

Ministry of Education and Culture
Ministère de l'Éducation et de la culture

Finland, a land of libraries

Hannu Sulin, Counsellor of Library Affairs
Division for Cultural Policy 2012

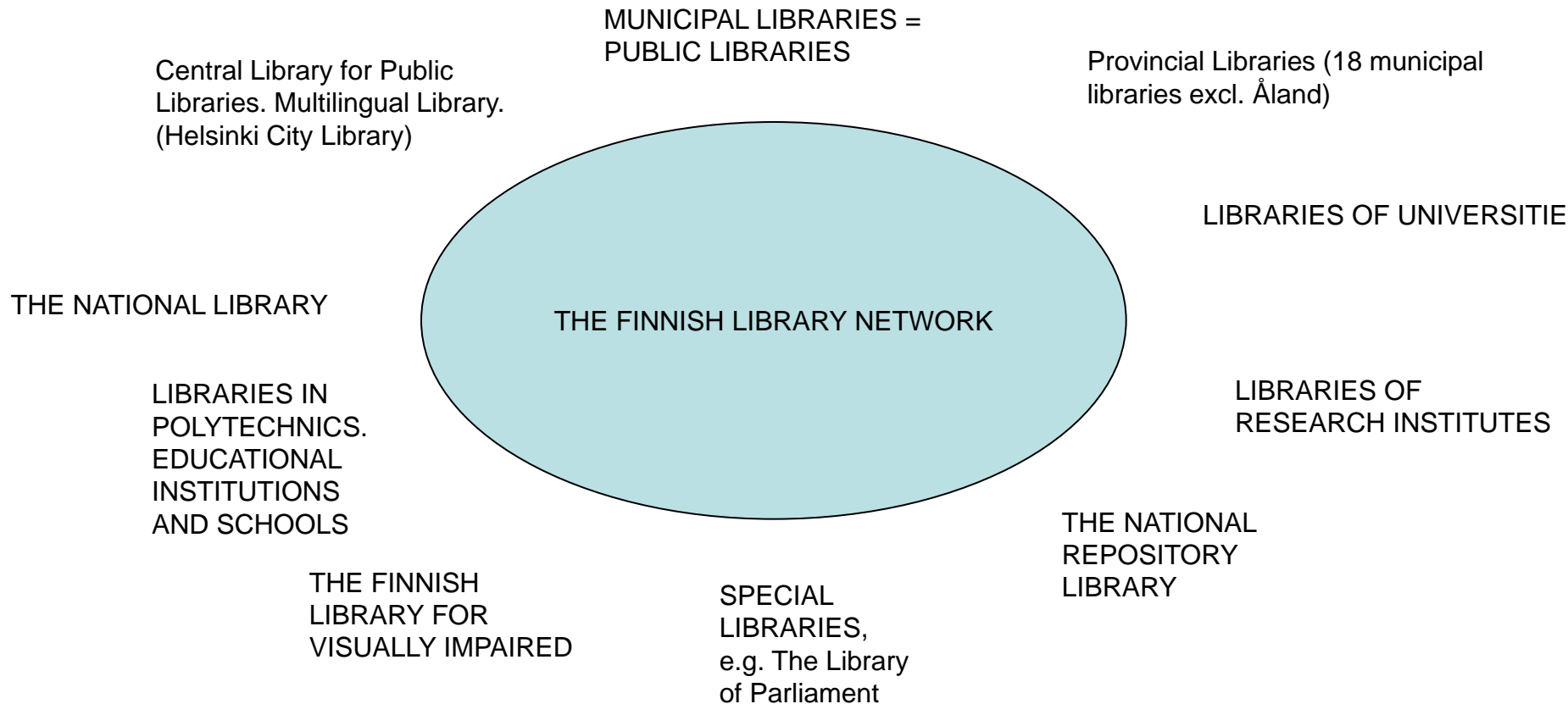
*The 28th IFLA Pre Conference of Library and Research
Services for Parliaments, 8 to 10 August 2012*



The Finnish library network

- Structure
- Some statistical numbers
- Funding
- Administration
- Library co-operation

THE FINNISH LIBRARY NETWORK



The National Library of Finland

<http://www.nationallibrary.fi/index.html>

- The National Library of Finland is an independent institute at the University of Helsinki
- is under the University act
- is run and financed by the university
- The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates discretionary state subsidy to the library through the contract
 - for the National Library purpose
 - for special projects, such as the Finnish National Electronic Library, the National Digital Library etc.

The National Repository Library

http://www.varastokirjasto.fi/lang_en/

- own act, decree and regulations of the Ministry of Education and Culture and governed by specific statutes
- state library, subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Culture
- serves both public and research libraries
- private customers do not visit the library
- services, also postage, free of charge

Libraries at universities and research institutes

http://www.libraries.fi/en-GB/libraries/university_applied_sciences/

- run and financed by their organizations
- organizations decide independently on finances and activities of the library

Libraries in polytechnics and educational institutions

http://www.libraries.fi/en-GB/libraries/university_applied_sciences/

- run and financed by their organizations which decide independently on the finances and activities of the library
- regulations of the Ministry of Education and Culture

Special libraries, the libraries of administrative agencies

http://www.libraries.fi/en-GB/libraries/research_libraries/

- are run and financed by their organizations
- organizations can determine independently the activities and financing of the library
- some examples: The Library of Parliament, Finnish Literature Society Library, The Library of Statistics, Meteorological Institute Library etc.

The Library for the Visually Impaired

<http://www.celia.fi/english>

- under the act, decree and the regulations of the Ministry
- state library, subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Culture
- governed by specific statutes

Some statistical numbers

<https://yhteistilasto.lib.helsinki.fi/index.jsp>

- Finnish Research Libraries:
 - administrative units 60
 - branches 275
 - operating costs 162 M€
 - working years 1 765
 - number of visits per year 12 million

And something nice to know: All Finnish university and polytechnics libraries are free to use for all. Also many of the special libraries are free of charge, for instance The Library of Parliament.

Public libraries

<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Kirjastot/?lang=en>

- under the (Public) Library Act and Library Decree 1998
- by the Library Act every municipality must organize and serve sufficient library services
- municipalities receive statutory state aid for operating public library services. The local authorities decide independently to what extent they finance libraries' operational costs
- in 2011, the municipalities spent 310 million euros to cover library operational costs (about 58 euros/inhabitant)
- statutory state aid is about 32 % of total operational costs

Programme of Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen's Government

"The (public library) library system plays a central role in the maintenance and development of Finnish literacy and the advancement of reading as a hobby. The Government supports the development of library activity, and fosters cooperation between schools and libraries. Libraries will be developed to meet the challenges of the information society. The opening up of the libraries', museums' and public arts institutions' digitised material for free public access will be promoted."

Programme of the Finnish Government

22.6.2011

State subsidies to public libraries

- libraries can receive 25-50 % state aid for construction and for the purchase of bookmobiles. Nearly all main libraries have been constructed with state aid
- The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates discretionary subsidies directly to libraries for special purposes (e.g. for special projects, notably the information society initiatives)
- the government subsidizes the acquisition of small-circulation literature and of cultural journals to the libraries

Free of charge

- "The use of the library's own collections within the library and borrowing from them shall be free of charge."
(Library act 904/1998, 5 §)
- Authors and translators may receive grants and subsidies for the free use of their books in libraries by the act of Public Lending Right.
(The Act of Grants and Subsidies for Authors and Translators)
- State refunds to authors (EU member countries) are paid from the state budget on the grounds of the Finnish Copyright Act for lending books from public libraries.

The Central Library for public libraries

<http://www.lib.hel.fi/en-GB/>

- "The library acting as the central library for public libraries complements the services of public libraries. The central library for public libraries is a public library in a municipality designated by the Ministry of Education and Culture with the consent of the local authority. Its operating area shall be the whole country."

(Library Act 904/1998, 4 §)

- Helsinki City Library acts as the Central Library for public libraries

The Central Library of public libraries

- shall act as the national inter-library lending center;
- shall promote co-operation of public libraries and between public and research libraries;
- shall develop common methods and instruments necessary for organising library and information services; and
- shall perform other duties assigned by the Ministry of Education and Culture

Library Decree 1078/1998)

- Inter-library loans to public libraries issued by the Central Library shall be free of charge

(Library Act 1998, 5 §)

The Financing of the Central Library

- It is maintained and run by the City of Helsinki
- The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates discretionary state subsidies to the library after the contract made with the ministry annually:
 - for the purpose acting as the Central Library
 - for the purpose acting as the Multilingual Library
 - for the Networked Public Library Services

Provincial libraries (18)

- "The library acting as the provincial library for public libraries complements the services of public libraries. The provincial library for public libraries is a public library in a municipality designated by the Ministry of Education and Culture with the consent of the local authority. Its operating area shall be determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture".

(Library Act 1998, 4 §)

- "Inter-library loans issued by the provincial libraries to public libraries shall be free of charge".

(Library Act 1998, 5 §)

The Provincial libraries

- "shall support the information and interlibrary lending services of the public libraries within its region;
- shall develop information services relating to its own area of operation;
- shall provide training in new forms and development projects of library work for personnel in its operating area; and
- shall perform other duties assigned by the Ministry of Education and Culture"

(Library Decree 1078/1998)

The Financing of the Provincial libraries

- Provincial libraries are maintained and run by their municipalities
- The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates discretionary state subsidies to the municipalities for acting as the Provincial Library - after the contract made with the Ministry

Finnish public libraries in 2011 Some figures

<http://tilastot.kirjastot.fi/en-GB/>

- Libraries: 836. Main Libraries 308.
Mobile libraries: 153. One library boat
- Collection: 39 mill. (of which books 35 mill.)
- Working years: 4 755
- Visits/inhabitant: 9,9 (total 53 mill.)
- Virtual visits: 57 mill. visits on library web-services
- Lending/inhabitant: 18,2 (total 97,5 mill.)
- Population: 5,35 mill.

State administration of public library and information services

- "The Ministry of Education and Culture shall be the national administrative authority for (public) library and information services.
- The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment shall be the regional administrative authority."

(Library Act 904/1998, 7 §)

Ministry of Education and Culture

Minister of Education and Science
State Secretary

Minister of Culture and Sport
State Secretary

Permanent Secretary

Communications and Public Relations

International Relations

Department for Education Policy

Strategy and Steering Group

- General Education Division
- Vocational Education and Training Division

Division for Adult Education and Training

Department for Higher Education and Science Policy

Strategy and Steering Group

- Division for Higher Education Policy
- Science Policy Division
- Division for Information Management

Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth policy

- Division for Cultural Legislation and Finance
- Division for Art Policy
- Division for Cultural Policy
- Sports Division
- Youth Policy Division

Administration Department

- Administration and Budget Division
- Human Resources Division
- Internal Services
- Finance Division
- Information Management Division

February 2012

Division for Cultural Policy at the Ministry of Education and Culture

- drafts the state library budget and prepares library legislation and library policies
- finances the establishment of new libraries and the purchase of bookmobiles
- allocates subsidies for special schemes and library development
- compiles the official national public library statistics
- evaluates the library services at the national level
- has contacts with organisations providing library and information studies
- co-operates with different interest groups

Co-operation of all library sectors

- The National Digital Library (NDL) project is the Ministry of Education and Culture's way to improve the availability and usability of the electronic materials of libraries, archives and museums and to develop a long-term preservation solution for the materials. <http://www.kdk.fi/en>
- The Finnish National Electronic Library, FinELib is a consortium of Finnish universities, polytechnics, research institutes and public libraries. <http://www.nationallibrary.fi/libraries/finelib/>
- The Finnish National Metadata Knowledgebase provides a new working environment for metadata production, which will enhance the core processes. Sharing the metadata makes it easier to utilise work done by other libraries and minimise the need for multiple bibliographic descriptions. The National Metadata Knowledgebase is a centralised service which forms the core of library systems. The storage of bibliographic metadata is maintained by the National Library; its centralised services and good data security bring efficiency and cost effectiveness for the whole library sector.
- The whole library sector is also planning, if it is possible to work out an Open Source based common library management system.

Public library co-operation

- Finnish public libraries have done diversified co-operation during decades. The greatest achievements concern library management systems, acquisition of library materials, logistics, mobile libraries etc. It is very common in Finland that nearby public libraries have shared library systems and the inhabitants can use any library's services. Some consortiums are of provincial size.
- Public libraries also produce together centralized web-services for library patrons e.g. Ask a librarian
- Evaluation and further-training co-operation

Further information

Ministry of Education and Culture, Division for Cultural Policy
Hannu Sulin, Minna Karvonen, Barbro Wigell-Ryynänen and Anne Luoto-
Halvari

firstname.lastname@minedu.fi

<http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Kirjastot/?lang=en>

(e.g. Library Law and Degree, Finnish Public Library Policy 2015, Quality Recommendation for Public Libraries including index "Finland, a land of libraries")

<http://www.libraries.fi/>

(e.g. Library network, statistics, buildings)