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

THE FINNISH LIBRARY NETWORK

Division for Cultural Policy
2010
The Finnish library network

- Structure
- Administration
- Statistics
- Finances
- Library training
Government Programme of Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen’s second Cabinet

"The role of libraries as providers of services close to home and as a multi-service system for learning, for information management and for culture will be strengthened. Separate funding for the establishment costs of libraries will be preserved."

Government Programme 2007-2011
State administration of library and information services

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

(Library Act 904/1998, 7 §)
Minister of Education and Culture
Minister of Education and Science
Minister of Culture and Sport

Parliament
Government
Ministries

Ministry of Education and Culture

Group of library administration

Department for Education and Science Policy

Division for Higher Education and Science

The National Library
University Library
Special Libraries

National Board of Education
Municipalities, Municipal Boards
and other maintenances
Libraries at schools and other educational institutions

Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy

Division for Art Policy

The National Repository Library

Museums
Copyright

Division for Cultural Policy

The Finnish Library for the Visually Impaired

Literature

Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Municipalities, Municipal Boards
Public Libraries, 19 Provincial Libraries

ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR LIBRARIES
Division for Cultural Policy at the Ministry of Education and Culture

- drafts the state library budget and prepares library legislation and regulations
- finances the establishment of new libraries and the purchase of bookmobiles
- allocates subsidies for special schemes
- compiles the official national library statistics
- evaluates the library services at the national level
- has contacts with organisations providing library and information studies
The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

- "shall monitor and promote library and information services needed by the population in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Culture and assess the accessibility and quality of the services;
- shall promote regional, national, and international development projects in the field of library and information services; and
- perform other duties assigned by the Ministry of Education and Culture"

(Library Decree 1078/1998)
THE FINNISH LIBRARY NETWORK

MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES =
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Central Library for Public Libraries, Multilingual Library, (Helsinki City Library)

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

LIBRARIES IN POLYTECHNICS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS

LIBRARIES OF UNIVERSITIES (22)

Provincial Libraries (19 municipal libraries excl. Åland)

LIBRARIES OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES

THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY LIBRARY (the state library in Kuopio)

THE FINNISH LIBRARY FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED (the state library)

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Ministry of Education/Kirsti Keikki, August 2000
The National Library of Finland

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

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

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

  (Library Act 904/1998, 4 §)

- Helsinki City Library acts as the Central Library for public libraries
The Central Library of Public Libraries

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

Library Decree 1078/1998)

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

Library Act 1998, 5 §)
The Financing of the Central Library

- It is maintained and run by the City of Helsinki
- The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates discretionary subsidy to the library after the contract made with the ministry annually;
  - for the purpose acting as the Central Library
  - for the purpose acting as the Multilingual Library
  - for the Networked Public Library Services
Provincial libraries (19)

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

   (Library Act 1998, 4 §)

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

   (Library Act 1998, 5 §)
The Provincial libraries

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

(Library Decree 1078/1998)
The Financing of the Provincial libraries

- Provincial libraries are maintained and run by their municipalities.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates the municipalities statutory aid - for acting as the Provincial Library - after the contract made with the Ministry.
Public libraries
(In every municipality there is a public library)

- under the Library Act and Library Decree 1998
- run and financed by municipalities
- municipalities receive statutory state aid for operating a library. The local authorities decide independently to what extent they finance libraries’ operational costs.
More about statutory state aid

- The municipalities spent 2009 almost 300 million euros to cover library operational costs (about 55 euros/inhabitant).
- Statutory state aid is about 40% of total operational costs.
State subsidies to public libraries

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

- "The use of the library’s own collections within the library and borrowing from them shall be free of charge."
  (Library act 904/1998, 5 §)
- Authors and translators may receive grants and subsidies for the free use of their books in libraries after the act of Public Lending Right.
  (The Act of Grants and Subsidies for Authors and Translators)
The libraries at universities and research institutes

- regulations of the Ministry of Education and Culture
- run and financed by their organizations
- these organizations decide independently on finances and activities of the library
Libraries in Polytechnics, Educational institutions and schools

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

- there are few well-developed school libraries in Finland due to most schools being small
- it is more cost-effective to develop the public libraries which also serve the educational system
The Library for the Visually Impaired

- under the act, decree and the regulations of the Ministry
- state library, subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Culture
- governed by specific statutes
Special libraries, the libraries of administrative agencies and business enterprises

- are run and financed by their organizations
- these organizations can determine independently the activities and financing of the library
Finnish public libraries in 2009
Some figures

  Mobile libraries: 155
- Collection: 40 mill. (of which books 36 mill.)
- Man-years: 4 711
- Visits/inhabitant: 10 (total 54 mill.)
- Virtual visits: 52 mill. visits on library websites
- Lending/inhabitant: 19
- Population: 5.3 mill.
STRUCTURE AND SCALE OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
*Education in the library field

- Universities*
  Tampere, Turku, Oulu

- Polytechnics*
  Seinäjoki, Turku, Oulu

- Working life

- Further qualification*

- Secondary level vocational qualification*

- Comprehensive school, 7-16 year olds

- Primary Education, 6 year olds
Further information

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