National Library of Finland – Developing National Infrastructures

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The country of hundreds of thousands of lakes
Finland

338 000 m²
Latitude 60°- 70° N
As Alaska – or Siberia...
Some 500,000 summer cottages
Four seasons
Design – Architecture – Arts
Agenda

- The Finnish Library Network
- National Library as a Service Centre
- Shared Services
- National Infrastructure Services
Key figures 2011

• The budget 28 m€
  • Ministry of Education 80%
  • University of Helsinki 20%
• The personnel
  • 280 man-years
• The organisation
  • 3 departments
  • 4 locations; 3 main buildings
The Finnish Library Network – Organised Structures to Support Cooperation
The Library Network

- The network consists of 4 library sectors
  - Universities, polytechnics, special libraries and public libraries
- Each sector has organised its own activities
  - Council + working committee structure
  - Each sector has a chair person and a secretary
- 2 library consortia in the country
  - Linnea – library system
  - FinELib – national licensing and national portal
National Library as a Service Centre for the Finnish Libraries
Services for the Finnish Libraries by NL

National Library Network Services

- Administration and financing
- Communication
- Training
- Research library statistics
- Service and customer surveys

Licensing of e-content

National Digital Library

Library systems services and databases

Institutional repositories
FinELib – national licensing of e-content

- Defined as a research infrastructure
- License agreements on Finnish and international electronic material, especially scientific journals
- Members include Finnish universities, polytechnics, public libraries, various research institutes and special libraries (over 100 organisations)
Steering of centralised services

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Service contracts: Member – NLF
  - NLF signs on behalf of the members contracts related to the service (e.g., license agreements, hardware & software agreements)
- Steering groups
  - Library sectors represented
  - Ministry of Education and Culture represented
  - Rules defined
- Groups of specialists
- Ad hoc groups
Shared Services and Infrastructure Development - Basis of Digital Library Development
Shared services in Finland

- **Metadata**
  - Descriptive, structural and administrative/technical
  - Many services

- **Software and Hardware**
  - Library system
  - National portal
  - National Digital Library
  - Aggregator (Europeana)
  - ERM; statistics
  - Institutional repository
  - In the future: Long term preservation system

- **Staff**
Shared services – what, why?

- **Metadata – National Metadata Repository (National Union Catalogue)**
  - In development for all library sectors
  - Improves work flows, efficiency and quality
  - Cost savings in description work

- **Metadata - National Digital Library (NDL)**
  - All libraries, museums and archives
  - Improved end user services

- **Hardware – IT centre for research**
  - One server to run the library system for all universities and polytechnics
  - One server to run the National Digital Library (NDL) Public Interface for all libraries, museums and archives
  - Huge savings in server costs
Shared services – what, why?

- **Software – library system, union catalogue, national portal, NDL public interface**
  - One software, one or several installations
  - Savings in software maintenance

- **Staff – at National Library**
  - Coordination of consortia
  - Coordination of contracts needed in the consortia (hardware, software, licenses, service agreements)
  - Licensing for 100+ organisations centrally
  - Service maintenance and development

- **Collections – National Repository Library (NRL) 20 years**
  - All libraries can deposit collections at NRL
  - Has meant significant savings in collection space
Digital Library Infrastructure Development
Main projects

- National Digital Library (NDL) Public interface
  - Libraries, archives, museums
- National Metadata repository
  - University and polytechnic libraries, public libraries, some special libraries
- New generation library system
  - University and polytechnic libraries, public libraries, some special libraries
Backend systems

End users

Librarians

Public Interface

Library systems

Union catalogue

Authority database

Digital repositories and other digital asset management systems

Liberal, GOOGLE, VIAF, LOD and other external systems

Library back end systems

NATIONAL LIBRARY NETWORK SERVICES
National Digital Library
National Digital Library of Finland

National Digital Library means:

- a common user interface for the information resources of libraries, archives and museums (in operation 2012)
- digitisation of the most essential cultural heritage materials of libraries, archives and museums
- development of a long-term preservation solution for electronic cultural heritage materials (in planning phase)
- increasing competence
- National Digital Library works as an aggregator for the European Digital Library Europeana.
Governance Model of the National Digital Library

Executive group / Ministry of Education and Culture (chair)

Steering group / Ministry of Education and Culture (chair)

User Interface: maintenance and development / the National Library

Consortium of libraries, archives and museums

Support Group of libraries, archives and museums

Long-term preservation Project / CSC (IT Center for Science)
Importance of NDL

- Mentioned in government programme and several high level government strategies
- Most demanding digital library project in Europe
  - Public interface
  - Digital preservation system
- National aggregator for Europeana
- Covers ca 400 organisations
- National demonstrator project
  - Large network: libraries, archives, museums
  - New ways of collaboration
  - Open source
Main Principles Steering the Development of the NDL User Interface

- Development is based on the requirements defined together with libraries, archives and museums
- Organisations will become users of the software in phases
- Development occurs in development circles
- The services are planned together with the customers
- The user interface software is VuFind & additional modules
- National Library is responsible of the development of the software
- IT-centre for Science, CSC, is responsible of the maintenance of the hardware environment
Information Management Governance in Public Administration

- Act on Information Management Governance in Public Administration

- Focus on openness: open access, open APIs, open data, interoperability

- Enterprise architecture a legal obligation for public agencies
Focus in 2012–2014

- **2012:**
  - Forming the User Interface consortium and collaboration structures
  - Planning of the system and building it, start of production

- **2013:** New customers, new functionalities

- **2014:** New customers, new functionalities, new partnerships
Benefits of the National Digital Library to the society

- improves availability of electronic information resources and services and makes their use easier
- strengthens cooperation across organisational and sectoral borders
- reduces overlapping expenses from digitisation and management, distribution and preservation of electronic material
- improves interoperability, manageability and efficiency of processes
- preserves the potential of cultural heritage material far into the future
Key factors behind success

- Central funding for infrastructure services
- Organised structures of library sectors
- Tradition of collaboration especially in library domain
- Systematic development of centralised services
- Customer organisations involved in steering centralised services