

Kansalliskirjaston tietoinfrastruktuurit ja pohjoissaamen tuki

Álbmotgirjeráju diehtoinfrastruktuurat ja davvisámegiela doarjja

Information infrastructures at the National Library of Finland
and support for North Sámi

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Informaatiotutkimuksen päivät, 3.–4.11.2022, Tampereen yliopisto

Background



National Library of Finland

- Maintains and develops numerous digital services with a nationwide role and importance
- Users and target groups include both organizations and individuals
- Preserves and describes printed and recorded materials published or distributed in Finland



Tasks and services

Tasks under the Act on Collecting and Preserving Cultural Materials

- Preservation of publications produced in Finland (printed publications, recordings, electronic and online publications)
- Documentation of publications produced in Finland – national bibliography
- Guidance of description practices, standardization and use of identifiers

Research library services for the public

- Providing access to research literature (history, literary studies, philosophy, musicology and Russian studies)
- Providing access to source material
- Reading room services and support services for researchers
- Providing access to digital content and data

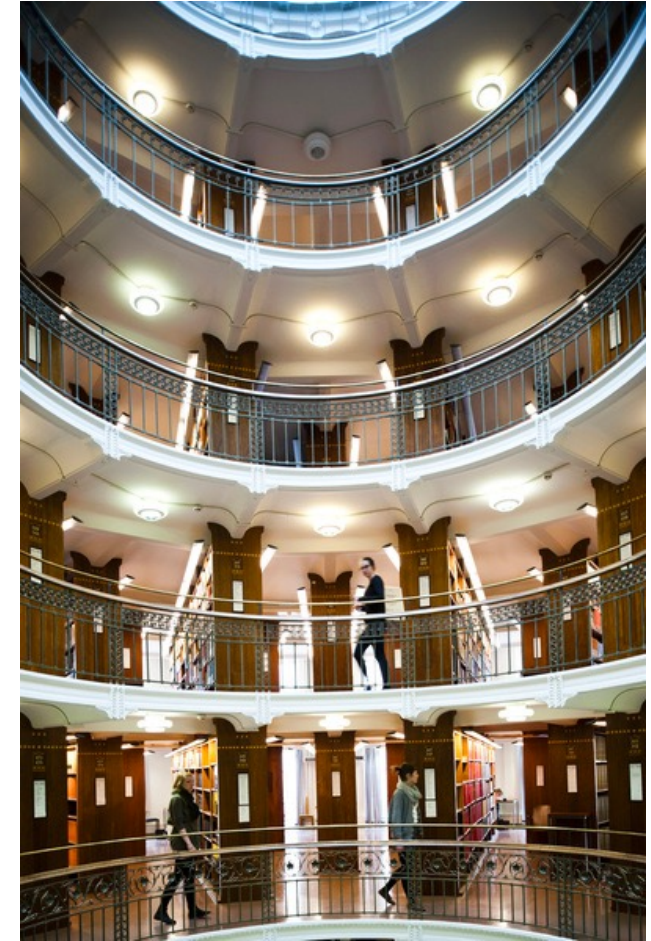
Library network services for organizations

- Improving the availability of materials
- Ensuring interoperability of publication descriptions and metadata
- Library system services



Saamelaiskielten tuki digitaalisissa palveluissa project

- Supporting Sámi languages in digital services (1.4.2022–30.6.2024)
- A two-year project to develop North Sámi support for the following services:
 - *Finna* search service
 - *Finto* ontology service
 - *Kotoistus* service promoting the use of ICT products and services in the native language of the user
- The project seeks to improve *linguistic equality* by developing services widely utilized by individuals, cultural heritage organizations and the public sector, in support of indigenous languages



Collaboration network

- The project was designed together with an extensive collaboration network
 - *crucial for its success!*
- The partner network
 - Forms the steering committee
 - Offers help and guidance
 - Brings forth the perspective of the Sámi organizations
- Our work is aligned with Sámi Giellagáldu, the highest decision-making authority for the Sámi languages

Partner organizations

- [Sámi Parliament](#) (nominates the chair of the steering committee)
- [Sámi Museum Siida](#)
- [Sami Special Library in Finland](#), Rovaniemi City Library
- [Giellagas Institute for Sámi Studies](#), University of Oulu
- [Giellatekno research group](#), UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- [AvoinGLAM](#)
- [Unicode](#)

Collaboration for science and improvement of services

- The project is funded by the Alfred Kordelin Foundation as a [Major Cultural Project](#)

Major Cultural Projects

- ‘... are projects in the field of science, art, societal activities or various combinations thereof.’
- ‘... produce significant cultural and societal results, and build the future of Finnish science, arts, and culture. We especially appreciate open-mindedness and new openings.’



[Strategic plan of the NLF \(2021–2030\)](#)

- ‘We will promote the availability of information resources and services by developing compatibility solutions and related infrastructures through national and international cooperation.’
- ‘We will participate in research projects that support the library sector.’
- ‘We will enhance interest in cultural heritage materials in cooperation with the network of memory institutions by promoting the availability and visibility of the materials.’
- ‘The National Library’s open digital service environments will create the preconditions necessary for redesigning teaching, learning, research and innovation activities.’
- ‘We will work with our partners to maintain and enhance the skills required in our changing society, drawing on the spirit of daring to experiment even if it occasionally leads to mistakes.’
- ‘We will develop the National Library into an extensive hub of expertise operating in cultural and scholarly networks.’

Upcoming work in our services



Finna

- A search service that collects material from hundreds of Finnish organizations under one roof
 - Millions of items of cultural and scientific material from libraries, archives and museums
- North Sámi will become a new interface language
 - Available to any affiliate organization with a Finna interface that wishes to adopt it
- The project will improve the findability of materials in Finna
- Finna's search index will be enriched by North Sámi translations of the indexing terms in the YSO ontology
 - This improves the basic search functionalities for users in (North) Sámi



Finto

- A centralized service for interoperable thesauri, ontologies and classification schemes for different subject areas
- Contains the General Finnish Ontology – Yleinen Suomalainen Ontologia, YSO
 - One of the most widely utilized ontologies in Finland
 - Used by libraries, archives and museums, other organizations, public administration, etc.
- During the project, YSO will be translated into North Sámi
 - YSO contains more than 30,000 terms; this builds upon existing Sámi terminology work and is connected to it
 - Materials translated in YSO will be made findable in Finna when a user performs a search in North Sámi



Kotoistus

- Promotes the use of ICT products and services in the native language of the user via close and intense interaction with Unicode Common Locale Repository (CLDR)
 - CLDR locales contain culture- and language-specific terms and definitions
 - Enables the use of ICT services and products in the native language of the user
 - Open and global
- During the project, the Unicode CLDR locale for Finnish-North Sámi will be updated



Foreseen impact

- Exploring the hidden role of our infrastructures
 - Expecting results and consequences, the entire depth of which cannot be foreseen
- We are hopeful that the concepts and terms translated and made available in North Sámi will find wide and growing use by many actors
 - Active promotion and exploration of these prospects through networking activities during the project



Sustaining the results

- *Continuous support* for North Sámi in the three services offered by the National Library of Finland
- New practices are being created to *sustain the cooperation* between the Sámi organizations and our services after the project lifecycle
- Interest in initiating *further research collaboration* in this field





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