

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY of Finland Bulletin 2013



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A Change Is Gonna Come

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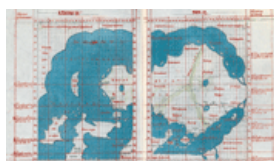
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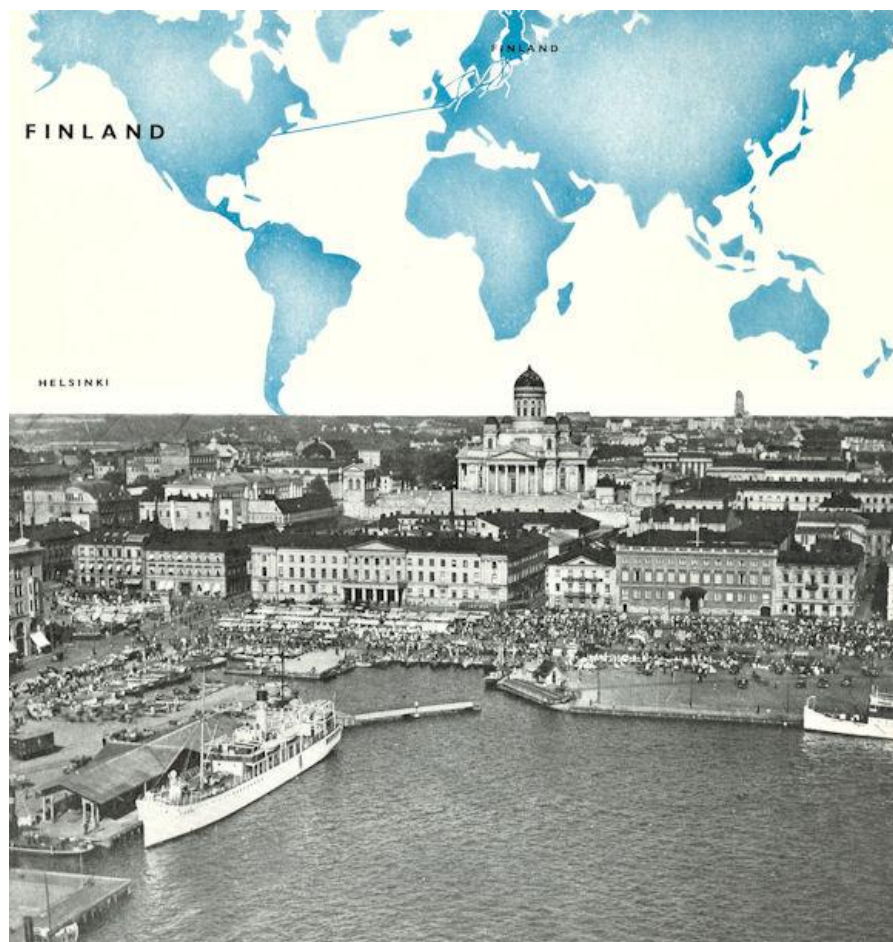
The National Library of Finland

NettiAsema4

Tiina Hölttä

A new online collection sheds light on the history of everyday life in Finland

How can I fix the old car sitting in my grandmother's barn? Could marital tips from a century ago teach us a thing or two? Where did Finns want to go on holiday at the turn of the 20th century? The answers may be found in the new digital collection of the National Library of Finland.



The smallTravel advertisement "Visit Finland" from 1944



Many of us have a "No junk mail" sticker next to our letterbox. But for nearly two hundred years, the National Library of Finland has been collecting these unwanted leaflets, advertisements and brochures. This extensive, historically valuable and rare collection tells the tale of everyday life in Finland from the early 19th century to the present day. Now anyone can gain a fascinating insight into how people used to propose, what kind of vehicles they drove, how they spent their leisure time and where they went on holiday, as the National Library publishes a new online collection of over 5,000 pieces ranging from the 1800s to the 1950s. Publications issued by different groups and organisations can be found in Finnish and Swedish, but also in English, French, Russian and even Esperanto.

Dating tips and motor maintenance



Summer, spring, autumn... a Chevrolet for all seasons

The collection includes items on serious social matters such as peace, emergencies, human rights and women's suffrage. Some of the lighter texts, though, will tickle your funny bone.

For example, vintage car aficionados will be delighted to find extensive catalogues of old brands and related spare-part and price lists. The collection features over a thousand publications which include several brands of tractors and motorcycles in addition to cars, not to mention boats and buses. Perhaps you can find the name and repair instructions for the old engine or vehicle wasting away in Granny's barn.

Meanwhile the Elämisentaito (Life skills) group features advice on dating, fashion, love, proposals and ways to get married, as well as instructions for what to do if your husband is late coming home in the evening, and what the "secret of the right way" means. The publications also discuss the influence of mystic powers on personal success, including thought radiation and hypnotism. Readers may discover many a secret beauty tip, and even the key to both health and wealth.

From the depression to sports

One of the themed groups in the collection is the Kansanhuolto section, dedicated to public information publications and special regulations implemented by the Finnish state during wartime and the subsequent depression. This exceptional situation forced the state to implement rationing and to regulate the availability and pricing of goods. The publications feature public service announcements from the ministry (kansanhuoltoministeriö), groups and committees established to organise aid and special regulations during and immediately after wartime, including rationing instructions for food and other goods, as well as the rationing cards used to purchase rationed goods.



Rationing instructions "Maintenance prolongs the life of your shoes" from 1943, (the text reads "While it is not our fault that leather is scarce, we should all, soldiers and the home front alike, take good care of our shoes.")



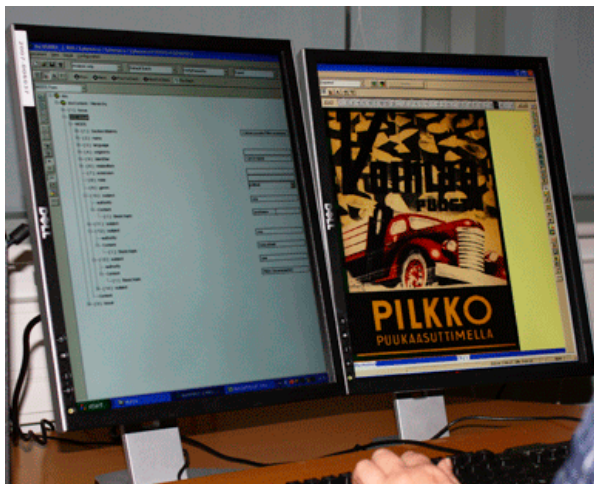
The publications also discuss activism for issues such as animal protection as well as women's rights from the perspective of women's position in society, civil rights, women's organisations and international conferences. Anti-war publications include information pamphlets and programmes from anti-war political groups.

Sports enthusiasts may pore over the schedules, price lists, instructions, rules, competition programmes and the reports discussing cycling, horseback riding, rowing and the Olympic games of 1912-1940. Travel advertisements in different languages complement this collection and transport the reader to the travel routes and destinations of the early 20th century.

From junk mail to historical rarity

Many people are surprised to hear that the National Library collects material commonly thought of as "junk mail", such as mail-order catalogues, price lists and sale notifications. Library professionals have generally thought that as long as such ephemera are not available and searchable online, the majority of information seekers will not even know they exist. But now, the collection will be easily accessible online. Despite consisting of myriad commonplace leaflets, the collection is obviously no trash heap of junk-mail – instead, it is a veritable treasure trove which can render everyday life from two hundred years ago palpable and alive.

- The author was the project manager of the Ephemera development project and currently works as a digitisation planning officer at the Centre for Preservation and Digitisation in Mikkeli.
- The new digital collection can be found at www.doria.fi, under the National Library's "Ephemera" heading. The previously digitised collection of industrial price lists from 1810–1944 is available through the www.digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi service.



Digitisation technician Leena Kinnunen inspects and completes the cataloguing information for ephemera using the digitisation production system. Picture: The National Library of Finland.

The Ephemera development project

The new digital collection was created with the help of the Ephemera development project which enabled the large-scale digitisation of ephemera. Thanks to digitisation, the original publications will no longer be exposed to wear and tear despite being made widely available. The digitisation of ephemera was developed in 2008–2012 with funding from the European Social Fund, the Eastern Finland Regional State Administrative Agency, the Eastern Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and the City of Mikkeli.

What is "ephemera"?

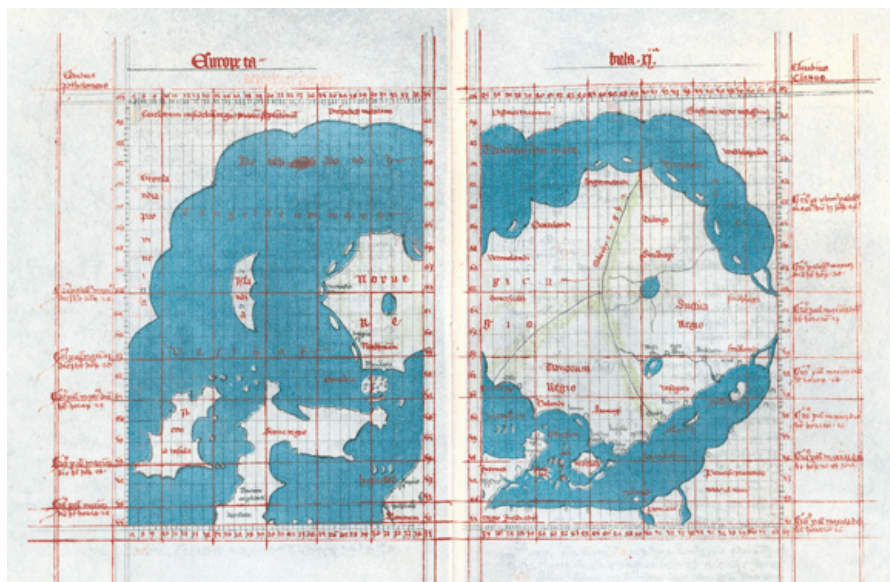
Due to its position as the repository for statutory deposit copies of all printed publications, the National Library of Finland has an ever-expanding collection of uncatalogued brochures, advertisements, manuals and pamphlets which comprise the ephemera collection. It includes more than three million publications related to the operations of different groups and organisations. Ephemera include invitations, lists, instructions, manuals and menus. Publications related to the dissemination of information, such as schedules, brochures, price lists and calendars are also considered ephemera.

Tiina Hölttä, Ephemera Project Manager, National Library of Finland

Four centuries of land surveying in Finland

From land records to land reform

The first visualisations of Finland were created in the 1400s and 1500s by exploring expeditions in connection with the invention of printing. When Claudius Clavus published a rather lumpy map of the Nordic countries in 1427, the map featured Finland merely as a misspelled name with a lower case initial letter, *finlandi*. The first actual visualisations of Finland were published in the 1500s in the renowned atlases by Olaus Magnus, Jacob Ziegler, Gerard Mercator, Lucas Waghenauer and Abraham Ortelius. A map of the Kingdom of Sweden, based on an accurate survey by Anders Bureus, was published in 1626. While the map included a general outline of Finland, the territory remained uncharted. The task of charting the area required the training of domestic (Swedish) land surveyors. Bureus (Bure after ennoblement) took charge of the matter.



The first land surveyor in Finland was named Olof Gangius. He was fully Swedish and came to Finland 380 years ago, in 1633. His arrival led to the launch of land surveying and mapping operations in Finland and created a foundation for the current National Land Survey of Finland.

The responsibilities of the first land surveyors in the Great Power Era of Sweden (1620–1670) were related to taxation. Enhancing taxation was a precondition for the survival of Sweden, as the country endeavoured to Europeanise its superpower policies, science and economy. Land surveyors began to survey rural land areas and to conduct mapping for the purpose of controlling taxation and the extensive abandonment of land. Updated maps were gradually compiled on the basis of the data in what were called geometric land record maps.

The 1700s saw an aspiration to develop the economic conditions in Finland after the destruction of several wars. The objective was to generate a detailed map of Finland. Parish specific maps were connected to cover more extensive areas through celestial position fixing. The method formed the early core of modern geodetic mapping.

Besides conducting mapping, land surveyors studied the possibilities of mining operations in Northern Finland, made inventories of historical relics and participated in clearing rapids. The latter activity was aimed to improve traffic connections, especially for timber transport. The original plan to connect Lake Päijänne to Helsinki proved technically unfeasible and was never realised.

The design of a South North heavy goods transport route leading to Helsinki was a significant catalyst to the launching of the largest construction project in the Nordic countries, the Suomenlinna sea fortress (or Viapori as contemporary Finns knew it). The extensive construction site sparked the growth of Helsinki. The resulting huge demand for construction equipment, labour and agricultural products additionally initiated a technological rise in the Uusimaa region and in the southern parts of the Häme region. It also marked the beginning of the great land reform known as *isojako* ('great division'). The reform ended the centuries long policy of joint land ownership, expanded narrow strips of cultivated field into larger ones, and created the preconditions for rational agriculture and an early form of capitalism.

From military to social surveying

Finland, the former Eastern part of Sweden, became the Western buffer of Russia in the era of autonomy (1809–1916). The focus point of land surveying shifted from land reform to security and political functions and the enhancement of the logistics of St Petersburg.

Connections to Russia were improved by mapping overland and sea routes between St Petersburg and Helsinki and by defining geodetic grid references in the Gulf of Finland area. The empire enhanced its control over its Western border states by measuring an extensive chain of survey triangulations through them. The chain, known as the Struve Geodetic Arc, stretches from the Black Sea to the Arctic Ocean, through the Western parts of Russia and Finland. It is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

For the sawmill owners in St Petersburg, the border between Russia and 'Old Finland' (later the region of Viipuri) was an obstacle that restricted timber deliveries from the Eastern parts of Finland. It is therefore hardly surprising that Old Finland was annexed to the "new" autonomous Finland as early as in 1812. The land surveyors redeemed donated estates (the non independent farms previously owned by Russian nobility) in Old Finland and gave them free status. Any surplus land was given to the State of Finland. This helped to create the technological foundation for the forestry industry in Eastern Finland.

In the era of autonomy, people feared that the slash and burn method would wipe out the Finnish forests. Additionally, the prevailing climate theory suggested that the climate would grow colder and leave the forests desolate. To clarify the matter, the Director of the Board of the National Land Survey of Finland, C. W. Gylden, compiled a thematic map of Finnish forests and showed such fears to be unfounded. The map was the first inventory of Finnish forest resources and an early predecessor to the extremely accurate modern laser scanning method.

Land surveying operations advanced towards the remote outskirts of Finland in the late 1800s, alongside the progress in railway construction and a northward shift of the forestry break even point. Large forest areas were divided between private and state owners and sawmills. At the same time, crown owned forest crofts were made private holdings. The emerging regional preconditions for forestry were secured by ensuring the availability of raw materials and permanent labour.

In the late era of autonomy, radical land management reform measures were implemented in order to improve the position of the part of the population that did not own farms. However, the reform was interrupted by the world war, food shortage and social upheaval in Russia and Finland.

From reconstruction to mobile technology

The National Land Survey of Finland was founded in 1917, primarily for the purposes of fully mapping the area of independent Finland, creating a land survey administration and including Northern Finland in the land consolidation project which had begun in the era of autonomy. The mapping of the Northern areas of the country continued during the term of Chairman Kyösti Haataja after Finland had obtained a connection to the Arctic Ocean via Petsamo. Administrative task distribution was specified. The Finnish Geodetic Institute resigned from the National Land Survey of Finland in 1918.

Even though the war disrupted land surveying from 1939 to 1944, technological developments made during the war accelerated the surveying work once peace had been established. The most important technical innovation of the time was aerial photography. The greatest challenge facing land surveyors proved to be settlement. Urbanisation motivated municipal land surveying operations. Besides urbanisation, a rise in the value of plots and large construction projects required greater accuracy which could only be achieved through new measuring equipment.

Basic mapping played an important role in the post war reconstruction in the period from 1948 to 1977. Geodetic measurements and measuring tower construction continued throughout the country until the 1980s. New technologies also emerged, providing faster and more accurate measuring methods. Nevertheless, surveying work remained physically demanding due to the heavy weight of the equipment.

The emergence of information technology revolutionised the field. The digitisation of maps began in the early 1970s. Digitisation resulted in geographical information databases. The National Land Survey of Finland developed the management, transfer and application of digital geographic information. Maps evolved into accurate but simple and unadorned geographical print outs adapted to their purpose. A big technological breakthrough in the 1990s introduced computers to the workplace. The mid 1990s saw the emergence of home computers, and pocket computers have become a reality in the 21st century.

The exploitation of geographic information systems has significantly changed the nature of mobile applications. Were it not for the transferred and digitised information originally collected on site by land surveyors over the centuries, we would lack geographic information altogether.

Mikko Huhtamies, PhD, Finnish and Nordic history, University of Helsinki

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NettiAsema4

Jaakko Salemaa

New online repository of historical maps of Finland

The National Library of Finland has launched a welcome tool for data retrieval from map collections.



International literary culture

The Doria repository now allows for browsing digitised images of domestic maps and atlases. The digitisation project is funded by Helsingin Suomalainen Klubi (The Finnish Club in Helsinki). The project began in 2011 and has covered approximately 200 map pages.

The digitised collection facilitates access to map related information and the reprographic services at the National Library of Finland. Customers can now browse the collection for images of maps on their home computers, too. They can save high resolution image files, modify them, and crop and zoom in on details. Old map pages deteriorate easily when touched. Digitisation spares the original paper map pages from the wear and tear of constant handling, usage and transfer.

The collection consists of several subcategories: Finland as a part of Sweden and Russia, general maps of Finland, larger scale topographical maps, thematic traffic maps, and atlases and map books. Next

year, the digitisation project will cover old town plans and nautical charts. The domestic maps digitised in connection with the Save a Book programme, including a collection of old regional maps, will also be integrated into the repository.

The materials have been selected to illustrate the different stages of the history of Finland from the late 1600s to the 1950s, including borders, administrative districts and transport networks. The map selection is additionally aimed to help monitor the development of mapping and map printing in Finland.

Maps contain a great deal of information and provide a visually intriguing portrait of Finland's past. Together with other historical facts, the map collection may provide solutions for a wide range of research problems in the fields of cultural and political history, as well as genealogical and local history.

The Maps and Atlases of Finland service is available in the Doria repository of the National Library of Finland at: <https://www.doria.fi/handle/10024/78800>



An enlarged detail of a map page in the Kalmbergin kartasto atlas shows the region of Helsinki in 1855. The full atlas can be viewed in the Doria Maps and Atlases of Finland repository.

The Kalmberg atlas was the first large scale (1:100,000) atlas covering an extensive geographic area printed in Finland. The atlas was compiled for military purposes. A Finnish colonel named G.A. Kalmberg led the mapping project after the Crimean War.

The map shows Helsinki and the surrounding areas at a time when the city had no hinterland railway connections and Finnish road networks were limited. In the 1850s, the "highway" leading to Helsinki was known as Kuninkaantie, "the King's Road". In the West, the road traversed the lands of the Meilahti, Huopalahti, Mäkkylä, Alberga and Kilo manors. Besides the manors, the map shows the villages and settlements surrounding the city of Helsinki.

The central city area was very small 150 years ago. The map covers the optical telegraph line that ran from Hanko to St Petersburg via Tähtitorninmäki, as well as the shipping routes leading to the harbours. Some of the maps in the collections of the National Library of Finland are partly hand coloured. The city and the important settlements around it are shown in red, fields and gardens in green, and bodies of water and swamps in blue. Forests have been indicated in a brown printed colour, and yard and park areas with white.

Jaakko Salemaa, Librarian, National Library of Finland

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NettiAsema4

Kalevi Lehtonen

Finnish-language newspapers: a minority in Swedish publishing

The National Library of Sweden and the National Library of Finland are cooperating on a project to microfilm and digitise the Finnish-language newspapers in Sweden and the Finnish newspapers printed in Sweden and smuggled into Finland for distribution. The project has the working title "Swedish news in Meänkieli and Finnish". Finnish newspapers in Sweden can be categorised into three groups:

1. Newspapers published in the northern part of Sweden (Norrbotten) before World War I.
2. Newspapers that due to limitations in the freedom of speech could not be printed or published in Finland between 1900 and 1927.
3. Finnish immigrant newspapers after World War II.

The birth of the Finnish press in Sweden

Northern Sweden, Norrbotten, has for centuries been populated by Lapps and Finns. The Finnish population consists of various peoples coming mainly from two dialectal regions in Finland. The dialectal progress has continued over many centuries. After the Finnish war in 1808–1809, in which Sweden lost Finland, its eastern province, to the Russian Empire, this fact became obvious. During the peace negotiations, the Russians wanted to draw a new border, which was to be the language frontier between Swedish and Finnish. The border was instead drawn based on geographical attributes, and thus the River Tornio has for over 200 years been the geographical border between Sweden and Finland. In this way the Finnish-speaking population was divided between the two countries: Finland, which became a part of the Russian Empire, and Sweden with a Finnish-speaking minority.

This minority came into focus as Sweden began to build its elementary school system. In 1880 the first voices wanting to make the linguistic minority Swedish speaking were heard, although the Swedish-speaking population was only a linguistic and ethnic minority in Norrbotten. In school the teaching language gradually became Swedish. As late as in the 1950s pupils were prohibited from speaking Finnish between lessons. Special attention was paid to this linguistic process in the extremely patriotic communities in Finland. The language process had an impact on the Finnish newspapers and was reflected in the press on both sides of the Tornio River.

The first Swedish newspaper published partly in Finnish was *Nyaste Riksgränsen*. It started as a monolingual Swedish newspaper in 1875. The paper remained monolingual for three years, but gradually the Finnish material increased. By 1879 half of the content was in Finnish. This newspaper had a pedagogical bilingual layout, where the Swedish and Finnish columns ran side by side, in order to facilitate self-learning. The newspaper ceased publication in 1882.

The first monolingual Finnish newspaper was *Rajalta* (1875–1876) but was not long-lived. Only six issues were published.

In 1882 *Haaparannanlehti* was launched simultaneously with its Swedish edition *Haparandabladet*. It is considered to be the successor of *Nyaste Riksgränsen*. The two editions continued until 1923, when they were merged into an eight-page newspaper. This paper is still being published, and during its publication history has had many competitors that have been forced out of the competition as losers.

One such competitor was *Pohjolan Sanomia*, a newspaper which ran from 1886 to 1888. This newspaper opposed a statement which Parliamentarian Emil Key made during a debate in 1880: "It would be better if the Finns in Sweden were to learn Swedish." This statement was Key's answer to a proposition giving state subsidies to a Finnish newspaper in Haaparanta.

Eight years later, in 1896, a new Finnish-language newspaper, *Pohjola*, began competing with *Haaparannanlehti*. Its language is an odd but interesting mix of the archaic language of the Kalevala and a more modern Tornio dialect. In spite of this fascinating cocktail of Finnish, the last issue of the newspaper was published in 28 April 1898.

A short-lived competitor was also a pair of newspapers titled *Haaparannan Sanomat* and *Haparanda Nyheter*. They were published from 1916 to 1917.

In 1918 a new star was born on the Norrbothnian newspaper horizon: *Samefolkets Egen Tidning*. It is still being published in digital form. In 1922–1923 it was published as a bilingual Finnish edition with the title *Samekansan Oma Lehti*. It was targeted towards the Lapps who, besides their own language, spoke only Finnish. This newspaper was based in Uppsala, but like the newspapers mentioned below, it was published in Haaparanta.



Kalevi Lehtonen



Newspapers in Exile

The first effort to break the limitations to the freedom of speech, which was one of the means of the Russification of autonomous Finland, was the paper *Kaikuja*

Euroopasta (Echoes from Europe) edited by Eino Wallin, which started in 1899. It was published in only nine issues, which were printed in Sweden and smuggled into Finland.

As the publishing of the Swedish-speaking newspaper *Nya pressen* was prohibited by the Russian General Governor Bobrikov, two of its journalists, Konni Zilliacus and Arvid Neovius, decided to start the newspaper *Fria Ord* in Stockholm. A Finnish-language sister publication, *Vapaita Lehtisiä*, was launched in parallel with it. The two newspapers were smuggled into Finland mainly by boat. The journalists succeeded in their plans, and the subscribers received their weekly illegal newspaper from August 1900 until November 1905.

At about the same time, a number of smaller periodicals were also published: *Veckans Nyheter*, *Viikon Varrelta* and *Nordisk Revy*. *Veckans Nyheter* was of course intended for publication in Finland, but was actually convicted in a Swedish court for violating the law of freedom of speech. This proves that outlaws do not have it easy anywhere.

During the Finnish Civil War (1918), the same publishing pattern was repeated. A small group of Red revolutionaries succeeded in escaping to Sweden. In cooperation with Finnish emigrant organisations in Stockholm, they published the newspaper *Viesti* (1918-1920). Partly simultaneously, the Swedish leftist newspaper *Norrskensflamman* was published in northern Sweden. In 1919 the Finnish edition *Revontulet* was launched in Luleå. It lived a sporadic life until 1927. Both *Viesti* and *Revontulet* were smuggled into Finland and consisted of facts and news that from a political point of view could not be published in Finland. The paper also revealed how brutally the winning side of the Civil War dealt with human rights.

The Finnish Immigrant press in the 20th century

After World War II, Finland was strongly and rapidly transformed from an agricultural to an industrial economy. This formed a strong base for emigration to Sweden, which that time lacked manpower. In the years 1961-1970, 198,796 Finns emigrated to Sweden. A large number of them could not speak Swedish. New Finnish-language newspapers were born out of the need for information.

The historian Jouni Korkiasaari has estimated that over 100 Finnish-language "newspapers" have been published in Sweden, if smaller political and religious publications are included. The list of immigrant and minority journals published in 1992 mentions 57 Finnish-language "newspapers".

A number of Swedish newspapers have had Finnish pages or columns, although this is less common today. In 1971 there were 37 newspapers with a Finnish-language page or column. In 1981 this number had fallen to 27. The most recent case is *Borås tidning*, which in 2011 declared that the Finnish page had lost its purpose and made the decision to discontinue it. The page had been published once a week since 1967 and had for a long time provided the Finnish-speaking population in Borås with important information.

Since 2000 Sweden has had five national minority languages: Finnish, Meänkieli, Sami, Romani Chib and Yiddish. These are minority languages with special historical traditions, and those who use these languages have been given special rights, including the right to use Finnish, Meänkieli and Sami with Swedish authorities in certain municipalities that have a high proportion of Finnish, Meänkieli or Sami speakers.

In view of the history of the Finnish-language in Sweden and the recent developments concerning national minority languages, making the history of the minorities more accessible to researchers and the general public should be considered important.

Of all the Finnish-language publications in Sweden, the following have been considered to be of interest in the present project:

1. *Tukholman Sanomat* (1951-58)

2. Tukholman Uutiset (1952–58)
3. Ruotsin Suomalainen (1972–)
4. Finn Sanomat (1974–1985)
5. Viikkoviesti (1995–2005)
6. Ruotsin Sanomat (2003–2005)

Today there are only two newspapers published in Sweden exclusively or partly in Finnish, Ruotsin Suomalainen and Haparandabladet. The former started already in 1964 as an information bulletin for immigrants. The latter has about 25% of its material in Finnish and Meänkieli, and up until 2010 its title was also in Finnish. Recently, however, a new Finnish newspaper, Suomen Uutisviikko, has made an attempt to carry on the tradition of the immigrant press.



The project

In the present project the two libraries aim at highlighting the position of the historically important Finnish-speaking minority in the public debate and in this way aim to support historical research in a number of areas by means of digitisation. In addition to academic researchers, genealogists in particular have shown great interest, but the newspaper material will of course attract a much wider audience.

The project can also be seen as a rescue and preservation project, because digitisation is performed by first microfilming the newspapers and then digitising the microfilm. The cooperation also makes it possible to exchange experiences and results from the digitisation projects in the two national libraries. Sources:

Käll, Kerstin: När fan tog bofinken. 1992

Moosberg, Nils: Om finskspråkiga tidningar i Sverige. (Symbola litteraria) 1927

Norrbottnens-Kuriren 14.12.1951 /I.F. : Pressen i Norrbotten före 1900.

Rydén, Per: Den svenska pressens historia. 2000-2003

Tarkiainen, Kari: Finnarnas historia i Sverige. II-III 1993-1996

Zilliacus, Konni: Från ofärdstid och oroliga år. 1960

Kalevi Lehtonen, Librarian, National Library of Sweden 1988-2012

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Dorrit Gustafsson

IN BRIEF



Photo by Sisko Vuorikari

Renovation of the National Library of Finland

The extensive renovation project of the Engel main building and the Rotunda building began in June 2013. The library will remain open and continue to provide services to the public in spite of the renovation.

The scope of the renovation

The conservation project of the building designed by Carl Ludwig Engel began in June 2013 and will be completed in autumn 2015.

The constructor responsible for the renovation is the University of Helsinki. The chief architect is LPR Architects. A planning team of designers from different fields has been commissioned for the project. The team also includes representatives from the National Board of Antiquities as well as conservation and other experts.

Various repairs have been made to the National Library of Finland building. All modifications have been done with respect for the original design by Engel. The urban development plan of the area, along with other decisions, strictly specifies that the library is a protected building.

According to an international evaluation panel assessing the operations of the National Library of Finland in 2011, the building requires basic renovation, and the interior rooms look dilapidated. The renovation of the Engel building façade was completed in spring 2012. The façade of the Rotunda building will be restored over the course of the project.

The renovation project involves conserving the wall and ceiling surfaces and the bookshelves, updating the building technology, and renovating the lighting system and some of the floor area. For decades, library customers have suffered from cold winter weather in the large reading rooms and from summer heat in the Rotunda facilities. The objective is to improve the overall conditions.

Many issues are still being looked into, including creating more space in the cramped entrance hall area by relocating the clothing storage space to the floor below, installing an automatic book return machine near the entrance to facilitate book returning, expanding the Gallery in order to vacate the Cupola Hall from temporary exhibitions, and situating elevators in order to improve accessibility. Also, the furnishings of the reading halls will soon need to be replaced.

Improving accessibility has been an important consideration throughout the design process. One aim is to provide elevators and suitable routes to promote the independent use of the library by handicapped customers. Once again, heated discussion has revolved around whether it would be possible to add a railing to the stairs leading to the main entrance. Countless library customers have requested one over the years to make it easier, or even possible, for them to access the library.

The renovation project is demanding, and the designers are likely to come across surprises over the course of it. The conservation process is expected to prove particularly challenging. Monographs and studies have been generated for over a year to ensure a successful repair project.

The library will remain open throughout the renovation project

The library services have been transferred away from the renovation area to the neighbouring Fabiania building. The library collections will be open to the public during the renovation project. Unfortunately, the project will significantly reduce reading room space at the City Centre Campus. The National Library of Finland reading rooms are primarily intended for customers using the library materials, but they are also open to others if there is enough space.

For more information on the library services and the renovation project, see the National Library of Finland website or the Facebook page at <http://www.nationallibrary.fi/index.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/Kansalliskirjasto>

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

The main building of the National Library of Finland was designed by the German architect Carl Ludwig Engel. Engel's chief work was the reconstruction of Helsinki, particularly of the Senate Square area. The library building was completed in 1840 and taken into use in 1845. The main building is a part of the Library Block comprising the Rotunda (1906) and Fabiania

(1844–1897) buildings and the underground collection facilities known as Porthania (1956) and the Cave (2000).

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NettiAsema4



Open Repositories Conference in Helsinki in 2014

The leading international publications archive event Open Repositories will be organised in Helsinki in 2014. The five-day conference will take place on 9–13 June 2014 and most of the associated events will be based in the conference centre Helsinki Congress Paasitorni located in Siltasaari, Helsinki. The conference will be organised jointly by the National Library of Finland and the Helsinki University Library.

The annual meetings for users of the most common publications archive applications (DSpace, Fedora and Eprints) as well as the Developer Challenge competition will be arranged in conjunction with the conference.

Organised for the first time in a Nordic country, Open Repositories may currently be the largest library sector event focusing specifically on open source applications.

More information on the Open Repositories conference can be obtained from Information System Specialist Jyrki Ilva, tel. +358 9 191 44309, [jyrki.ilva \[at\] helsinki.fi](mailto:jyrki.ilva@helsinki.fi)

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Katri Nissilä

IN BRIEF

The National Library of Finland has digitised 160,000 wartime photos for public use

The Finnish Defence Forces have launched a service entitled The Wartime Photograph Archive. For many years, the National Library of Finland and the connected Centre for Preservation and Digitisation in Mikkeli have participated in the project by digitising images of the Winter War, the Continuation War and the Lapland War from the original negatives. The service has become so popular that signing in may take time.

According to the digitisation team, the photos generated are a window into the experiences of war veterans and our fathers, mothers and grandparents, as well as into social activities in the exceptional circumstances of war. Younger generations now have access to a digital form of such memories.

The digitisation of historically important materials changed the digitisation team's conceptions of war and of wartime society. The team members were all 30 to 40 years old. Against their expectations, not all photographs documented the battle front. Some of them documented everyday life on the home front. A strong community emerged as a particular theme: everyone from toddlers to grandparents participated in village events, weddings and funerals. The images show different generations living side by side.

The archive depicts Karelia as a surprisingly modern and prosperous area, complete with day care centres, community colleges and beautiful villages. Then again, the photos also show a football game taking place in the ruins of a bombing site in the region of Viipuri. The project proved extremely interesting, and one of the team members found photographs of the village of Kannas from where his family originates. His family bears the name of the village, and some of the photos even included people who share his family name.

Many details in the archive capture one's attention. Architectural heritage, contemporary fashion and clothes have all been documented. The camera has captured various entertainers who travelled from place to place at the time, including musicians and comedians. Some of the images show horses and dogs working together with soldiers. Some photos depict Finnish people watching through binoculars as St Petersburg and Kronstadt burn, others depict Finland teeming with Germans.

The wartime photographs were digitised from different negative formats, including glass plate, sheet film and roll film negatives. The captions have been transcribed from hand- and machine-written sheets and supplemented with facts related by the photos. The captions have been inserted as image titles in the archive service.

Digitisation is an important part of the operations of the National Library of Finland. The old materials, which are not subject to copyright, are available online at digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi; materials subject to copyright can be found in legal deposit libraries all over Finland.

The Wartime Photograph Archive

<http://www.sa-kuva.fi>

Katri Nissilä, Press Officer, National Library of Finland



Mannerheim greets soldiers. Photo by SA-arkisto.

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The National Library of Finland

NettiAsema4

Tuija Wicklund

IN BRIEF

An early version of Sibelius's Lemminkäinen has appeared in print for the first time

The complete critical edition Jean Sibelius Works (JSW) has published the early version of Lemminkäinen for the first time. This twenty-first volume was edited by Tuija Wicklund.

Lemminkäinen was premiered in the spring of 1896. Despite the enthusiastic audience, Sibelius revised the work in the following fall of 1897, when the second version was also performed.

The present volume includes three complete movements of the 1897 version: Lemminkäinen ja saaren neidot, Lemminkäinen Tuonelassa and Lemminkäinen palaa kotitiensä. For the two latter ones, reconstructions of the passages Sibelius deleted in the 1897 revision, made from the orchestral parts, also appear.

The 1896 version of Lemminkäinen Tuonelassa, for instance, includes musical material which Sibelius deleted from the later versions, and he also orchestrated the movement differently. The early version of Lemminkäinen palaa kotitiensä in turn, published in JSW, is almost twice as long as its final version (1901).

Of Tuonelan joutsen no early version survives, but during the editing process, a hand-written orchestral part for the first violin was recovered from the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra Archive. This part's music differs from the known version (1901) and thus reveals new information on the revision of the movement. The part appears in the volume as facsimiles.

JSW is published by the National Library of Finland, the Sibelius Society of Finland and publisher Breitkopf & Härtel (Wiesbaden).

Tuija Wicklund, The National Library of Finland/ Jean Sibelius Works



Jean Sibelius

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International Cooperation

International interaction Organisations and bodies

Alto Editorial Board, metadata development team

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 tEUR, 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

EROMM, European Register of Microform Masters

European I COLC, International Coalition of Library Consortia

The European Library, portal for European national libraries

Europeana, the European Digital Library - Europeana Travel project - The Council for aggregators and content providers, Europeana network

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



LIBER, Association of European Research Libraries

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

PersID, Persistent Identifier Initiative

SVUC, Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue

United Kingdom Sibelius Society

World Digital Library

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Kai Ekholm

EDITORIAL

A Change Is Gonna Come

Dear friends and colleagues!

Last year we had the great pleasure to host you all in Helsinki. We have been encouraged and flattered by your kind comments since that gathering. I'm happy that we could create some good memories for us all.

The title of this short address comes from the great Sam Cooke, who after hearing Bob Dylan's *Blowing in the wind*, was moved to compose his own protest song about racism.

So now I would like to turn to the changes occurring to the whole environment we are working in. The world is no longer so library-centered as it once was.

The analysts state that GAFA, four companies, rule the world. GAFA refer to Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon. They are determined to dominate the Internet whatever we think or say. Google has now a strong grip on marketing business. In Finland alone it 'hoovered-up' 100 million euros, which is money that would in the past have gone to the print magazines. The results of this change are seen in the ever diminishing sales of newspapers, cuts in the numbers of employees and 'the cult of free' entering into peoples mindset. Apple controls the music market, mobile market, application pricing etc. Facebook seems to be the main official gateway to many other services. And Amazon is blamed for single-handedly killing-off the book retailers in the UK, by discounting them to death and in the process hardly paying any taxes to the UK. They have changed the lives and the habits of our customers. They have entered our lives and changed the rules under which we work and do our business.

But libraries have always been in the market of 'free'. There is no change in that. The materials are free, service is free, the venues are also free.

When I was a teenager, as the child of a single parent, we had no money to order glossy magazines or literary reviews or fine coffee-table books.

But I only had to walk 50 meters to the nearest library and read them and then carry home the Photographic yearbooks I enjoyed so much.

Now I understand what the social role of a library is or can have. I walk through the Kirjasto 10 (Library 10) and see immigrants and youngsters relaxing, mailing home, doing their identity work. All free. I think we have focused on slightly wrong issues. Yes, we need to take care of the books, that is a given. We need to turn the Internet to our own advantage.

We have to ensure all the e-books become available for our customers (Did you know that less than 5% of books are globally in multiformat...?)

What is very important is our capability to make connections. We must also provide space and a good atmosphere for relaxation, for longevity, for an overall feeling of humanity. We all need this when we look as do strangers to new cities and remote places we visit or wish to settle in. And naturally always defending our user's digital rights.

In the FAIFE sessions we informed the five hundred attendees that there is a growing global control of the world. We Faiseans were not surprised to read of the most recent US controversy of online surveillance by the NSA. The same story is also probably well understood here in Singapore, if I am not mistaken.

Finally before I finish - let me refer back to Helsinki. We are happy to inform you that the number of libraries are growing in Helsinki. There will be a new public library in 2017 to celebrate our centennial independence day. And more good news. The National library you most visited is going to be renovated. Right now it's main building is totally empty and all the masterpieces and murals will be renovated to their full glory. You are most welcome to visit us in 2015 when the National library Main Building will be opened again.

Thank you friends and fellow colleagues

Kai Ekholm, National Librarian, Professor



Kai Ekholm, National librarian

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HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings from IFLA 2012 in Helsinki



The President of IFLA Ingrid Parent (in the centre) wishes everyone welcome to IFLA 2013 in Singapore.



Kai Ekholm in IFLA 2012 in Helsinki.

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100 years since the birth of Finnish poet Saima Harmaja

Text: Päivi Istala, Chair of the Saima Harmaja Society

The Saima Harmaja 100 year anniversary exhibition at the National Library of Finland covered the life and literary production of the author of the poem collection *Huhtikuu* (April). The exhibition included first editions of Saima Harmaja's publications, photographs, letters, personal objects and information about the poet and her production. The exhibition and the related public events are organised in cooperation with the Saima Harmaja Society. The year 2013 is a jubilee year in many ways. Saima's 100th birthday festivities will take place all across Finland from spring to spring. Saima's sister, journalist emerita Kirsti Toppari, will celebrate her 90th birthday, and the Saima Harmaja Society its 10th anniversary in November.



Saima Harmaja died of pulmonary tuberculosis a few weeks before her 24th birthday. Her production has earned her a place in the literary history of Finland. Her poems and diary reach out across the years to speak to young readers searching for themselves and a soul mate.

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The Emerging World exhibition

Photographs of the Emerging World exhibition. Map treasures from the A. E. Nordenskiöld Map Collection.

The exhibition was inaugurated at the National Museum of Finland on 26 April 2013 and will remain open through 27 October 2013.

The exhibition is organised jointly by the National Library of Finland and the National Museum of Finland. Chief Intendent Jouni Kuurne, Professor Tapio Markkanen, M.Phil. Leena Miekkaavaara and M.Phil. Anna-Maija Pietilä-Ventelä created the design and script for the Emerging World exhibition.



Dutchman Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) produced an atlas entitled *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum* in Antwerp in 1570. The map has been called the world's first modern atlas. It became so popular that new editions were published in different languages nearly annually until 1612. The 1574 Antwerp edition includes maps of the world, Europe, and America.



A. E. Nordenskiöld with a local Chukchi man while touring the Kolyuchin Bay in 1879, during his exploration of the Northeast Passage. The original photograph was published in Nordenskiöld's work entitled *Notre expedition au PÔle Nord et la découverte du passage du Nord-Est* published in Paris (s.a.).

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Facts and Statistics 2012

- Visits 161 000
- Guidance in information retrieval was given to 126 persons
- Guided tours in the library building was given to 766 persons
- Growth of National Collection (Legal Deposit Collection)
 - ephemera (uncatalogued collection) 59 112 items
 - sound recordings: 3107 titles
 - sheet music: 232 volumes
 - born-digital publications: 24 312 files
 - web archive (online archive): 12 TB
- Databases of own collections
 - totally: 3 882 000 records; growth in 2012 was 75 985 records
 - national bibliography Fennica: 930 520 records
 - national discography Viola: 1 031 878 records
 - research collection Helka together with Helsinki University Library: 3,2 million records
 - union catalogue for Finnish libraries Melinda: 6,1 million records
- Local loans: 488 802
- Interlibrary loans: 3067
- Loans total: 491 869
- Digitised pages in a year: 0.9 mill.
- Total amount of digitized pages: 6.8 mill.
- Collections: 113 kilometres of shelving
- Premises: 25 000 km²
- Total operating budget: 28.4 mill. €
- Number of staff: 209 (with stimulus 45)



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Kirsi Aho

My National Library: Tuomas Heikkilä

Historian Tuomas Heikkilä has implemented numerous projects together with the National Library of Finland, the most recent being the *Fragmenta Membranea* online parchment leaf database published last year, along with the related *Literary Middle Ages* online publication. Heikkilä will begin his tenure as Director of the Institutum Romanum Finlandiae at Villa Lante in Rome in August 2013.



Tuomas Heikkilä and his soon to be one year old son Kaarlo visiting the inner courtyard of the National Library of Finland. Photo by Sisko Vuorikari.

What was your first encounter with the National Library of Finland like?

I grew up in the Kruununuhaka district in Helsinki, so I have been familiar with the library building since I was a little boy. I began to study history at the University of Helsinki in autumn 1992.

Which National Library of Finland collection is the most important and dearest to you?

The medieval parchment fragments my research team worked with during the Literary Middle Ages project are naturally very important to me. What has been your most compelling discovery? The La Sfera maps of the Mediterranean area in the Nordenskiöld collection are a magnificent sight. The library's incunabula collection is also astounding.

What is the most inspiring place in the library for you?

I have visited libraries all over the world for nearly 20 years, but I still find the National Library of Finland an infinitely inspiring environment. The upper floor of the South Hall is saturated with the erudition of centuries, traces of people long gone and history, the understanding of which is a precondition for understanding modern times.

How has the National Library of Finland affected your work?

The National Library of Finland has directed my career choices in the sense that the library collections first sparked my interest in the Middle Ages. The same collections later provided me with a research topic that has kept me in Finland. The National Library of Finland boasts even finer treasures than many of the old libraries in Europe. For example, the La Sfera maps in Helsinki are more spectacular than those in the Laurentian Library in Florence – and that was the Medici library. A recent fragment convention held in Stockholm showed me that we have good reason to be proud. The National Library of Finland holds internationally significant collections.

Do you have any ideas for the future development of the National Library of Finland?

Different derivative products are always interesting, and the treasures of the library would gain visibility through related products.

What would you like to say to the library employees?

I have been pleased with how easy it is to use the library services and work at the library. The library has provided me with flexible services and made my work a rewarding experience.

Please tell us about your upcoming work at the Villa Lante in Rome.

The 16th century renaissance building Villa Lante has been home to the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institute since 1954. It is the oldest of the 17 Finnish institutes abroad. The scope of Villa Lante's operations covers historical research, archeology, classical philology and the history of art. The institute serves as a course venue for students and scientists. Besides my management responsibilities, I have taught and conducted calendar research there. In addition to delineating time, calendars contain important cultural historical sediments, for example in the form of name day calendars which often reveal interesting temporal, geographic and cultural dimensions.

We wish you a happy three year term at the Villa Lante!

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Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen and Jack Rueter

HIGHLIGHTS

The Digitization Project of Kindred Languages and digital collection of Finno-Ugric publications

In June 2013, the National Library of Finland published the Fenno-Ugrica online collection of Finno-Ugric material as well as the related researcher services. The collection contains about 17,000 pages of publications in the Ingrian and Veps languages, totalling more than 130 monographs, of which most are textbooks and dictionaries published in the Soviet Union. In addition to the books, the digitized material includes close to 22,000 pages of Mari and Mordvin newspapers from the 1920s and 1930s.

The online collection was developed in the National Library of Finland's Digitization Project of Kindred Languages, which is part of the Kone Foundation Language Programme. The objective of the Language Programme is to promote the documentation of small Finno-Ugric languages, Finnish and Finland's minority languages as well as to strengthen their status and accessibility.

Free, open access to the material ensures that it can be used by both the academic community and the speakers of the kindred languages of Finnish. The National Library of Finland has developed an OCR editor to support the research use of the material. The editor allows text that has undergone a process of machine identification to be edited for the purposes of linguistic research.

Pilot project 2012-2013

Since July 2012, the National Library of Finland has been working on the Digitization Project of Kindred Languages, a pilot project whose goal was to digitize the Finno-Ugric materials from the collections of the National Library of Russia (Saint Petersburg). This is the first time that material published in the former Soviet Union has been made freely available for public use in the National Library of Finland data systems. The pilot project is part of a project group under the Kone Foundation Language Programme 2012-16, and it is referred to in the Programme section titled "The Digitisation of the Finno-Ugric materials at St. Petersburg, Pilot Project (2012-13)".

Material

At the beginning of the Soviet era, minority languages suddenly became socially important. Like many other small languages, the Erzya language was converted into a medium of popular education, enlightenment and dissemination of information pertinent to the developing political agenda of the new Soviet state.

The "deluge" of popular Erzya-language literature, 1920s-1930s, suddenly challenged the lexical orthographic norms of the limited ecclesiastical publications from the 1880s onward. Newspapers published in various places were written in orthographies and in word forms that the locals would have no problems understanding. Schoolbooks were written to address the separate needs of both the adult population and school children. New concepts and old were introduced in the native language. It was the beginning of a renaissance and period of enlightenment, snipped in the bud.

The publication of open-access and searchable written materials from the 1920s and 1930s is a "gold mine". Historians, social scientist and laymen with interests in specific local publications can now find text materials pertinent to their studies. The linguistically oriented population can also find writings to their delight: (1) lexical items specific to a given publication, and (2) orthographically documented specifics of phonetics.

OCR Editor

Tools for crowdsourcing and improved conditions for generating new functions for the project have been developed through this customized research environment. One tool for crowdsourcing created during the pilot project is the OCR text editor, which allows researchers to fix and edit the OCR text of the digitized material in the publication system. The tool was developed in cooperation between the National Library of Finland and researchers.

Copyrights

Since the digitizing work was conducted in Russia and the material made available in Finland, both Finnish and Russian copyright legislation have been taken into consideration during the pilot project. During winter 2012-2013, the Moscow-based National Library Resource conducted research on all the copyrights related to the pilot project. Thanks to the activity of the National Library Resource, the copyright to the publications has been documented to be ownerless property (escheat), therefore the publications are treated like works which have fallen into the public domain.

Follow-up project

During the pilot phase of the project, we have developed practices and technological implementations which will ease the digitization of other materials in the Language Programme, to be conducted in the



follow-up project in 2014-2016. The intention is to also enable new forms of international cooperation and to broaden cooperation, if possible, to cover other memory institutions managing and digitizing Finno-Ugrian language materials in Russia and Finland.

Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen, Project Manager, Research Library, National Library of Finland

Jack Rueter, Researcher, University of Helsinki

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web: http://www.nationallibrary.fi/services/digitaalisetkokoelmat/finnougric_en_ru.html

Fenno-Ugrica Collection: <http://fennougrica.kansalliskirjasto.fi>

The Blog of the Digitisation Project of Finno-Ugric Languages: <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/fennougrica>

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Heidi Partanen

HIGHLIGHTS

Finna brings national cultural heritage to the masses

The Finna interface of the National Digital Library is a diverse search service for individuals and organisations.

The NDL project

The Ministry of Education and Culture launched the National Digital Library project (NDL) in 2008. The objective of the project is to make the digital data repositories of archives, libraries and museums available to the public now and in the future. The project additionally entails promoting the digitisation of cultural heritage objects. The NDL project includes the development and implementation of two service systems: a shared public interface and a centralised long term preservation system.

From open source to Finna

The National Library of Finland has implemented the public Finna interface with open source software. After the selection of an extremely promising open source code in early 2012, the joint development project quickly progressed to the launch of a test version in December. The interface was originally meant to be developed with Primo, an off the self software by the Ex Libris Group. The company was awarded the contract after a competitive dialogue procedure in 2010. However, the Primo software was rejected after a pilot project indicated it did not meet the requirements for the customer interface.



Image by Jarkko Hyppönen

Extraordinary cooperation

The National Library of Finland is responsible for developing the customer interface and for the overall coordination of the project. It has guaranteed its customers the opportunity to participate in the development process, to monitor work progress and to give feedback in accordance with the agile software development method. The selection of open source software also allows for international cooperation, for example, with the VuFind developer community. The National Library has collected both developer and user feedback. Usability testing has been a constant support in the software development. The NDL is the most extensive cooperation project to date between archives, libraries and museums in Finland. It has stepped up and increased cooperation both between and within sectors. This has benefitted all parties.

Extraordinary cooperation

The national version of the shared search service of Finnish archives, libraries and museums is available at finna.fi. Until now, different organisations have provided separate electronic portals and services. The objective of the Finna service is to provide access to all materials and services through a single interface.

By improving data repository availability, Finna increases the diverse utilisation of archives, libraries and museums. Together, the materials form a diverse, and possibly surprising, source of materials for research, education and data retrieval. Finna contains images, documents, databases, e-publications and metadata derived from physical materials. While the majority of the content is available for all Internet users, the use and availability of some materials may be restricted.

The Finna service increases Finnish citizens' understanding of culture and science. The repository is maintained by archive, library and museum experts who ensure the reliability and timeliness of the content.

Finna contains nationally significant and locally interesting data. The majority of the integrated materials are also distributed to the European Digital Library, Europeana. Finna diverges from Europeana in that it contains reference data in addition to digital objects.

The different versions of Finna

The public interface project does not comprise a single portal. Besides finna.fi, a university library version and a joint museum version are currently in test use. A customised Finna interface for the research library of the National Library of Finland, as well as an archive interface and several other versions, will be launched later as the interface project progresses.

The constant development of Finna

The development of the Finna service has continued after the launch of the test version. For example,

the service has been supplemented with a new layout and functions. More organisations will gradually add their materials and services to Finna. The next production version will be published on "Finna Day" on 22 October 2013.

Links

The National Finna search service: finna.fi

The National Digital Library Project: kdk.fi

The Jyväskylä University Library Finna interface: jyu.finna.fi

The Museum Finna interface: museot.finna.fi

The Europeana portal: europeana.eu

Heidi Partanen, Press Officer, Library Network Services, National Library

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NettiAsema4

A national-level ontology service

Ontologies strive to depict relations between things in machine-understandable ways. Their aim is to give the computer the ability to reason like a human would in a limited domain following a set of simple rules. Building ontologies is labour intensive, but luckily they are extremely re-usable. The National Library of Finland is building an ontology service with the aim of making ontologies available to everyone in Finland.

The ONKI project

The National Library of Finland, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education and Culture, has launched a project called ONKI, which aims to build a national-level ontology service.

The ONKI project is based on the FinnONTO research project by Aalto University and the University of Helsinki, which developed a semantic web infrastructure from 2003 to 2012. However, the focus of the ONKI project is on production, and therefore, though based on services and applications developed during a research project, the aim is different. Its chief concerns are stability and usability, as the service needs to be reliable enough to support further services whose function depends on it.

The first part of the project ends in May 2014, but the whole project is planned to be completed in 2017, after which the maintenance phase will begin. During the project we also plan to build a consortium of the different content providers and other interest groups relating to ontologies in Finland. This ONKI consortium would then guide the further development and use of ontologies on a national scale.

Ontologies in short

An ontology is an explicit, machine-readable specification of concepts and the relations between them in a given domain. In essence, an ontology details common knowledge that is obvious to people and makes it machine-processable. For example, an ontology might tell that a cat is a feline, felines are mammals, and mammals have fur. From this, a computer could deduce that cats have fur. Similarly, an ontology could say that Hamburg is in Germany, and Germany is a part of Europe. When a user then searches for European short film festivals, they will find the Internationales Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg because the system knows that Hamburg is in Europe.

In an ontology, every concept and relation is given a unique identifier (URI), and the meanings behind these are made explicit. If different organisations use the same identifiers for the same concepts in their metadata descriptions, the integration of data is simpler.

Ontologies are also language independent in that the concepts can have labels in several different languages. They are, however, typically culture dependent: a developer is much more likely to include a concept that has a term in his or her language than one that does not. In other words, a person who speaks French is much more likely to make a distinction between rivers that flow to the sea and rivers that flow to lakes or other rivers since the French language has separate terms for these two types of rivers. The underlying concept, however, is naturally language independent.

Overview of the ONKI service

The first focus of the project is the ontology service itself. We wish to build a reliable, centralised channel for the publication and utilisation of ontologies. With a centralized service, we can provide common interfaces for accessing all ontologies to make using them as simple as possible. All the code we develop is open source.

Figure 1 depicts the ontology service overview. On the left-hand upper corner of the picture is the ontology editor. Building an editor is outside of the scope of the project, and several free and commercial editors are available. We are testing the different options and will be releasing a review report when the tests have concluded.

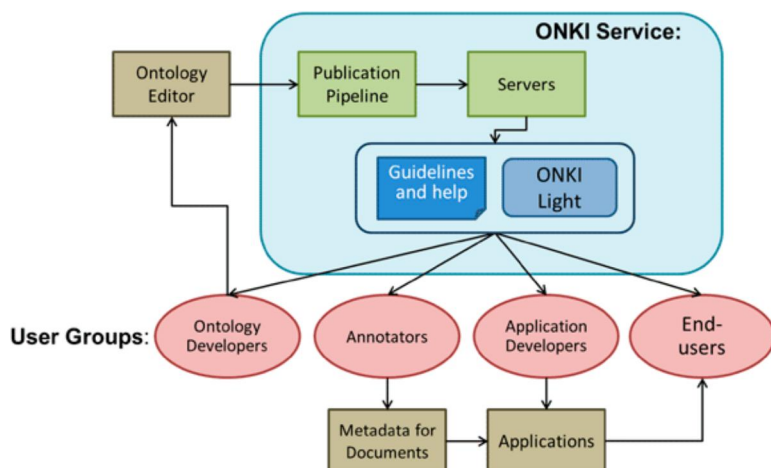
Moving on in the figure, next we come to the publication pipeline, which includes automatic transformations and validation as needed by the ontologies. The ontology is then placed on our server, from which it can be accessed through the ONKI Light interface. We support the simple browsing of an ontology using a web browser, and for machine -use we provide a REST interface as well as a SPARQL endpoint so that the ontologies can be integrated into other applications. We also provide documentation, help, and common guidelines with which to use the ontologies. Thirdly, we also offer the General Finnish Upper Ontology YSO and its Swedish counterpart ALLSO (more on those later).

Finally, the figure shows the different user groups that we cater to. The first two are the ontology developers, who publish ontologies, and the indexers, who use concepts from ontologies when annotating documents. The third user group is application developers, who use the metadata provided by the indexers in conjunction with the ontologies to build end-user applications and services. This



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group also includes the various other projects that are being developed by the National Library of Finland. The final group is the end users, who usually use ONKI through third-party applications and services, but they can also view the ontologies using the browser interface.



The ONKI service was originally developed during the FinnONTO project, but we are now developing it further with a focus on stability and usability. We are currently installing a new version of ONKI onto our servers, but Aalto University will be maintaining the current version on their end until the end of the year. We are also conducting user studies this summer to test the usability of the system.

The Finnish General Upper Ontology YSO

The other focus of the ONKI project is the Finnish General Upper Ontology YSO and its Swedish counterpart ALLSO. YSO is based on the General Finnish Thesaurus YSA, which has been used by libraries and various other organisations for decades. Now we wish to evaluate the current state of YSO and whether its hierarchy serves its envisioned usage. To this end we will compare it to similar work done in other countries and also conduct interviews with the various user groups.

The final vision is to make YSO a national general upper ontology providing the upper level hierarchy as well as concepts that are common to all domains. This will then be complemented by various more specific domain ontologies. We have realised this structure in the form of KOKO, a combination of YSO and fifteen different domain ontologies ranging from agriculture to health to seafaring. This KOKO is already in use in, e.g., various museums as well as in pilot use in the national broadcasting company YLE.

Our hope is to provide a step on the way towards making machines understand data. Using ontological concepts in annotations gives the machine the necessary knowledge on the relations between the different aspects of the metadata, and we aim to make this possible.

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