

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Finland Bulletin 2014



EDITORIAL

Kai Ekholm

IFLA trends open new windows

During my 40-year career in librarianship, I have witnessed the total transformation of the meaning of librarianship in a new environment.

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Completed in 1845, the main building of the National Library of Finland was designed by architect Carl Ludvig Engel. A renovation project to conserve the building began in 2013 and still continues. [read more »](#)

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Kai Ekholm

EDITORIAL

IFLA trends open new windows



During my 40-year career in librarianship, I have witnessed the total transformation of the meaning of librarianship in a new environment. At least such a transformation should have occurred.

The magic acronym GAFAM says it all: Google, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon ruthlessly rule the world and our customers. They are far from the innocent social media sites that people use to play. Google has sucked 150 million euros in advertisement money out of Finland alone, and Facebook more than 100 million — all money missing from suffering newspapers in desperate need of advertising revenue. Apple rules the music and home media and draws tremendous revenue from the apps as well. Amazon has single-handedly taken down the British book reseller by discounting them to death. And so on.

If we think libraries will have some acknowledged position in this environment just because we call them libraries, they are sorely mistaken.

Libraries are licensing their materials in the same environment described above. You can easily add Elsevier and other giant media companies to the list. Elsevier pulled in more than 1 billion dollars in profit last year, mainly from universities. E-reading and e-licensing are not progressing well in this competition. The 20th -century digitization of newspapers is another example of the targets accepted as the common good and stuck to the market inertia.

Yet, I do not see this market as hopeless; far from it. Most media houses realize they cannot progress in digitization without the help of public funding. Even the largest media companies realize they need to cooperate and that the long tail will likely not provide them huge revenues. I welcome IFLA trends, because they have opened the window to this transformation. We need new assets, and they are now available to us — if we have the courage to face the challenge.

Kai Ekholm
Director, professor
National library of Finland

Päivi Piispa

Making the most of digital materials: Interview with Professor Timo Honkela

A new professorship focuses on developing the methods and applications of machine learning and text mining.

Timo Honkela, who took up office as the University of Helsinki's professor of research into digital information at the beginning of this year, is clearly excited about his new position, which allows him to combine information technology with its users. Honkela studies how digital materials can better serve as resources for researchers and how they can more widely benefit society as a whole.

The new professorship is unique in Finland. It strengthens the language technology expertise of the University of Helsinki's Department of Modern Languages and supports the National Library of Finland's Centre for Preservation and Digitisation, which has digitised millions of pages of old materials to date.

The topic is relevant because more and more of our materials and conversations have become digital. The digital dimension has become embedded in our society on many levels.

"Digital resources will provide a wide range of opportunities to ease people's daily lives and the operations of organisations," Honkela says.

Professor Honkela also believes that the increasingly comprehensive computer analysis of digital materials will help usher in a new era of excellence in research in the humanities and social sciences, disciplines that can especially benefit from a technology-aided analysis of complex phenomena.

"A large number of socially relevant issues are associated with the humanities and social sciences. Humankind has already learned how to fly to the Moon and make paper, but we still don't know how best to organise our societies," Honkela says.

Language learning is a big challenge for a computer

Honkela speaks of technologies, such as text or data mining and machine learning, that enable computers to analyse digital information more comprehensively and in greater detail than people could. It is quite simply impossible to manually process millions of digital documents in a short period of time. Luckily, we can increasingly delegate this task to computers.

Machine learning will lead to the addition of more smart components to information systems. These components can learn things and organise material based on its features. For example, machine-aided translation is based more and more on machine learning. Google Translate, which studies indicate is the world's best machine translation system for many language pairs, is based on billions of documents, which have contributed to the system's ability to translate by finding patterns in an enormous pool of data.

The difference from what went before is astounding: all commands used to be pre-programmed on a computer, which meant that the analysis was based on prior human interpretation. In statistical machine learning, however, machines can be taught to establish relationships between things and find meaning in the data they analyse.

"A machine can determine that a dog and a cat are closer to each other in meaning than to a house or a library. The machine develops a semantic independence and is able to establish relationships between things on its own as long as textual material is available," Honkela explains.

The challenge in text mining and machine learning is the complexity of language as a system.

"Language learning is a big challenge for a computer. The majority of the objects that engineers have traditionally modelled are child's play compared to language and language learning," Honkela laughs.

But we should embrace this challenge, for technologies can provide considerable benefits in our use of materials, for example, by enabling searches across languages. A Finn with limited Swedish skills can search for information even if he or she cannot formulate the keywords in Swedish.

"Old Finnish texts from 200 or so years ago could also be translated into contemporary Finnish. We could also compare the development of people's conceptions over the years by having a machine



Professor Timo Honkela

process millions of newspapers published in different countries across the decades and centuries," Honkela proposes.

An emotional interpreter and other applications

Much of the conversation on data mining often focuses on negative issues, such as the stories of surveillance by the US National Security Agency (NSA). But Honkela is an optimist and believes that letting machines interpret our digital conversations would be more useful than harmful.

He envisions a kind of interpreter that could prevent misunderstandings, particularly in expert communication. Experts of all fields often have difficulty writing or talking about their field in a way that is understandable to non-specialists. With the help of text mining, an expert's writings could be analysed and made understandable to different target groups. The machine would then generate an alert if the text contained passages that were difficult to understand for the intended reader.

These methods could also serve to improve the operations of organisations. Honkela offers a typical example: the top level of an organisation draws up a strategy, but the way it is formulated disconnects it from the everyday lives and language of the people at the grassroots level. A computer could draw the management's attention to this issue.

"A computer can interpret not only the content of communication, but also the emotional dimension. Studies suggest that people's decisions are based primarily on emotions and only secondarily on explicit conclusions. That's why companies have increasingly begun to analyse customer feedback from an emotional perspective," Honkela explains.

An interpreter of emotions could also prove useful in everyday communications. Many of us are guilty of sending inadvertently inappropriate emails. A computer could alert us to the content of our message and suggest that we revise the email before sending it.

Analysing emotions from text can also help with social analysis.

"Reader discussions on newspaper websites and discussion forums could be studied to identify the issues of primary concern to the public."

Ambassador of humane information technology

Timo Honkela has clearly found his niche. His entire career has focused on applying information technology to meet people's needs and to analyse language. His enthusiasm for this field was born during his studies. The University of Oulu was ahead of its time in teaching students about humane computing in the 1980s, when it combined computer science with ethics, epistemology, economics and psychology. "The studies were not just about machines, but about trying to understand individuals and communities as a system," Honkela says. After graduating, Honkela worked in a project on language machines hosted by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and understood as early as the 1980s that an information system that understands language cannot be based solely on programmed commands. Such a system requires machine learning, for the number of rules needed to understand language is vast, and the interpretation of language is a subtle and complex process. After the Sitra project, Honkela worked at the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, where he investigated how neural networks can help process language. Then, after transferring to the Helsinki University of Technology and the research group of Teuvo Kohonen, who at the time was Academy Professor but now holds the honorary title of Academician, Honkela defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic. Honkela's diverse career also includes a professorship at the Media Laboratory of the University of Art and Design Helsinki, the post of CEO at an IT company based on his dissertation, and a fixed-term professorship in computer science as well as a research director position at Aalto University. A common thread running through his career has been the combination of language, socio-cognitive systems and information technology.

Päivi Piispa is a communications professional.

Who? Timo Honkela, Professor of Research into Digital Information, University of Helsinki (since 1 January 2014)

- The professorship is based at the Department of Modern Languages, Faculty of Arts, University of Helsinki, and the Mikkeli-based Centre for Preservation and Digitisation of the National Library of Finland.

- The professor works in close cooperation with the University of Helsinki's Department of Computer Science, the National Library of Finland, the Mikkeli University Consortium and the Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences.



Helmi Saukkoriipi, Unto Vanhamäki and Mia Teppo

War propaganda in the Coppet poster collection: Students explore the special collections

The career skills course in the cultural heritage study module offered by the University of Helsinki allowed us a more in-depth look at the collections of the National Library of Finland than is afforded to the average library visitor. Our explorations focused on the special collections, which consist of a varied group of compilations of rare text and images, including legal deposit copies of works by minority ethnicities in Russia from the period of Russian rule over Finland, 1828-1917, collections donated by private individuals, and collections compiled by the National Library itself. The collections are in different languages, from different parts of the world, different eras and different disciplines, featuring literature from Europe and Asia, children's literature, original illustrated editions, scientific texts on anything from medicine to the arts, texts related to the women's rights movement, old dissertations and correspondences, as well as texts on different religions. One interesting curiosity is the Tibetan collection, comprising sacred texts wrapped in cloth as dictated by tradition.

In addition to texts, the collections of the National Library include a great deal of pictorial material, such as maps, posters, teaching charts and sheet music. The extensive poster collection features theatre and film posters as well as travel and other advertisements. Ephemera such as pizza delivery ads are collected in the ephemera collection. Our interests were piqued particularly by the Maurice de Coppet (1868–1939) poster collection. After serving as the French ambassador to Finland, Coppet bequeathed most of his personal library comprising approximately 11,000 books to the University of Helsinki. In addition to books, Coppet's collection included a large amount of different types of hitherto unresearched visual material from the time of the First World War, with material both from the Allies and the Central Powers. The collection features war and propaganda posters from the UK, USA, France, Italy and Germany. In addition, the collection has non-propaganda posters related to rationing, travel, food and health. The posters in the Coppet collection are interesting in terms of their subject matter and visual appearance, but they are also an excellent research topic thanks to their obscurity. In addition to this, we realised that this year marks 100 years since the beginning of the First World War.



The First World War (1914–1918) saw battles fought between the Central Powers (the German Empire, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire) as well as the Allies (particularly the UK, the Russian Empire, France and the USA). Old political grudges and the heightened arms race in industrialised Europe led to a war waged with huge but clumsy military forces. Even though the war centred on Europe, its colonies in Asia and Africa saw their share of destruction, and are appropriately represented in the posters of the Coppet collection. For example, one French poster depicts a military troop marching in Africa, led by a local soldier. The cost of the First World War was massive for all those involved. Approximately 21 million people lost their lives and several governments were toppled while others, such as Finland and the Soviet Union, were created. After the loss of the Central Powers, the war ended with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 – although peace was not to last for long. Hatred towards Germans is apparent in the war-time posters of the Allies. Germany was vilified, with far-reaching results.



Like many of the special collections, the Coppet collection suffers from a lack of cataloguing. The National Library's resources and staff competences are not sufficient for a comprehensive linguistic and historical analysis of all special collections. As a result, the collections are catalogued slowly, one by one. We now wish to do our part to raise awareness of this poster collection which is a veritable treasure trove for researchers in history or art history.

The French posters can be considered the most visually impressive war posters in the Coppet collection. They are professionally crafted and seek to appeal to the viewer's emotions with their touching subject matter. A common subject is defenceless civilians, mothers and children, as well as wounded or dead French soldiers. The posters call on the public to fight for those who have already fallen. In contrast, German soldiers are depicted as cruel exploiters. Often the posters are pencil or charcoal drawings, with the French blue and red used as accents. The French flag proper also makes several appearances. Symbols such as the spiked German helmet, leather boots and other parts of the military uniform are used to infer Germans. One of the posters goes so far as to show a German soldier as a pig.

The French posters clearly show the visual tradition of the great revolution. Many posters feature Marianne, freedom fighter and personification of freedom and reason, as well as an angelic figure leading troops into battle. The posters also show defenceless, vulnerable citizens draped in cloaks and scarves, surrounded by ruins. Their rustic appearance is in direct contrast with the German soldiers in their modern outfits and wielding weapons, clearly holding a position of power. Emotions are evoked with dead children, nursing mothers and rallying slogans. The goal, as before, is the freedom of the

nation. In addition to the French themselves, the posters represent their allies: the Portuguese, Romanians, Russians, Belgians and Africans. The poster series entitled "Les hymnes alliés" includes a specific poster drawn for every ally. For example, the Russian poster is entitled "hymne Russie" and depicts a czar on horseback.



The propaganda posters from the United Kingdom are mainly recruitment posters published by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee and war bond posters published by the Parliament War Savings Committee. The collection also features some posters from the USA or translated into Gaelic. Some are more like leaflets with information about recruitment dates, but some are skilfully drawn pictorial posters. Particularly the brightly-coloured posters aroused our interest as students with an interest in history and art – partially due to their blatant but cleverly persuasive methods, partially to their spectacular visual appearance. Most of the posters encourage men to enlist in the army by appealing to their conscience, strength, sense of duty and even fear, but the collection also features some anomalous curiosities. For example, poster number 55 has white text printed on a brown background, reading: "To the women of Britain. Some of your men folk are holding back on your account. Won't you prove your love for your Country by persuading them to go?" This recruitment poster calls upon women to prove their love for their country by using their influence – or their so-called feminine wiles – at a time when women's opportunities for being involved in politics were nearly non-existent. The implied message is that women should forgo their love for their men and give priority to patriotic feelings. The realities of war come out in the posters which ask for donations to help rehabilitate the wounded. They depict wounded and tired soldiers on the front, surrounded by a gloomy landscape. The older populace, fearing for their children, are also addressed with posters, such as the one where an older veteran bids farewell to a young man in uniform with the words: "Good bye my lad, I only wish I was young enough to go with you". The poster implies that parents should not fear for the lives of their sons, but only feel regret at not being able to participate.

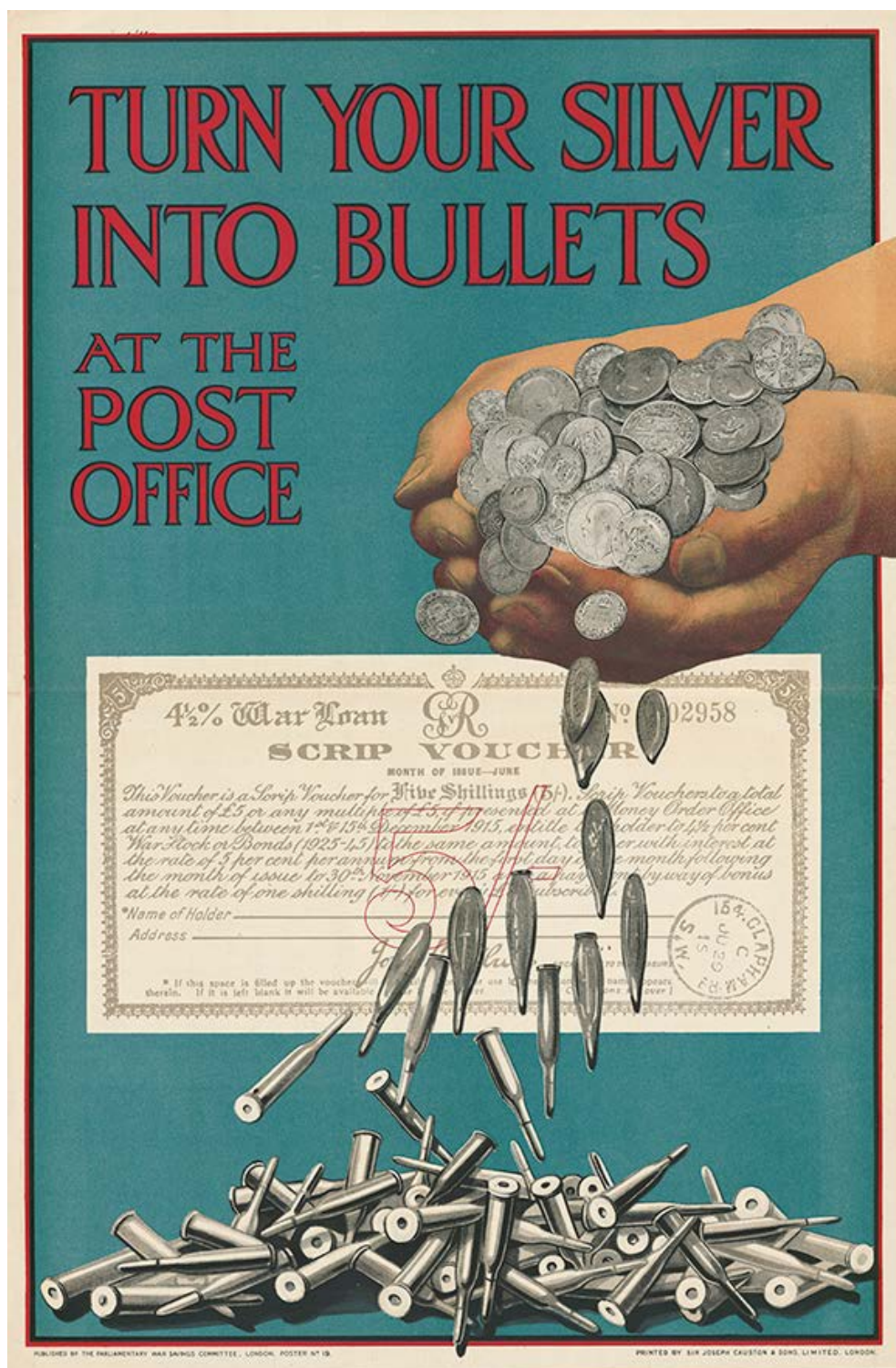
WHO'S ABSENT?



Is it you?

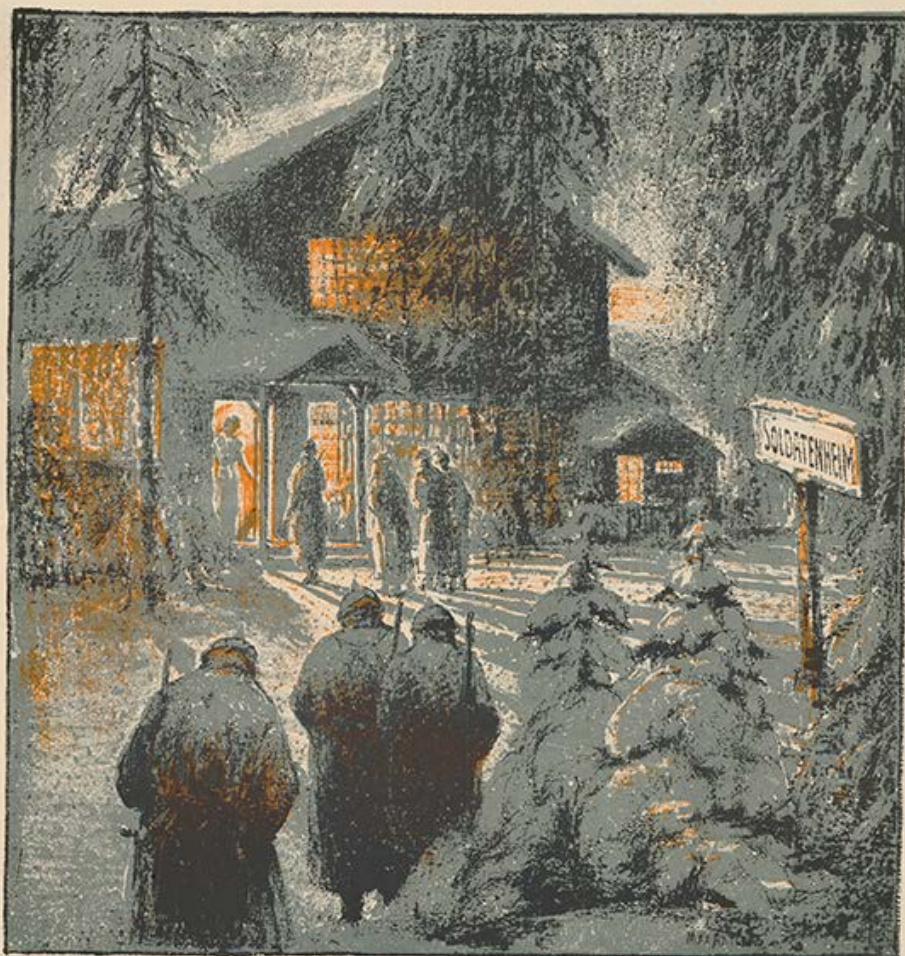
PUBLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE, LONDON. POSTER NO. 125

PRINTED BY ANDREW REID & CO., LTD., 50, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.



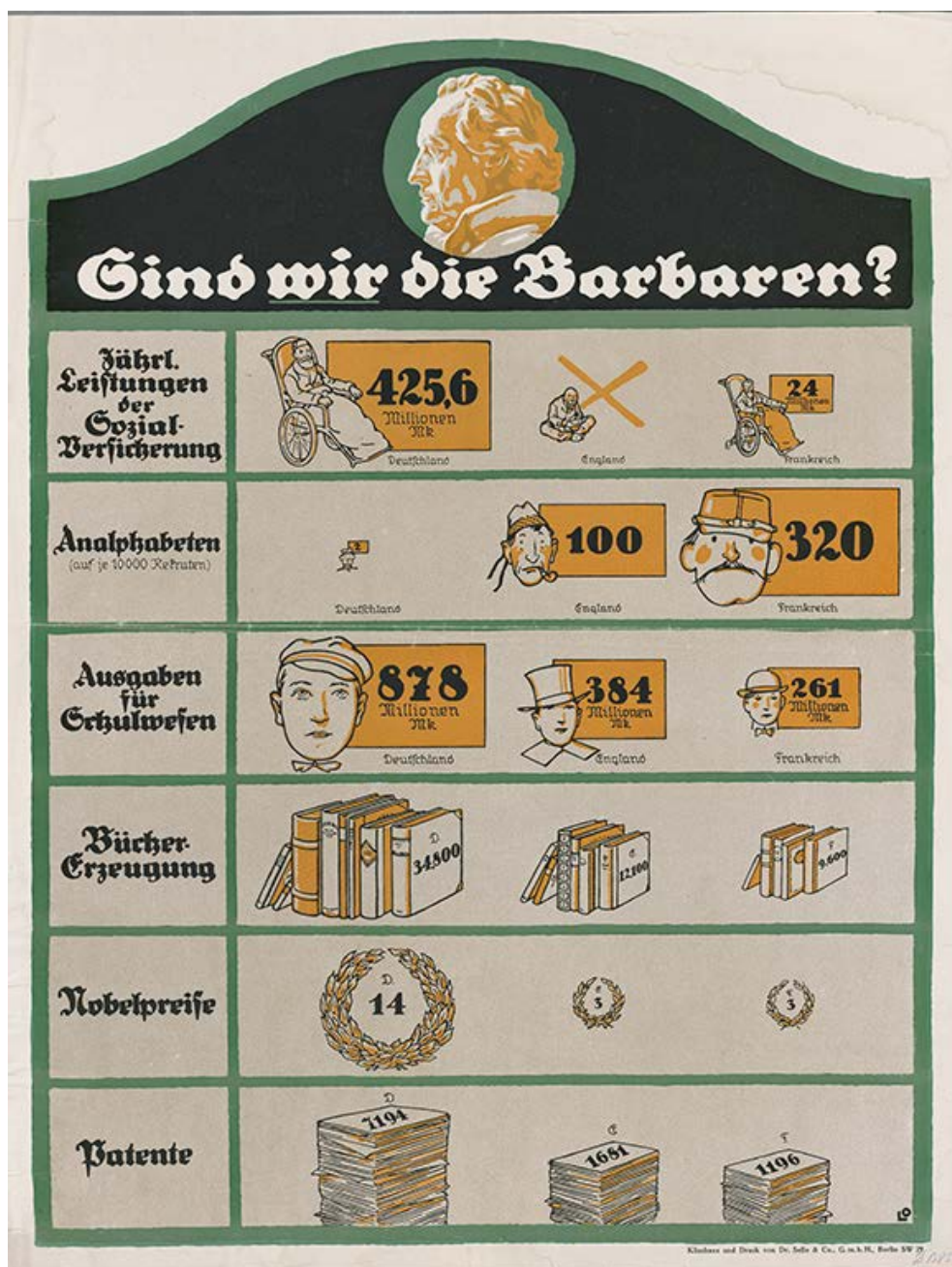
The German posters approach their subject matter through reason and statistics in addition to emotional appeals. The expressionism typical of the French and Italian posters is abandoned for a more straightforward realism. Unlike the French Marianne motif, the viewer of the German posters is invited to identify with a chiselled, muscular German man, depicted in a masculine uniform, ready to defend his country. Historical themes in the German posters are often Mediaeval and the imagery national romantic: a blacksmith hammers the snake of anarchy in a poster encouraging citizens to work, and a man protects his wife and small child with a sword in an advertisement for war bonds. Unlike posters from the other countries, the German posters from this era often use a Gothic typeface, which serves to evoke a historical atmosphere.

Kaiser-Geburtstags-Spende



für Deutsche Soldatenheime
Hauptgeschäftsstelle **an der Front** Berlin W. 8. Behrenstr. 30

The title of one poster asks: "Sind wir die Barbaren?" ("Are we barbarians?"). A bust of Beethoven is placed on top of a table comparing the German people to the English and French in terms of social welfare, illiteracy, and number of Nobel prizes received. One metric after the other tips the scales in favour of the Germans. The statistic indicates that there are only two illiterate Germans for every 10,000, while the corresponding figure in the United Kingdom is 100.



In the early 20th century, the term propaganda did not yet carry the negative connotations it does today, and it is likely that the posters in the Coppet collection were unquestioningly considered the official truth of the nation. People were not yet politically conscious as they are in our globally wireless age. The flipside of propaganda was the efficient wartime censorship which was used to stop unfavourable news spreading to the home front. Particularly with the advertising industry just starting out and the radio and telephone yet to be widely adopted, these posters were a significant medium of information during the First World War. The posters in the Coppet collection illustrate the attitudes different nations held towards each other during the First World War. The propaganda and the visual motifs of the posters served to construct the stereotypes of both the countries themselves and their subject matter which are still present today.

The Coppet couple – literature, culture and a connection to Finland

Maurice de Coppet (1868–1930) served as the French ambassador to Finland in 1923–1929. Unlike many other ambassadors, he was an active ambassador, travelling widely in Finland with his wife Yseult (1886–1978), both on the hiking paths and via aeroplane. The Coppets are remembered particularly as avid culture enthusiasts and bibliophiles. The couple's apartments in Kruununhaka and, later, Katajanokka, hosted many different kinds of cultural events. Both Coppets learned Finnish and Swedish, and even attended some lectures at the University. Thanks to his language skills, Maurice Coppet also translated Finnish literature, such as Juhani Aho, into French. During Maurice Coppet's term in Finland, he and his wife developed a unique relationship with the recently independent nation. In addition to admiring nature, the couple studied the many professions in our young country, from reindeer husbandry to bakeries. The Coppets played a significant role in creating the connections needed for cultural exchange between France and Finland. Maurice de Coppet deteriorated physically in late 1929, and he died only a year after the end of his term in Finland in a train accident in Nyon, Switzerland. The widowed Yseult de Coppet later established a grant fund to promote French culture.

The Coppets were avid collectors. The most well-known of their collections is the book collection in the National Library's Coppet archive, comprising approximately 11,000 volumes which were donated by Yseult de Coppet in two instalments after her husband's death in the 1940s and 1970s. The considerably late date of the second donation can be explained by Yseult's enthusiasm as a collector, which continued for many decades. In addition, the archive includes approximately 1,500 photographs from Maurice de Coppet's previous ambassadorial stints and from the French and Belgian fronts of the First World War. Finland is represented in approximately 500 photographs, many of which were taken by Yseult de Coppet herself.

Helmi Saukkoriipi, Unto Vanhamäki and Mia Teppo are students in the cultural heritage study module offered by the University of Helsinki.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Finland Bulletin 2014



Lauri Leinonen

Cataloguing the incunabula

A recent project has undertaken the task of producing a systematic scientific catalogue of the Incunabula Collections of the National Library of Finland in Helsinki. The incunabula collections have thus far been more or less neglected in terms of scientific study and lacking a comprehensive catalogue. As a result of this project the incunabula collections will become more usable in the hands of the international scientific community and for the first time be fully added to the online catalogue.



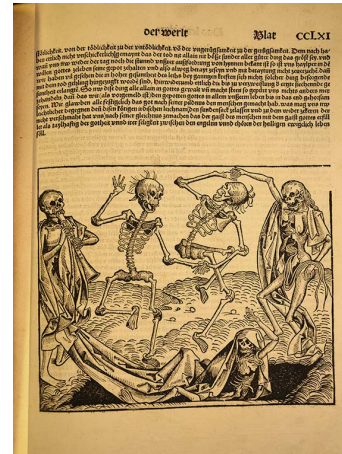
Several copies are lavishly decorated, and supplied with painted initials, often with gold-leaf finishing.

The incunabula

The "incunable" or "incunabulum" as a historical definition or term is used to delineate the earliest books printed with movable type, from ca. 1450 to 31st December 1500. In popular terms we could describe the incunabula as "books printed in the 15th century" or the time period starting with Gutenberg and not including anything printed after the year 1500. The former boundary, that of the appearance of the first printed books, is a subject of ongoing debate, but nevertheless naturally derived from historical events; the latter is not. The ending date of the "incunabula-period" is arbitrary, and does not represent any major change in the appearance or production of books (apart from the appearance of the "italic" typeface). The books printed immediately after the incunabula period and sharing all the characteristics of the incunabula are usually referred to as "post-incunabula". The incunabula first closely imitated the manuscript books, and continued to co-exist with them for a very long time, but they also brought several changes with them.

The incunabula first appeared in a formative period of Europe, the Renaissance. The books themselves however were not passive objects or just products of their time, but also advocated the profound change that penetrated the whole late-medieval society and propelled it into "the scientific era". Even today they reflect the society they were part of, and stand as testimony to the resurgence of classical authors, developments in various fields of science and also to the all-encompassing religious sphere.

The incunabula printers were producing books for the markets, as objects of monetary interest: the books were mass-produced, to be sold as much as possible. It can be argued that this was one of the more profound changes in book production compared to manuscript production, which could not achieve the same production levels, although it remained the preferred choice for those who wanted unique copies, or viewed copying as a sacred labor.



Woodcut pictures appeared in incunabula at an early stage. The art of woodcutting was refined during the years, and a perfect of its use in the famous Nuremberg Chronicle of Hartmann Schedel, printed by Anton Koberger in Nuremberg in 1493. The chronicle has copious amount of illustrations, which are embedded skillfully in to the layout.



The "outside" of the book can help locate it as much as its insides. The contemporary bindings can usually be traced, by examining the used stamps and rolls. In this case, the outside reveals the book to be a publisher's binding, made for Anton Koberger locally, the

This proto-capitalist tendency of the incunabula printers brought with it several somewhat unexpected consequences. As books were to be sold, they were also to be made as appealing as possible to the public. Woodcut and metalcut illustrations and decorated initials were incorporated into book printing at an early stage, as was critical text editing in so far as the printers tried to answer the demand of the literary elite. During the late 15th century, classical authors and their texts had risen to the fore once again, and printers competed with each other for the authenticity of their texts, for the quality of their translations and editions. All this had profound impact on how texts were viewed, scrutinized and revised.

The incunabula were in part an answer to the increasing demand for books as a result of the expanding scientific community, the universities and the church. After the first decade of experimentations and the refining of the production processes, the printing press quickly spread throughout Europe, and, already in the middle of the 1470's, there were printing presses operating in major trade centers from Spain to Hungary, from England to Italy. As the printer's trade spread throughout the whole of Europe in only a couple of decades, it should not come as a surprise that an almost exponentially increasing amount number of editions were produced; in addition to this, the book was transformed as an object and as a rising medium of mass communication in every field of society. The printing press brought with it not only a revolution in the abundance of available knowledge, but also in the quality of the editions, and, more profoundly, also in the thoughtful mind of the readers.

All in all, the incunabula provide us with a fascinating subject-matter to work with, and not only as source material for the literary history of the Renaissance. With incunabula the important thing is not only the text, that which is printed between the covers, but also the whole book as an object, as a testimony of its meaning and significance to both the producer and reader. What was printed, by whom and where, how the printing and editing processes evolved, how and where the books were sold and used – all these aspects of the book as an object give us valuable insight into the commercial and cultural networks of the late medieval and renaissance periods. The National Library holds a versatile incunabula collection with several exempla enlightening this multifaceted role of the book as part of society and culture.

The incunabula research and cataloguing project of the National Library of Finland

The cataloguing project was started in April 2013 by a research group with PhD, docent Tuomas Heikkilä, the former head of special collections Sirkka Havu and present head of special collections Mika Hakkarainen as specialist members, and MA Lauri Leinonen as the main cataloguer. The project was based on previous experience the group had of the preliminary cataloguing of the H Ink.-collection in 2012. Funding for the project was granted by Koneen Säätiö.

The cataloguing project is still ongoing, with records thus far gathered from 397 individual incunabula in the collections, with only a handful of copies remaining to be catalogued. At the moment the copy-specific information of the final copies of the Nordenskiöld collection are being gathered, and the entries in HELKA revised. The research and cataloguing results of the project will be added to the HELKA-database during May 2014, most importantly updating the incomplete records of the Nordenskiöld incunabula.

The incunabula of the National Library are mainly divided into several separate incunabula collections, with a handful also forming part of other, non-specifically incunabula collections. The largest incunabula collection is the Ink. K. -collection, which physically holds 151 books (one of which is missing), with 157 individual, separate titles. The N. Ink -subsection of the Nordenskiöld-collection has 125 incunabula, bound in 123 books, making it the second-largest separate collection. The Ink. -collection, which holds mainly the smaller sized incunabula, has 77 books, with 87 separate titles. Finally, the larger folios have mainly been collected separately in the Ink. F. -collection, which has 20 titles, one of which is missing. Incunabula as parts of other, non-specifically incunabula collections include small numbers of incunabula in the manuscript collections and the Monrepos collection. In the incunabula collections are also found twelve post-incunabula, many of which were discovered only during the recent cataloguing, and will remain as part of the collections.

The incunabula collections of the National Library come from a large variety of sources. A small part of the copies has been present in Finland since the late 15th century, but the majority of the incunabula are relatively recent acquisitions. For example, the famous Nordenskiöld collection with over a hundred incunabula was bought in 1902, and several dozen books in other collections were bought in the mid-20th century from various antiquarian bookstores.

In many ways this randomness or diversity of provenances is both a blessing and a curse. Researchers looking into Finnish book history in the 15th and 16th centuries would naturally appreciate a much larger collection of books with certain early provenances in Finland; yet the ones that have been preserved do still offer a valuable insight not only into book history but into several fields of study, as is the case with the copies that have survived as fragments, used as bailiff register covers. The fragments do not only bear testimony to the literary culture of Finland at the time of their first usage, but also to later government practices.

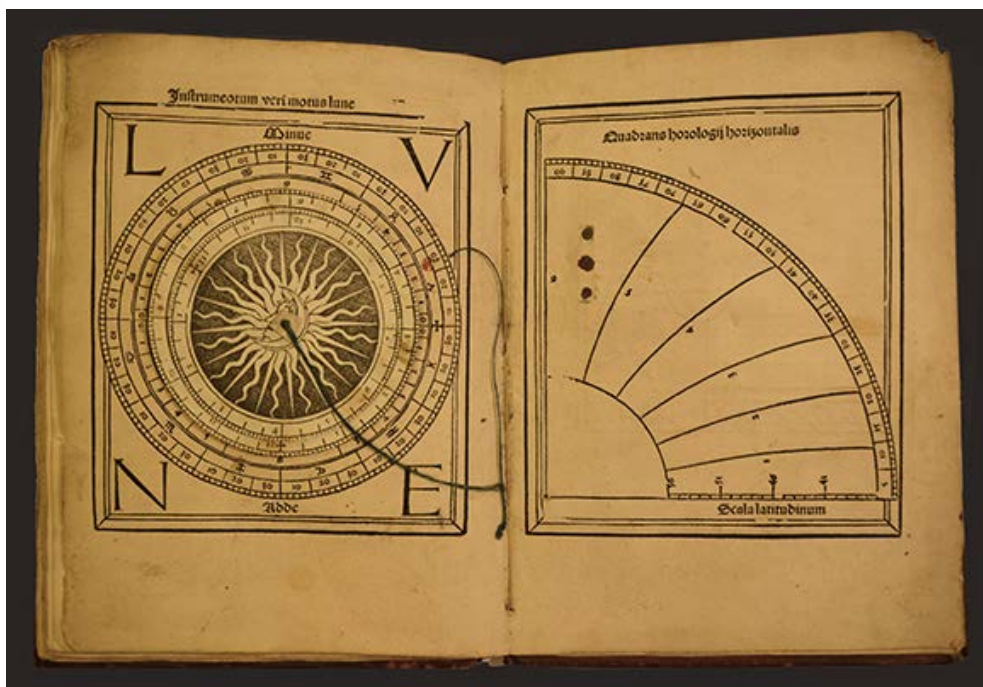
On the other hand, as most of the incunabula of Finnish provenances are religious literature (missals, psalters etc.) in Latin, this material would also provide a researcher of book history with a very narrow and one-sided source material. The later acquisitions therefore prove to be as valuable

book to be sold already bound. On the other hand, as material for the binding was also costly, the binders often used recycled, old material in their bindings – in this case, a manuscript parchment leaf probably from the early 14th century.

for research purposes; from varied provenances come varied materials, which can be utilized in a larger field of study. The collection of A. E. Nordenskiöld, for example, hold an important series of early printed editions of Ptolemaios' *Cosmographia* and other geographical literature, and the other collections provide the researcher with exempla of 15th century poetry, science and religious literature – besides Latin, also in Italian, Greek and German.

The incunabula holdings of the National Library follow the guidelines of general dispersion of the incunabula. The number of books printed in the last decade of the period (1491-1500) amount to almost half of the entire collection (46%), as is the case with the entries in ISTC. Books from earlier years of the incunabula period are few (only 4 printed before 1471), and the amount number of editions rises more or less steadily towards the turn of the century, which reflects the overall picture of incunabula production. Geographically, more than half of the incunabula of the National Library are printed in Italy (53%), which is a somewhat larger percentage than that of the recorded editions in ISTC (35%); for the most part, this emphasis on Italy is accounted for by the Nordenskiöld collection, of which 90% consists of books printed in Italy. Italian and German incunabula cover more than three thirds of the copies, being also the most prolific of all the incunabula printing regions. It should be noted that the incunabula with provenances in 15th-16th century Finland come from either northern Germany or Sweden. (Figures A-C)

All in all, in their present condition the collections provide the researchers with a versatile material, with exempla from various countries and printers, from the earliest Gutenberg and Peter Schöffer prints to Aldo Manuzio at the turn of the century, and a substantial collection of books printed by Anton Koberger – a compact picture or a cross-cut of incunabula printing in its major centers. The books hold in them a prominent selection of all aspects of incunabula production, complete with material evidence of printing processes, publisher's bindings, luxury copies as well as cheaper small prints, and some fascinating and intriguing provenances of the copies of later owners and usage.



The techniques of producing images was also used for other purposes than just illustration. Printed tables and calendars, diagrams and even devices e.g. of the lunar cycle or movement of celestial bodies acted as essential parts of the scientific content of the book. Also maps were produced, in woodcuts and metalcuts, and incorporated into the incunabula either alongside the text, or as separately bound broadsheets.

Incunabula research and project goals

The incunabula have been studied widely and systematically for centuries. Since the 19th century a comprehensive catalogue of all the printed editions of incunabula has been in the making, and in the recent decades this goal has been practically achieved with the online catalogues of the British Library (Incunabula Short Title Catalogue or ISTC) and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke or GW). ISTC and GW list over 29,000 editions (including some post-incunabula), and provide edition-level information as well as links to other databases, such as Bodleian's Bod-Inc and Bayerische Staatsbibliothek's BSB-Ink, which are both also available online. As the international cataloguing has advanced thus far, it is only natural that the focus of research shifts towards fresher fields of inquiry.

The next logical step has been to expand the quality of data in the databases from title-level to copy-specific information. Perhaps the most interesting new openings in this field have been the shifting of focus to the material aspects of the incunabula collections – project that has been led, amongst others, by the Oxford University Library with its Material Evidence in Incunabula -database. Material evidence in incunabula is abundant: there are handwritten provenances and bookplates; glossae, pentrials, and references to other works; bindings from several centuries with identifiable stamps and rolls; watermarks on book leaves as well as leaves used in binding; reused manuscript fragments and

printer's waste used in binding; later book collector's notes; etc. All these provide valuable information of the copy's history and usage, and when studied en masse shed light on many questions about the history of books, book trade, cultural connections and language – just to name a few.

The online catalogues provide the researcher and the cataloguer possibilities beyond those previously available, and the utilization and expansion of the online resources has therefore been a rising trend in libraries worldwide. The cataloguing and research project at the National Library of Helsinki took as its goal to integrate the National Library's collections into this modern research field and give them a new existence and life as part of international online scientific resources. As the project closes, the data on the copies is checked in ISTC and GW, and copy-specific material evidence information added to MEI.

The cataloguing process

The project's goals were thus based on present-day international standards in incunabula research. The criteria for critical scientific cataloguing are relatively well set and widely acknowledged, and in addition to these our research group specifically decided to incorporate copy-level research also in the National Library's database HELKA. The reason for this decision was to acknowledge the direction of modern book history, but also a desire to make all the information of the Library's incunabula open and available to the public in the library's most used interface, instead of confining the copy-specific material information into a separate entity. Also, as the catalogue is published online, all the data can be updated with the findings of future research on the individual copies.

As a result of the broad spectrum of the project, the amount of data collected from the books seemed quite large on paper. Of all the copies the edition- and copy-specific information can amount to several pages of text per each individual physical book. This was of course well understood even in the planning phase, but the guidelines were kept as open as possible. The goal was to take account of any possible provenance information and material information of the physical books, as well as edition-level information, while keeping in mind the need to acquire a comprehensive catalogue and facilitate future research.

The edition-level information has been made consistent with the major international catalogues. Variant titles have also been added to each entry, as well as additional authorship information (printers, publishers, commentators etc.). Number of leaves, format and size, text type and signaturing or foliation have been noted on the edition-level. The idea was however not to make a duplicate of all the already available information – for example the typefaces have several separate systematic catalogues of their own, but the information can be found via GW and other catalogues that have been provided for each entry.

The provenances for the books have been researched to a high degree, given the temporal restrictions of collection-wide cataloguing. The manuscript ownership-notes have been transcribed fully in the copy description, and expanded to give further and more specific identifying information when available. Also the coats of arms, armorial and other bookplates and library stamps have been described and identified as far as possible, and all this information has been provided in the full entries in HELKA. In addition to this data, also the fragments used as bailliff covers have been catalogued fully, the title of the bailliff registers have been given individually for each fragment, as well as selected other information on glossae and other material evidence in the copies. Some interesting encountered provenances include a *Comoediae novem* of Aristophanes, printed by Aldo Manuzio, which the later owner Bernhard Rosenblad has marked as having once belonged to the reformist Philip Melanchton – which is partly corroborated by the second-hand knowledge of the 19th-century sales catalogues.

Watermarks of several copies have been listed, but mostly when they have given some information on the provenance, as is the case with contemporarily added leaves. The Wasserzeichen-Informationssystem (WZIS) as well as several individual collections have been consulted accordingly, but it was decided that the vast mass of the watermarks of all the incunabula was to be left for future research, as the proper research of the watermarks would need specialist technical equipment and proved to be very time-consuming.

The decoration, colouring and illustrations have been described for each individual copy, and the book bindings have been identified when possible. The focus on bindings was given to identify the contemporary bindings, via the online database Einbanddatenbank as well as other sources.

Naturally all the leaves and gatherings were recorded, all that was missing was listed and all the individual fragment leaves identified, as well as some individual proof sheets used in binding. During the project also several manuscript vellum leaves used in binding were encountered, and identified and dated accordingly. When possible, all the copies are linked to online digitized versions of the same edition, mostly to the vast digital library of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. The physical condition of the copies was also controlled and the copies in need of conservational work listed, which will ensure the collections' future.



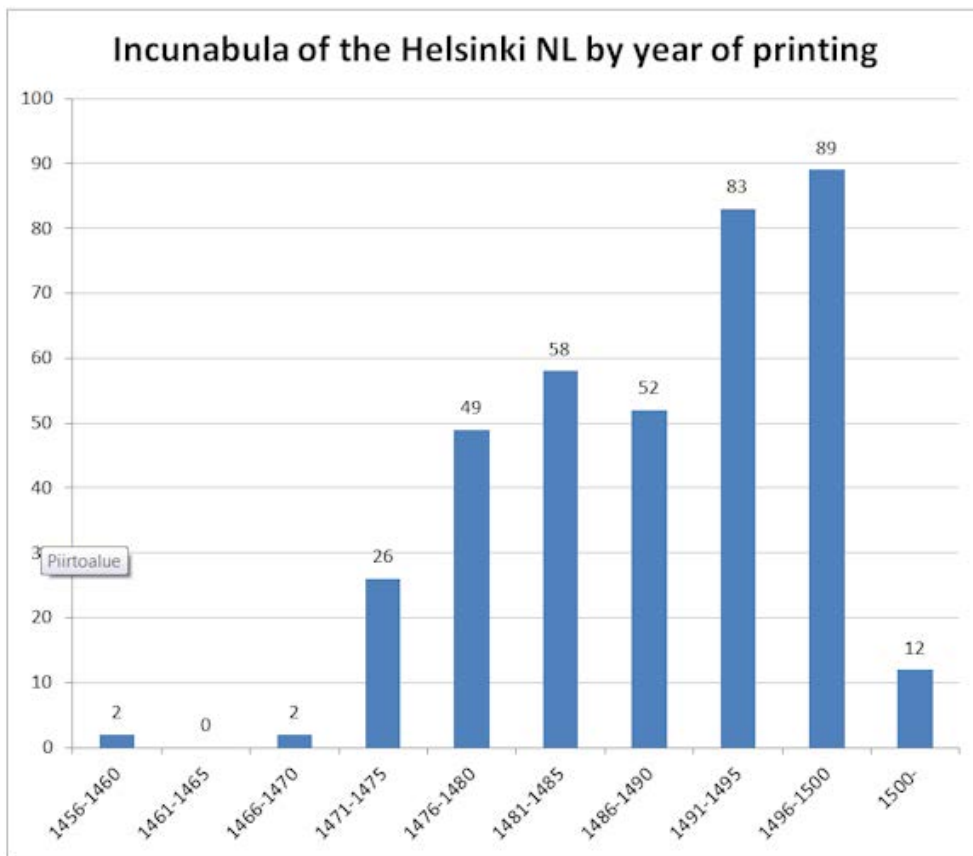
A close-up of Gutenberg's groundbreaking invention: a single loose type has left an imprint on a woodcut illustration.

Conclusion

Using the extensive data on incunabula, the copies have been revised and recatalogued using a scientific critical apparatus. In the process the existing incunabula catalogues of the National Library have been put under persistent scrutiny, most of their data corroborated, but, perhaps more importantly, large numbers of titles were also corrected or identified and added to catalogues for the first time. The catalogues have been expanded to include every aspect of the copies deemed important by the modern research, including copy-specific information.

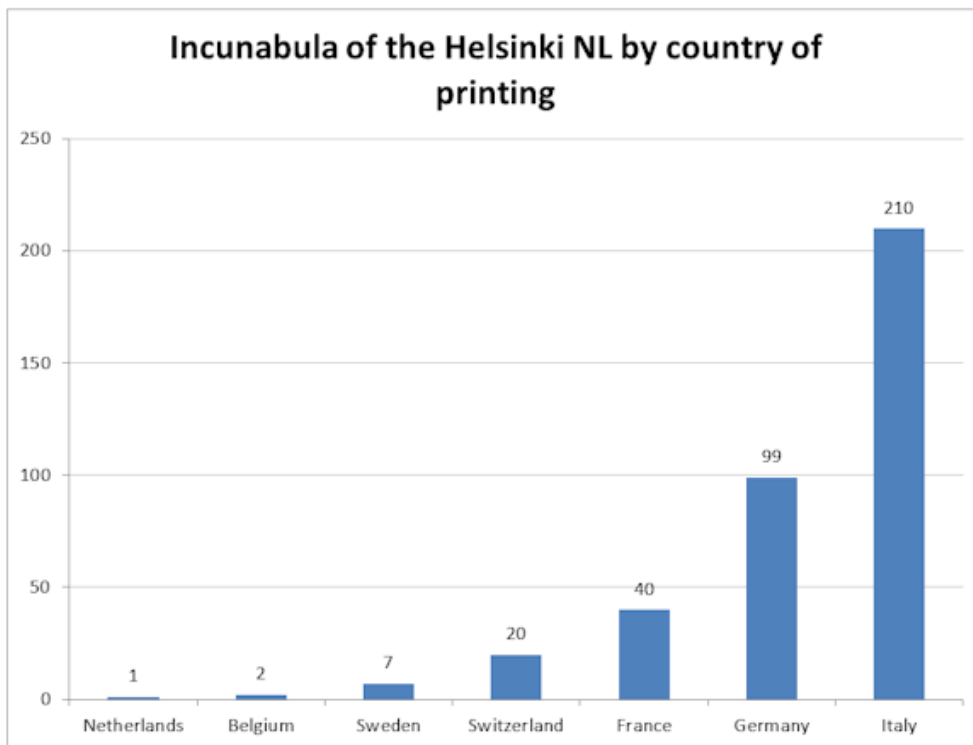
As a result of the project, the catalogues will hold all the material information of the copies and editions in one place, easily located by the researchers, and also integrated with the data in online catalogues. The research has been as comprehensive as a collection-wide project can hope to be, but nevertheless remains only a first glance at this versatile collection. The main goal of the project has been to create new possibilities for research and for the larger utilization of the collection, thus providing more open access of the rare incunabula to larger audiences.

Figure A



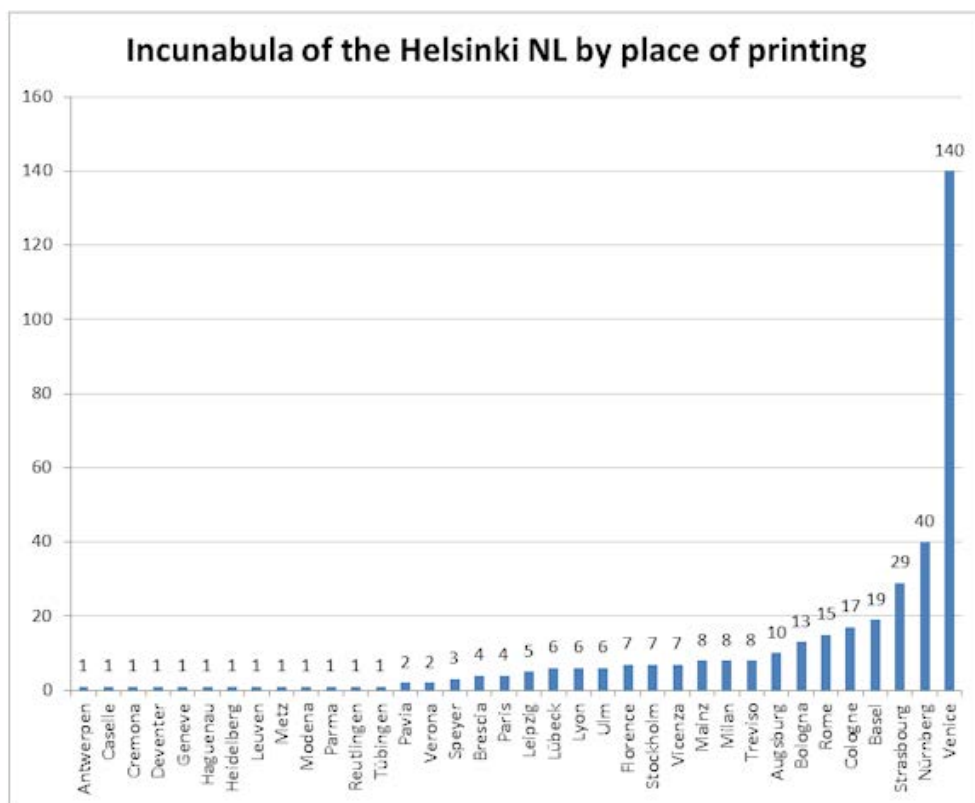
* NB: The figures are lacking a few as yet uncatalogued incunabula; situation as of 26.4.

Figure B



* NB: The figures are lacking a few as yet uncatalogued incunabula; situation as of 26.4.

Figure C



* NB: The figures are lacking a few as yet uncatalogued incunabula; situation as of 26.4.

Lauri Leinonen, MA, is a Member of the Incunabula Cataloguing and Reserch Project Workgroup



Dorrit Gustafsson

The renovation of the National Library of Finland respects Engel's architecture

Completed in 1845, the main building of the National Library of Finland was designed by architect Carl Ludvig Engel. A renovation project to conserve the building began in 2013 and still continues.

The library building has previously been renovated on several occasions. The first renovation was carried out between 1879 and 1881 with Frans Sjöström as the architect, and the Rotunda was extended from 1904 to 1907 with Gustaf Nyström as the architect. The library was again renovated between 1954 and 1957 with Aarne Ervi as the architect and between 1977 and 1985 with Olof Hansson as the architect. The Rotunda was renovated from 1998 to 2000, and the exterior of the building, from 2011 to 2012; both of these projects were undertaken under the supervision of the architects of LPR-arkkitehdit Oy.

The protection status of the building is indicated in the city plan with the letters sr (i.e., protected building) and sk (i.e., building protected under the decree on the protection of publicly owned buildings of significance for cultural history). The trees in the area outside the building are also protected, as indicated in the city plan with the letters sp (i.e., row of trees to be preserved or planted).

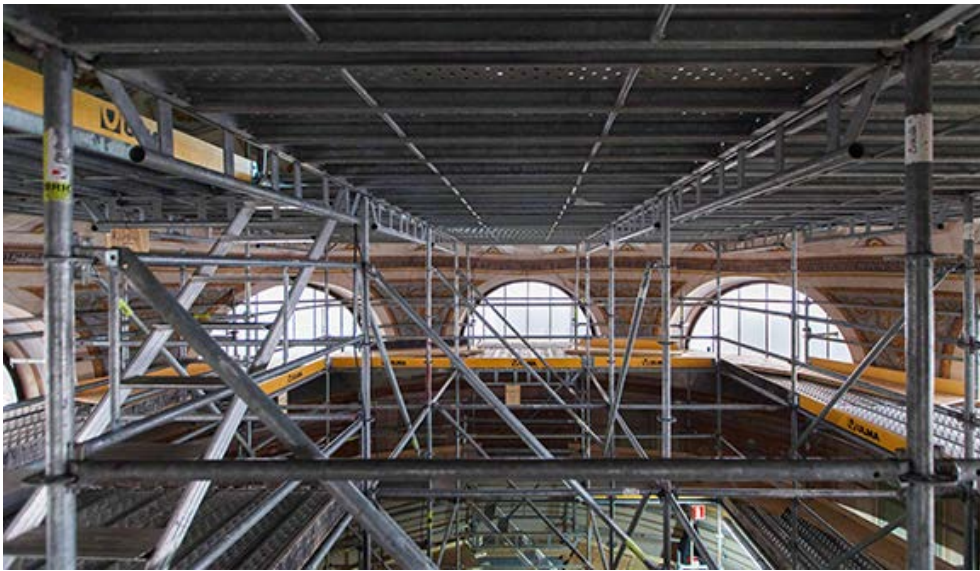
When the library building transferred from public ownership to the University of Helsinki Funds on 14 December 2005, the Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre issued the following protection regulations:

1. The buildings and their outside areas must be used and attended to in a way that sustains their significance in terms of cultural history.



2. The exterior architecture of the buildings must be preserved.

3. The interior facilities of the buildings must be preserved. Alterations are permitted, but the historical and architectural features of the interiors must be protected. Particular attention must be paid to protecting the halls and other main facilities of the main building and the library building.



4. The National Board of Antiquities must be consulted in the case of repairs and alterations. The Board may grant minor deviations from the protection regulations.

The current renovation is being carried out under the care and protection of several partners.

The author is the Director of Administration and Development of the National Library of Finland and represents the Library in the renovation project. Dorrit.Gustafsson [at] Helsinki.fi

Developer: University of Helsinki
Developer's consultant: Indepro Oy
Architectural design: LPR-Arkkitehdit Oy
Main contractor: NCC-Rakennus Oy
Occupant: National Library of Finland

An interview with architect Pauno Narjus of LPR-arkkitehdit Oy

Designed by C.L. Engel, the National Library building is one of the most highly protected buildings in Finland. How does an architect approach this type of project?

By analysing and understanding the aims of protecting the building, by finding out what new functions may need to be placed in the building, and by considering how to address potential conflicts.

In this specific case, my work was made easier by a detailed report on the history of the building as well as by having a conservator-restorer on the team.



What is your personal "philosophy" on the renovation of old buildings?

My "philosophy" is very building-specific. The design process is based on the special features of each building because they must usually be preserved. The more comprehensive the vision of the original architecture and the more well-preserved the building, the less prominent the new features can be in the renovated building. The National Library building is a prime example of this genre.

A very different approach is exemplified by the repurposing of old industrial buildings, where, at best, the dialogue between the protected building and the new features connected to it constitutes a whole that is more than the sum of its parts. A typical example is the conversion of old dock buildings on the banks of Aurajoki in Turku into facilities for art schools.



What do you consider the most interesting feature of Engel's library building?

I have noticed that spatiality is always interesting in architecture, regardless of the period of construction. In Engel's library building, the breathtaking height of the main facilities and the intimate atmosphere created by the columns and lecterns near the bookshelves combined with the patina of the past contribute to a fascinating ambience and design.

What work will be done on the building in the next two plus years, and what do you consider the most important goals of the renovation?



In this type of project, the replacement of old engineering infrastructure is usually the catalyst for renovation. The biggest structural changes will be carried out in the top and basement floors, where new ventilation units as well as new pipes and cables will be installed. Functionality and accessibility will be improved, for example, with new lifts and cloakroom facilities as well as a self-service machine for returning books. Safety and security will be enhanced with new fire doors and an access control system. Roof repairs and the renovation of the Rotunda façade and windows will be the most visible changes outside the building. Conservation and repairs of surface areas and bookshelves in the main facilities combined with new lighting and furniture arrangements as well as wooden floors will probably be the most obvious features to customers. Changes will also be made to the Rotunda service area. All these actions aim to preserve the building, specifically in library use, which is the most important objective of the project.

The renovation will apparently also include conservation. What does this mean?

The renovation will include measures taken to protect and enhance the overall building architecture. The conservation of old surfaces will most clearly distinguish this renovation project from regular projects. The aim is to preserve the building for future generations.



The interior of the building will be conserved, which is a slow and costly process. Will specific facilities or areas be targeted, and if so, how?

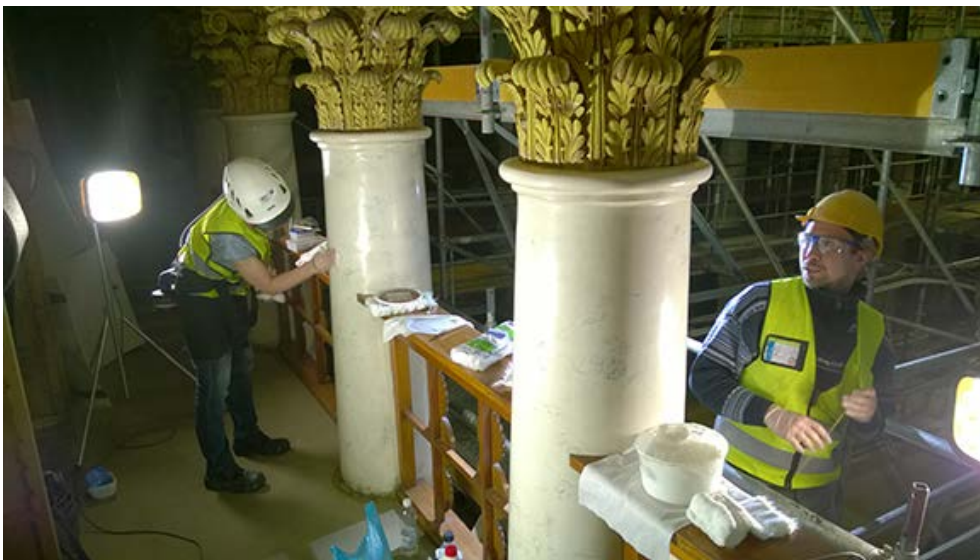
The conservation will focus on the Cupola Hall and the South and North Reading Rooms. The arched ceiling with painted decorations, the stucco marble columns and the wooden sections of the lecterns will be subtly conserved and restored to preserve the patina of age. The conservation work will be extensive. A special feature of the National Library site is the construction of temporary, dust-proof conservation surfaces under the arched ceilings. Both facilities are also equipped with temporary ventilation units to control the conditions on site and ensure that air quality remains stable. This arrangement enables work to be carried out simultaneously on the arched ceilings and on floor level.



The library building is a challenging project in many ways. Because of its conservation status, the project work must first be approved by experts at the National Board of Antiquities. How has the design and decision-making process been organised in practice?

We have engaged in dialogue with the National Board of Antiquities during both the design and on-site phases, and have obtained their approval for all the major alterations. We have also abandoned some of the work planned.

Now that the renovation is ongoing, we have been in even more frequent contact with each other, and representatives of the National Board of Antiquities have visited the site during weekly conservation and site surveys, which include discussion and approval of details and models that are actively being worked on. A restoration group has also been established for the project to decide on the main guidelines.



The National Board of Antiquities has set a preservation objective for the project and specified that alterations can be considered only for good reason. How does this objective affect the architectural design process?

This kind of thinking is the basic premise for buildings with protected interiors. However, when restoring a building, it is sometimes difficult to tell which measures will help preserve the overall architecture of the building and which will support its temporal layers.



Accessibility is important in public buildings and a special challenge for old, protected properties. Will the accessibility of the National Library building be improved?

Accessibility will certainly be improved.

New lifts will provide access from the Rotunda entrance to the main facilities, and connections particularly to Fabiania will be improved. A handrail will be added to the stairs at the Unioninkatu main entrance, but accessibility to the upper floors as well as to the reading room lecterns will remain limited.

A large group of people are involved in the design and implementation of the renovation project. How would you describe the cooperation?

When the design team was set up, the developer required that the primary designer gather a team of specialist designers. We have previously designed similar projects with the same team and have no cooperation difficulties. Information modelling has provided a whole new dimension to integrating designs. All parties have been aware of the special features of this project and have, thus, acted with great care. The large group of people involved has slowed down decision-making to some extent. Then again, the need to make sure that specific details can be implemented has forced us to explore matters more carefully. I believe that the end result will reflect the diverse views of the parties involved.

Tell us briefly about your previous work.

After completing my military service, I joined LPR-arkkitehdit (previously known as Arkkitehtitoimisto Laiho Pulkkinen Raunio) and am now a part-owner of the company. I have previously participated in the conversion of old dock buildings on the banks of Aurajoki into facilities for the Turku Conservatory of Music and the TUAS Arts Academy as well as in the development of Kruununmakasiini and the SOK warehouse into museum facilities for the Forum Marinum Maritime Centre. Recent renovation projects have included the renovation of the Turku Voluntary Fire Brigade building and the Presidential Palace in Helsinki. I was also involved in designing the Helsinki Music Centre over a period of 12 years.

Dorrit Gustafsson is the Director of Administration and Development of the National Library of Finland and represents the Library in the renovation project.



Kristiina Hildén

IN BRIEF

National Library launches a programme for Finland's centennial celebration

As a participant in the Government-initiated project organising the celebrations for Finland's 100th year of independence, the National Library of Finland has embarked on an extensive programme to digitise its national collections. Other members of the project include the National Archives, the National Board of Antiquities, the Finnish Literature Society, the National Museum of Finland and the University of Helsinki. The intention of the National Library is to provide the public with access to the collections related to Finnish history, most of which are stored exclusively at the National Library. Many of these collections are currently accessible only in the Library's reading rooms, and should be made freely available online for researchers and the general public. The programme will culminate during the centennial of Finland's independence in 2017.

Kristiina Hildén
Project Manager, National Library of Finland





Mika Hakkarainen

IN BRIEF

Erik Heinrichs donates volumes of *L'Illustration* to the National Library

Ambassador Erik Heinrichs has donated several volumes of the French *L'Illustration* weekly newspaper to the National Library of Finland. Published from 1843 to 1944, the newspaper was one of the first illustrated publications of its kind in Europe. It published the first black-and-white photograph in France in 1891 and the first colour photograph as early as 1907. The newspaper's importance in France is evidenced by its circulation, which reached 650,000 copies in 1929. Ambassador Heinrichs' donation includes issues from 1939 and 1940, which report on the Winter War between the Soviet Union and Finland.

During the Second World War, the newspaper's editor-in-chief Jacques de Lesdain was an enemy collaborator, and the newspaper disseminated German propaganda. As a result, the newspaper was closed in conjunction with the Liberation of Paris in 1944.

The history of *L'Illustration* is described in more detail in Jean-Noël Marchandiau's book *L'Illustration: vie et mort d'un journal 1843–1944* (Toulouse, 1987). The book is available in the National Library collections under the call number H.88-1199.



Mika Hakkarainen, Chief Information Specialist, National Library of Finland



IN BRIEF

Exhibition for Jean Sibelius' 150th anniversary at the National Museum in 2015

The year 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of composer Jean Sibelius. This is a very important event, which will be observed in many ways both in Finland and worldwide. To celebrate this anniversary, the National Museum and the National Library of Finland are cooperating to organise an extensive exhibition in the National Museum's facilities in 15 October 2015–16 January 2016. The exhibition will offer Finnish and international audiences alike the opportunity to see the original manuscripts of Sibelius' works. The exhibition will feature material from the collections of the National Library, the National Museum and the National Archives, as well as objects from Sibelius' home, Ainola.

Inkeri Pitkäranta, Cultural Coordinator, National Library of Finland



Jean Sibelius



Majlis Bremer-Laamanen

HIGHLIGHTS

**See an interesting item in a newspaper or periodical? Clip it.
Advertisements, articles and photographs from the past are now the
object of crowdsourcing**

Anyone browsing the Internet can collect images, advertisements and articles from the Historical Newspaper and Journal Library, the National Library's digital collection of newspapers, periodicals and ephemera. We can also share them with others who share our interests. The digital collections are a cornucopia of material dating from 1771 to 1910. Almost half of the material is in Swedish and the rest is in Finnish. You can use Finnish, Swedish or English for text searches on the website. Help us enrich our material. It's easy – just collect the items that interest you.

We live in a time when many people want to influence and enrich the content of the Internet. On the net, we meet people who share our interests.



Majlis Bremer-Laamanen

The role of libraries as the disseminators of knowledge and information is particularly important in this context. For libraries, crowdsourcing can be a way of offering better services and giving users helpful tools at the same time. Our digital collections are available to multiple groups of users working together for the common good.

There are many types of crowdsourcing on the Internet. The National Library of Australia in Canberra uses crowdsourcing to enable text correcting for their digitised newspaper collection.

In 2011–2012 the National Library of Finland collaborated with the company Microtask on a project that enlisted volunteers to correct digitised material. The corrections were performed as tasks in online games. The success of the project prompted us to explore whether we could use crowdsourcing in our work with clippings of articles, images and advertisements from digitised newspapers, periodicals and ephemera. In this project, the focus was to be on the content of the collections and not on the gaming element. In 2011 we applied for and received funding from the European Social Fund for a two-to-three-year project called Kuvatakkoot. The alpha version of the service was launched in the summer of 2013. The beta version will be in place by the conclusion of the project in April, 2014.

Unlike many other libraries, the National Library of Finland boasts extensive in-house digitising operations at the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation in Mikkeli. The library's digital collections can

be accessed at digi.nationallibrary.fi. The collections offer the following:

- The Historical Newspaper Library: all newspapers published from 1771 to 1910 (with two titles digitised up to 2010)
- The Historical Journal Library: 80 % of all general periodicals published from 1810 to 1910 (copyright-based material to 1944)
- Industrial ephemera from 1810 to 1944

The digital collections comprise 8 million digitised pages, half of which are in the public domain. The collections have generated more than 10 million page views. Since the digital information is stored in the METS format, we can process each word or clipping individually and enrich the existing information.

How can we generate interest?

What do we stand to gain by participating in a crowdsourcing project that focuses on articles, advertisements and images? There are so many things vying for our attention.

Crowdsourcing requires motivation. One way to motivate the participants is to offer a small remuneration for every subtask. This method is popular among businesses.

We offer our collaborators a platform that enhances their user experience. The platform is easy to use and includes a personal page where you can store the clippings you've collected. Your clippings are also searchable via a public clippings page and can be shared in social media. Our service is intended for those who are already using the digital collections, but we hope to attract new users as the service is made available to schools, researchers and others.

Welcome to Digitalkoot

A free text search in the digital collections yields information on the city of Stockholm as a tourist attraction or on the large number of telephone devices in the city (the newspaper Kotka, 15 October 1896). Copenhagen in the summertime is the topic of an item in the 13 September 1896 issue of Wasa Nyheter. In Kristiania (Oslo), the artist H. Hansen set off on a skiing expedition to North America on 24 January 1896. He discovered that the Finnish Haapavesi brand of skis were the best he had ever used. As page 3 of the 23 April 1896 issue of Kotka shows, his travel plans changed, and he received funding to travel to the New Siberian Islands in search of the explorer Nansen.

When you find an article that interests you, log on to Digitalkoot. Make a clipping of the contents you want, whether it be an account of gold fever in Ivalo, Finland or in Melbourne, Australia, or descriptions of everyday life in Singapore and Stockholm, or a report of a Russian-Finnish consul who left his money in Paris (Finlands allmänna tidning 1863, below). Or material about your family, your home town or other topics of interest. You can use a computer or a tablet. You log in using your social media address.



Highlight the article. The only fields you need to fill in with metadata are

- the name of the article/clipping
- the genre of the article/clipping

If you wish, you can assign search terms in Finnish, Swedish or English using either the Finnish General Upper Ontology (YSO/ALLSO) or search terms of your own choosing. You can also add private or public comments to the clippings.

The title, date and page number of the publication are filled in automatically.

The clipping is automatically added to the public search page, where all the metadata serve as search elements.



If you have comments or additional search terms that you would like to add to an article, you can do so. Do you happen to know something about the said consul who left his money behind in Paris? Or do you know where Hansen went? You can submit this information if you wish. You can also add clippings from the public page to your personal page.

The users

Users' comments on the service were analysed earlier in the project and examined in depth at the beginning of 2013. The two-week survey was advertised on Facebook and its subject was the Historical Newspaper Library, the most frequently used of the digital collections. We received 231 responses, 20 of them from users who had not previously used the library.

The survey was aimed at users of the Historical Newspaper Library, and showed the following:

- The typical visitor uses our material frequently, 1 to 7 times per week. We have an active user group who can enrich our collections.
- Of the respondents, 22 had already shared our material on social media.
- Our users belong to a relatively higher age group and do not use social media as much as people generally do. Despite this, 160 respondents used several social media and only 75 did not use social media at all.

The results indicate the following:

- Users want to share what they do – they want to collaborate through social media or on the website.
- Users want a personal page with private comments.
- The platform must be user-friendly.
- Users must be able to log in to the service without social media. This will make crowdsourcing easier even if the material is copyrighted.

The survey provided us with valuable information. Our objectives proved correct, and the survey results helped us clarify them even further.

THE Kuvataalkootproject is now Digitalkoot

During the project we were forced to change our plans for its implementation. We were unable to hire a suitable person, and were given permission by the financier (EU) to outsource the work. In January 2013 we signed an agreement with the companies Gofore and Evident. This proved to be a success. Using the Kanban system, we were in close contact with both firms. Since the concept was already in existence we focused on the technical aspects. We were lucky to have the services of a very competent and helpful person. Our staff and the contractors' staff have been in daily contact through Skype, working side by side. Our objective was to build an interesting and user-friendly platform for crowdsourcing, one that is completely integrated in the web service and its underlying functions.

The first version was completed in June, 2013. Since this module is one of the first, considerable planning was required to implement "simple" and usable ideas. We also had to update the underlying interface and database to conform to current needs.

With the support of the steering committee, we extended the timeframe of the project to the end of April 2014 so we could continue our work and also give the digital collections' website and crowdsourcing module a new visual image. We enlisted the services of the design agency Idean for this purpose. The project is now as of spring 2014 called DIGITALKOOT.

This crowdsourcing project has been rewarding and inspiring for us. It has also involved quite a lot of work. The digital collections' user interface has been revamped to meet current needs, and we hope it will be to your liking. We know that more could be done—we have been forced to prioritise, again and again. In the future, we hope to further develop the service's search options.

Majlis Bremer-Laamanen is the Director of the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation

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The National Library of Finland

NettiAsema

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Finland Bulletin 2014



Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen

HIGHLIGHTS

Digitisation project of kindred languages continues

The National Library's digitisation project of kindred languages, piloted in 2012, will continue in 2014–2015 with funding from the Kone Foundation. The material involved in the project constitutes the world's most extensive research resource of Uralic languages. The material that the project produced will be made available for both researchers and the general public through the Fenno-Ugrica collection maintained by the National Library.



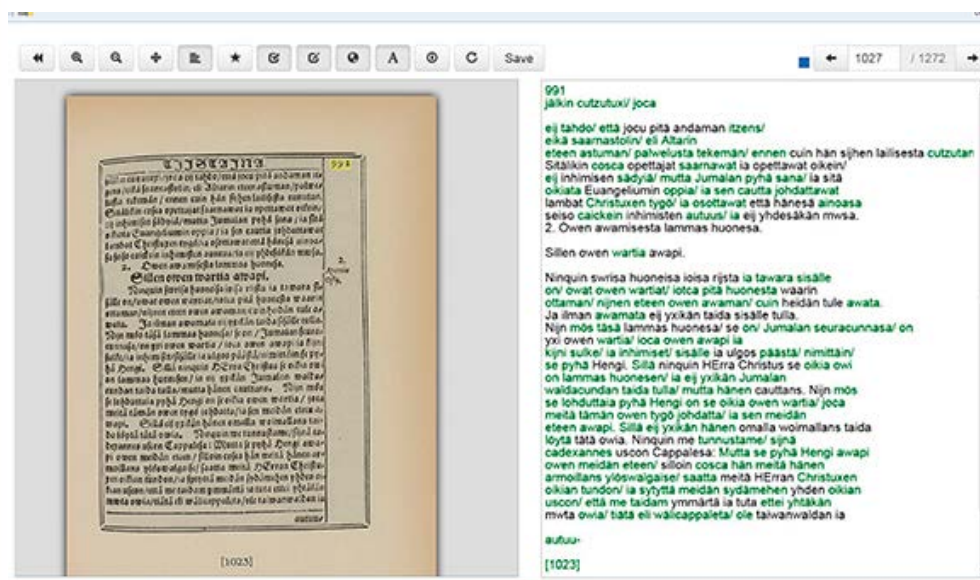
Project Manager Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen



The material digitised in the pilot project (2012–2013) includes approximately 17,000 pages of publications in the Mari, Mordva, Ingrian and Veps languages, comprising 156 monographs, most of which are textbooks and dictionaries from the early Soviet era. In addition to the monographs, the digitised material includes close to 25,000 pages of Mari and Mordvin newspapers primarily from the 1920s and 30s. The production system prepared during the pilot phase will be expanded further to exploit research in the Uralic languages and to promote crowdsourcing in them as well.

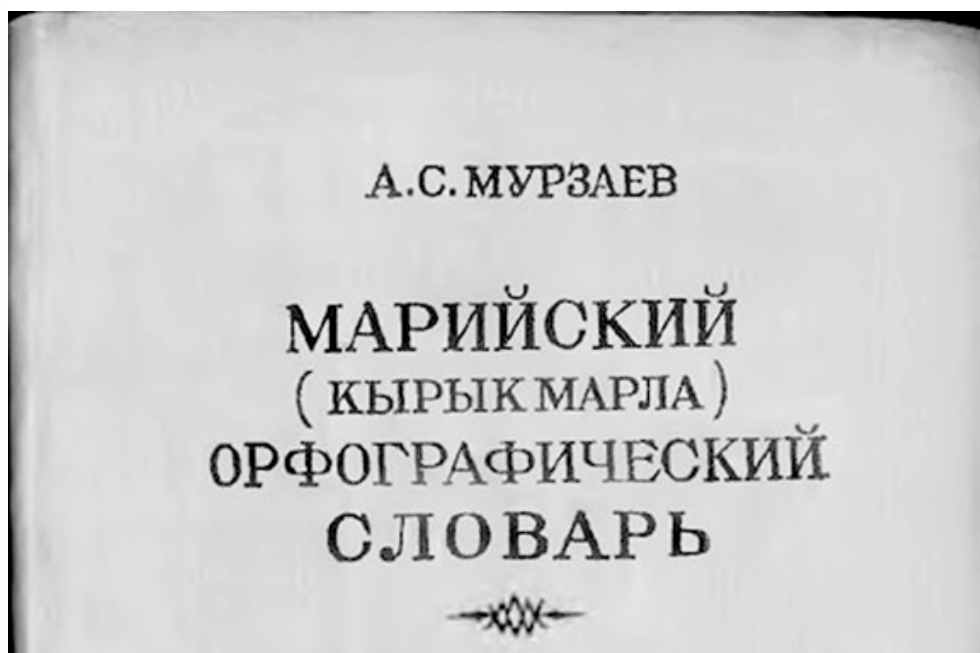
The purpose of the two-year project is to digitise and publish close to 1,100 monograph and 51 newspaper titles. According to the related plan, this means approximately 88,300 monograph pages and 72,500 newspaper pages. The material to be digitised has been selected together with researchers and is considered useful for research primarily in Finno-Ugric studies. The project will also render previously inaccessible material public for research use.

Several criteria, defined together with researchers, were employed in the selection of the materials. The key criterion was when the contemporary written language was created and became established. The works were selected for digitisation so that they would not only represent the innovative 1920s accurately, but also reflect the changes in language policy which occurred in the 1930s. Material from the time when the written language was being established is also important for activists seeking to preserve the language today. Neologisms from the 1920s and 1930s as well as texts that use them serve as both source material and source of innovation and inspiration for the developers of the contemporary language. Selecting such works can be considered as supportive of endangered languages and thus to promote linguistic diversity.



To expand the language selection of the pilot phase, a follow-up project will digitise material published in the Permic (Udmurt, Komi, Komi-Permyak), Ob-Ugric (Khanty, Mansi) and Samoyedic (Nenets, Selkup) languages. The extended language selection supports linguistic research conducted both under the auspices of the Language Programme of the Kone Foundation and elsewhere, in Finland and abroad.

For the medium languages (Komi, Udmurt, Erzya, Moksha, and Meadow and Hill Mari), both monograph and newspaper material has been digitised whenever possible. Digitising monograph material which has been translated from Russian into the relevant language supports the goals of the follow-up project. Such parallel titles have been selected primarily from areas of vocabulary which are rarely found in newspapers. For this purpose, the project will also digitise a large number of school books as well as public service leaflets from a total of 27 different disciplines and fields.



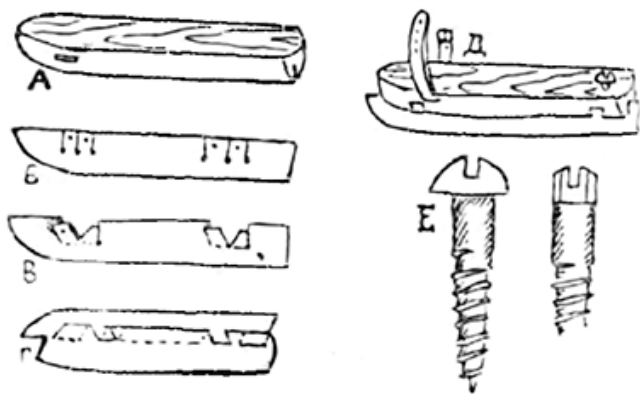
With newspapers, the focus has been primarily on regional publications. In terms of content, the

language used in peripheral areas is interesting, as non-central regions can express either dialect variations or conservative tendencies in the written language. Another factor which speaks for the digitisation of regional newspapers is the effort to improve accessibility to the material. By focusing on regional material, the project can introduce researchers to previously difficult-to-obtain material and digitise newspapers which are nearly or entirely missing from the digitisation plans of Russian libraries.

The digitisation project for kindred languages is also connected to research in language technologies, since one of the goals of the project can be broadly defined as the improvement of the use methods and usability of digital library and archive materials. In addition to accessibility to Finno-Ugrian material, the project promotes methods which allow raw digitised data to be refined into more usable material. In the digitisation project of kindred languages, these methods mean increasing optical character recognition (OCR) in the digitised material, formatting the material into paragraphs and, above all, developing the OCR editor intended for language correction, thus enabling the correction of errors made in conjunction with digitisation and optical character recognition in an effective manner and by exploiting crowdsourcing.

Кокымышо йөн.

Тидә йөн дән йол-йәчим ышташлан икымышә йөн нәргән каласымантә ончыктымә ўзгарлыкае кү-лыт. Ышташыжат тугак ыштыман. Ойыртышыжо күртнө локкыт коклаштыжә вәлә лийәш—күртнө кугурак локкытаным шындат (18 сүрәтым ончо).



The digitisation project of kindred languages is led by the National Library of Finland, which is also responsible for the cooperation and related coordination with international and domestic partners. The most important international partner is the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg, as most of the material to be digitised in the project is from its collections. The division of labour between the libraries is similar to the practices of the pilot stage and defines the participants' areas of responsibility: copyright issues and the digitisation of material are handled in Russia, but the material is made available in Finland. This production model is globally unique and opens new cooperation opportunities between Russia and western countries in terms of both inter-library research and research in the arts in general.

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen

Further information

<http://www.nationallibrary.fi/services/digitaalisetkokoelmat/kindred.html>

<http://blogs.helsinki.fi/fennougrica/>

<http://fennougrica.kansalliskirjasto.fi/>

Contact information

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen

Project Manager

PO Box 15

00014 University of Helsinki

+358 50 363 9223

kk-fennougrica@helsinki.fi

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Finland Bulletin 2014



Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Heli Kautonen

HIGHLIGHTS

Finna a platform service for the treasures of Finnish archives, libraries and museums

National Digital Library is one of the research, innovation and creativity environments, the promotion of the development of which is among the strategic policies of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The project implements national culture and science policies by means of increasing the availability and preservation of the electronic information resources of libraries, archives and museums. Finna is a significant research infrastructure, and a service which can also strengthen electronic learning environments.

Finna.fi based on open source and open metadata

The Finna search service (finna.fi) is the first to bring together the collections of Finnish archives, libraries and museums. It also provides direct access to the services of archives, libraries and museums such as renewals of loans. Finna is intended for all seekers of both information and inspiration. The service features treasures from the collections as well as the latest research results. Users can easily access images of museum objects and works of art, digital documents, books, maps and reference data independent of time and place. Finna's information is reliable and up to date, thanks to the efforts of experts at the participating archives, libraries and museums. Finna's user interface is responsive to different usage environments across a variety of devices.

Finna is based on Open Source Software (OSS). OSS promotes national and international collaboration in developing the interface. The public interface is created iteratively through several rounds of development, using an agile development method together with the archives, libraries and museums.

For some time, a paradigm shift has been occurring in the development of data systems both in Finland and abroad. This shift will allow the expanded use of open source software, making it the best solution in many cases. Open source based solutions have often emerged when no appropriate off-the-shelf software has been available for a specific purpose.

The metadata of Finna will be based on CC0. The decision to use open source solutions in the development of the public interface and applying CC0 licence regarding metadata is in accordance with Finnish national policies. It also facilitates national and international co-operation in the development of digital public services.



One of the Finnish research Infrastructures

The Finnish research infrastructure roadmap for 2015-2020 has been launched in March 2014. Finna is among one of the 31 national level infrastructures. The roadmap will be updated every five years. Finna will become the main access point to scholarly content for researchers. The long-term aim is to link research publications to research data. Finna will provide the needed access platform.

Finna is strongly connected to other national-level infrastructure projects. The Finnish Information Infrastructure Services (TTA and KDK-PAS) of CSC and the National Ontology Service, which is being implemented by the National Library of Finland, support the whole research community.

Organisations will join Finna step-wise

Currently there are 45 organisations (11 archives, 9 libraries and 25 museums) in production through finna.fi. The list of these organisations is available at Finna portal (<https://www.finna.fi/Content/Organisations>).

In addition several organisations have developed an organisational view of Finna, some examples:

National Library of Finland: <https://kansalliskirjasto.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb>

Helsinki City museum: <https://hkm.finna.fi/>

University of Jyväskylä: <https://jyu.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb>

Finna contains ca 8.6 million references and ca 0.8 million digital objects. The amount of references and digital objects grows steadily.

Attention on end-user's needs

The uses and users of Finna can be many. The National View of Finna offers access to all restriction-free materials from participating libraries, archives and museums. The National View is, in principle, targeted towards every Finnish citizen. Individual organizations taking part in Finna can also tailor the default interface to their own needs, and include their specific services. These integrated services can comprise of a unified index of electronic material, a content management system, or a web shop. Such local interfaces can have more specific end-user groups, e.g., the patrons of a university library or the audience of a local museum.

Usability has been one of Finna's essential development tracks. In the beginning, during the planning phase, the principle that usability should be considered in the system requirements and throughout the development project prevailed. As the project proceeded, other aspects and activities have been adopted.

During the development of Finna, a few extensive usability tests with prospective end-users have been conducted. This far, these tests have evaluated expectations and needs of only some particular user groups, such as university students and researchers or non-academic family historians. Accessibility of Finna has also been evaluated.

Finna's evaluation activities are strongly based on collaboration with external experts and partner organizations. The actual use of Finna is being monitored with a software module, which stores and analyses data on site traffic and visitors. User surveys will complement the log data, and help in analyzing the actual use of Finna.

Wider integration and dissemination of Finna

Digital libraries such as Finna can enrich cultural and educational services by providing authorized material when integrated to different kinds of applications and platforms. Particularly in primary education, there is a need to find solutions of integrating digital learning environments with a variety of information resources and cross-disciplinary source material. Finna has been considered a viable resource for such integration. Thus, ways to link Finna to National Cloud services in Education have been examined.

For the moment, Finna is in the phase of rapid growing. The number of organizations taking part in Finna is increasing fast, which is naturally a challenge for the management and communication. Consequentially, the number and variety of materials in Finna are increasing fast. Still, many essential Finnish organizations and their collections are not in Finna. In other words, Finna has not reached its full potential, yet. Therefore Finna's marketing towards the general public has been rather moderate, whereas the dissemination among libraries, archives, and museums has been very active. Finna has been presented in various national and international forums for librarians, archivists and museum professionals. Demonstrations of Finna service have also been welcome on wider forums, such as KIDE for Finnish ministries' interest groups about intelligent strategies, or the Open Finland 2014 seminar about applicability of open data.

One by one, organizations publishing their materials in Finna have marketed the new service among their customers. Every year, the National Library coordinates a Finna festivity, The Finna Day, which is currently targeted to participating organizations. During the day Finna is also better visible to its end-users. Year by year, marketing and dissemination activities of Finna will reach more audience, and Finna will become widely known by the public.

Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen is the Director and Heli Kautonen is the Head of Services in the National Library Network Services.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Finland Bulletin 2014

16  40

Juha Hakala, Laila Heinemann, Nina Hyvönen, Osma Suominen

HIGHLIGHTS

Metadata services for the Finnish public sector

The public sector produces a lot of information. Some of it, such as public records, has been freely available for a long time. But since the introduction of the Web about 20 years ago the amount of accessible information has increased very rapidly. For instance, universities are publishing their dissertations and reports in open repositories, and the intention is to make research data available as well.

From the users' point of view, the problem is no longer the availability of information. It is out there in the Internet to be found, whether the user wants cartographic data or a university dissertation. But the problem is to find the needle in the haystack. On the other hand, organizations publishing information in digital form may need to preserve at least some of it in the long term, meaning a matter of decades or even centuries. A prerequisite for both of these problems – access and preservation – is metadata. Therefore, relevant information must be described properly. There are many reasons why it is not possible to leave this task to Google. Much of the relevant information is in Deep Web databases and other silos of information – which cannot be harvested. But more importantly, automatic indexing is not capable of authority control, and it cannot determine well even the subject of textual documents, not to mention images or sound.

Moreover, neither Google nor the Internet Archive should be made responsible for preserving digital resources in the long term. While the Internet Archive may preserve at the bit level those documents it can harvest, it will not have the human resources to migrate these documents into more modern document formats, and register differences between the two versions of a resource.

What is the most efficient way to foster access to public sector information once it has been made available in the Web? The Finnish answer to this is the establishment of centralized metadata services for the entire public sector.

The report outlining a centralized metadata service and its components was published in June 2013 by the Ministry of Finance. The service will foster efficient access, use, re-use and preservation of information. This is done primarily by improving semantic interoperability between applications. Technical interoperability will be catered for by connecting the applications into the X-Road-based data exchange channel to be established. But this technical connection is not sufficient if the linked applications do not understand each other's (meta)data.



Components of the metadata service

How to improve the semantic interoperability between public sector applications? No two countries will give exactly the same answer to this question, but it is likely that at least some common denominators will be found. In Finland, the following main components have been identified:

1. Authority database
2. Code list services (including e.g. country codes, language codes, etc.)
3. Ontology services
4. Metadata registry
5. Schema library
6. URN service

Some of these services do not exist yet, and in some cases no host organization has been agreed upon. But some services, including the ones the National Library is responsible for (numbers 1, 3, 6), are already in place. The current status and future plans of these three services are described below.

The metadata services listed above are supported by a standards portfolio and common principles for resource description (or cataloguing rules, as they are called). The standard portfolio has already been established; there is a working group which maintains the portfolio and extends it to new areas such as cartographic data and accessibility. Usage of a standard specified in the portfolio can be made mandatory; so far this rather drastic step has not been taken.

For librarians, it is all too easy to take the cataloguing rules for granted. But their role is essential; relevant information can be preserved and found from the Web only if it is described properly. A good description takes into account all the various aspects of the resource and it should be done by using common principles so that the metadata can be easily shared with other users.

Co-operative cataloguing done in the National Metadata Repository and Asteri Authority Database brings together several hundred cataloguers from Finnish libraries, e.g. Finnish higher education (universities and universities of applied sciences) and other organizations. They are currently working together with mutually accepted, standardized cataloguing rules and providing timely and cost-effective metadata. This co-operation model will also benefit future developments.

Authority database

The authority files are controlled forms of subject headings and names, which help harmonize the descriptive metadata and thus improve search results. The Asteri Authority Database, which was established in 2013, is based on the authority files of the National Bibliography. These include the general thesauri maintained by the National Library and the names of the public identities (persons and organizations) who have published works in Finland. The production platform is the authority module of the integrated library system used by the National Metadata Repository. All the libraries cataloguing into the shared repository can access the files with their cataloguing client software.

However, there is growing interest in authority files outside the library community, in other memory institutions and the government sector. To enable the use of files in other systems as well, thesauri and name authorities (currently only corporate names, persons will be included later) have been made openly available via the Finto ontology service as Linked Data.

The approximately 40,000 MARC authority records for corporate names have been transformed into RDF using the RDA vocabulary, in particular the RDA elements for describing authorities. The resulting dataset, Finnish Corporate Names, has been published via the Finto service using a CCO licence that allows reuse of the data. The authority records are now browsable online, and also accessible via the Finto REST API, described below.

Authority data migration is challenging because the MARC records include name variants in many languages, but the language is not indicated in the original records. We used automatic language detection tools to identify the most likely languages for alternate name forms, and based on this analysis added language tags to the RDF data. Unfortunately, not all languages could be reliably detected, and we are currently in the process of adding ISO 639-2 language codes to the MARC authority records.

Ontology services

The Finto service is the national thesaurus and ontology publishing platform that gives access to controlled vocabularies, including thesauri, lightweight ontologies, classifications and authority files. The service currently hosts around 30 controlled vocabularies that can be used in bibliographic as well as other databases in the public sector and beyond.

Finto is implemented as a web application and an underlying RDF database. It provides a user interface, open REST-style API and Linked Data access. The current software implementation, called Skosmos, has been published as open source software.

URN service

Every resource for long-term preservation should have a persistent and actionable identifier. Identifiers are not only unique access keys, they can – and should – also be used as links to resources. It is impossible to maintain URLs of Internet resources in every bibliographic database, but having for instance URNs in bibliographic records and maintaining URN – URL mappings centrally in URN resolvers is more efficient. In the future, URN resolution may also provide additional services, such as finding all manifestations of a resource with a work identifier.

The National Library has maintained a URN resolution service for several years. The number of

organizations using it has grown steadily. Originally, the users were libraries, but of late most new users have been outside the library domain – examples include Statistics Finland, the National Land Survey of Finland and the Finnish IT Centre for Science – are from outside the library domain.



The way forward

The National Library has provided centralized services for the library sector for 20 years. How to transform these services so that they meet the requirements of the public sector is a very good question. Of course, some additional funding is needed to transform a service targeted for libraries to a national service. But money is hardly the most serious challenge we are facing.

The needs of libraries and other users may be contradictory. For instance, libraries have used a few thousand Finnish place names for subject description, but the National Land Survey needs more than 800,000 such names. Services must also cater for a much larger group of users, and technical interfaces for non-library applications must be built in order to guarantee smooth information exchange. It is also necessary to change the administrative framework so that all user organizations can participate in the consortia which manage the services.

This may sound challenging, but what is the alternative? A country like Finland cannot afford to maintain multiple metadata services, especially when failure to do so would not only be costly, but would have a negative impact on the quality of metadata services. Maintaining, for instance, multiple centralized authority databases for names of legal and natural persons would only create confusion.

The National Library has already received additional funding for transforming Finto and its ontologies into a truly national service, both from a technical and from a content point of view. It remains to be seen when the authority database and URN service will be supported in the same way. All these services are essential parts of the national information infrastructure, not only in Finland but in every information society.

Juha Hakala, Laila Heinemann, Nina Hyvönen and Osmo Suominen are IT specialists in the National Library of Finland.

<http://www.sitra.fi/en/artikkelit/e-services/finland-takes-x-road-better-e-services>

<https://www.yhteentoimivuus.fi/aihealue/Standardit>

<http://finto.fi/en/>

<http://dev.finto.fi/asteri-cn/fi/>

<https://github.com/NatLibFi/Skosmos>

<http://www.nationallibrary.fi/publishers/urn.html>



Björn Forsén

HIGHLIGHTS

When the vampires arrived

The past five years have seen a vampire craze sweep the world. Vampires are more popular than ever, and in popular culture, vampire series such as *True Blood* and *Twilight* have drawn huge television and film audiences. The modern vampire, however, differs considerably from Bram Stoker's aristocratic Count Dracula, who preyed on women, and even more from the earliest vampires, often described as maggot-ridden, bloated living dead. When did accounts of vampires first spread into Europe?

One of the earliest descriptions of vampires appears in Joseph Pitton de Tournefort's *Relation d'un voyage du Levant* (1717), a copy of which can be found in the National Library's collections. De Tournefort was a well-known French botanist who from 1700 to 1702 travelled to the Aegean islands, Constantinople and the shores of the Black Sea. De Tournefort was also an excellent chronicler of everyday life, and his work contains several interesting accounts of local conditions, including a description of a vampire (*vrykolakas*) who caused "an outbreak of mass hysteria" among the island population of Mykonos.

RELATION
D'UN VOYAGE
DU
LEVANT,

FAIT PAR ORDRE DU ROY.

CONTENANT

L'Histoire Ancienne & Moderne de plusieurs Isles de l'Archipel,
de Constantinople, des Côtes de la Mer Noire, de l'Armenie,
de la Georgie, des Frontieres de Perse & de l'Asie Mineure.

AVEC

*Les Plans des Villes & des Lieux considerables; Le Genie, les Mœurs,
le Commerce & la Religion des differens Peuples qui les habitent;
Et l'Explication des Médailles & des Monumens Antiques.*

Enrichie de Descriptions & de Figures d'un grand nombre de Plantes
rares, de divers Animaux; Et de plusieurs Observations
touchant l'Histoire Naturelle.

*Par M. PITTON DE TOURNEFORT, Conseiller du Roy, Academicien
Pensionnaire de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, Docteur en Medecine
de la Faculté de Paris, Professeur en Botanique au Jardin du Roy,
Lecteur & Professeur en Medecine au College Royal.*

TOME PREMIER.



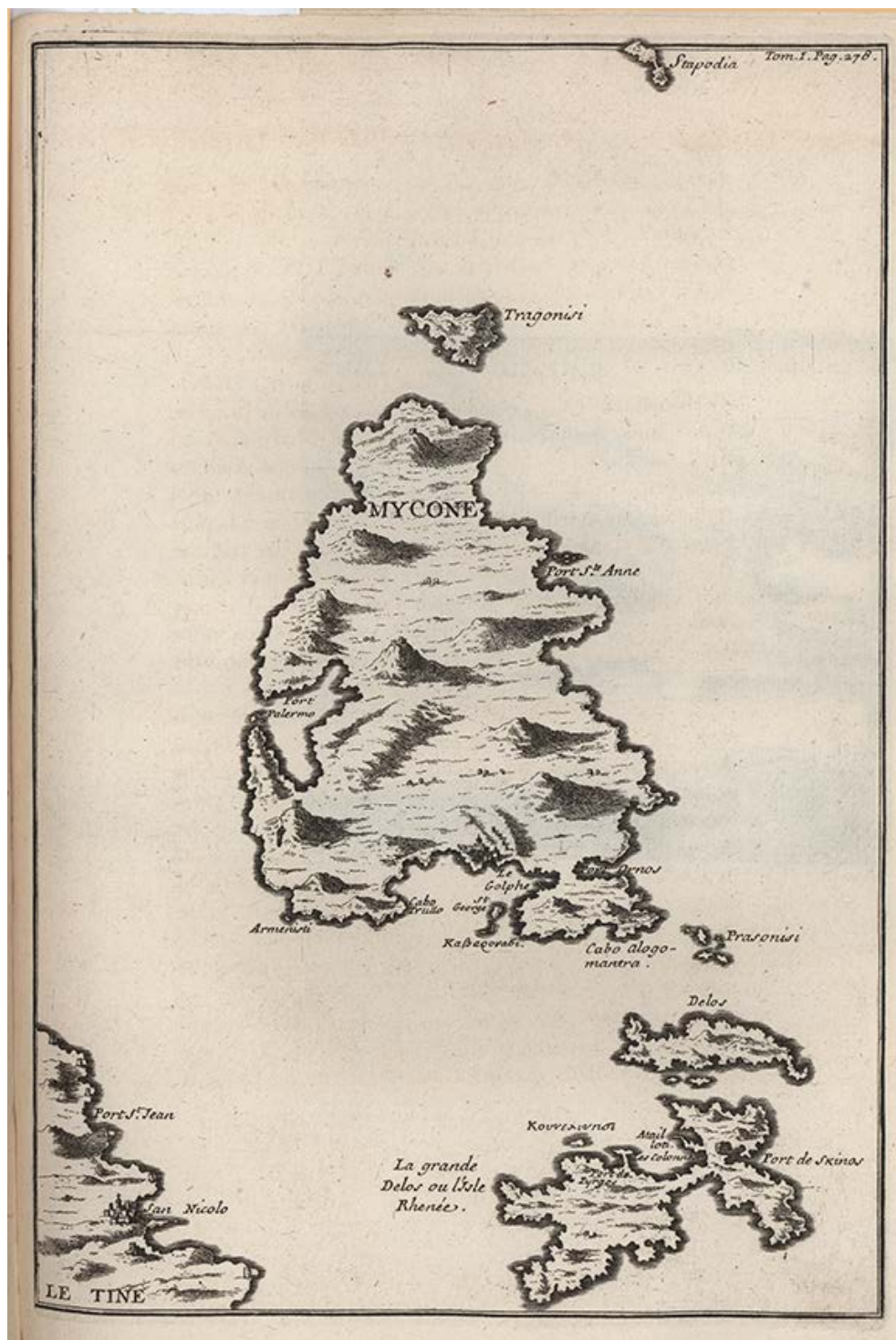
A PARIS,
DE L'IMPRIMERIE ROYALE.

M. DCCXVII

According to de Tournefort, a peasant who had died under unclear circumstances on Mykonos began to reappear at night after his burial. The priests then decided to hold a service over the body, during which the dead man's heart would be removed and burned. But this had no effect, and the dead man returned ever more frequently. During the nights that followed, he visited all the houses in the village save the house in which de Tournefort was staying. The revenant would break furniture and windows, extinguish lamps, frighten people and empty any bottles and pitchers he could lay his hands on ("A very thirsty dead man", was de Tournefort's dry commentary).

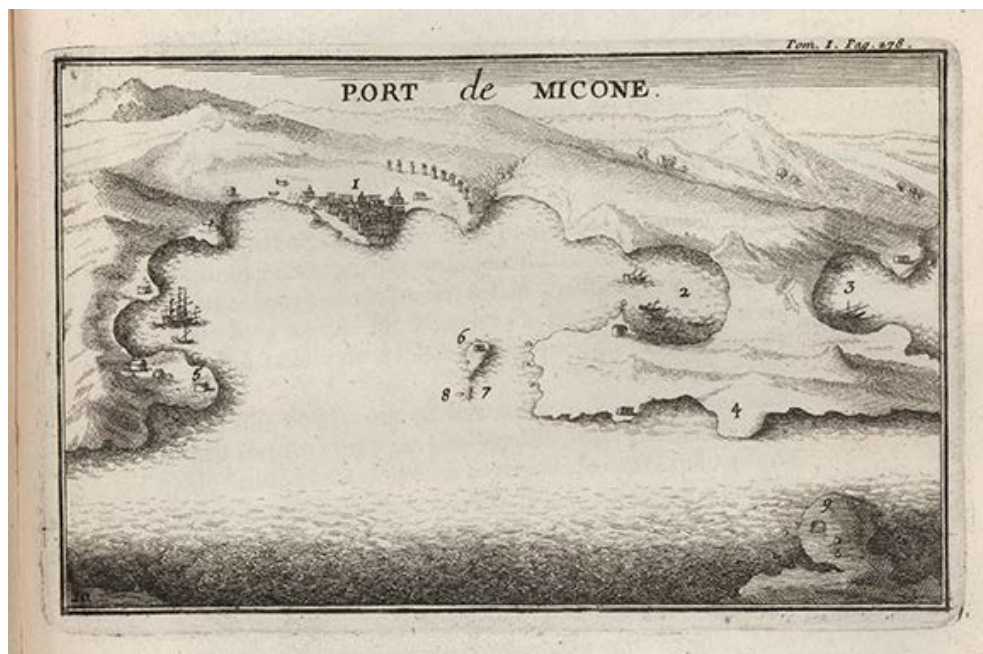


The longer the dead peasant roamed, the more upset and fearful the inhabitants grew, driving entire families to pack their belongings with the intention of leaving Mykonos in order to settle elsewhere. Those who remained tried everything they could think of, including holding prayer vigils, marching processions past the open grave, and attempting to anchor the corpse in the grave by impaling it with swords — all to no avail. Finally, the corpse was exhumed and transported to a small, uninhabited island, where it was burned in an effort to exorcise the Devil. De Tournefort's account shows clearly that possession by the Devil after death was believed to apply only to members of the Greek Orthodox church, largely due to its interpretation of excommunication. The excommunicated dead could not rest peacefully in their graves because their souls were denied entry to Paradise. Consequently, they were trapped in a sort of limbo between death and life, and their bodies did not decay. The church was therefore compelled to open the graves and administer absolution to the deceased.



During and after the Great Turkish War from 1683 to 1699, contact between the eastern and western parts of Europe greatly increased. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers from all across Europe fought in the war in the Balkans and in Greece. As a result of this and subsequent wars, Greek Orthodox regions fell under Habsburg (Serbia and Transylvania) and Venetian (the Peloponnese and Dalmatia, among others) rule. This new exposure to followers of the Greek Orthodox faith spread tales of vampires like wildfire. In English, the word "vampire" appeared for the first time in 1688 and in French in 1693.

Although descriptions of vampires had been surfacing already earlier (Leo Allatius's *De quorundam Graecorum Opinacionibus* in 1645 contained the first mention of vampires in the Greek world), not until the early eighteenth century did Catholic and Protestant Europe become inundated with accounts such as de Tournefort's. Although some travel accounts similar to de Tournefort's were translated and widely disseminated in large editions, a couple of much-publicised cases in Serbia had the greatest impact. The Habsburg authorities appointed official commissions to investigate these cases, and the reports were published, translated and frequently quoted in the European press.



In the early eighteenth century, Western and Central Europe was only just emerging from its witch hysteria, a fact which perhaps explains the eager interest in vampires, who, like witches, were associated with the Devil. The reservoir of early vampire lore has hardly been exhaustively documented or studied, as evidenced by an unpublished, detailed account of a female vampire who wreaked havoc in Athens in 1687, an account which docent Björn Forsén and Lic.Phil. Mika Hakkarainen stumbled upon while researching the Swedish and Finnish mercenaries who volunteered to fight under Venice during the Great Turkish War. It seems the last word on the arrival of vampires in Europe has yet to be written.

The author, Dr. Björn Forsén, is docent in history at the Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies at the University of Helsinki.



EVENTS

Brummeriana seminar



On Wednesday, 23 April 2014, the National Library of Finland held a seminar on Brummeriana, which began with the release of *Lapsuuden sadut ja seikkailut* ("Fairy tales and adventures of childhood"), a book written by non-fiction writer Marjut Hjelt and published by Into Kustannus. The book is based on the National Library's international Brummeriana collection of children's literature. In addition to the author and publisher, presentations were given by Professor Markus Brummer-Korvenkontio, Professor Tuija Laine and Sisko Ylimartimo, PhD.

The Brummeriana collection at the National Library of Finland is a jewel of children's and young adult literature.



Marjut Hjelt and Markus Brummer-Korvenkontio.

EVENTS

Open Repositories Conference 2014 was held 9-13 June in Helsinki

The 9th International Conference on Open Repositories was held from 9 to 13 June in Helsinki. The attendance was around 400 people from all around the world. The conference was hosted by University of Helsinki's twin libraries: Helsinki University Library and the National Library of Finland.



Key speaker Erin McKiernan is a researcher in Medical Sciences at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. She received her Ph.D. in Physiological Sciences in 2010 from the University of Arizona. Her research involves the integration of experimental and computational approaches to solve diverse problems in epidemiology, physiology, and neuroscience. She is an advocate for open access, open data, and open source.



The conference opening in Paasitorni, Helsinki.



EVENTS

2014 IFLA President's Meeting in Helsinki 22-24 May

IFLA President's meeting theme 2014 was "Strong Libraries, Strong Societies : The Impact of Libraries on Society".



National librarian Kai Ekholm speaking.



IFLA president Sinikka Sipilä listening.



Facts and Statistics 2013

- Visits 99 822
- Guidance in information retrieval was given to 193 persons
- Guided tours in the library building was given to 272 persons
- Growth of National Collection (Legal Deposit Collection)
 - ephemera (uncatalogued collection) 69 906 items
 - sound recordings: 3429 titles
 - sheet music: 446 volumes
 - born-digital publications: 29 789 files
 - web archive (online archive): 14 TB
- Databases of own collections
 - totally: 3 955 000 records; growth in 2013 was 72 600 records
 - national bibliography Fennica: 937 600 records
 - national discography Viola: 1 060 500 records
 - research collection Helka together with Helsinki University Library: 3,6 million records
 - union catalogue for Finnish libraries Melinda: 6,4 million records
- Local loans: 436 377
- Interlibrary loans: 3008
- Loans total: 439 385
- Digitised pages in a year: 1,2 mill.
- Total amount of digitized pages: 8 mill.
- Collections: 114 kilometres of shelving
- Premises: 26 170 km²
- Total operating budget: 29,2 mill. €
- Number of staff: 207 (with stimulus 53)

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The National Library of Finland

Contact us

The Main Library

Unioninkatu 36

Postal address:

The National Library of Finland
P.O.B. 15
00014 University of Helsinki

Telephone

+358 2 941 23196

E-mail

kk-palvelu(at)helsinki.fi

The Vallila Unit

Teollisuuskatu 23

Postal address:

The National Library of Finland
P.O.B. 26
00014 University of Helsinki

Telephone

+ 3582 941 44295

The Mikkeli Unit

The National Library of Finland
Centre for Preservation and Digitisation
Saimaankatu 6
50100 Mikkeli

E-mail

kk-miko@helsinki.fi

Telephone

+ 358 15 202 31

The Urajärvi Unit

The National Library of Finland
Deposit Library
17150 Urajärvi

Telephone

+358 3 766 7178

International Cooperation

International interaction Organisations and bodies



Alto Editorial Board, metadata development team
AES, Audio Engineering Society
BAAC, Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council
Bibliotheca Baltica, cooperation body for libraries in the Baltic Sea region
Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden, Germany
CCS, Content Conversion Specialists GmbH, Germany
CDNL, Conference of Directors of National Libraries
CENL, Conference of European National Libraries, Executive Committee
CERL, Consortium of European Research Libraries
CLM, Copyright and other Legal Matters, working group
Cobra+, coordination body for European national library project cooperation
Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, developer group and steering group of the Dublin Core Standard
EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations
EDI EUR, the international group coordinating development of the standards infrastructure for electronic commerce in the book, e-book and serials sectors
Eesti Rahvusraamatukog, the Estonian National Library
EIFL, electronic information for libraries)
ELAG, European Library Automation Group
EURIGG, European RDA Interest Group
Europeana, the European Digital Library - Europeana Travel project - The Council for aggregators and content providers, Europeana network
Europeana Newspapers Project
EROMM, European Register Of Microform And Digital Masters
ICOLC, The International Coalition of Library Consortia
FAIFE, Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression
IAML, International Association of Music Libraries
IASA, International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, head of the Nordic division
ICA, International Cartographic Association
IFLA, International Federation of Library Associations, participation in several divisions and working groups
IGELU, International Group of Ex Libris Users, various groups
IIPC, International Internet Preservation Consortium
IMPACT, Competence Centre for Digitisation
ISBN, member of the Board of the International ISBN Agency
ISO, International Organisation for Standardisation, several working groups under Technical Committee 46
ISSN Governing Board, ISSN network
Kungliga Bibliotek, The National Library of Sweden
Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka, National Library of Latvia
LIBER, Association of European Research Libraries
MSEG, Member States' Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation
METS Editorial Board
Nasjonalbiblioteket, The National Library of Norway
NISO, US National Information Standards Organisation
NOA, Audio Solutions VertriebsmbH, Austria
NORON, Nordic Conference of State and National Library Directors
Open Repositories
Scandinavian Library Quarterly
SVUC, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue
TEL, The European Library
The Library of Congress
UKSG, United Kingdom Serials Group
United Kingdom Sibelius Society
World Digital Library