DSpace at the National Library of Finland

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National Library of Finland

- The oldest and largest scholarly library in Finland
- An independent institute within the University of Helsinki
- The National Library is also providing centralised services to other Finnish organisations, including, among others:
  - Maintenance of library OPACs
  - Discovery systems ([Finna](#))
  - Acquisition of e-materials ([FinELib](#))
  - National ontology service ([Finto](#))
  - Repository services
Repository services at the National Library

- The National Library currently provides hosted repository services for 48 customer organisations
  - Universities, universities of applied sciences, state research institutes and other government organisations
  - No centralised funding – the customers pay for the service
- The National Library is also using DSpace for some of its own digitized cultural heritage collections
The service concept

- Division of labor between the customer organisations and the National Library
- Each customer organisation administers its own collections
- The National Library is responsible for the development and maintenance of the technical platform
Several separate DSpace instances

- **Doria**
- **Fenno-ugrica**
- **Fragmenta membranea**
- **Jukuri**
- **Julkari**
- **Lauda**
- **Tampub**
- **Theseus**
- **Valto**
- **Varia**
Shared instances

- The customers may have a DSpace instance of their own, or join one of the shared instances (currently Doria, Julkari and Theseus).

- In shared instances each of the customer organisations has a main-level community with unlimited number of sub-communities and collections.
Theseus

- The shared repository of 25 universities of applied sciences
- Everybody uses the same tools, workflows and metadata formats
- Growing fast - 15,000 new publications a year, mostly student theses
- During peak periods, 150-300 new submissions a day
- A big community effort, with 100+ people involved
Scholarly OA and other use cases

- Although the repository technology was originally developed to enable scholarly open access, it is well-suited to other kinds of needs as well
  - Much of the discourse on repositories has concentrated on one very specific use case, Green OA
  - However, there are other use cases that are just as legitimate - if done properly
- There is a practical need in many organizations for an affordable system that can be used for the dissemination of digital publications
  - Long-term access, persistent addresses, preservation
  - Integrations with other systems and processes via APIs
Valto - Institutional Repository for the Government

- **Valto**, the repository of the Prime Minister’s Office, was launched in 2016
- Contains the publications of all Finnish ministries, which used to be available on different ministry web sites
- The publications are ingested to DSpace from a centralised production system using Simple Archive Format
There are also challenges

- Some of the Finnish universities prefer to use a CRIS platform instead of a repository for self-archiving
  - This was supposed to be the main job of the repositories!
- How far should you go in adapting the more or less generic repository platforms to the special needs of e.g. cultural heritage materials?
  - Maintenance and upgrades?
Fragmenta membranea

- Contains a large collection of medieval parchments
- Due to special characteristics of the material and the metadata, the user interface has been heavily modified
- Built with project funding - but the maintenance and version upgrades require extra resources even in the future
The National Library currently has DSpace user interfaces in four languages – Finnish, Swedish, English, Russian

Fenno-Ugrica: books and newspapers published in Soviet Union in Fenno-Ugric languages from 1920s and 1930s
DSpace and multiple languages

- The DSpace has support for using multiple languages in the same user interface.
- It’s not always as easy as it should be – sometimes you end up with a mixture of different languages.
- The built-in DSpace submission forms haven’t provided proper support for the language versioning of metadata.
How well does DSpace scale?

- In general DSpace has been very reliable over the years
- However, there are some concerns on how well the newest DSpace versions scale for the needs of really big repositories
  - Most of the repositories are still fairly small
  - Discussed in [a DCAT meeting in April](#): new DSpace versions have not been tested with instances that have a large number of collections and items
- Theseus has 120,000+ items, several hundred collections and 16 million full-text downloads a year
  - Requires extensive customization on many levels to make it work
Usage of the materials

- The usage statistics for Theseus tell us that there are a number items with a large amount of downloads

**Top 10 downloads for this community (The entire DSpace)**

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Why so popular?

- A 2013 bachelor’s thesis from the Vaasa University of Applied Sciences
- 120,000+ downloads in four years – can this be true?

EFFECTS OF TRAINING ON EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE: Evidence from Uganda
Nassazi, Aidah (2013)

The permanent address of the publication is http://urn:nbn:fi:ai-vu:159-0419534

Employees are major assets of any organization. The active role they play towards a company’s success cannot be underestimated. As a result, equipping these unique assets through effective training becomes imperative in order to maximize job performance. Also position them to take on the challenges of the today’s competitive business climate. Although intensive research has been conducted in the area of human resource management, the same cannot be said on employee training especially as it concerns developing countries.

The purpose of this thesis was to evaluate the effects of training on employee performance, using the telecommunication industry in Uganda as a case study. In order to understand the study aim, four goals were developed and these focused particularly on identifying the training programs existing in the industry, the objective of the training offered, the methods employed and finally the effects of training and development on employee performance. The study was based on three case studies of the biggest telecommunication companies operating in Uganda. A qualitative research approach of the data was adopted using a questionnaire comprising of 18 questions distributed to 120 respondents. Based on this sample the results obtained indicate that training has a clear effect on the performance of employees. The findings can prove useful to human resource managers. Human resource policy decision makers, as well as government and academic institutions.

Main reason: great visibility in Google
Supporting the community

- We are very thankful for DSpace being available as an open source platform
- We have tried to do find ways to support the repository community
  - We organized the Open Repositories conference in 2014 (together with the Helsinki University Library)
- The National Library of Finland has been a DSpace/DuraSpace member for several years
Thank you!