

HELSINKI UNIVERSITY

# LIBRARY

BULLETIN 2004



*Collection Map of Finnish academic libraries*

*Finnish semantic web ontologies*

*National collection condition survey completed*

Printed in the Memory –

Literary Treasures in the National Library of Finland,

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# Medium and message

It has become fashionable to speak of technical inventions' "historicality," when one wants to emphasize their significance and value.

The telephone, radio, television, computer and Internet deeply transformed the world of the 1900s, or it might have been that a changing world impelled the invention and widespread utilization of these innovations. The last great breakthrough was the electrochemical "industrial revolution" and the steam engine and coal-powered transitional stage that preceded it. Parallel to these developments were the equally important modernization of agriculture – large-scale irrigation projects, artificial fertilization – followed by the dramatic turning point when mechanization reduced agricultural manpower needs to a few percentage points compared to those times when the cultivation of a single estate's large fields might require the labor of hundreds of families.

When there have been discrepancies between manpower needs and employment opportunities in agriculture and industry, or in the countryside and cities, large-scale unemployment and poverty has also been evident in many parts of the world. Every technical advance has revolutionized the forms of production for the benefit of many but also to the detriment of many others. Most of technology's triumphal march has enriched the munitions industry and thus fostered the continuance of war as an instrument of policy.

Describing the changes wrought by technology, population growth, urbanization and wars is relatively simple compared to understanding the transformations taking place in the minds and feelings of people, groups, countries' populations and generations. People's thoughts and desires are commonly perceived as "fuzzy" areas that are difficult to articulate or otherwise express. Attempts to explain history within the confines of a developmental perspective such as "rationality" or "humanity" or some other principle have proven unreliable and improbable, even though these kinds of constructs emerge constantly. At the recent change of century we saw, if perhaps to a lesser extent than previously, the old utopianism, a belief or hope in the beginning of a new and happier era.

We call the moral dimension of human spiritual identity *civilization*. This concept has different semantic emphases in different languages: often reference is made to the German word *Bildung* that continues the

Greek *paideia* tradition and means *the combination of knowledge and morality*.

The advances of modern technology, and perhaps all of technology, are related to the world of awareness (knowing, as opposed to knowledge), but only to a certain aspect of knowing, particularly with respect to the



Library Director Kai Ekholm and Professor Matti Klinge exchanging thoughts at the opening of the *Das Deutsche Buch in der Monrepos-Bibliothek* exhibition held in the spring of 2002.



management and distribution of information material. The information, or *data*, is however only the raw material for an awareness that becomes knowledge only through *understanding*. Understanding then approaches philosophy, the world of morality.

Understanding and morality are social issues, teachers are needed for understanding, society for morality.

All of this takes time.

A book is an essential tool for learning and the attainment of deeper understanding. It is of the utmost importance that books find their way into children's hands, and that children be instilled with a love for books, their acquisition and that the use of public libraries' rich resources be encouraged.

Libraries' societal – in other words educational – mission is to emphasize the versatility of books. The assimilation of new information and literature must be able to combine the vitality of human cultural traditions with the actualization of older cultural strata.

Libraries, art collections and museums are finding themselves playing increasingly important roles as the emphasis in many countries' schooling and university educational programs shifts towards practical, fast-paced vocational study at the expense of general education. General education essentially refers to what is common to all who have at least attended school, a basic framework of intellectual resources to which reference can be subsequently made in oral and written communications without further explanation. It also means "foreign" languages as well as history, philosophy, religion, natural sciences, as well as a number of basic skills to which no return is made during professional studies and that are retained as a person's basic intellectual capital. The better this initial intellectual capital is, the easier it will be at a later age to maintain an interest in newspapers, theater visits, travels abroad – and books.

In bygone times, and perhaps even today in such culturally-rich countries as France and Russia, outstanding scholastic performance was rewarded at schools' celebratory events with books, specifically classics, often in exquisite bindings meant to last a lifetime. That's the way it should be now.

Every now and then one hears of the necessity for special book museums. All museums are necessary, but nowadays all libraries' collections now offer the possibility to shed new light on interesting scholars and authors with exhibitions organized thematically or biographically.

In my own work, I continue to make extensive use of the Helsinki University Library's foreign literature collections, the Finnish literature and Slavic (Russian) departments, the extensive manuscript collection (essentially the main repository for Finland's cultural heritage) and the newspaper collection consisting of microfilmed newspapers and the wide-ranging "historical newspaper library" digitized database. As well as, of course, the library's cafeteria, exhibition halls and lecture rooms. The dissemination of these kinds of valuable intellectual resources is an extremely important task.

The success of the mobile telephone industry has influenced Finland's recent history dramatically. But amidst the enthusiasm for mobile communications I find myself repeating the question: "We have the tool but do we have anything to say?" We need to study and teach rhetoric, the art of conversation, many languages. Previously we spoke of virtue, mortality, "the state of the nation". "There is no lack of subjects for conversation," as the great Polish thinker Mickiewicz has said.

A book is also a tool, but the kind of tool that emphasizes content – the "message".

Matti Klinge, Professor of History, University of Helsinki



## Collection Map of Finnish academic libraries

As a network university libraries are responsible for the state of research collections in all of Finland; future cooperation will aim at improving the comprehensiveness and availability of information materials<sup>1</sup>. The Collection Map project<sup>2</sup> supported by the Ministry of Education will play a key role in the implementation of these objectives. In its initial phase the Collection Map will be the university libraries' own project. When completed, the Collection Map will clarify the strength areas of universities' libraries as well as the collections' best location libraries – such as the *Australian Libraries Gateway*<sup>3</sup> collection service – by subject area.

University libraries' special collections have been documented on the libraries' home pages noticeably more comprehensively (subject, time frame, language and history, often with a document list) than the general collections. It is inappropriate to map libraries' general collections from the *Linda* database because in tests already carried out in the National Library of Finland's *Linnea* service, even an ordinary category search generated oversized and erroneous results sets. Quantitative mappings – the collections' subject-derived age and language distributions – must be made for the libraries' own collection databases.

Marketing, philosophy, information studies and zoology were the subject areas chosen for the pilot research. Precise instructions (yearly category distribution, language groupings, philosophy sub-area distribution, material's allowable format and so forth) are given to ensure the results' commensurability.

▲ Zoology was one of the disciplines included in the Collection Map's pilot research project. Is the relief depicting the majestic lioness zoology, archeology or art? The relief is from Mesopotamia circa 600 BC. The last lion in the area was killed in 1918. Victor Place: Ninive et l'Assyrie. Paris 1867.



On the Helsinki University Library's website, the special collections have generally been documented more thoroughly than the general collections. The Helsinki University Library's F (Folio) Collection contains unusually high-quality historical and other scientific image material, selected portions of which have been digitized. Copies of the images can be ordered on the basis of their signum and fem numbers. A beautiful gravure from Kurdistan, a region frequently in the media as a result of the Middle East crisis. Victor Place: Ninive et l'Assyrie. Paris 1867.

The selection criteria for the collections described by the Collection Map are the material's availability, usability as well as data permanence (online materials). *The Dublin Core Collection Description* application profile<sup>4</sup> has been selected as the collections' format. The collections' content is described: 1) using the Collection Map's subject area distribution, 2) by subject word and 3) with categorization.

The Collection Map's subject areas are grouped on three levels: primary level, secondary level and highlights. The primary level's groups are: 1) *the humanities*, 2) *information sciences*, 3) *behavioral sciences*, 4) *natural sciences*, 5) *agriculture and forestry*, 6) *economics*, 7) *technology*, 8) *health sciences* and 9) *social sciences*. Highlights connote secondary subjects, describe special collections and function as search words. Example: Technology (primary level), sub-area energy technology (secondary level), terms explaining energy sources, energy economy and electrical energy (highlights).

Obtaining commensurable data from existing collections by subject area will require considerable effort because the collections' contents have been described according to different methods. If a code identifying the Collection Map's subject area could be assigned to every publication in every library concurrently with the enter-

ing of the publication's description into the collection database, codes functioning as search elements could be utilized to obtain commensurable and sortable information from the libraries' databases. Ideally, the "code searches" would be made from *Linda*; this however requires the solution of the problem of *Linda*'s oversized results sets as well as a functional capability that allows the sorting of *Linda*'s results sets by library.

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**References:**

<sup>1</sup> Yliopistokirjastojen verkoston strategia ("University Libraries' Online Strategy") (2003-2007) [http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/kirjastoala/neuvosto/Verkoston\\_strategia.htm](http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/kirjastoala/neuvosto/Verkoston_strategia.htm)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/kirjastoala/neuvosto/tietokartta\\_hankesuunnittelu.htm](http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/kirjastoala/neuvosto/tietokartta_hankesuunnittelu.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/libraries?action=LibSearch&subj=1>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/metadata/dcml/collection-ap-summary/2004-02-01/>

## Cooperation between the Finnish Virtual University and library network

# The Finnish Virtual University – a new type of cooperation

The Finnish Virtual University began operating in 2001. It is not a question of a new Finnish university, but a new form of cooperation among established universities. The Virtual University's task is to promote the use of IT- and communications technology-supported teaching in Finnish universities, facilitate universities' joint projects and create new inter-university services.

Unique in Finnish conditions, the operational model developed during the past three years is also a rarity internationally. For the first time all Finnish universities are cooperating over a wide operational spectrum. Universities have organized teaching technology units in which electronic teaching is supported concentratedly. Within the Virtual University's framework discipline-specific and regional networks have been organized and comprehensive cooperative mechanisms are being created.

One example of a project in which the Finnish Virtual University has participated is the so-called JOO Agreement that gives students more flexibility in exercising their right to study. Within the framework of the JOO agreement students can elect to study subjects outside their own university's curriculum.

### Technological cooperation – the core of the Virtual University's and libraries' joint efforts

Technological coordination has formed the core of the university libraries' and the Virtual University's current cooperation. Joint efforts related to a wide range of different types of systems have been carried out on many levels. Undoubtedly, the most important area of technological cooperation has focused on the development of portals. Libraries and the Virtual University have been able to share common experiences, create compatible documentation formats and develop harmonized technical solutions.

Besides the portal-related projects it has also been possible to cooperate more broadly; working with other

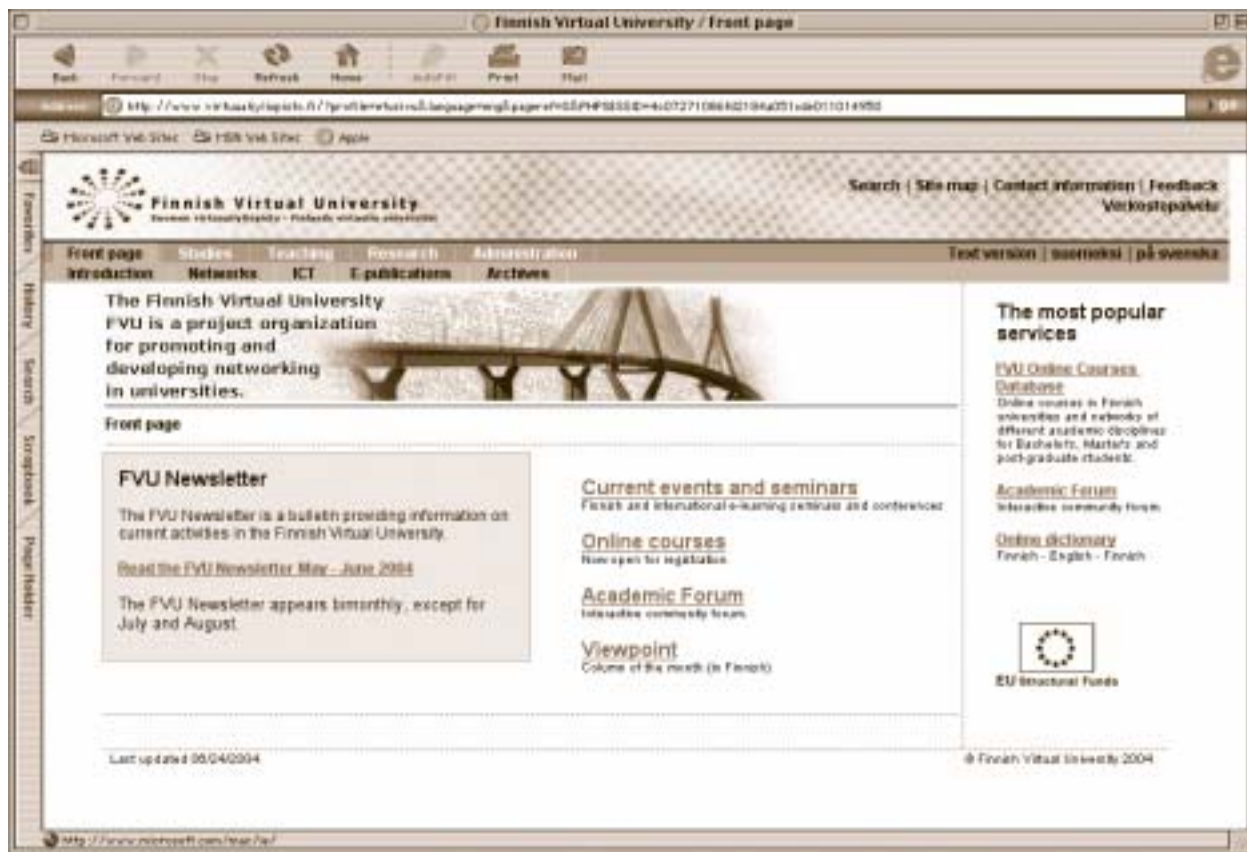
university operators, Finnish libraries and the Virtual University have participated in the *Tekniikka yliopistoissa* ("Technology in Universities") publication series. The publication series in question has played a key role in the preparation of the universities' IT systems' overall developmental orientation.

Joint efforts related to the development of learning material production as well as common metadata formats will form, from the standpoint of future development, one of the most important areas of cooperation. The common metadata format will create the basis for universally accessible content. The formatting work currently underway in Finland is a pioneering effort even by international standards: when this work has been completed it will be possible, depending on the need, to combine Finnish universities' information systems, utilize them invisibly side-by-side, or disseminate information in the most appropriate manner.

### Cooperation among organizers

One of the Virtual University's most important areas of cooperation has involved the coordination among organizational personnel; the Virtual University has been able to benefit from the library networks' experiences in the development of its own organization. Representatives from FinElib currently participate in the Virtual University's Steering Group and its strategy committee. Workable procedures and practices created in the library network by the Steering Group and strategic planners can naturally also be transferred to the Virtual University.





## Future cooperation

The libraries' partnership with the Virtual University forms important support mechanisms for universities' primary functions. Libraries are playing key roles as the developers of information storage and retrieval, while the Virtual University's efforts focus on the development of essential electronic teaching and research capabilities. The hierarchy of cooperation must also be taken into account: at the local level between individual universities and local libraries and learning centers, as well as at the national level between FinELib and the Finnish Virtual University.

In the near future as well, the transmission of electronic teaching materials will form an important area of cooperation between the library network and the Virtual University. The libraries' *Nelli* portal is a natural depository for teaching materials produced in universities. For its part, the Virtual University's portal offers a natural interface for the users of educational materials: the univer-

sities' students. Both portals' compatibility will guarantee the seamless utilization of data pools in teaching and research work.

The in-depth cooperation between the library network and the Virtual University is creating important new Finnish expertise and promoting high-level research. Domestic cooperation however also requires the support of strong international partners from both the data storage and information utilization sides. Overall it has already become self-evident that the cooperation between the library network and the Virtual University has formed an operational entity that benefits both parties. Several joint projects have already been implemented, but there are also significant opportunities for expanded cooperation.

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*Books have the same enemies as people:  
fire, humidity, animals, weather, and their own content.*

Paul Valery

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# Towards national Finnish Semantic Web ontologies

The Semantic Web is the next generation of the World Wide Web: the interpretation of content by machines as well as human readers. This idea was envisioned already in the 1990's by Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the Web and director of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). In 2001, W3C initiated a special "Semantic Web Activity" (<http://www.w3.org/2001/SW/>) to boost the effectiveness of development, standardization, and application work in the field.

## The Semantic Web – a Web of Metadata

Using explicit metadata to describe web resources and represent content is the key idea of the Semantic Web. To accomplish this, W3C recommends the Resource Description Framework (RDF) data model and language. Specifically, there is an RDF version of the Dublin Core standard available for expressing document properties such as "subject" and "creator".

RDF is the basis of the Semantic Web but more is needed. Firstly, in order to represent metadata, the vocabularies used in the RDF descriptions should be defined. Such a vocabulary can tell, for example, what values the Dublin Core subject property may take. In the online context the values can be literal strings as well as references to any web resources such as web addresses or URIs. The simplest format for defining vocabularies is the RDF Schema (RDFS) recommendation in which concept hierarchies and individuals with properties and simple constraints can be specified. A more complete language for representing semantically rich vocabularies such as ontologies is the Web Ontology Language OWL that attained W3C recommendation status in February 2004.

On the Semantic Web, metadata descriptions and ontologies together form a semantic network structure, a knowledge base. This network links web resources to each other and literal data values with directed arcs corresponding to the resources' properties. Such a structure can be assigned a well-defined logical interpretation whose "meaning" can be interpreted by a machine.

Semantic Web technology enables many new possibilities when publishing online content, typically in the following categories:

- Intelligent applications. Machine-interpretable metadata structures and ontologies make it possible to create intelligent "semantic" applications. For example, search engines can operate more accurately by exploiting metadata combined with free text searches.
- Interoperability in content. Ontologies facilitate the mutual interoperability of different types of heterogeneous content. This enables, for example, the creation of centralized web services that consolidate different types of data from different organizations.

## MuseumFinland – Finnish Museums on the Semantic Web

In Finland, these new possibilities have first been explored in the context of museum collections. The goal of a research consortium and project formed in 2001 was to create a semantic portal "MuseumFinland – Finnish Museums on the Semantic Web" based on contents from Finnish museum collection databases. The consortium, led by the Helsinki Institute for Information Technology HIIT and University of Helsinki, included 20 museums and two major companies – Nokia and TietoEnator – and was funded primarily by the National Technology Agency Tekes. From the end-user's viewpoint, the idea was to provide the public with intelligent search and browsing capabilities facilitating access to a virtually seamless national collection repository whose contents are derived from different Finnish museums. From the museums' viewpoint, the idea was to create a national publication channel for their cultural collections' content on the Semantic

Web. The portal MuseumFinland, opened at <http://museosuomi.cs.helsinki.fi> in March 2004, is the first of its kind in the world.

The pilot version of MuseumFinland is based on 7 RDF(S) ontologies containing approximately 10,000 concepts and individuals. The metadata consists of descriptions of about 4,500 artifacts and cultural sites originating from three different museums and four heterogeneous databases. The system is used by a “semantic” view-based search engine that finds objects of interest based on concepts instead of keywords, although a keyword-based search engine is also available. Semantic browsing is also supported by a link recommendation system that dynamically provides links with explanatory labels from one artifact or cultural site to other related artifacts or sites. The usage and design of the system is described in more detail in various scientific and technical articles available at <http://www.helsinki.fi/group/seco/museums>.

### From Thesauri to Ontologies

During R&D work, the ontologies’ central role and necessity on the Semantic Web became evident. Artifacts and other objects in collection databases are usually described using keywords from thesauri. Keyword-based descriptions may be reasonable for human readers but are

insufficient for machines’ reasoning abilities. For example, if a thesaurus tells that a narrower term for “furniture” is “mirror” and a narrower term of “mirror” is “make-up mirror”, then the machine could conclude erroneously that the user is interested in make-up mirrors when he or she is in fact searching for furniture.

In MuseumFinland, the 6,000-term Finnish Museum Thesaurus MASA was transformed into a simple ontology. It became clear that such transformations would also be useful for other commonly used thesauri. To maximize the benefits on the national level while minimizing costs, we envisioned that such ontologies should be created as part of a large-scale national project whose results would be made publicly available under an open source license that anyone can use. In 2003 a broad-based research consortium consisting of 16 public and private Finnish organizations and companies was formed; the project, “National Finnish Semantic Web Ontologies”, received funding from Tekes (<http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/ontologies>). The work began in autumn 2003.

### Research Goals of the National Ontology Project

The hypothesis underlying the project is that organizations should begin switching over to the maintenance of ontologies based on thesauri and classification systems



instead of simply maintaining the thesauri and classification systems themselves. Thesauri have been widely used for indexing contents in locations such as libraries, museums and media databases. There are however many problems involved when a machine begins to interpret terms based on a thesaurus structure. From the syntactic viewpoint, a practical problem is that incompatible formats are used to represent and store thesauri. Semantic Web standards would provide an open standard for online representation and utilization. When vocabularies are represented by open standards such as XML, RDF and OWL, various tools such as ontology editors can be used easily. From the semantic viewpoint, the semantics of thesaurus relations (NT, LT, RT,É) are too simple, ambiguous and vague for the machines' logical processes. A goal of the project is to determine what formats and semantic properties would be useful when transforming thesauri into machine-interpretable ontologies.

There are many international efforts – Wordnet, EuroWordnet, CYC, IEEE Standard Upper Ontology – aimed at the creation of large-scale general ontologies. In Finland, the largest and most widely used general thesaurus is the General Finnish Thesaurus YSA (<http://vesa.lib.helsinki.fi>) maintained by the National Library of Finland. Libraries and many other organizations use YSA to describe database contents. In our project, it was chosen as the main target and data source for the envisioned General Finnish Ontology YSO. Besides the general “horizontal” YSO, the project will create several smaller “vertical” ontologies based on other domain-specific thesauri and data sources.

Creating ontologies is not the project's only objective; the research is also investigating the practical organization, coordination and management of ontology work. The ultimate goal is to trigger a continuous collaborative process for creating and maintaining a library of nationally significant interdependent ontologies. Various software tools would be enlisted to facilitate this work.

Research issues addressed in the project:

- Distributed ontology development. It is impossible for an individual domain expert to master all the domains in a large ontology. The ontology work should therefore be divided between several specialist groups, each responsible for its own domain. However, different domains share concepts and properties and a change in one domain may have undesirable repercussions in other domains. Computer support is therefore needed for detecting problematic interdependencies and suggesting corrective recovery strategies.

- Managing ontology evolution. Because ontologies are updated and developed over time, support for ontology versioning is necessary. For example, a change in a later ontology version may have undesirable effect on data indexed with an earlier version.
- Managing ontology time series. In many cases ontologies form time series. For example, the country ontology of Europe changes continuously; at the moment there is only one Germany but not long ago the country was divided into East and West Germany. In historical reasoning, an ontology time series may be required as a basis for logic.
- Managing uncertainty in ontologies. Current semantic web ontology languages deal with crisp logic and concepts. However, many aspects of the actual work are inexact in many ways.
- Ontology mapping. We are also investigating metadata representation utilizing different semantically interoperable ontologies.
- Multilinguality. Ontological categories are in many cases language-independent concepts. By mapping terminologies in different languages according to shared concepts, multilingual systems can be created.

The ontology project's research issues are numerous and complex. It is obvious that many of them can only be touched upon during this 2-year project period. We however hope to first gain broader insight into the various issues related to ontology development, subsequently focusing on more detailed problems and applications in follow-up projects.

The project, a part of the national Fenix technology program (<http://akseli.tekes.fi/Resource.phx/tivi/vaui/index.htm>), also manages the special “Semantic Web and Knowledge Management” interest group whose next activity event will be the Web Intelligence Symposium held 2 September 2004 in Vantaa, Finland ([http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/conference/step2004/index\\_e.html](http://www.cs.helsinki.fi/group/seco/conference/step2004/index_e.html)).

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Screenshot of the “Museum Finland –  
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(<http://museosuomi.cs.helsinki.fi>).





## First Stage of the National Collection Condition Survey Completed

# Brittle paper a major problem

The Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland, carried out a condition survey of its National Collection between 2001 and 2004. This random sample survey formed the first stage of a larger survey planned to reach completion in a few years' time. This article presents an overview of the findings of the survey's first stage. When the project is completed, we will be able to perform more in-depth analyses that will also allow a meaningful international comparison of the results.



The Giza Pyramids' tombs and Sphinx, the well-known symbols of ancient Egypt, continue to be uncovered from the sand. It is paradoxical that the texts – dating from about 200 BC – in the Helsinki University Library's Manuscripts on Papyrus Collection have been preserved so well considering their age. Rabanus Maurus' *Opus de universo* from 1467 appears *Historioae* as if it was just off the press. Pliny the Elder's *Historia Mundi* printed in 1608 can still be handled and read for hundreds of years, but the condition of most of the National Collection's books printed after the mid-1800s is such that they can no longer be loaned out to customers. Consequently these books should be digitized as soon as possible.

C. Panckoucke: *Description de l'Égypte*. Paris 1823.

Professor Jaakko Frösen presents the Library's Manuscripts on Papyrus collection in the *Printed in the Memory* work that will be published in the fall.

### The National Library's Statutory Duty to Preserve

The Helsinki University Library is legally responsible for the long-term preservation of the printed materials produced in Finland and for making them accessible regardless of their physical condition or whether they were meant for permanent existence at the time of publication. The Library can enhance the long-term preservation of its materials through conservation and reformatting solutions such as microfilming and digitisation.

Because our resources are however limited, different types of printed materials require different preservation and conservation methods. While a leaf-casting machine

is effective in repairing rag paper damaged by mould, it is not as well suited for repairing old paper made from wood. Black-and-white microfilming is suitable for monochrome printing but not for a multi-coloured art book. Digitisation enhances the materials' accessibility and eliminates the handling of originals by users. From the techniques available we must choose the preservation method best suited for each type of material.

Over the centuries printed products have been made using a wide variety of materials and methods. For this reason we must often take special precautions to ensure their preservability over the long term. The durability of paper produced at different time periods varies consider-





Newspapers deteriorate as a result of paper quality, acidity, age and previously also frequency of use. Thanks to the microfilming of newspapers that began in the 1950s, researchers are still able to access the materials, the oldest parts of which have been digitized.

ably. Preservation conditions, as well as methods of handling collections considered appropriate at the time, may also have damaged the materials over the years. Because the volume of materials requiring preservation treatment is growing rapidly while available resources remain limited, the prioritisation given to materials requiring special treatment requires that we thoroughly understand the condition of our collections.

### Collections

The holdings of the Helsinki University Library contain about three million books and periodicals and an equal number of other items such as maps, printed music, printed ephemera, manuscripts, microforms, sound recordings and other non-print media. Printed literature dates back to the 15th century; certain items in the manuscript collection are even older. For the most part the materials have been obtained after 1827, except for a few hundred items – the Aboica Collection – that survived the Great Fire of Turku of that same year.

All printed products and sound recordings published in Finland are deposited in the national legal deposit collection for permanent storage, as well as for the benefit of research and other uses. The materials are obtained according to the Legal Deposit Act. Besides books the National Collection contains newspapers, periodicals, printed music, maps and ephemera as well as sound recordings

and other non-print media. Materials produced by people of Finnish origin living outside Finland, as well as foreign publications dealing with Finland, also form a part of the National Collection (<http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/english/services/collections/collectionlist.htm>).

### Condition Survey Based on Random Sampling

Because we cannot examine every single volume individually, a condition survey must be based on random sampling. This is the only reliable way to gain an overall picture of the collections' condition. A method based on random sampling, originally developed at Stanford University, provides information about the collections' condition, assesses the extent of the damage and offers new insights into why and how objects deteriorate. In the Helsinki Survey we applied a "stratified sampling" technique. First a heterogeneous group of materials was divided into subgroups based on the material type. A set of unified criteria selected to aid in the assessment of the condition of the materials facilitated a meaningful comparison of the results among different collections. The survey also provided us with information about the type and degree of damage to each subgroup. At the same time we recorded the impact of environmental conditions and use on the condition of the collections when such statistics were available.

The purpose of a condition survey is not to select



individual items for conservation treatment, microfilming or digitisation; its aim is to assess the type and degree of damage exhibited in the surveyed materials. This enables a library to improve the effectiveness of its long-term planning and make informed decisions on the best use of its available resources, such as the types of preservation methods requiring current and future investments. We can only make long-term plans about the best ways to safeguard our collections and serve the research community if we have a clear picture of the collections' present condition.

### A Tool for the Preservation Sector

Countries in which large-scale condition surveys have been conducted include Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States (Yale, Stanford). In the condition survey carried out at the *Koninklijke Bibliotheek*, the National Library of the Netherlands, the surveyed materials were divided into four groups: monographs, periodicals, newspapers and legal deposit materials. At Yale the division was based on different library sites and collections. The purpose was to reap tangible benefits from the surveys, and care was taken to ensure that even the smallest material groups were represented.

The aim of the first stage of the Helsinki Survey was to chart the National Collection from 1810 to 1944. It was during this period that paper made from rags was giving way to more acidic paper made from wood pulp. Acidic groundwood paper "destroys itself" considerably faster than rag paper. Many other countries have also shown an interest in carrying out condition surveys of paper made from wood.

A condition survey is an effective planning and decision-making tool for the preservation sector. The preservation activities of Helsinki University Library have expanded; we now have the ability to respond not only to the preservation needs of our own library but also to those of the country's library sector as a whole by utilising, for example, microfilming and digitisation. To achieve this we need to identify the preservation activities' focus areas that will yield the best possible results.

### The Surveyed Paper: Acidic and Brittle

The condition survey carried out at the Helsinki University Library was an adaptation of the random sample surveys developed at the universities of Stanford and Yale. Our survey consisted of the National Collection's non-fiction from 1810 to 1944 and fiction from 1810 to 1972, a total of 140,000 volumes.

Because of various manufacturing methods and ageing, paper is often acidic and therefore subject to brittleness. Ink corrosion may also cause paper degradation. We measured the pH values of the pages and performed a folding endurance test by hand, thus gaining a clear picture of the degree of brittleness of paper and its durability when in use. The pH scale is logarithmic; every one-unit change in pH represents a ten-fold change in acidity or alkalinity. For example, a pH of 5 is ten times more acidic than a pH of 6, while a pH of 4 is a hundred times more acidic than a pH of 6.

The acidity of paper increases as it ages, accelerating the process of deterioration. The survey found that in almost 100 % of the entire sample the paper was extremely acidic, exhibiting a pH value less than 5.5. The pH value of neutral paper is 7.0. Of the volumes examined 50 % – every second volume – had a pH value of less than 4.15.

The folding endurance test revealed that about 10 % of the volumes would not withstand any future use (Table 3).

Handling a damaged book damages it further. It is difficult – if not impossible – to rebind embrittled books and costly to repair them.

### Damage Caused by Use

Damage to the covers, bindings and pages of a book can be divided into three general categories: damage caused by use, damage caused by inadequate preservation conditions and damage caused by the chemical-physical properties of paper.

Damage caused by use includes torn pages, missing pieces, stains, dirt and creases. Cover damage includes detached or missing covers and spines. When a book has no covers and spine, the text block has no protection

Distribution of the surveyed material	1810-1841	1842-1944	1945-1972	Total number of volumes	Sample size
Non-fiction • 19 subject areas	1.6%	90.9%	(7.6% ,not included in the survey)	91,000	3,141
Fiction	0.2%	44.1%	55.7%	49,000	543
Total				140,000	3,684

Table 1. The condition survey materials: holdings of Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland

against damage. Binding damage includes broken linings and threads that result in detached, damaged or missing pages. These types of damage call for urgent repairs to prevent the loss of information. Large-scale and continuous self-service photocopying is also a threat to the condition of embrittled books.

According to the survey 15.3 % of the pages had damage caused by use, the most common being torn pages and missing pieces. Damage to bindings was found in 11.2 % of the volumes, while 6.0 % of the volumes had damaged text blocks.

The survey confirmed that damage to covers and bindings exacerbates paper damage caused by use. The surveyed material contained a substantial number of volumes that have been rebound into hard covers in the Library; rebinding books into hard covers improves preservability and protects the text block from mechanical damage. Soft-cover books, on the other hand, are more likely to suffer from damage.

### Non-fiction with Multiple Damage

The survey results were grouped by subject area. In non-fiction the volumes in the worst condition were from the most heavily used group

“Religion and church”. Here the extent of the damage was well above average. Overall, the number of volumes requiring urgent action totals approximately 44,000 volumes, of which 20-30 % have already suffered from use. Often the volumes showed signs of damage in all damage categories. Additional condition surveys are like-

Damage to paper	All volumes	Non-fiction	Fiction
• caused by use	15.3%	19.1%	8.3%
• chemical	2.7%	4.1%	0.2%
• caused by fire or water	3.1%	3.7%	2.0%
to binding	6.0%	7.2%	3.8%
to cover	11.2%	14.3%	5.5%

Table 2. Damage found in the condition survey

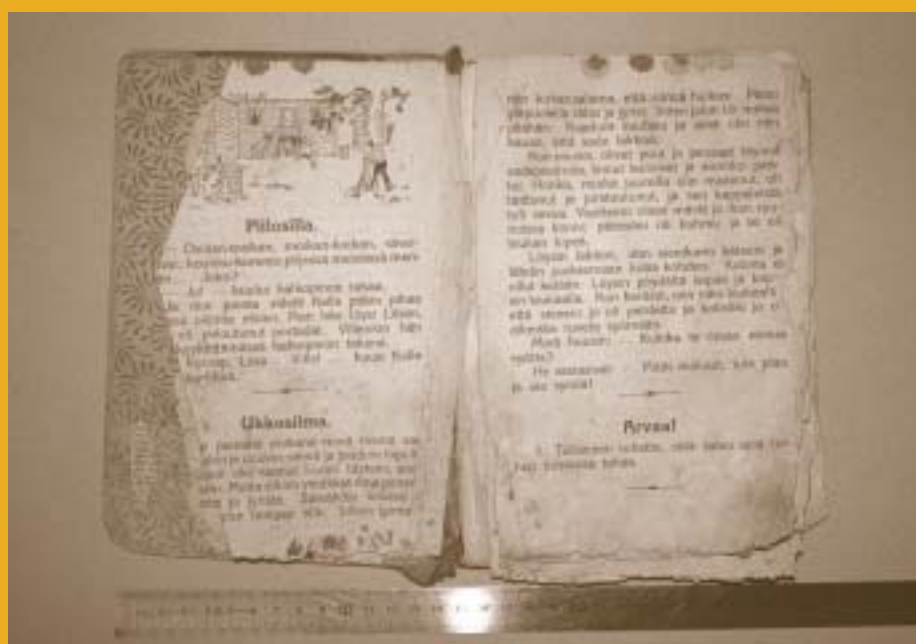
ly to uncover an increased number of volumes requiring immediate attention.

Because the National Library’s fiction collection is not as intensively used as its collection of non-fiction, it is on the whole in better condition. The use of fiction has been intentionally restricted: the reader must obtain a special permit before he or she is allowed to consult a book belonging to this category.

### Book Handling Guidelines for Collections

Urgent action is called for those book groups, or portions of them, that exhibit damage to the pages, covers or bindings, or where the degree of damage is above average because brittle paper and low pH values will most likely cause further deterioration to already damaged materials.

Although most of the damage can be considered minor, it nevertheless poses a serious risk to books, and the damage will become more serious the longer the books



Whether a book’s cultural value will ultimately be measured in decades or hundreds of years will largely be determined by the research being carried out at the University as well as researchers’ own interests. A book’s intrinsic value as an artifact will diminish rapidly if, as a result of its poor condition, it can only be viewed as a film card or digitized online image. Picture in a children’s book in which some of the texts are playing “seek and hide” (Piilosilla).

Subject areas requiring urgent action	Number of volumes	Metres of shelving	Damage cause by use	Damage in binding	Damage in cover	Fire/water damage	Chemical damage
Religion and church	12,600	257.0	30.9%	10.8%	20.4%	6.2%	9.8%
Press	3,000	71.0	27.8%	11.5%	11.5%	1.3%	3.8%
Defence	4,800	151.0	26.9%	6.7%	17.3%	5.1%	1.3%
Carelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic	2,400	77.5	26.9%	3.9%	19.2%	5.1%	0.0%
Schools and higher education institutions	2,400	52.0	26.3%	8.0%	11.1%	2.0%	2.0%
History	2,400	39.0	22.0%	8.8%	13.7%	1.5%	4.9%
Linguistics, Book learning, Finnish folk poetry, Literary history and art, Philosophy	10,000	208.0	21.3%	7.5%	15.9%	3.9%	4.5%
Collected works and series	6,200	157.0	20.1%	9.9%	21.7%	1.9%	1.9%

Table 3. Subject areas requiring immediate attention.

remain in use. A large number of volumes have already reached the stage where their use should be severely restricted.

Restricting the use of books in poor or unstable condition by promoting their use in digitised electronic formats enables us to withdraw the original volume from circulation to prevent further wear and tear. Some books benefit from conservation treatment, while others must be microfilmed to ensure their long-term preservation; in certain cases storage in archival boxes is sufficient.

Our Digitisation and Preservation Programme's prioritisation principles – demand and condition – are closely interrelated. The materials for which there is the greatest demand will become part of the digitisation programme.

The library is currently formulating guidelines regarding the use of the National Collection based on the condition of the materials. Photocopying and reprographics services, as well as the handling and use of books, will be developed to prioritise the books.

Microfilming still remains the best alternative for the long-term preservation of the information content of the most endangered materials. A good example of this is the paper used for newspapers that disintegrates within a couple of generations. New methods of colour microfilming will enable us to also preserve coloured materials for at least 200 years.

Although conservation is for the most part performed by hand, mass deacidification systems have been developed to deacidify paper. However, mass deacidification only removes acidity from paper; it does not enhance the paper's durability, nor does it repair any existing mechanical damage. Because conservation treatment is slow and labour-intensive, it can only save a very small part of the material threatened by deterioration.

### Digitisation and Preservation Programme

Because preservation measures concern a vast number of volumes, we need more resources – human as well as technological – to effect their realisation. An evaluation regarding the implementation of the Digitisation and Preservation Programme will be made in 2004 jointly by the Library's management and the heads of the Collection, User and Preservation Services. As the condition survey progresses, we will assess the results and expand the Digitisation and Preservation Programme to include new groups of materials. Additional surveys will be carried out until we have surveyed all materials requiring long-term preservation. At the time of this writing, (spring 2004), we are conducting a survey of the Slavonic collection and are planning to extract a random sample from the collection focusing on the period of Swedish rule 1488-1810.

Further details: Heidi Törrönen, Conservator  
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*A bookshelf, the world's best bank;  
every loan increases the borrower's interest.*

Jussi Helminen

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## The Slavonic Collection: An international resource

I first learned about Finland from a family acquaintance, Jack McFall (U.S. Minister and Ambassador to Finland 1952-55) when I was in high school in Indiana. Fascinated with his stories of this proud, independent country living in the shadow of the Soviet Union, I decided to write my college senior thesis about the diplomacy of the Winter War and Continuation War of the mid twentieth century. Later I passed through Finland coming and going to Russia for doctoral dissertation research in 1965-66. But it was not until I returned home and read an article about the Helsinki University Library by Charles Timberlake in the journal *Slavic Review* that I became aware of the treasure trove of Slavonic materials available there. On a brief stop in Helsinki in 1970 I became personally acquainted with the make-up of the collection. In 1974 I returned to Finland for six-months of intensive exploitation of this marvelous resource.

At that time, the collection was housed in the main library building but without separate rooms and open journal stacks. I loved the richness of the collection, the beauty of the library building, the courteous staff, and the cozy subterranean lunch room. But the Helsinki Slavonic collection was as difficult to use as those in other western libraries. My goal was to survey entire runs of Russian journals of philanthropy and child welfare in preparation for a book on child abandonment. The lack of open journal stacks forced me to order each volume separately. Because of the sometimes irregular issuance of Russian journals and poor referencing of them in Russian publications, it was not easy to know if I was missing volumes or skipping over special

issues. The process was also slow and time-consuming for the library staff. Toward the end of my stay, the head of the Slavonic division took pity on me and permitted me to follow her down into the deep underground vaults where the Russian journals were held so that I could check directly on the issues that I may have missed.

The work I was able to complete in Helsinki that year led to a number of positive results in historical studies. My monograph on child welfare laid the foundation for a new subfield in the history of philanthropy in Russia, which is now growing rapidly with studies by Russian and western scholars appearing regularly. Second, the sources I found in Helsinki and personal contacts I made there encouraged me to organize a conference of scholars working on women and family in Russia and then to publish the papers in what became the first collection of studies on family history in Russia.

This was the time when many other foreign researchers were learning the value of the Helsinki Slavonic collection. I was teaching then at the University of Illinois, an institution with one of the largest collections of Slavic materials in the

United States. Even so, the Illinois library lacked a large number of the monographs and dissertations that were readily available in the Helsinki Slavonic collection.

The librarians and officials at Illinois succeeded in obtaining a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to cooperate with Finnish librarians in a project to photocopy works from the Slavonic collection. The objective was to preserve critical elements of the Helsinki Slavonic collection, items that were rare in American collections, and at the same time make them availa-

PHOTO: KARI TIMONEN.



Professor David Ransel (left) and Professor Richard Stites, both well-known researchers of Russian history, at the Slavonic Library in July of 2004.



The Slavonic Library's reputation has now spread to Japan. Shown from left-to-right are visitors to the University of Helsinki's Slavonic Library Assistant Professor Nemura Ryo from the Niigata Institute of Technology, Assistant Professor Shimosato Toshiyuki from the Joetsu University of Education and Professor of Russian History Oya On from Sapporo University.

ble on film to libraries throughout the world. This effort, which wound up only a few years ago, succeeded in reproducing about 6,000 books. According to Laurence Miller of the University of Illinois Slavic Library, subscribers to this Helsinki reproduction project included at various times from 20 to 25 libraries in North America, Europe, and Australia.

### Neitsytpolku

In my subsequent visits to Finland in the 1980s and 1990s I found that the Slavonic collection had been moved to a separate location on Neitsytpolku, some distance from the main library. The advantages were immediately apparent. Journals were placed in open stacks. No longer did I have laboriously to order journals individually, hoping that I would be lucky enough to get the coverage I needed. I could simply stroll across the room and survey the journals on my own. A knowledgeable and talented staff of librarians was close by and able quickly to respond to requests for assistance. Photocopying was easy and reasonably priced.

However convenient the Neitsytpolku location had made the Slavonic collections for researchers, it also had disadvantages. Researchers were now cut off from the collections on other subjects at the main library, many of which were crucial to our work. Much of the analysis of Russian events by western scholars is comparative, and we need to read about European and American institu-

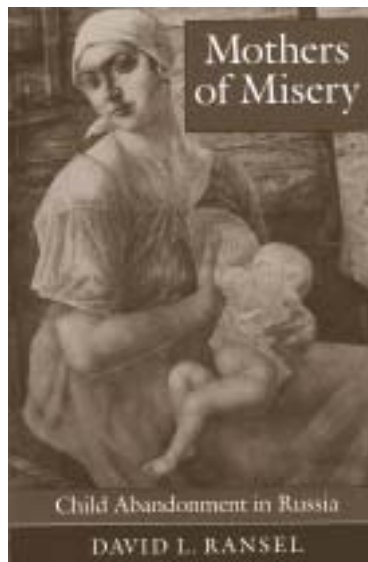
tions for this purpose. We were also cut off from the benefits of frequent interaction with the librarians in the main building. And, not least, we missed the chance to make the acquaintance of Finnish scholars and students in other fields. In my earlier work at the main library building, I had benefited greatly from these personal contacts by learning about scholarly work in Finland, popular culture, and everyday life. Indeed, in a few cases Finns I met at the main library invited me into their social circle and became life-long friends and intellectual collaborators.

It was therefore a great pleasure to learn that in 1998 the Slavonic collection was returned to the main library building and this time with most of the advantages that researchers had enjoyed at Neitsytpolku. Monographs went back into the closed stacks of the library but were easy enough to identify and order for use in the reading room. Most important, the journal stacks remained open to researchers for ready reference to specific articles or topic surveys and for browsing.

### Libraries in St. Petersburg and Moscow

Despite the riches of the Helsinki collection, it is necessary for scholars of Russian literature and history to travel to Russia. Only there can a researcher obtain access to the archival documents on most subjects of interest (though it is true that the Finnish national archives contain extensive holdings on the administration of the Grand Duchy of Finland in the tsarist era and on some other

topics concerning northern Russia). The three great repositories of Russia—the St. Petersburg Public Library, and in Moscow the Russian State Library (Lenin Library) and the State Historical Library—have more thorough coverage than Helsinki of the entire sweep of Russian publications from the imperial and Soviet periods. It is now somewhat easier to travel to Russia than it was during the Soviet era, when most western scholars had to work through official exchange programs that required lengthy application and long delays. Working conditions in Russian libraries have, however, scarcely improved from that period. Indeed, in some cases they have deteriorated. Major sections of the Russian State Library have been closed to researchers for long periods. Even for the sections that are working, the reference tools are primitive, assistance of professional librarians almost non-existent, and materials are scattered in a half dozen separate sections of the library that do not communicate with one another. The researcher has to move from section to section in pursuit of materials. Food and toilet facilities at the libraries are far below even normal Russian standards. Finally, the idea that a researcher might be allowed even a peek at the material in the stacks has, I am certain, never occurred to a Russian librarian. Since the main card catalogs do not adequately reflect the holdings in some of the subdivisions of the big Russian libraries, a researcher has to scour a number of them just to be certain of not missing anything important. I had this experience again this past summer, having to run back and forth between the main catalog and the rare book collection (Музей книги) at the Russian State Library, which involved moving between what was in essence two separate buildings (although part of the same large complex, one has to exit the main building, go out into the city and enter the complex at another site to reach the rare book collection).



*Mothers of Misery* is an important addition to the study of Russian philanthropy, a rapidly growing field thanks to the publications of several Western researchers.

What a pleasure then to arrive in Helsinki to a collection of extraordinary richness that is furnished with the latest computerized and paper finding aids and assisted by talented librarians who have worked for many years in the Helsinki Slavonic library and know it in detail! The large assortment of reference materials is concentrated in one location. And, of course, the facilities are immaculate.

### Journals' availability

For a scholar of Russian history or literature, Helsinki is unmatched for its combination of coverage and convenience. A key element is the open stack access to the journals of the imperial period. These journals reflect nearly every aspect of Russian life of

the period. Every government ministry and civic organization of any size produced periodical publications that told of their work and their links to other social and political activities in Russia. Virtually every important study of Russia in that period begins with a survey of the journals associated with the topic. Helsinki is the only place I know of where scholars can freely access a nearly complete array of these indispensable materials directly on the shelf. This advantage, along with its excellent staff and up-to-date facilities, sets the Helsinki Slavonic library apart from all others as a unique scholarly resource, greatly valued by the community of Russian specialists everywhere.

David L. Ransel is Robert F. Byrnes Professor of History and Director of the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University. He is president (2003-04) of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

See also Richard Stites: *The Slavonic Library of Helsinki University*. Helsinki University Library Bulletin 2002.

### Slavonic Library's Advisory Committee

The Helsinki University Library's Board has established a Slavonic Library Advisory Committee for 2004-2006 whose task is to promote cooperation between the Slavonic Library and the sector's research institutes, as well as support the main lines of the library's collection and acquisitions policies, the sector's research prerequisites and the development of services. The Advisory Committee's Chairman is Kai Ekholm, Director of the National Library of Finland, and its members are representatives

from the Aleksanteri Institute, the Finnish Institute for Russian and East European Studies, the Institute for Asian and African Studies, the Department of Finnish-Ugric Studies, the Renvall Institute as well as the Universities of Tampere, Joensuu and Jyväskylä.

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# Books and libraries

## Bookish thoughts selected from 17th and 18th century French imprints in the collections of the National Library of Finland

Book lovers come in two sorts: those who are interested in the contents of books, and others who are interested in owning books. Life is definitely easier for the former. For them, libraries are treasure troves that offer enough wonderful objects of study to last a lifetime. For the latter, libraries<sup>1</sup> are not much different from prisons; after all, libraries hold rarities that book collectors would rather admire in their own collections. Thus states David Clément in the preface of his work *Bibliothèque curieuse, historique et critique, ou Catalogue raisonné de livres difficiles à trouver*. His thoughts echo Petrarch's (1304 – 1374) view of book collectors. As a poet and humanist, he was an advocate of libraries and considered the fate of books in the hands of bibliophiles to be a sad one. He believed that the purpose of books is to benefit humankind, but he wondered how books can fulfil their mission if they are not publicly available, and went on to note how paradoxical it is that collectors' bookshelves may sag under the weight of knowledge that many scholars yearn for, but never gain access to.

But let us return to those who are intrigued by the contents of books. Their lives are not free of problems either: not every printed work is worth reading, but how to determine the quality of a book without reading it? One solution is to resort to the opinions of literary arbiters. Should you manage to find a reliable one, consider yourself fortunate. You might, for example, find the French polygraph Charles Sorel (ca. 1599 – 1674) helpful. He claims that the reverse can be said of ungifted penmen than what was said of the Greek statesman Epaminondas, who was considered unparalleled not only in erudition, but also in taciturnity. Sorel was annoyed by poor writers whose quills incessantly pour forth text, even though they have nothing to say. To avoid such nuisances, Sorel suggests some initial shortcuts in his in-depth treatise of the topic *how to assess books on the basis of their titles, the author's name or the esteem enjoyed by the authors*<sup>2</sup>. The poet Théophile de Viau (1590 – 1626) once characterised a colleague by

saying that his banal and unpoetic name alone was reason enough to expect the worst. In this case, however, the characterisation applies perfectly also to Théophile de Viau himself, alias Théophile Calf. Should I wish to be malevolent, I could add that the mental images evoked by the name Théophile de Viau would become even stranger were one to translate the poor man's first name into the vernacular. Sorel admits that authors' names are indeed a rather shaky criterion (despite everything, Théophile is among the most important 17<sup>th</sup> century French poets) and directs the reader to pay attention to book titles. Generally, a poor writer chooses a poor title; if the title does not outright violate the rules of grammar or logic, it will, at least, be pompous or lack all originality. Academician Nicolas Faret (1596? – 1646), the author of a work entitled *L'Honeste-Homme*, was probably totally unaware of having created a model for dozens of writings bearing the adjective *honeste* in the title (it would be a hopeless attempt to try give an accurate translation of this adjective, but if we settle for a random choice, let us say it means 'decent'). Soon *L'Honeste-Homme* was followed by *L'Honeste-Femme*, *L'Honeste Veuve*, *L'Honeste Mariage* and so on. Do not touch these kinds of works!

Once you have found a book that feels suitable, there still remains a fundamental problem to be solved. Does the book you have chosen represent a respectable, not to say honourable, type of literature? To be sure, it would be safe to keep to the Bible; those preferring more secular reading should study dictionaries and grammars, says David Clément. The secretary of the Berlin Academy of Science, J. H. S. Formey (1711 – 1797) was more tolerant: in his French-language guide book "How to form a small-scale but high-standard (home) library" (*Conseils pour former une bibliothèque peu nombreuse mais choisie*, 1756), he admits that novelists – for many the sources of all evil – do not compare with historians, for they deal with fiction instead of facts. However, he goes on to specify and abate his statement as follows: "novelists and historians may be



French literature in the 1700s is full of lighthearted romantic adventures. The heroine shown contemptuously rejects the money offered to her because she considers the hero so handsome that he does not have to resort to shady tactics. Comte de Caylus, *Oeuvres badines* XI. 1787. Part XI (Collected humorous works, 1787). Illustrated by Marillier.

compared to bastards and children born in wedlock. Experience has shown that often the former are more intelligent and charming than the latter and that nature has been more generous with them.“ All the same, Formey has his reservations about novels; even though they are an agreeable way to pass time, not even collectors should acquire piles of them in their libraries. An especially bad reputation in the eyes of Formey and many of his contemporaries was enjoyed by stories based on medieval poetry of chivalry, where the heroes will split their opponents in two with one swipe of the sword, unless they have already used magical powers to transport themselves from one location to another or done something else equally senseless. Anyone with a liking for this kind of literature is, according to Sorel, like a child who has not yet had time to read more than one book. Light reading speaks of bad taste, and there is no end to the scorn for those who read adventure stories such as *Amadis de Gaule*.

### Bestsellers and forgotten masterpieces

What is this much scorned *Amadis*? The origins of this work are among the most muddled in the literary history of Europe (even the following account, based on the most recent research, should be taken with a pinch of salt<sup>3</sup>). According to current knowledge, the author was the Spanish Rodriguez de Montalvo; the first edition was published in 1508 in Zaragoza under the title *The virtuous knight Amadis de Gaula* (*Los quatro libros del virtuoso Cavallero Amadis de Gaula*). The novel was a huge success not only in Spain, but also in France, Germany and Italy, and, as the number of translations grew, so did the number of pages. Gradually, *Amadis* became a great thick tome<sup>4</sup>, a collage of material from here and there. For example, the French translation (1779) by Count de Tressan (1705–1783) has more than a thousand pages. In his preface, Tressan admits somewhat abashed that he was carried away by the plot to such an extent that only half-way through the translation he realised that he was making a free translation (spiced up by a few sub-plots) and not a collection of selected passages, as he had originally intended<sup>5</sup>. One reason for the untidy history of *Amadis* is the title, the word *Gaula* referring to Wales (in French *Pays de Galles*). Amadis's adventures touch upon King Arthur's world, and, as we know, King Arthur ruled in Wales. The French misunderstood the place name and considered Amadis to be their compatriot. This mix-up is understandable, bearing in mind that the most splendid romantic knights – Roland, Olivier, Naimés, and many others – were French. Consequently, readers generally assumed the novel's original language to be French, which led to some further misunderstandings. From the point of view of my argument, it suffices to state that for three centuries *Amadis* continued to be a bestseller, and not even the most con-

temptuous critics could change that fact. *Amadis's* popularity is also reflected in the collections of the National Library of Finland, which contain some ten copies of the work, the earliest one being an Italian translation, printed in Venice in 1624<sup>6</sup>. According to David Clément, finding a complete edition of *Amadis* was problematic in the mid-1700s, especially if one wished the parts to be of the same format. His observations about the different translations are that the German translation “is not common”, the French (but which one?) is “rather rare” and the Italian “very rare”, whereas the Spanish edition is almost impossible to come across. It would be interesting to know whether the Italian translation referred to by Clément is the same as the one in the National Library, which has come to Helsinki in the library of Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich.

Well before the start of the Modern Age, medieval French literature fell into oblivion in its home country. The reasons for this were, above all, linguistic – Old French (ca. 1100–1350) is a different language from Middle French (1350–1500) or Modern French – but the contributions of such intellectuals as Michel de Montaigne (1533–1592) to this development should not be overlooked either. In his frequently quoted *Essays*, section I, 26, Montaigne states: “books like (...) *Amadis*, *Huon de Bordeaux*, and such trumpery which children are most delighted with, I had never so much as heard their names, no more than I yet know what they contain.”<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, there have always been people who understand and appreciate medieval literature. Thanks to them, certain texts have remained, at least faintly, in the awareness of the reading public. The poet Clément Marot (1496–1544), who ranks at first place on the top-ten list of French poets of all times, sets a fine example in his attitude towards François Villon (ca. 1432–1463), a poet preceding Marot by a few generations. A pioneer of modern philology, Marot took upon himself the task of correcting Villon’s deficient and linguistically substandard editions, and published in 1533 a new edition to which he included a preface. When Villon was being published again in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Marot’s preface was rediscovered. It can be found, for example, in the edition published in 1762 and included in the collections of the National Library<sup>8</sup>. I will quote the following passage to demonstrate the unselfish motives of a true bibliophile: “No book printed in the French language is so full of errors and linguistically corrupted as Villon’s work. I cannot help but be utterly aghast at the fact that Parisian publishers and readers have not paid greater attention to this matter, for after all, Villon is the greatest of Parisian poets. Even though I am not even close to his standard, I have attempted to restore the language of his poetry and have done what I wish someone would do to my works, if they should ever be found in such a state of degradation. This I owe to Villon for everything that I have learned from him...”

Unless you believe that the possibilities of critics to influence the taste of the public at large are limited, you should call to mind the history of the *Bibliothèque Bleue* (the Blue Library). It was founded in 1596 in the city of Troyes by Jean Oudot, the forefather of the Oudot family of printers. The name of the “library” derives from the cheap, blue-grey paper that the books were printed on. The fundamental idea of the library was to reach the public that did not normally have access to books. The publishers of the “blue books” (by the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they numbered some 150) offered cheap, entertaining and even educational reading to circles where literacy was not common. Distribution was the responsibility of peddlers; there was plenty of room for small books among ribbons, buttons and other petty goods. The popularity of the “blue books” was at its peak from the early 1600s to the mid-1800s; texts were drawn, for example, from medieval literature, the most popular titles of which were offered to the readers in updated versions that were not necessarily very loyal to the original works. Prose versions of epic poems of chivalry (*chansons de geste*) were published especially in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; later on, regular items in the library included almanacs or calendars which contained proverbs, recipes and folklore. The books of the *Bibliothèque Bleue* can, in many ways, be compared to modern paperbacks. One of their common features is that neither were meant to last from one generation to another; after all, their poor paper would not survive long-term use. It is all the more miraculous that an item such as the four medieval stories, published in 1726 by Jacques Oudot and Pierre Garnier and bound in one volume, should be found in the eclectic collections of the Monrepos Manor Library, held by the National Library. Three of these stories are chivalric romances, including the centuries-old bestsellers *Histoire des quatre fils Aymons, très-nobles et très-vaillans chevaliers* (The story of the four splendidly noble and brave sons of Aymons) and *Huon de Bordeaux*, which was mentioned by Montaigne.

### Etiquette guides and praises of times past

To know how to behave correctly in any situation was an absolute necessity at the French court. Poorly chosen words or an otherwise clumsy appearance could prove fatal in circles which considered that *le ridicule tue*, ridiculous behaviour is fatal. What are then the qualities of an ideal person who masters all the requirements of tactful behaviour? As an exhaustive answer would take up too much space, let us just note that the basic qualities of such a person include the ability to take into account the feelings of a companion. If he or she is in low spirits, the tone of the conversation must remain sad, even if one were bursting with joy. A refined soul will not strive to fulfil personal needs, but will place the needs of others, even





René Bary, *L'esprit de cour ou les cent conversations galantes*. Paris 1703

unspoken ones, first. A civilised person shuns causing unhappiness. A hopeless case will start a conversation by *moi, je* (in modern English: personally, I...), for nothing is more improper than talking about oneself. A companion who continuously complains about his or her ailments, only proves that he or she suffers – in addition to everything else – from egocentricity or a lack of intellect. These ideas are from Antoine de Courtin (1622–1685), a diplomat in the service of Queen Christina of Sweden. His work *Nouveau Traité de la civilité qui se pratique en France, parmi les honnetes gens* (Rules of Civility) 1706 (1671), does not really contain any radical ideas, but it is interesting to note that his ideas are in sharp contrast with the present-day conception of the self as the ultimate value.

But no matter what the customs are, there are always people who think that things were better in the past. Take, for example, the manner in which a man may approach the woman he admires, and let us start with the lawyer and writer Martial d'Auvergne (ca. 1430–1508) and his work *Les Arrêts d'Amour* (judgements of love), from ca. 1460, containing records of imaginary court hearings. These records mention an admirer who, on a cold winter's night, sauntered in front of the house of his chosen one, and, for lack of anything better, contented himself with kissing the door handle. (A Finn cannot but comment laconically that either the night was not very cold or the door handle was not made of metal.) The preface of an edition<sup>9</sup> published in the 18<sup>th</sup> century praises such harmless behaviour, while, at the same time, frowns upon the modern manner of “going straight to the point”. The author does, however, indirectly admit that in some respects, manners have refined, and thus he doubts that any man would still engage in such foolery as to force his way through the chimney into the home of his beloved, after having rubbed his face with caraway to accentuate the devastating effects of passion upon him.

So how could a man approach an unknown woman in the 17<sup>th</sup> century without offending her? René Bary, quoted as being His Majesty's, Louis XIV, historian, suggests the following, rather florid opening line: “Dear Mademoiselle, you must wonder about the way in which I am approaching you. It is however, quite natural that honourable (*honneste!*) men are attracted to beautiful young women. Should you not understand my behaviour, the power of your charms is not clear to you. If, however, you understand my motives, you cannot shut your ears to what I have to say.<sup>10</sup>” Such banalities could apparently be produced by any courtier, judging by the fact that Bary directs his advice on the provincial nobility, its manners being so rustic. For the edification of the reader, I shall quote another typically precious exchange about Zephyr, the soft vernal west wind:

(Zephyr has lifted the veil covering Zelinda's bodice.)



Zelinde: *Que le Zephyre est quelquefois desobligeant!*  
 Tyrilas: *Que le Zephyre est quelquefois officieux!*  
 Zelinde: *Il nous rafraîchit, il est vray, mais il me découure.*  
 Tyrilas: *Il vous découure, ie l'aouë, mais il nous raut.*  
 Zelinde: *Ne defendez plus le vent, il porte la confusion sur le visage des Dames.*  
 Tyrilas: *Ne condamnez plus le vent, il porter la joye dans le coeur des Hommes.*  
 Zelinde: (...) *mais il ne découure pas moins les degauts que le perfections, les disgraces que les auantages.*  
 Tyrilas: *Que cela vous importe-t'il? Il ne peut vous desobliger, la Nature vous a obligée.*<sup>11</sup>

### Dangers in the lives of scholars

Health manuals meant for different professions were common in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several works were dedicated especially to those who spent their lives among books, educating themselves and others. These works are all unanimous in the view that thinking and researching are hazardous to one's health. When only one part of the body (the brain) is in constant use, it is under a greater strain than if the stress were more evenly distributed among the different muscles. And it is even worse if we, in a monomaniacal fashion, dwell on one topic only: in this case, the strain is continuously put on a single spot of the brain. Nothing good can come out of this. The truthfulness of this argument is verified by the miserable fate of numerous scholars: it is well-known that many of them died of a stroke. According to the Swiss doctor Samuel Auguste Tissot (1728 – 1797), it is not uncommon for a person speaking from the pulpit or lectern to get so carried away by his subject that he falls dead on the spot (*De la santé des gens de lettres*, 1769). And posterity, then, does it even have the sense to reminisce these passionate book worms? I doubt it. When speaking of books with a small circulation and difficult to hunt down, David Clément mentions the biographies of scholars. Generally, they are thin booklets, and as such, are easily lost in the bowels of libraries. Clément does not reveal his opinion of such a fate. But really, could anything be more pleasing to faithful library users than to end their days as books among books? *In bibliotheca requiescit in pace.*

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In autumn 2004 she wrote an amusing and informative survey on 17th and 18th century French and Italian imprints found in the collections of the National Library, entitled *Le Roi Soleil, Vesuvius and much more besides*, to be published in the work *Printed in the Memory*, an over-

view of the collections of the National Library of Finland. The editors of the Bulletin asked her to contribute another article along the same lines for the pleasure of our readers.

English translation:  
 Irma Hallberg-Rautalin

### Footnotes

1. Here I am, of course, referring to the traditional library that concentrates on books, not the multipurpose facilities, crowded with machines, where any printed materials are more or less a random phenomenon.
2. Charles Sorel, *De la Connoissance des bons livres, ou examen de plusieurs atheurs*, Amsterdam, chez Henry & Theodore Boom, 1673 (1671).
3. Cf. Charles Dédéyan, *Le chevalier berger ou de l'Amadis à l'Astrée. Fortune, critique et création*, Paris, Presses de l'Université de Paris-Sorbonne, 2002.
4. This is really an anachronism, considering that the editions were stylish, small-sized books that were divided into several parts.
5. Louis-Elisabeth de La Vergne, comte de Tressan, *Traduction libre d'Amadis de Gaule*, Paris, chez Denis Janot, 1779.
6. Rodriguez de Montalvo's work can only be found in a modern edition (1992), but even that goes to show that it is still popular reading.
7. Michel de Montaigne, *Essays*, Part I, English translation by Charles Cotton, 1877.
8. *Œuvres de François Villon avec les remarques de diverses personnes*, La Haie, Chés Adrien Moetjens, 1762.
9. *Les arrêts d'Amour (...)*. Par Martial d'Auvergne, Amsterdam, François Changuion, 1734.
10. *L'esprit de cour, ou les cent conversations galantes dédiées au roy*. Par René Bary, Paris, chez Claude Prudhomme, 1703 (1662).
11. Zelinda: Oh, what malicious tricks Zephyr sometimes plays!  
 Tyrilas: Zephyr does sometimes excellent favours!  
 Zelinda: Yes, it is refreshingly cool, but at the same time, it uncovers me.  
 Tyrilas: So it does, I admit, and sends me to seventh heaven.  
 Zelinda: Do not defend the wind, it brings embarrassment to women.  
 Tyrilas: Do not judge the wind, for it brings happiness to men's hearts.  
 Zelinda: (...) but it may reveal ugliness as well as beauty.  
 Tyrilas: You do not need to worry about that! The wind cannot be unfavourable to you, for Nature has treated you so kindly!

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*A book like a landscape,  
 is a state of consciousness varying with readers.*

Ernest Dimnet

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# The Swan

Johan Ludvig Runeberg 200 years



Two hundred years have passed since the birth of *Johan Ludvig Runeberg*, Finland's national poet and author of the words to Finland's national anthem *Our Land* (*Vårt land*, *Maamme*). The Helsinki University Library's exhibition marking the occasion, "A Song soaring o'er Land and Sea", will be open until the end of August. Runeberg's most famous work is without question *The Tales of Ensign Stahl*, a depiction of the events and personalities of the Swedish-Russian War of 1808-1809. His best-known individual poems are *By the Spring* and *The Swan*; thanks to the beautiful melodies composed by Fredrik August Ehrström they can be found in even the latest song-books and in the repertoires of many choirs.

Finland is a bilingual country in which the majority of the population speaks Finnish. Runeberg's poems were originally written in Swedish and the poet is also considered a significant author in Sweden, Finland's former mother country. Eirikr Magnusson and K. H. Palmer, who translated Runeberg's collection *Idylls and Epigrams* into English, also dedicated their collection published 1878 to the Swedish King Oscar II. In their dedication they wrote: "This translation is, so far as we know, the first attempt to render into English any of the more poetical works in the Swedish language, with absolute loyalty to both form and substance." Runeberg's entire output has also been translated into Finnish. Finland's national author is *Aleksis Kivi*, whose novel *Seitsemän veljestä* (*Seven Brothers*) has been translated into almost 30 languages.

The Swan

*From cloud with purple-sprinkled rim  
a swan, in calm delight,  
sank down upon the river's brim,  
and sang in June, one night.*

*Of Northlands' beauty was his song,  
how glad their skies, their air;  
how day forgets, the whole night long,  
to go to rest out there;*

*How shadows there, both rich and deep,  
'neath birch and alder fall;  
how gold-beams o'er each inlet sweep,  
how cool the billows all;*

*How fair it is, how passing fair,  
to own there one true friend!  
How faithfulness is home-bed there,  
and thither longs to wend!*

*When thus from wave to wave his note,  
His simple praise-song rang,  
swift fawned he on his fond mate's throat,  
and thus, methought, he sang: –*

*What more? Though of thy life's short dream  
no tales the ages bring,  
yeat hast thou loved on Northlands' stream,  
and sung songs there in spring!*

*Johan Ludvig Runeberg*



Sanna Järvinen digitally altered an image of the Rotunda's interior, designed by Architect Gustaf Nyström, to create a new work of art that adorns the cover of Kai Ekholm's celebratory book.

## The Book in the Online World

The publication of *Kirja tietoverkkojen maailmassa* ("The Book in the Online World") was announced on 15 October 2003 to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of *Kai Ekholm*, Director of the Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland.

Can a collection of articles published on the Internet without a printed equivalent be a high-quality publication and book? Kai Ekholm's celebratory book is his contribution to this discussion. The work's online implementation was chosen to realize Kai Ekholm's long-time dream of an electronic book.

Kai Ekholm is a multi-talent whose personal interests also happen to coincide with many of the National Library of Finland's main areas of responsibility: the Information Society, books and libraries, new media, popular culture, the freedom to publish and copyrights. All of these are covered in *Kirja tietoverkkojen maailmassa*. The contributing authors are 24 experts in the fields of science and culture, including the philosopher and rector Ilkka Niiniluoto, the Royal Swedish Library's National Librarian Tomas Lidman, the copyright expert and Director of the Ministry of Education's Division of Media and Cultural Policy Jukka Liedes, as well as Ph.D. Professor Yrjö Varpio, whose specialty is literary research. Inkeri Salonharju edited the book, and the visual expert Sanna Järvinen designed its graphical appearance.

*Kirja tietoverkkojen maailmassa* is meant to stand the test of time, to be preserved and made available to readers like printed literature as a permanent part of the

National Library of Finland's collections. The book's electronic copy has been stored in the National Library of Finland's Legal Deposit collection and the book is catalogued in Fennica, the National Bibliography of Finland. The online book's technical implementation, user interface and copyright procedure are new and they have been developed for this publication, but the author's intent is that they be used more widely in the production of digital content services.

*Kirja tietoverkkojen maailmassa* has been implemented metaphorically as a book; it has a cover and pages as in traditionally printed publications. The book also has entertaining "reading corners" for literary adventure as well as an image gallery where readers can rest their eyes. Although the book uses multimedia sparingly, sounds are also present in the form of musical excerpts. The illustrations have been designed to enhance the book's readability while guiding readers through library facilities that might otherwise go unnoticed. The book is easy to use and requires no special instructions.

*Kirja tietoverkkojen maailmassa* can be found at the address: <http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/julkaisut/kirjatietoverkkojenmaailmassa/>

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## Nelli ready to go

The opening ceremonies for the nationwide Nelli information retrieval portal will take place on 15 September 2004. Nelli will first be utilized in Finland's university libraries, followed by public libraries whose portal services are expected to become accessible in early 2005. Negotiations with polytechnic libraries are still in progress, but it is likely that polytechnics will also begin exploiting the Nelli portal's capabilities in 2005. Special libraries will join later.

Powered by ExLibrix's Metalib and SFX software, the Nelli portal's most salient features are the metasearch, enabling the searching of several databases simultaneously, and context-sensitive linking compatible with the OpenURL framework. The National Library of Finland is responsible for the portal's start-up.

Nelli cannot however do the job alone; the Nelli portal, the Voyager library system and the documentation archive's Encompass software together form Triangeli, the tripartite technical platform for Finnish library services. The planning of electronic library services, instead of only improving the performance of individual systems, is now focusing on the overall entity. The common use of the three different systems offers virtually unlimited opportunities to develop national information retrieval services, and a modular structure facilitates the systems' flexible updating and renewals.



The "Portal Patrol": Ari Rouvari and Henry Ryhänen played key roles in the planning of Nelli (National Electronic Library Interface).

In a broader sense Triangeli is also a link in the value chain of the National Library of Finland's electronic services. There are four main areas: the acquisition of online materials (FinELib), the digitizing of Finland's cultural heritage, information retrieval (Triangeli) and archiving.

The taking into use of Nelli's – as yet unnamed – younger sister, the document archive service, has begun. The document archives will become an extremely effective platform for various metadata formats, making it indispensable in future library services.

The Nelli portal will be maintained and developed concentratedly, but services and user interfaces can be tailored locally. The Nelli portal environment features local, regional, and national interfaces. In the Gate of Lapland project, for example, the region's most essential databases have been assembled to form a single view because people in the same geographical area have similar needs. The objective is to also create a national open view gathering all open services. Although it may seem slightly utopian, it is actually customer-driven service model.

Open Access Journals (OAJ) are an essential resource in the provision of all open and free library services; installing OAJ in the Nelli portal is one of this year's goals. Because subscription prices for online scientific magazines have skyrocketed, OAJ will also be significant in the research library sector. The publication of OAJ will almost certainly shake up scientific journals' current cost models.

Much is expected of Nelli and Triangeli. They will certainly live up to their expectations but much still needs to be done. The services will however continue to improve and customers will in turn demand better performance that will in turn generate more work – and that benefits everyone.

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## Say Shibboleth – one login, all services

"Say now Shibboleth!" it was ordered. Because the Ephraimites could not pronounce the word's *sh* sound, they were unmasked as the enemy, slaughtered and thrown into the River Jordan. The term "Shibboleth" comes from the Bible; it was used as a code word to identify outsiders (Book of Judges, Chapter 12, Verses 5-6).

Nowadays Shibboleth is known as an authentication system that has been specifically designed to meet the needs of interorganizational user management. Facilitat-



ing access to all services provided by a home organization with a single login, Shibboleth is an architecture with an open source code based on the standards developed in the Internet2/MACE project.

The National Library of Finland and CSC, the Finnish IT Center for Science have initialized a joint project in which Shibboleth authentication will be tested in the Nelli information retrieval portal. The goal is to implement the Shibboleth authentication method in the Nelli portal in 2004 and possibly later in Linnea library services.

Currently the LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) has been used as the Nelli portal's login method, but naturally only in libraries where the LDAP customer directory structure has already been installed. One of the LDAP's disadvantages is that critical information – the user's password – is transmitted through portal servers, even if it is encrypted. Shibboleth authentication eliminates the problem; the login is transmitted to the university's own server where the user is identified. After a positive authentication an attribute identifying the user – the prefix of an E-mail address – is transmitted to the Nelli portal.

Shibboleth also facilitates one-time logins; once au-

thenticated, it is not necessary for a customer to login repeatedly when navigating from one service to the next because Shibboleth technology forwards the authenticated user's information.

Limitations on the use of electronic materials have traditionally been effected with IP addresses. The library provides the suppliers of materials with the IP addresses of the computers in which the materials can be used. If, for example, a university wants to provide off-campus users with opportunities to use materials, a proxy server must be used.

Shibboleth may well replace the use of IP addresses. Instead of IP addresses customers' user rights are verified with attributes (organization and customer's role). Distance use is also possible without a proxy server.

Shibboleth is a secure, dependable and user-friendly authentication method. Its flexibility ensures more exact authorization limits that also facilitate greater precision in the acquisition of materials.

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### Gold Award for the online exhibition Nuolenpäistä aakkosiin

*Nuolenpäistä aakkosiin*, (“From Arrowheads to Alphabets”) the Helsinki University Library’s online exhibition presenting the history of writing, received a Gold Award in the Training and Motivation category of the *Media & Message* competition held 6-7 August 2003 in Turku. Citing the justifications for the Gold Award, the jury of the *Media & Message* competition organized by the Association of Independent Producers in Finland had this to say about the library’s online exhibition: “Executed with a great deal of professionalism and precision. Elegant user interface structure. A fine performance considering the tight production schedule. Excellent content. There is something here that’s “super-cool”! Inviting. An excellent example of modular academic online content. The authors’ enthusiasm clearly shows. Very educational. Clear-cut navigation tree, an unbelievable website!” Besides the Gold Award the online exhibition’s designer and implementer *Sanna Järvinen* was awarded with a Certificate of Honor for the competition’s best management of digital materials.

The Helsinki University Library, the National Library of Finland produced the online exhibition that *Sanna Järvinen* planned and implemented. Professor *Tapani Harviainen* and *Harry Halén* Ph.L. provided expert assistance. The exhibition’s images are drawn primarily from the Helsinki University Library’s collections; *Sirkka Havu* and *Jaakko Salemaa* functioned as collection advisors. *Kari Timonen* digitized the images and *Inkeri Pitkäranta* produced and coordinated the exhibition.

Although the Helsinki University Library activated the *Nuolenpäistä aakkosiin* online exhibition on its website in early March in connection with its international *The Metamorphoses of Writing* exhibition, the online exhibition functions as an independent entity providing additional in-depth coverage of the subject. Its purpose is to be educational as well as entertaining. Open to the general public, the online exhibition is well suited to information searches but at the same time it offers esthetic pleasures inherent in the different writing systems’ diversity and beauty. The online exhibition is clear and user-friendly and requires no special devices or software in home computers. The exhibition can be found at the Internet address: <http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/ajankohtaista/naytelyt/kirjaimistot/>

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### Long-awaited Sibelius catalogue published

On 8 December 2003, the birthday of Jean Sibelius, a catalogue *Jean Sibelius:Thematisch-bibliographisches Verzeichnis seiner Werke* prepared by Professor *Fabian Dahlström* and containing all of the surviving complete compositions of Jean Sibelius, was announced at the Helsinki University Library.

The volume, several years in the making and 816 pages in length, has been published by the well-known German music publisher *Breitkopf & Härtel* (Wiesbaden - Leipzig - Paris). The work is based on materials and collections found in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, England, Germany, Estonia and Latvia. Sibelius’s family archives and his previously unpublished diary have also been used in the work.

The book’s introduction, printed in German, English and Finnish, treats the available source material and Sibelius’s contacts with music publishers. The fact that Finland remained outside the Bern Convention for many years resulted in a considerable number of copyright-related problems. During World War I Sibelius’s connections with German publishers were severed. Factors such as these significantly affected Sibelius’s musical output.

Every work for which an opus number exists has been rigorously examined. Besides the title and alternative designations, score examples are provided for every composition as well as for every separate section of multi-movement works. There are 1,021 score examples. Information is provided for each work’s duration, orchestral composition, first performance, first recording and publishing institutions. The description contains excerpts from Sibelius’s correspondence with the publishing companies with which he was associated, as well as information regarding the most important arrangements and translations.

Works without opus numbers, a total of 225, are examined with equal thoroughness. Also included are some of the folk songs chosen by Sibelius himself that were incorporated in his *Four Legends from the Kalevala Opus 22*, published in 1895. The catalogue also contains well-known drafts and exercises.

The catalogue contains a thematic and chronological table as well as a selected bibliography, with the emphasis on more recent Sibelius-related literature. The use of the volume is facilitated by four indexes (names of works/first lines of text, Kalevala and Kanteletar, names of persons, music publishers).

[www.lib.helsinki.fi/sibelius/](http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/sibelius/)

## Latest music manuscript donations

The Music Manuscript Collections of the National Library of Finland have received important new donations during the past year. Finnish Art Music is well known around the world. Because of this it is important to collect and archive the original music manuscripts and biographical material on the composers.

Collecting musical manuscripts has been seen as one of the duties of the National Library during the history. A large amount of music manuscripts was collected by the *Lyyra*-project in the late 1990s. The project has now officially been completed but the work continues. During the years 2003 and 2004 the collections have received new donations from some remarkable characters of the Finnish music scene.

*Einari Marvia* (1915–1997) started as a composer, but he was also chosen as the manager of the Musiikki-Fazer company in the beginning of his career. Lack of time was the main reason why he did not continue as a composer. His list of works contains mostly vocal music. Marvia was also a significant musicologist. His research subject was

Finland's internationally renowned composer Jean Sibelius donated his photograph to Einari Marvia. Sibelius's original scores are one of the Helsinki University Library's treasures.

the history of Early Finnish music. His donation contains music manuscripts, arrangements and research material.

*Tauno Marttinen* (b. 1912) rejected his early late romantic style works in the late the fifties after his success with a piece of music called *Kokko, ilman lintu*, which uses the technique of serial music. For a long time it was assumed that the composer had obliterated his early material but some of it was found from a coffin (sic) at his house in Hämeenlinna. He wanted to donate this material to the Helsinki University Library.

*Erkki Aaltonen* (1910–1990) was born in Hämeenlinna, but he settled in Kemi. He was one of the founders of the Music Institute of Kemi and was an important character in local music life for several years. Aaltonen's heirs donated a large and unorganized collection which contains both music manuscripts and biographical material.

*Lauri Saikkola's* (1906–1995) donation was made by his daughter. Saikkola's output was mostly symphonies and sinfoniettas. *Eero Erkkilä* (b. 1941) is known as an opera singer as well as a composer of sacred music. He donated all his material to the Helsinki University Library. *Toivo* (1883–1918) and *Alma* (1884–1941) *Kuula's* archive received new additions including some music manuscripts and letters. This archive's material will be used for the upcoming internet-project, which is about Toivo Kuula's life. It will be accessible from the Helsinki University Library's website later this year.

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## A Digital Library of Finnish Scholarly Journals Now Online

### The Finnish Historical Newspaper Library 1771-1890 Expands

A digital library of Finnish scholarly journals has been opened at <http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/digi/periplus/index.jsp>. It contains the annual volumes of journals from their first year of publication onwards. So far the *Historiallinen aikakauskirja* ("Finnish Historical Journal") from 1903 to 1999 and the *Suomi* ("Finland") -journal from 1841 to 1938 have been digitised.

At the moment some 100,000 pages relating to historical research, Finnishness, the Finnish language and Finnish literature are available for browsing. More journals will be added gradually. This resource can be used in organisations that have entered





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into a contract with Helsinki University Library's electronic LINNEA services – for example, public libraries and universities. The size of the Finnish Historical Newspaper Library (<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi>) more than doubled at the end of 2003, containing now 70 newspapers and 413,000 pages. When completed in 2007, the newspaper library will contain all newspapers published in Finland between 1771 and 1890, in all 165 titles and 900,000 pages. The library, which opened in 2001, has proved very popular, attracting visitors from all over the world. You can search for information from the material by carrying out a keyword search – for example, by municipality or by a person's name – or by browsing the contents of different newspapers. The Finnish Historical Newspaper Library formed part of the Nordic TIDEN project, supported by NordInfo and coordinated by Helsinki University Library.

Both the digital library of scholarly journals and the Finnish Historical Newspaper Library are produced by Helsinki University Library's Microfilming and Conservation Centre in Mikkeli, in cooperation with the nation's libraries, publishers of newspapers and journals and, in matters relating to copyright issues, the Finnish copyright organisation *Kopiosto*.

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### Kamut 2 – Cooperation among archives, libraries and museums

Exploiting information networks to facilitate the cooperation taking place among data storage organizations is already well established in Finland. The goal is the common use of archives', libraries', and museums' databases. The results of the *Muisti* Project led by the Helsinki University Library can be seen online at: (<http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/memory/muisti.html>). The *Kamut* project led by The National Archives of Finland is promoting the common use of archives', libraries', and museums' databases by defining the mandatory data required for common use. A copy of the 1997 report can be found at the address: (<http://www.narc.fi/kamut/sisallys.html>).

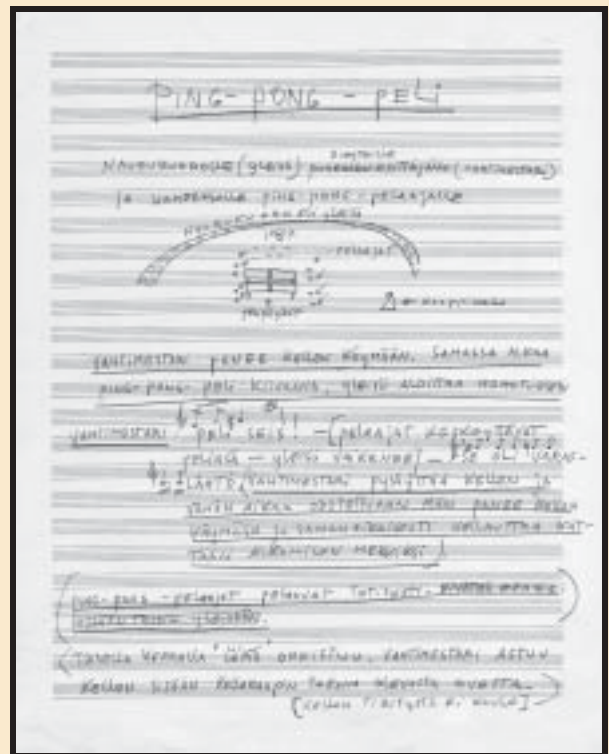
One of the most recent examples of cooperation among archives libraries, and museums is the *Kamut 2* project whose report was completed in early 2004 (<http://www.nba.fi/tiedostot/8c050dc.5.pdf>). The report contains

clarifications regarding the latest technologies as well as alternative implementation models for the common use of data storage organizations' databases.

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### Important manuscript acquisition for the Frugård manor archives

In June 2003 the National Library of Finland acquired manuscript materials from Sweden that originally belonged to the Frugård manor archives in Mäntsälä, Finland. As a result, important materials that shed new light on the distinguished Nordenskiöld family and its manor life have now been returned to Finland. The acquired materials include letters written by the world-famous explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld and his father Nils



The National Library of Finland is an important repository of Finnish composers' manuscripts. One of the most recent donations is the extensive collection of the composer Tauno Marttinen (1912 -) that also contains the score for the composition "Ping-Pong-Game for a Laughing-Choir, Baritone and Eight Ping-Pong-Players" (1968).

Nordenskiöld, considered the “father of Finnish mineralogy”. Letters and documents related to the manor’s upkeep have been added to the original archives. The material also includes charts, including a hand-drawn military map probably dating from the early 1800s. The consignment now acquired for the National Library of Finland will be added to the extensive Frugård manor archives – now preserved at the library – that were stored for many years at the Frugård manor in Mäntsälä by the Nordenskiöld family. In the early 1900s most of the archive was moved to Sweden. The archives, consisting of materials from the 1700s to the early 1900s, also contain a collection of letters written by explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld and other members of the Nordenskiöld family.

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### A detective novel’s Finnish translation from the Helsinki University Library

A significant Finnish translation in the field of detective fiction: *Herra Corpwieth ja kaksoisolennon arvoitus* (“Mr. Corpwieth and the Doppelganger Dilemma”), is the latest addition to the Helsinki University Library’s publication series (Helsinki University Library Publication No. 72).

In the 1910s, scientific research was not the only activity taking place in the distinguished surroundings of the library of the Imperial Alexander University (now the University of Helsinki). The writing bug had bitten three of the library’s employees: *Emil Hasselblatt*, *Olaf Homén* and *Henning Söderhjelm*. Together the trio collaborated on a series of detective novels that appeared as a single edition in time for the Christmas of 1914. The book, a mystery titled *Herr Corpwieth, gentleman-detektiv: hans första äventyr framställda af Tre Herrar*, met with such disapproval among the library’s administration that the three writers were forced to discontinue their efforts in this direction. But the story doesn’t end there; the novel *Den gåtfulle dubbelgångaren* that appeared two years later, written by a mysterious “Mr. C.” (whose identity was subsequently revealed as the library amanuensis *Holger Nohrström*), bore a suspicious resemblance to “Mr. Corpwieth”.

The Finnish translator *Heikki Kaukoranta*, a Helsinki University Library staff member himself, has solved the riddles related to the book. His fascinatingly presented research work sheds new light on the formative stages of Mr. Corpwieth, the Helsinki University Library and old Helsinki. The text is accompanied by illustrations that bring the period to life. The entire work as a novel is an event in Finnish detective fiction,



The latest addition to the Helsinki University Library’s publication series, the detective novel *“Herra Corpwieth ja kaksoisolennon arvoitus”* (“Mr. Corpwieth and the Doppelganger Dilemma”) edited and translated into Finnish by library staff member Heikki Kaukoranta, was a huge success when it was published in 2003. Shown is library amanuensis Holger Nohrström (1913?), the model for the hero of the book, the gentleman detective Mr. Corpwieth. Nohrström worked in the library in the early 1900s and was one of the authors of the original Swedish-language work.

a bibliographic rarity that offers fresh insights into the Helsinki University Library’s history and life in early-1900s Helsinki. But above all it offers an exciting read for detective fiction enthusiasts.

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# exhibitions

## Exhibitions

### **Finnish Philosophers in the World – the World's Philosophers in Finland**

*Exhibition at the National Library of Finland's Gallery,  
Unioninkatu 36, Helsinki*

*29 September 2004–26 January 2005*

*In cooperation with the University of Helsinki's  
Philosophy Department and the Philosophical Society of  
Finland*

*Free admission*

The Helsinki University Library is mounting an exhibition *Finnish Philosophers in the World – the World's Philosophers in Finland* in cooperation with the University of Helsinki's Philosophy Department and the Philosophical Society of Finland 29 September 2004 – 26 January 2005 at the National Library of Finland's Gallery. The year 2004 is a jubilee and anniversary year for several important philosophers, marking Immanuel Kant's death 200 years ago, Christian Wolff's death 250 years ago, and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ludwig Feuerbach's birth. As the exhibition shows, these jubilee year philosophers had a profound influence on Finnish philosophical thought. This



Ludwig Wittgenstein (left) and Georg Henrik von Wright at Cambridge in 1950. Photo by K.E. Tranøy. *Acta Philosophica Fennica* Vol. 28. Nos. 1-3.

year also marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Henrik Gabriel Porthan, a distinguished and versatile figure in Finnish science and culture whose influence can also be felt in the field of philosophy.

The exhibition, besides presenting Finnish philosophers who have influenced other countries and international philosophers who have affected the development of Finnish philosophy, also creates an overview of Finnish philosophy beginning in the 1500s and culminating in the last century with Finland's most internationally significant philosophers Georg Henrik von Wright and Jaakko Hintikka. The exhibition also displays von Wright's library and archives – donated to the Helsinki University Library – whose cataloguing was completed this year. The international Georg Henrik von Wright symposium, arranged by the University of Helsinki and Philosophical Society of Finland, will also be announced in connection with the exhibition. The symposium is open to the general public and will be held on 29 September in the University of Helsinki's main auditorium.

Rector Ilkka Niiniluoto, Docent Vesa Oittinen, Docent Mikko Salmela and Ph. D. Risto Vilkkö – who also catalogued the Helsinki University Library's von Wright collection – have served as expert consultants and planned the exhibition's content. In connection with the exhibition the Helsinki University Library will publish a book of the same name *Finnish Philosophers in the World – the World's Philosophers in Finland* containing articles by Ilkka Niiniluoto, Vesa Oittinen, Mikko Salmela and Risto Vilkkö. The publication will appear in the Finnish, Swedish and English languages. The exhibition also complements a philosophy-related lecture series, organized by the Helsinki University Library and open to the general public, as well as authors' visits and philosophical dialogue presentations in cooperation with the Finnish Association of Elocutionists.

Further information:

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*Time and space are modes by which we think  
and not conditions in which we live.*

Albert Einstein

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# Cooperation Projects

## Electronic materials and their communication

### National

- **Elektra Pro** – Development of electronic publishing and its copyright-related practices.
- **Digital Object Management System (DOMS)** – Setting up a system for archiving and delivering of digital collections in the Finnish university libraries. Special demands on long term preservation and controlled use of digital legal deposits.
- **NELLI – National Electronic Library Interface.** NELLI is a national information retrieval portal that enables simultaneous searching in several databases. The NELLI portal system can also identify the patrons and provide them customised services. The NELLI portal is launched in the Finnish universities in 2004

### International

- **SVUC** – Scandinavian Virtual Union Catalogue, development of principles aiming at making the Nordic physical Union catalogues available as a single unified service.
- **Nordic Web Archive** – Nordic National Libraries' forum for the coordination and exchange of experience in the fields of harvesting and archiving web documents.
- **The EU's IST** (New Information Society Technologies)

program. The library is functioning as a national support point for the Cultivate-EU Project.

- **TEL Project** – The European National Libraries' The European Library Project.
- **ONE-OPAC** Association Project – creation of prerequisites for the common utilization of bibliographic information.
- **MINERVA** (Ministerial Network for Valorising Activities in Digitisation), a project belonging to the EU Information Society Program, whose primary objectives are to make Finland's cultural and scientific heritage more accessible, exploit the educational potential of digital content and improve the general prerequisites for digital content production.
- **MIKADO** digitizing service for the national imprint, a project falling within the EU Goal 1 area in Eastern Finland, aiming at the strengthening of investments in micro-filming and conservation institutions' digitizing operations for equipment acquisitions and the development of information systems.

### Research and cultural heritage

#### Critical Edition of the Complete Works of Jean Sibelius

Calculated to take about 25 years; 45 volumes.



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# Facts and Statistics 2003

- visitors 280,728 (2002: 250,700)
- local loans 520,100
- interlibrary loans to other libraries 2,600 and from other libraries 2,200
- the number of information service requests was 5,400, guidance in information retrieval was given to 450 persons and the number of visitors was 1,525
- accession of collections approx. 800 meters of shelving, at the end of the year the collections amounted to totally 104,000 meters of shelving
- accession of the National Collection 81,000 units, of those 51,700 uncatalogued publications
- accession of monographs and series in other collections 11,200 volumes
- collections totalling 2.8 million volumes of books and serials, 601,800 microfilms and microfiches, and 2.8 million units of other items
- the databases of the Library's own collections contain 1.5 million references, a growth of 32,200
- the National Bibliography database FENNICA contains 737,416 bibliographic entries
- the Union Catalogue database of the Finnish research libraries (LINDA) contains about 4.2 million references
- the addition to the Web Archive was 20 million files
- staff: 185 permanent employees
- the Library has four service points, 2 in Helsinki, 1 in Mikkeli and 1 in Urajärvi

## Loan services

### Main Library and Slavonic Library

	2001	2002	2003
Local loans	510 600	481 800	520 100
Interlibrary services	5 100	5 000	4 000
Total	515 700	486 800	560 100

### Databases of the Library's own collections, number of titles

	2001	2002	2003
National Collection Fennica	693 000	715 000	734 400
Other collections	713 600	754 800	764 600

### Premises and Employees 2003

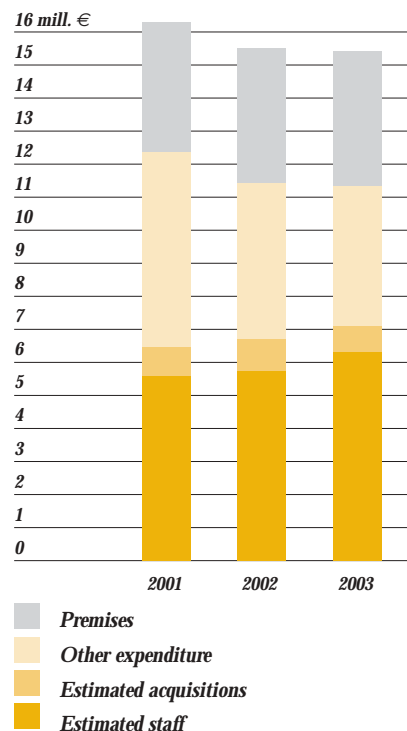
#### Premises

Total	28 500 m <sup>2</sup>	
User service areas	8 500 m <sup>2</sup>	29 %
Collection areas	15 000 m <sup>2</sup>	53 %
Library staff areas	5 000 m <sup>2</sup>	18 %

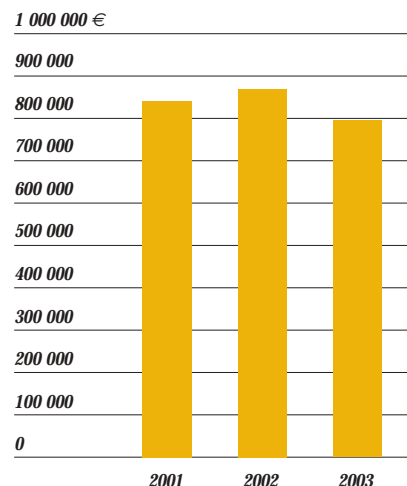
#### Employees

185 permanent staff  
230 full-time equivalents

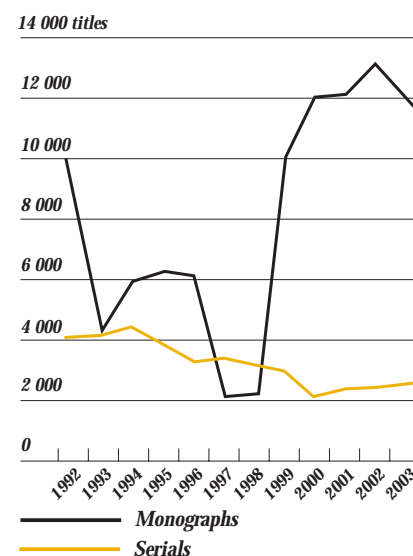
## Structure of Expenditures



## Acquisitions



## Purchased acquisitions



# New Publications from the Helsinki University Library



## **Suomalainen maisema. Det finländska landskapet. The Finnish landscape.**

**National Library Gallery Publications no. 1.**

**ISBN 952-10-0667-6, ISSN 1459-0753.**

This book containing contributions from the foremost scholars currently engaged in studying landscapes describes the early history of the image of the Finnish landscape, the dissemination of landscape pictures and the changes that have taken place in the image in the course of time. The illustrations, taken from the National Library collections, include many rarities.

## **Kirjoituksen lumo.**

### **The Metamorphoses of Writing. Con text.**

**National Library Gallery Publications no. 3.**

**ISBN 952-10-0982-9, ISSN 1459-0735.**

This publication produced for a joint exhibition arranged by Helsinki University Library and the Royal Danish Library on 13<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2003 features a series of articles by Danish and Finnish scholars on the long history of the art of writing from the Sumerian script to modern urban communication. The volume also includes the modern presentation "Con Text – The new contexts of writing" produced by the University of Art and Design in Helsinki in conjunction with the exhibition.

**CD-ROM** Contains a selection of photographs connected with the exhibition.



## **The European and Finnish St. Petersburg.**

**National Library Gallery Publications no. 4 (2003).**

**ISBN 952-10-1241-2, ISSN 1459-0735.**

The book contains articles of the Westernisation of St. Petersburg's culture written in Finnish and Swedish by Finnish experts. The illustrated book provides a fascinating glimpse into the origins of Helsinki University Library's collections.

The web bookshop of the Helsinki University Library is accessible at [www.lib.helsinki.fi/english/infoe/bookshop.htm](http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/english/infoe/bookshop.htm)

Orders direct to the web bookshop or  
the publication sales office:

Helsinki University Library/ Administrative Services,  
P.O.Box 15  
FIN- 00014 Helsinki University  
Tel +358 9 191 22671  
Fax: +358 9 191 22581  
E-mail: [hyk-julkaisumyynti@helsinki.fi](mailto:hyk-julkaisumyynti@helsinki.fi)  
Also on sale at Helsinki University Library,  
Unioninkatu 36, 00170 Helsinki





◀ Since 1640, the Helsinki University Library's collections have grown from 20 works to over three million items. Nature grows whales and giant trees from small cells or seeds, a fitting analogy to the historical development of the sciences. An article by Professor Anto Leikola focusing on zoology and botany is included in the book *Printed in the Memory – Literary Treasures in the National Library of Finland*, that will be published in the fall. The tree is 10 meters thick. Jules Dumont d'Urville, *Voyage de la corvette L'Astrolabe*. Paris 1833

# Printed in the memory

Literary Treasures in the National Library of Finland

**F**or the first time in its history, the National Library of Finland is producing an extensively illustrated publication written by a team of experts that describes its collections. Besides being a work of major importance and a broad-based source book for Finnish cultural history, it will also make an excellent gift.

The book describes the origins of the library's collections in the light of Finland's national and political history, explaining how their accumulation was influenced by the country's cultural relations at different periods, how they can be considered as manifestations of Finnish culture and society, and how the works of foreign origin tell of the proliferation of external academic and scientific doctrines in Finland.

The book's panel of editors consists of Professor Seppo Zetterberg, Docent Tapio Markkanen, Docent Pirkko Leino-Kaukiainen, and Leena Pärssinen, Senior Planning Officer, and Esko Rahikainen, Librarian, both of Helsinki University Library. The book, with texts in Finnish, Swedish and English, will be published by the Helsinki University Library and Kustannusosakeyhtiö Otava in November 2004.

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A work presenting the library's collections, *Printed in the Memory - Literary Treasures in the National Library of Finland*, will be published in the autumn of 2004. A substantial number of the collections' images, some of which have been also used to illustrate this year's Bulletin, were digitized. In the work, Docent Tapio Markkanen presents the library's mathematical sciences collection containing several classics in the field of astronomy.

Cover: Joh. Gabr. Doppelmajer,

*Atlas Novus Coelestis*.

Nuremberg 1742.

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*The universe's forces contained  
within the quiet light of stars  
are liberated when hydrogen  
changes to helium.*

Vasily Grossman

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