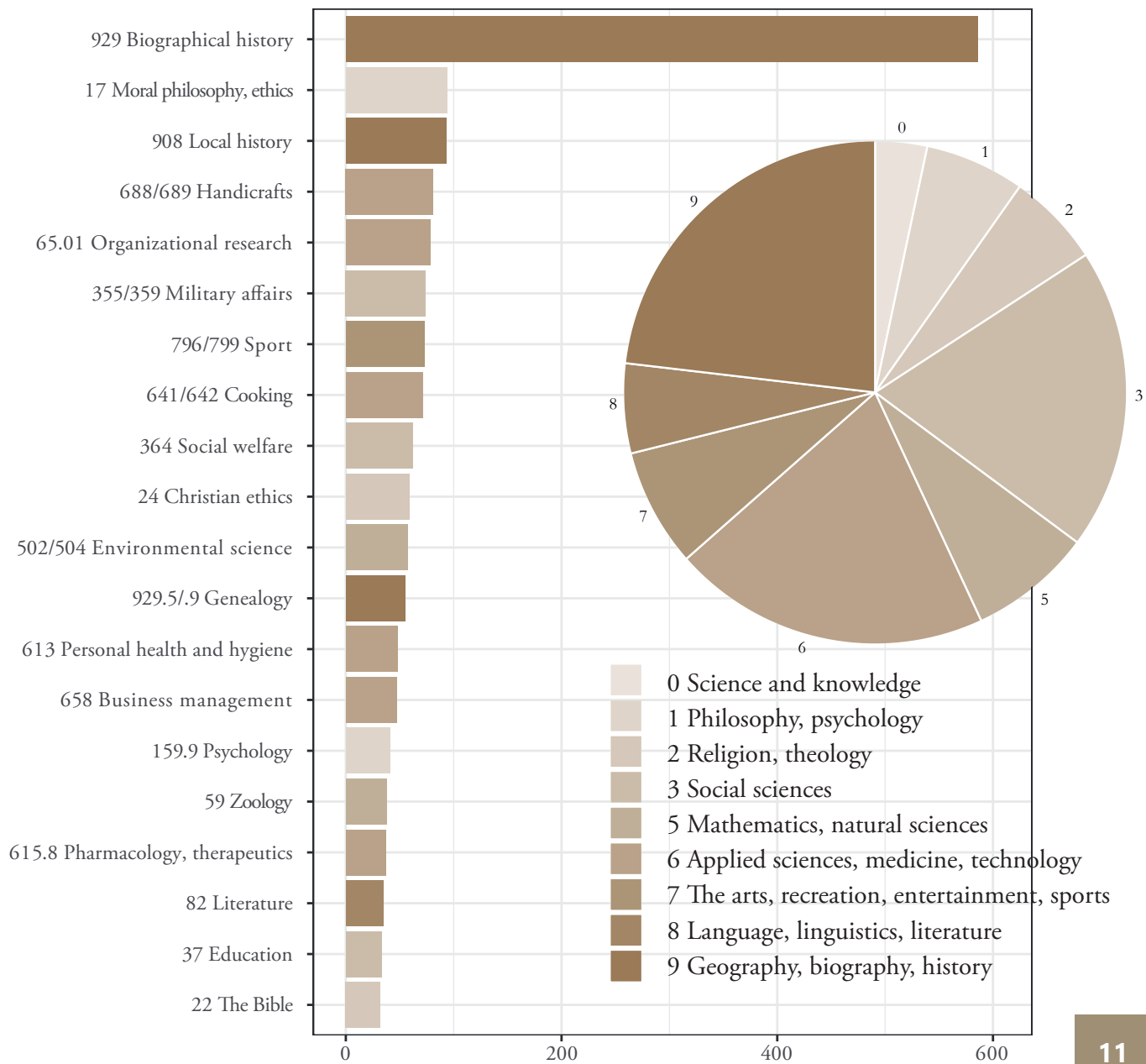
## *Classification of non-fiction*

All books catalogued in Fennica are classified according to the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) system. The National Library of Finland uses its own abridged version, featuring approximately 270 classes, divided into nine main classes, with class number 4 being unused. The full UDC contains more than 70,000 classes. Classifications are used e.g. for compiling statistics and searching for specific subjects in the National Library's search service.

The pie chart shows the classification of books catalogued into Fennica by their main class (exclu-

ding textbooks and doctoral theses). The classification describes the subject of the books at a very general level. For example, main class 6 includes such topics as medicine, technology and agriculture as well as cookbooks and handicrafts.

The bar chart features 20 of the most used classes (excluding textbooks and doctoral theses). The largest class by far is 929, biographies. Various biographies, autobiographies and memoirs are popular, and this class in particular features a considerable number of self-published works.

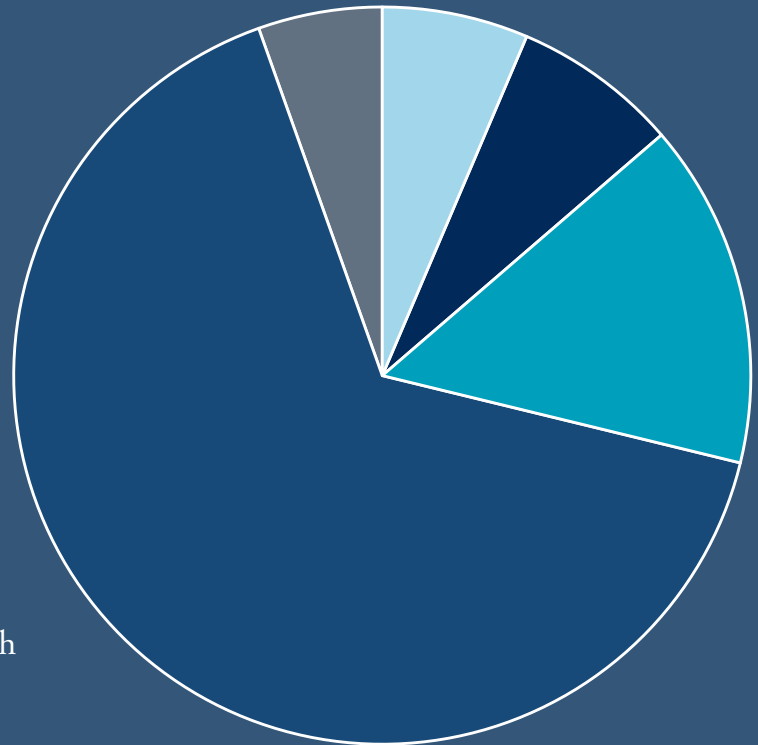




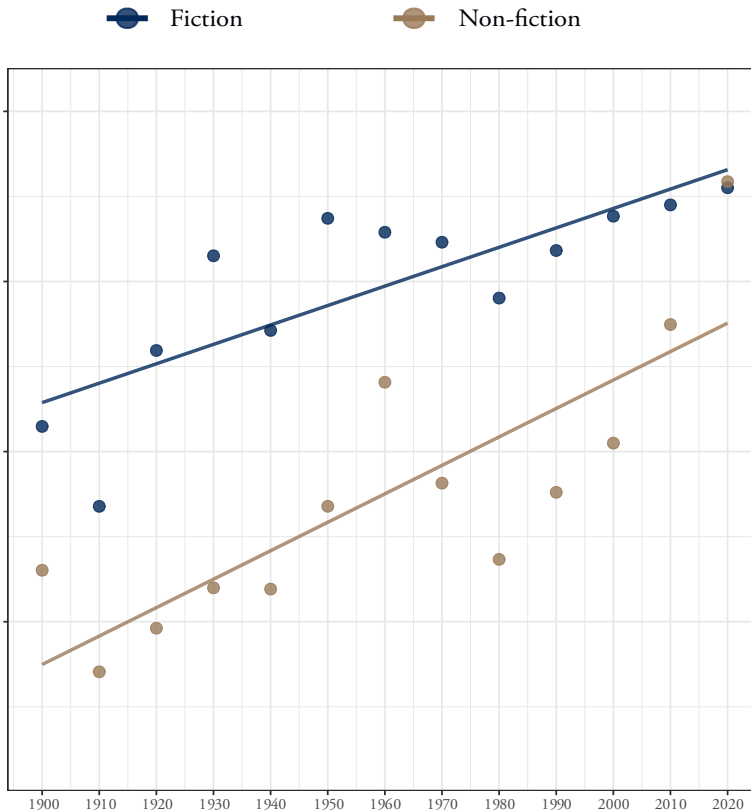
## *Fiction*

In 2021, 3,198 books of fiction were published. This represents 38% of all books printed during the year.

Novels were by far the largest literary form in adult fiction (1,365 books), followed by poetry (314). The numbers of short stories (151) and comics (133) were smaller. Other fiction (113) includes several less common literary forms, such as aphorisms, letters, drama, joke books and essays.



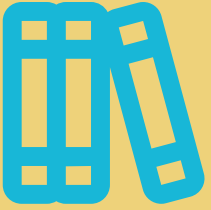




## *Number of pages*

The average page count of both fiction and non-fiction has been on the increase from the beginning of the 20th century to present day. The number of pages in works of fiction has usually been larger than in non-fiction, but the gap is slowly narrowing.

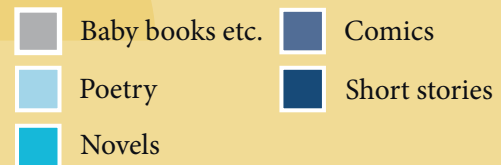
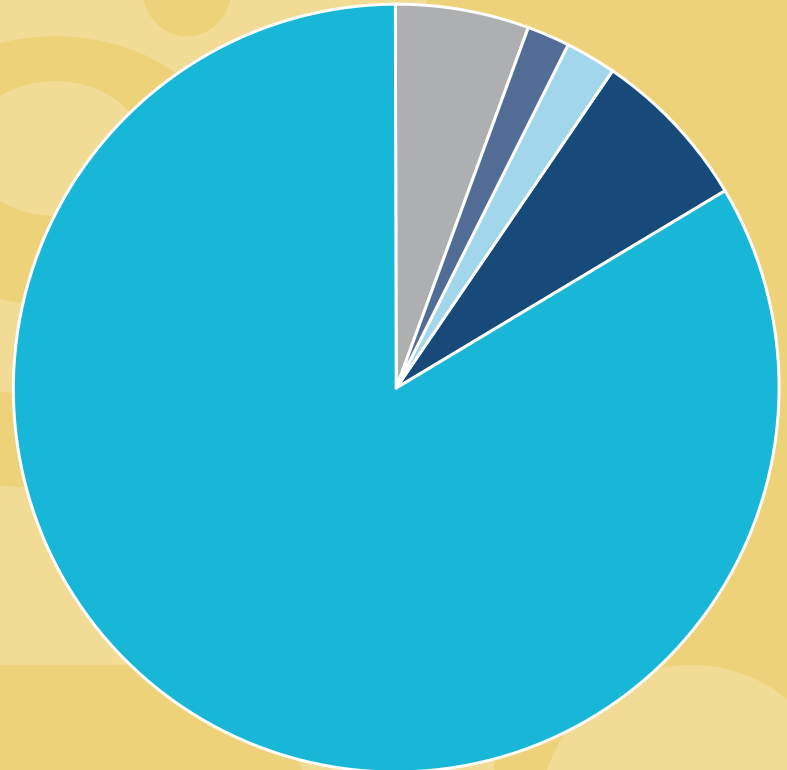
In 2020, the average page count in non-fiction books exceeded 200 pages for the first time, coming close to that of fiction. The length of a book depends not only on the amount of text, but also on its illustrations, diagrams and layout.

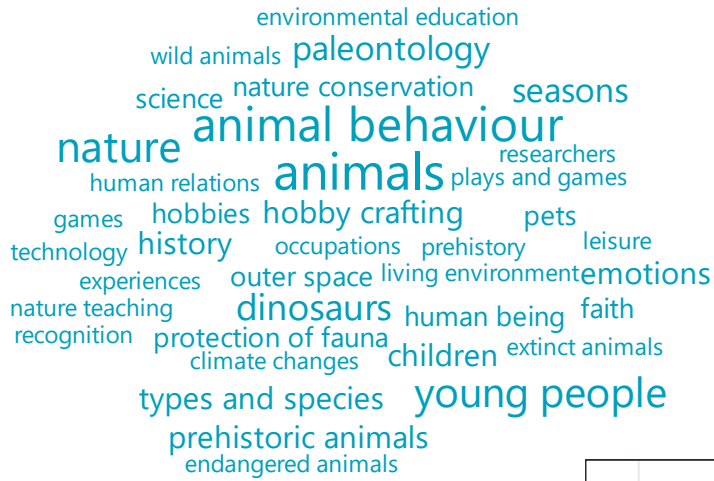


## *Children's literature*

A total of 1,037 books of children's literature were published in 2021, of which 108 were non-fiction. Children's literature also includes young adult fiction.

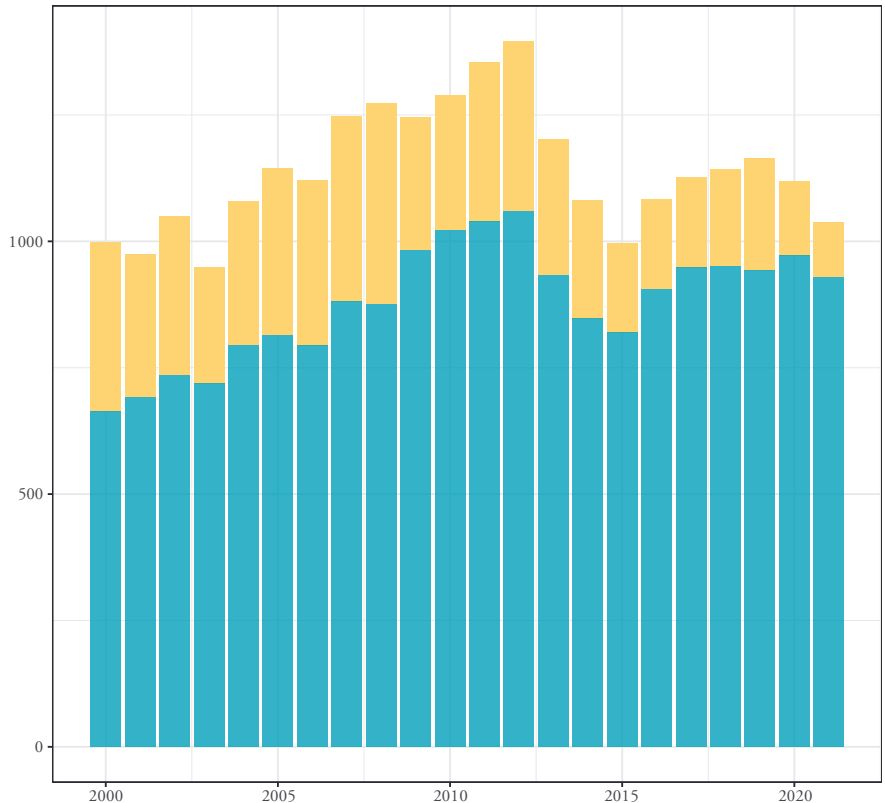
Among fiction, novel is by far the most common literary form. In children's fiction, illustrated storybooks that contain text are also considered novels.



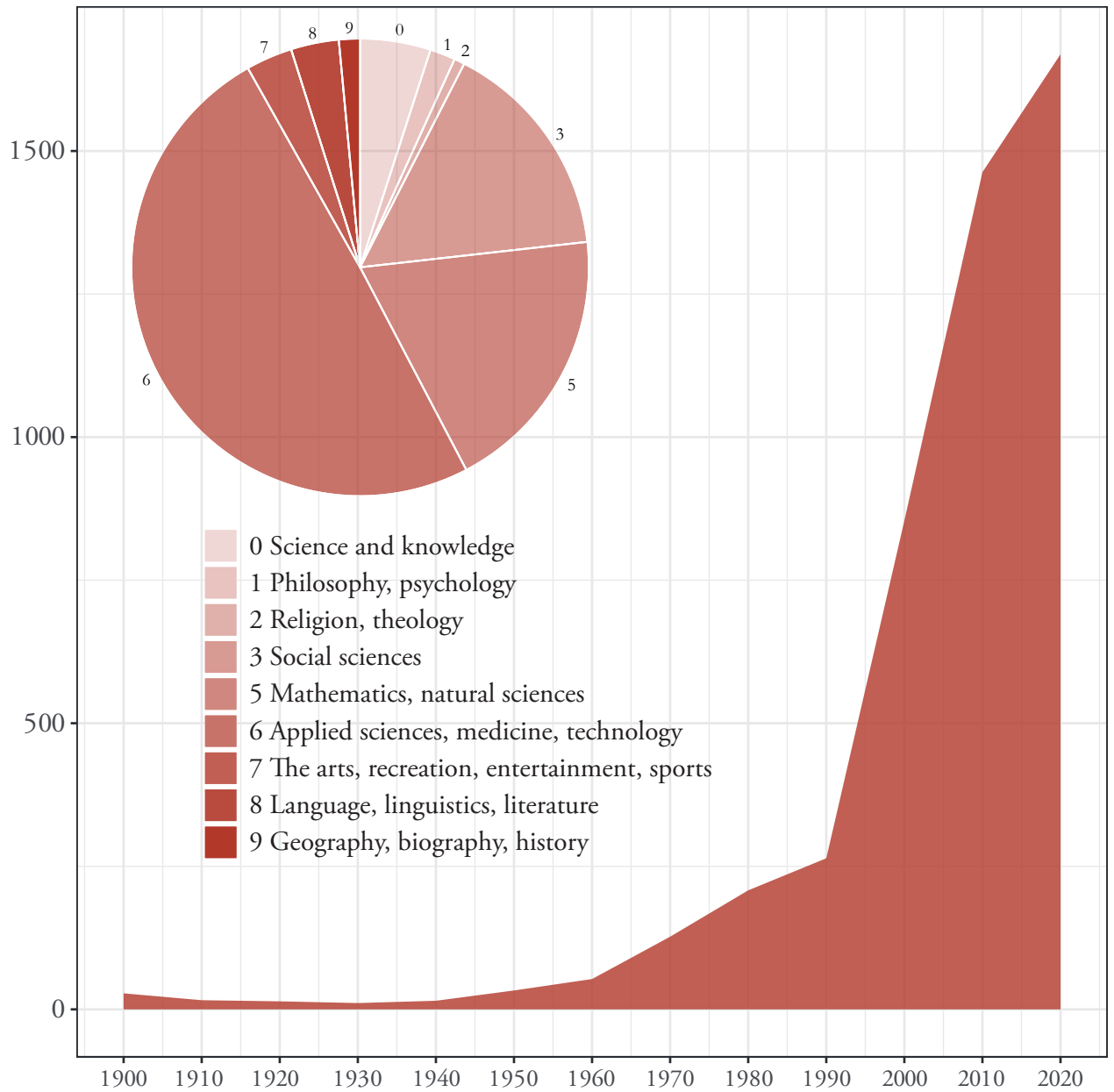


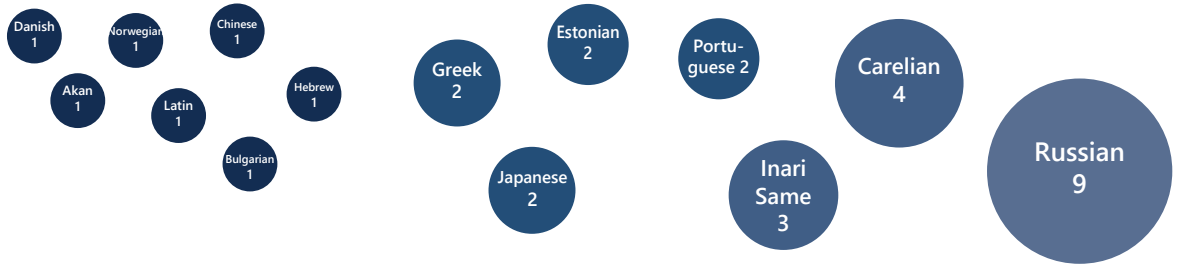
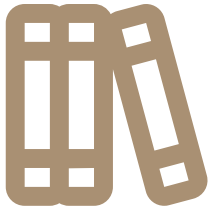
Subjects in children's non-fiction reflect the interests of the younger readership. More non-fiction on animals, especially dinosaurs, is published for children than for adult readers.

The publication volume of children's literature does not show a similar downward trend as do the total numbers for all literature. Publication numbers for both fiction and non-fiction have remained fairly stable for the past few years, even though there has been a slight decrease from the peak years of the early 2010s.









## *Publication languages in 2021*

The most common publication languages in Finnish literature are Finnish, English, and Swedish. The proportions vary slightly by genre: in 2021, 96% of fiction was published in Finnish, while in non-fiction the percentage of Finnish publications was 88%. In 2021, 21 different languages were used in books published in Finland. However, the combined percentage of rare languages is just one percent. Many books published in languages rare in Finland are individual textbooks or dictionaries.

## *Languages in the long term*

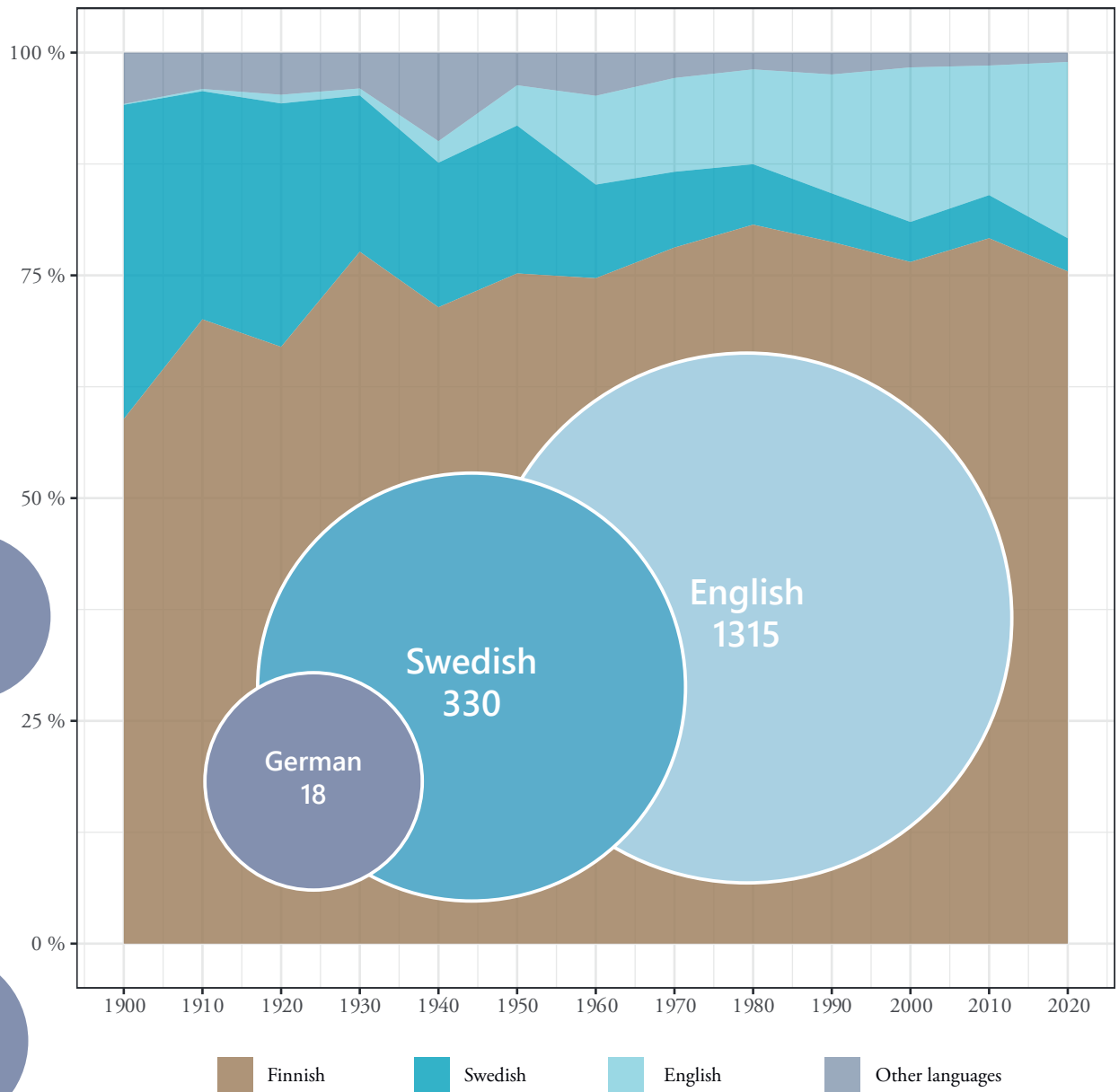
In a long-term analysis, the share of Swedish-language literature published in Finland has reduced in comparison with other languages. The increase in publications in English is partially due to the increased number of doctoral theses. The distribution of Finnish- and English-language doctoral theses has remained roughly the same since the 1970s. In 2021, 86% of doctoral theses were written in English.

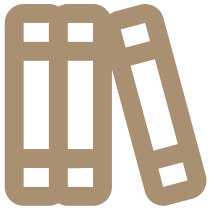
Finnish  
6640

French  
10

Italian  
11

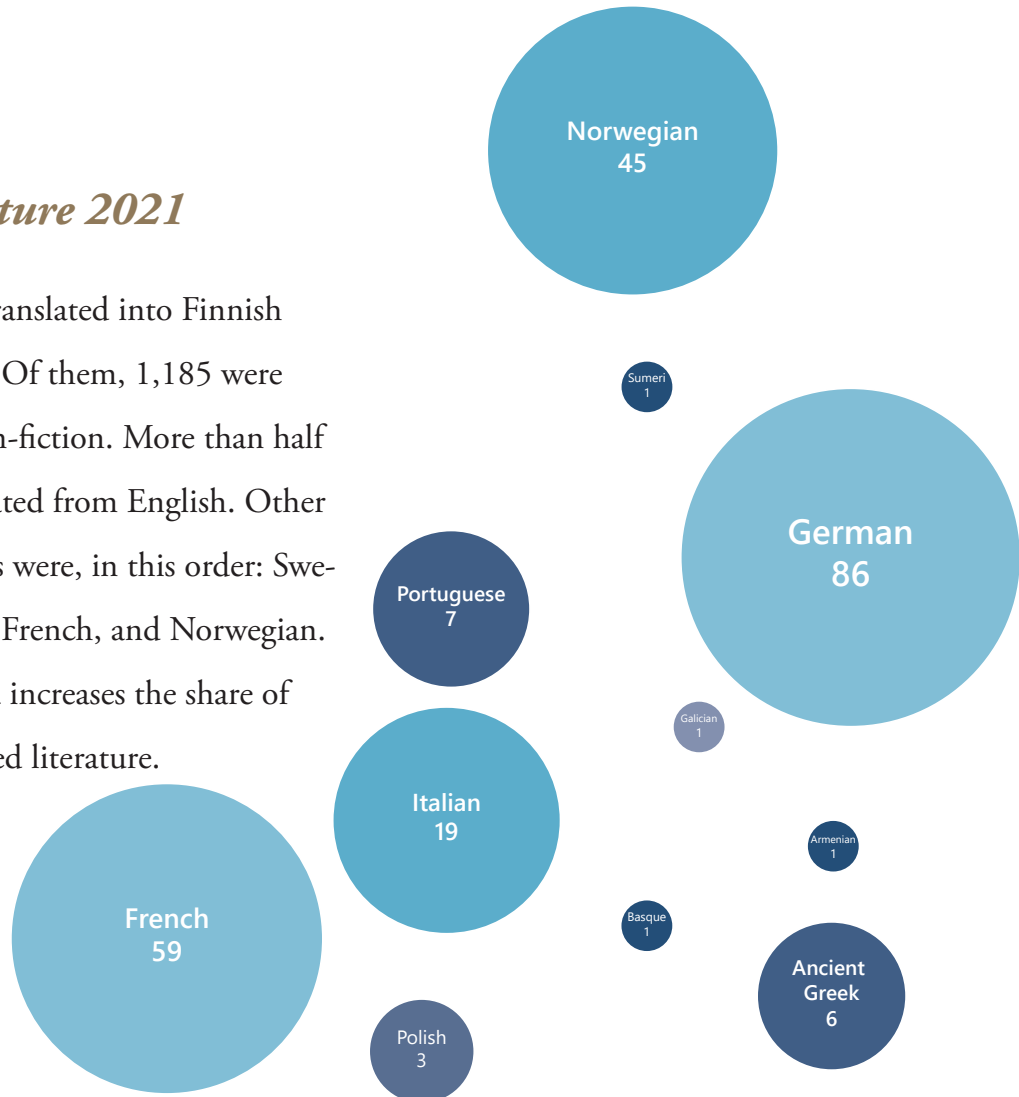
Spanish  
11



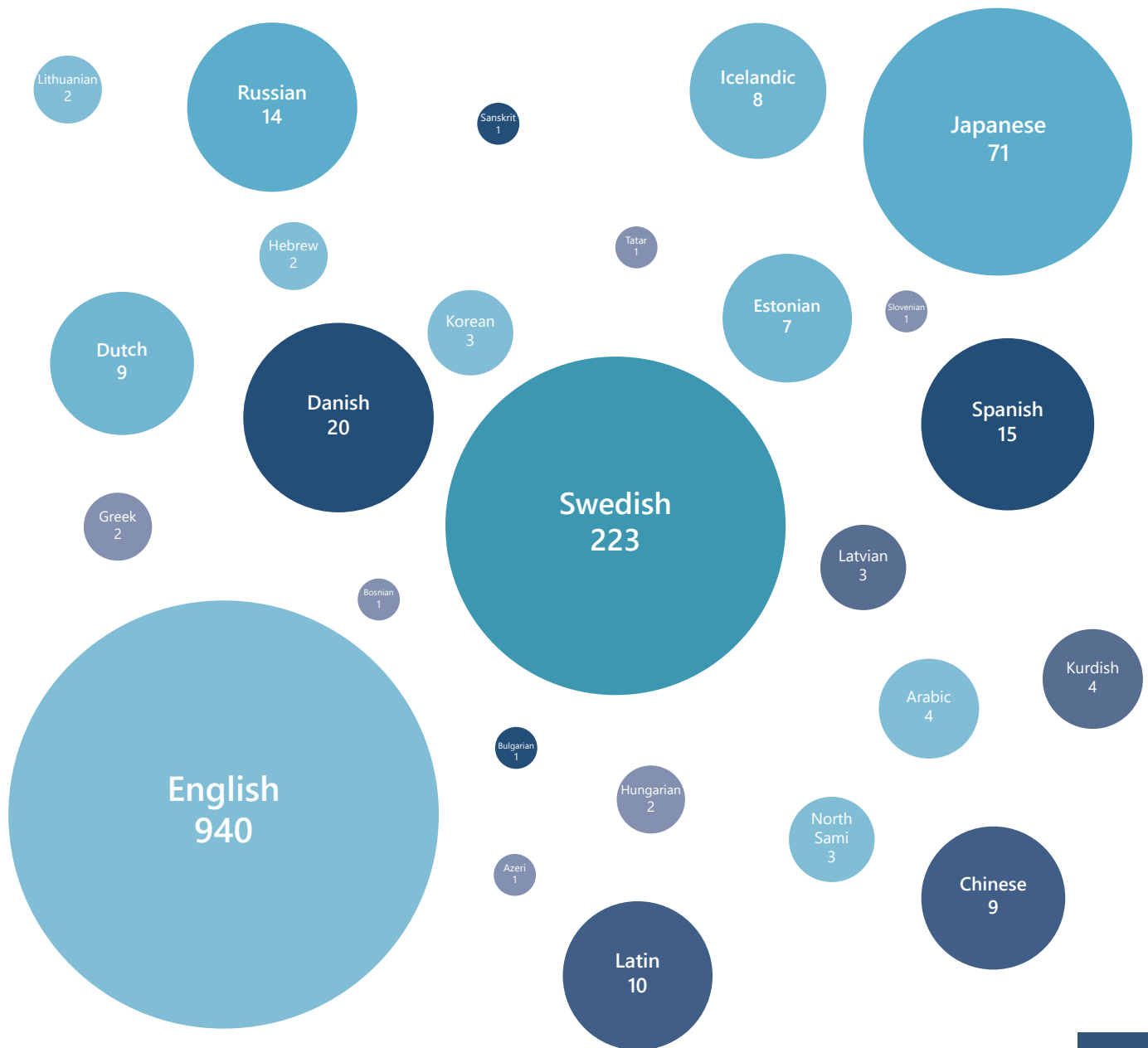


## *Translated literature 2021*

A total of 1,646 books translated into Finnish were published in 2021. Of them, 1,185 were fiction and 461 were non-fiction. More than half of the books were translated from English. Other popular source languages were, in this order: Swedish, German, Japanese, French, and Norwegian. The popularity of manga increases the share of Japanese among translated literature.









*Viola –  
the national discography*



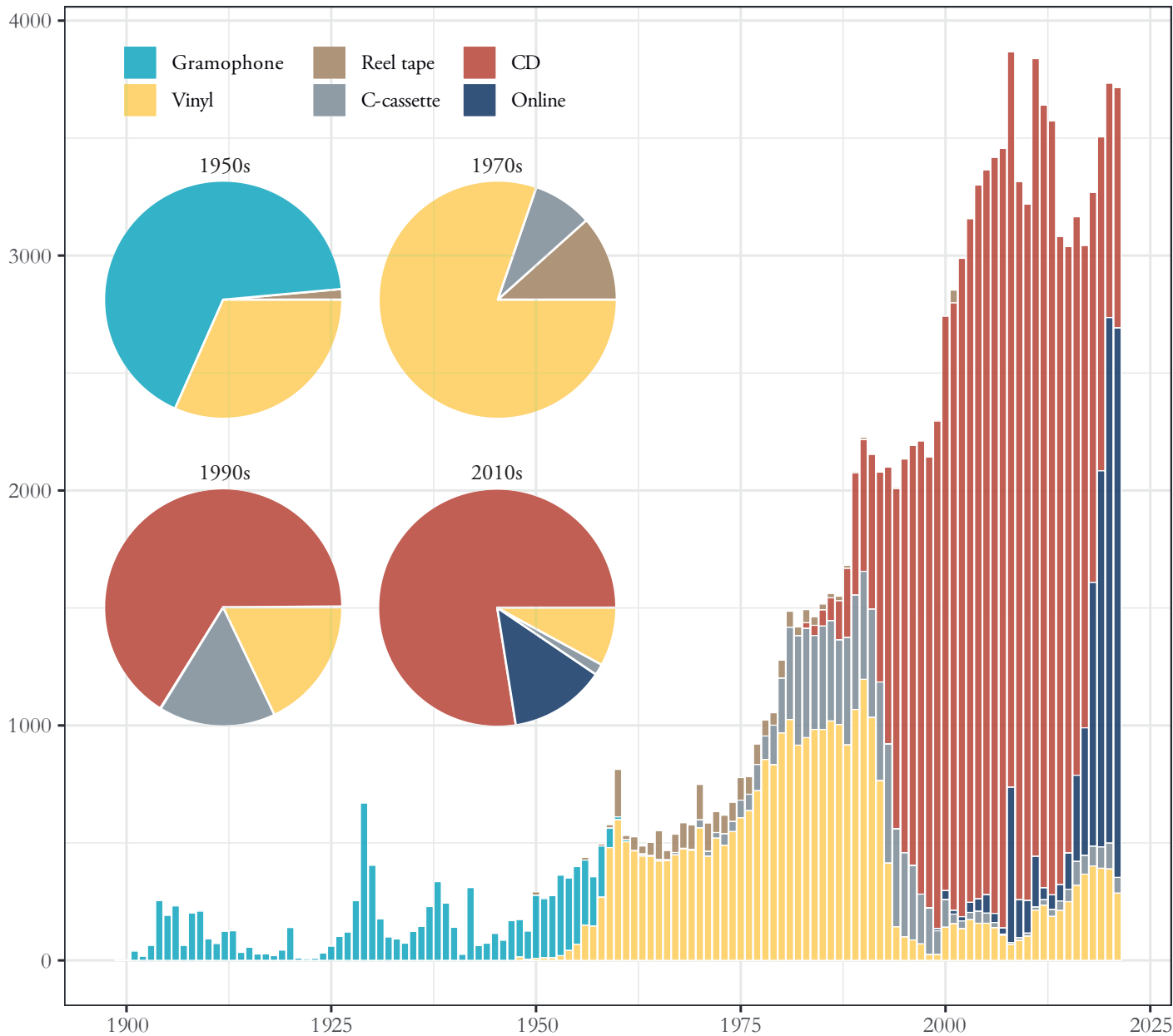
## *Storage media for music recordings*

The first Finnish music records were made in 1901. At the time, the record format was the 78 RPM shellac gramophone record. Production of shellac gramophone records continued in Finland until 1961. The production of vinyl records began in 1948; Finnish production started in 1953. Vinyl reigned until the beginning of the 1990s. The format has persevered, and the number of vinyl records published has risen again over the past ten years.

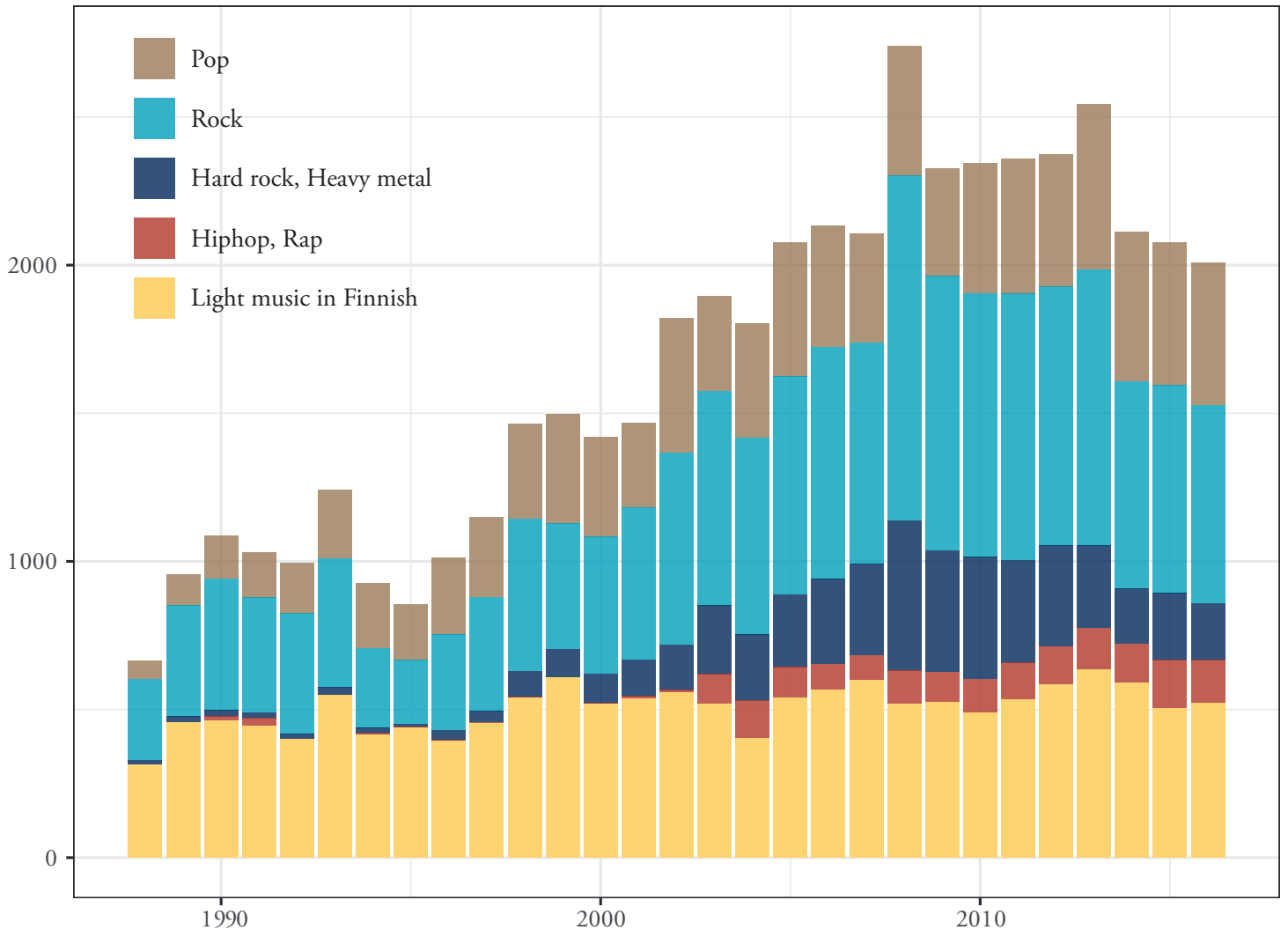
The compact cassette, launched in 1963, became popular in Finland in the 1970s. It maintained its

position as the more affordable option alongside vinyl records and CDs until the end of the 20th century, and has made a gradual comeback in recent years.

The era of the Compact Disc began in 1983, and the first Finnish CD was published in 1985. The CD became the dominant record format in the early 1990s, and has since remained the primary format for physical recordings. Online music publishing rose alongside the CD in the early 21st century. Today, many recordings - even commercial - are published online only, particularly singles.



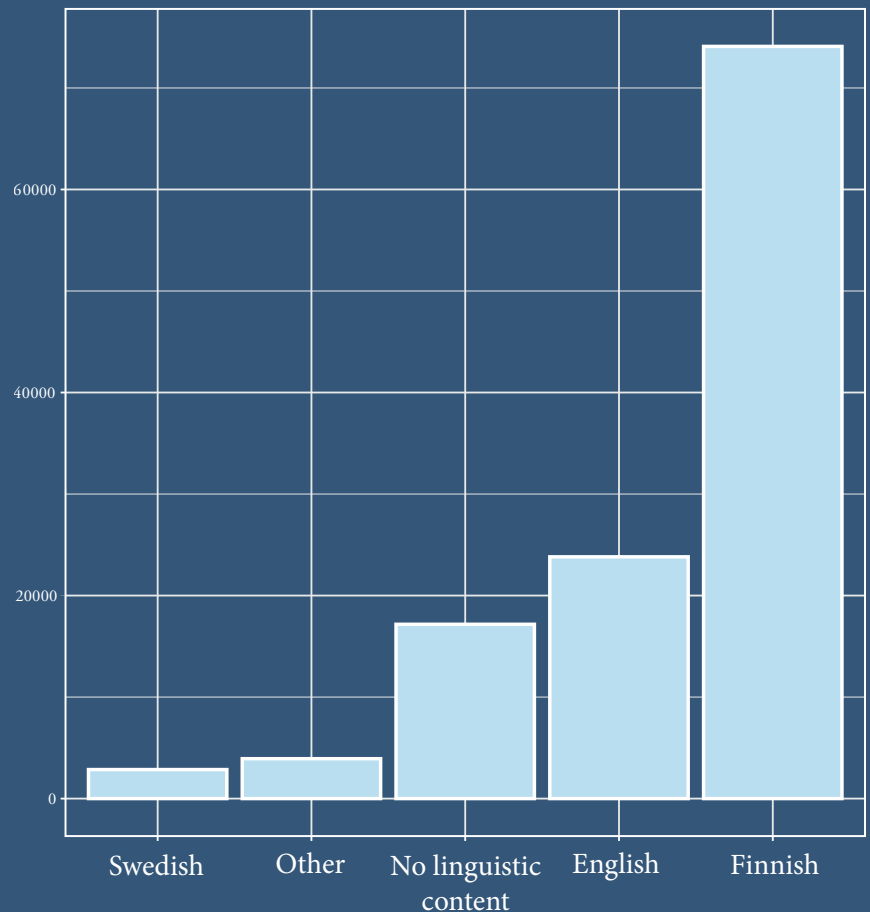






## *Languages of music recordings*

Finnish was the main performance language in 61% of the music recordings in the National Discography published between 1900 and 2021, English in 20%. Swedish amounts to 2%; all other languages cover 3%. The variety of other languages is vast, from Sumerian to Danish and from Maasai to North American indigenous languages. In addition to vocal music, a great deal of instrumental music is published: 14% of music recordings have no linguistic content.





Yiddish Vietnamese  
Portuguese based Creole and Pidgin languages

Spanish Nothern Sámi Skolt Sámi Tuvinian  
Old French Mandingo Niger-Congo languages

Turkish Sumerian Masai Serbian Tatar  
Udmurt Persian Lule Sámi Lao Finnish Khoisan languages

Zuni Nenets German Esperanto Hungarian Romany  
Moksha Kalaallisut Danish Celtic languages Lithuanian

Sanskrit French Bulgarian Arabic Dyula Greek Fijian Kurdish  
Amharic Czech

Latin Hindi Catalan Afrikaans Basque Estonian Susu  
Nepali Icelandic Chinese Albanian Bantu languages Indonesian Telugu

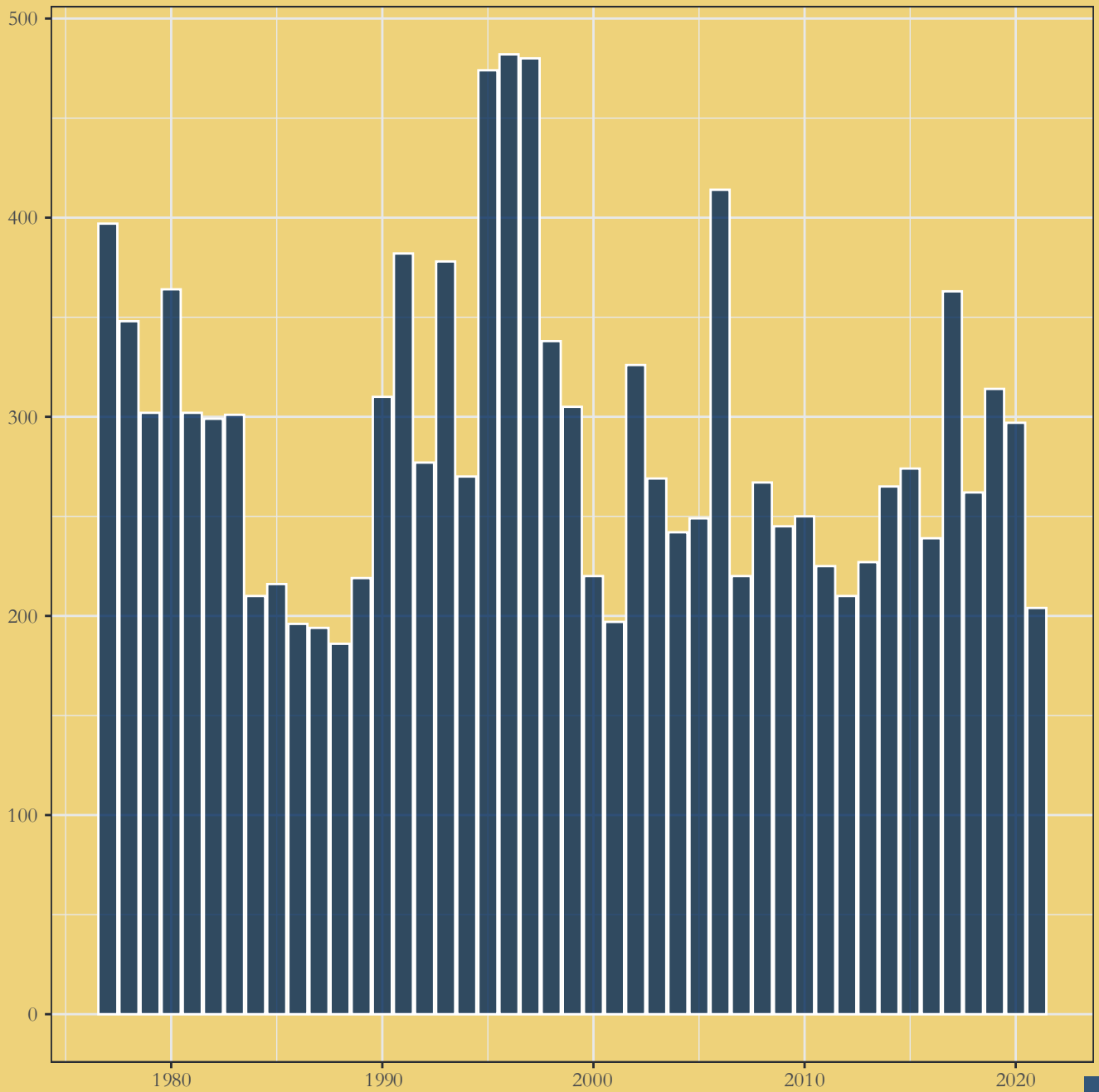
Thai Inari Sámi Artificial languages Dutch Hebrew Nyanja  
Yoruba Italian Church Slavic Erzya Korean

Serbian Latvian English Georgian Karelian Ukrainian  
Ndonga Japanese Polish

Norwegian Finno-Ugric languages Russian  
Wolof Native American languages Romanian

Swahili Portuguese Sámi languages Swedish  
Zapotek





photography religious life religion and religions athletes exercise of power foreign policy faith  
recognition supporting journalists parenthood employees future consciousness health effects health  
kins painters artificial intelligence equality objectives communicable diseases Winter War art exhibitions art history beliefs Finnish Civil War Finnish language  
coping wartime Bible interpretation political history investment activities congregations hiking and backpacking  
politics learning decision making know-how painting rock music involvement projects teaching and instruction knitting  
success relation to nature Christianity presidents teachers meditation sights  
development Continuation War human relations schools well-being world view artists  
couple relationship institutions of higher education mental well-being nature photography parents  
dietetics medical doctors self-actualization human relations schools well-being nature photography parents  
power actors childhood fishing spiritual growth dog mental well-being nature photography parents  
remiscing handicrafts air forces lifestyle habits challenges lifestyle Jews philosophy self-education memories  
popular culture types and species associations humour digitalisation art democracy animal behaviour human rights cultural heritage immigrants  
political parties creativity death organisational activities administration values universities of applied sciences spirituality self-leadership literature self image victims  
diseases youth authors older people care animals topics methods Evangelical Lutheran Church lakes collection music nature  
construction services stranded knits treatment methods clothing accessories mothers attitudes evaluation pre-emption identity conceptions fine arts postwar period  
mental disorders international relations ageing philosophy of life activism everyday means of livelihood self-evaluation business criminals  
building history tourist destinations Middle Ages architecture residents COVID-19 life changes ideologies leadership crises front  
social media villages Karelans exercises residents COVID-19 life changes ideologies leadership crises farms tourism  
buildings nature conservation culture self-care life management conversion art of living football writing singers security policy  
students international cooperation human being upbringing children physical training pedagogy  
knitwork self-knowledge literary research climate changes urban history change management  
social services towns and cities managers and executives leadership criticism happiness  
education and training sustainable development history of literature municipalities forests visual artists hostilities  
legislation diets cultural history nature sites experiences quality management visual artists equality  
young people history of music change musicians voyages and travels social skills families with children children  
pandemics food culture family clothes women Finns organisations falling ill  
political development interior decoration social interaction work work food preparation battles food recipes strategies  
generations taxation health promotion health work work food preparation battles food recipes strategies  
public health service researchers theology research work work food preparation battles food recipes strategies  
safety and security effects research work work food preparation battles food recipes strategies  
manufacturing strain on the water system parent-child relationship society work work food preparation battles food recipes strategies  
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