

# Finnish scholarly journals and OA

Visit from KB, January 31, 2018

Jyrki Ilva <jyrki.ilva@helsinki.fi>



# Finnish scholarly journals

- 100+ scholarly journals in many fields, not just SSH
- More than 40% journals are already open access journals – either immediately or after a delay (delayed OA)
- Many of the journals are still only available in printed form or as part of a subscription-based service like Elektra or Edilex

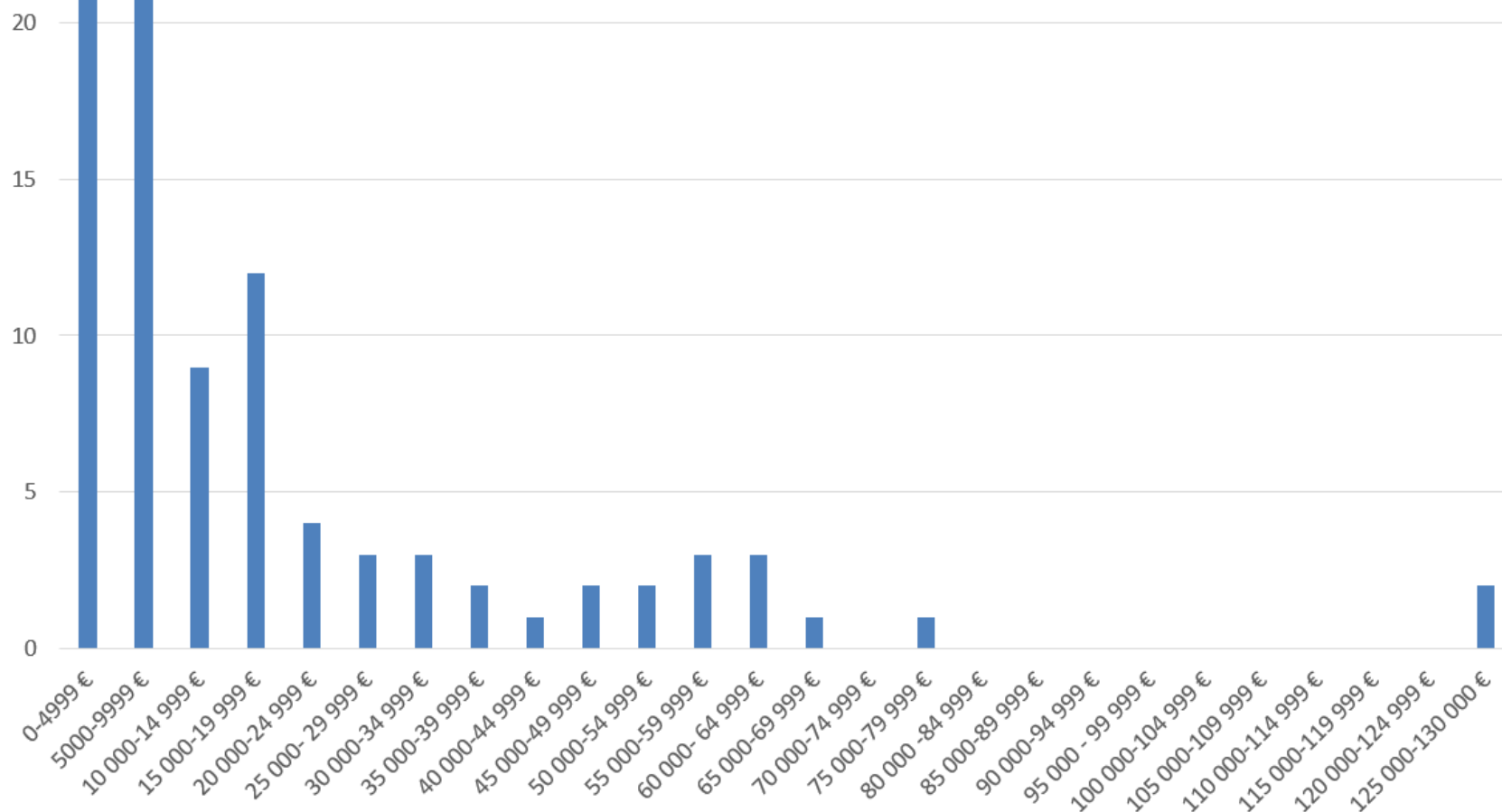


# Journals run by the community

- The Finnish domestic journals are mostly run by researchers, not by big commercial publishers
  - Most of the journals are published by small scholarly societies
  - Fairly big differences in the cost structures of the journals
  - Salaries paid to the editors and subeditors have been a major cost for some journals
  - Most of the journals operate with very little money; reliance on unpaid work
  - Most of the journals have relatively little technical infrastructure or know-how

# Differences in revenue

The revenues of 90 Finnish scholarly journals in 2014.  
Source: Federation of Finnish Learned Societies



# Current sources of income

- The main sources of income have been subscriptions, membership fees and state subsidies
  - Individual subscriptions and society membership fees very important for many journals
  - A few of the journals have received support from research organizations, but this has been decreasing
- State subsidies are distributed by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies
  - About 600.000 euros a year allocated to the journals
  - The journals need to have other income as well – the funding covers only a percentage of total income
- The total budget of the ca. 90 journals receiving state subsidies is currently in the range of two million euros a year

# Elektra and Edilex

- Elektra was launched in 1996
  - A subscription-based service containing journal articles
  - Widely available in Finnish universities, universities of applied sciences and public libraries
  - Originally a joint project between the National Library, Federation of Learned Societies and Kopiosto, a copyright organization
  - Federation of Learned Societies later dropped out and launched their own OJS-based service in 2006, mostly for OA journals
- Edilex is a commercial service concentrating on law-related materials, including journals

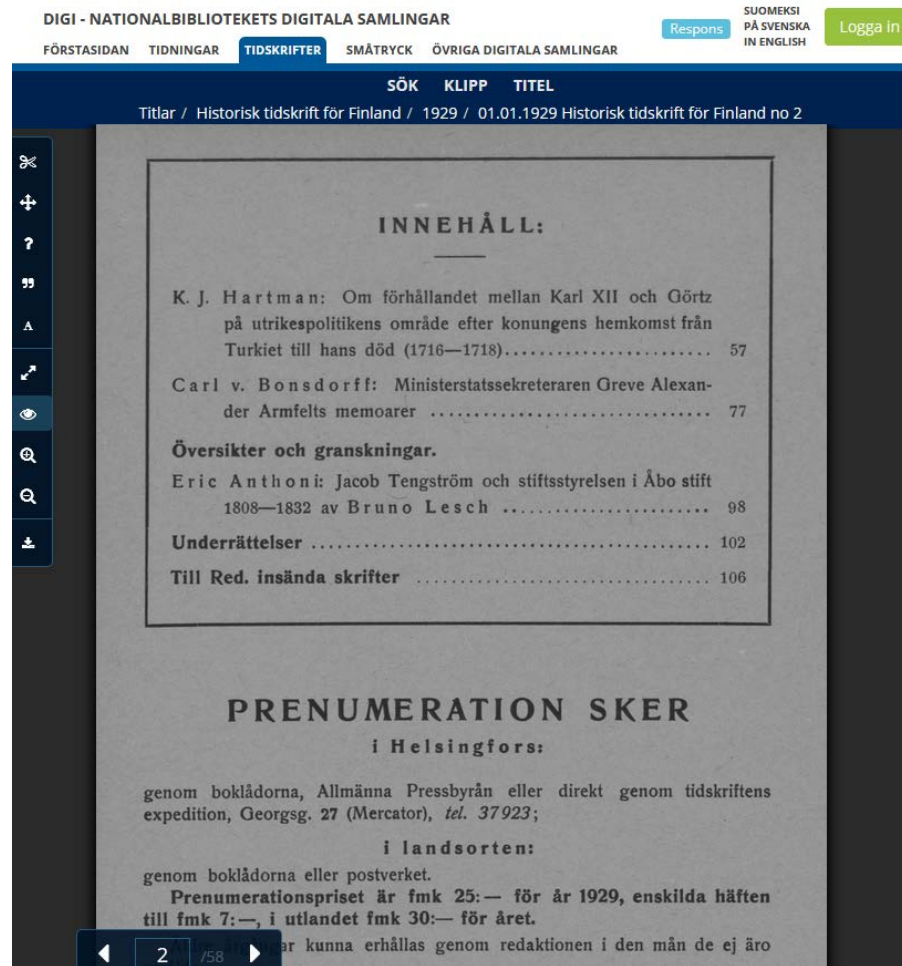
# The Elektra model

- Currently contains 35.000 articles from 30+ journals, most of which are available only to the subscribers
- The content is received in PDF format from the publishers
- Utilizes metadata from the national Arto article database
- Has its [own user interface](#) as part of the Doria repository
- Kopiosto takes care of the rights management issues and payments to the journals (and in some cases, authors)

The screenshot shows the Elektra website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Doria logo and language options (Suomeksi, På svenska, In English, Login). Below the navigation bar is a search bar with a search button. The main content area is titled 'Politiikka' and includes the ISSN 0032-0365, the publisher 'Valtiotieteellinen yhdistys', and the website 'http://www.helsinki.fi/jarj/vty/politiikka.htm'. A description of the journal is provided, followed by a list of years and issue numbers from 1997 to 2017. Below this is a 'Recent Submissions' section with a search bar and a submission entry for 'Vartioidaanko vartijoita? : Suojelupoliisin kohdistettu valvonta 2000- ja 2010-luvuilla' by Kettinen, Juha. On the right side, there is a 'THIS COLLECTION' section with filters for Titles, Authors, By Issue Date, Subjects, By Submit Date, and Communities & Collections. Below that is a 'MY ACCOUNT' section with Login and Register buttons. At the bottom right, there is a 'DISCOVER' section with an 'Author' filter and a list of authors with their respective article counts: Wiberg, Matti (23), Pajala, Antti (17), Anckar, Dag (16), Kauppi, Niilo (15), Paionen, Kari (15), Setälä, Maija (15), Korvela, Pauli-Erik (14), and Koikkalainen, Petri (12).

# The availability of legacy content

- The National Library has already digitized most of its domestic journal collection up to year 1944
  - Thanks to a recent deal with Kopiaisto, all journals are now openly available at [digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi](https://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi) up to year 1929





# The availability of legacy content (2)

- There is a long gap in digital availability for most of the journals
  - Most of the journal archives at Elektra and Journal.fi start from ca. 1996-2006
  - Most of the journal content between 1944 and 1996 has not been digitized
  - The subscription-based Peri+ service launched by the National Library and Kopiosto in 2004 has not been properly funded
  - There was an ambitious project plan to digitize nearly all of the scholarly journals in 2010, but it did not receive funding
  - Some of the journals have digitized their own back issues with project funding

# Finnish journals and Green OA

- Many of the Finnish institutional repositories have been quite successful – but the number of self-archived journal articles has started to rise only very recently
- Some of the universities have been trying to convince the domestic journals that self-archiving would benefit everyone
  - The journals have seen it as a threat as it would provide free access to their content but wouldn't solve their funding issues
- Most of the Finnish non-OA journal publishers used to be very reluctant to allow self-archiving
  - A survey ([Holopainen, Koskinen & Piipponen 2014](#)) found that most of the Finnish journal publishers didn't allow self-archiving at all or had adopted 12 month embargos
  - These policies are now changing due to pressure from funders

# Journals vs. platforms?

- Some OA activists insist that journals are an outdated legacy system that is no longer needed in scholarly communication
  - It might be more cost-efficient to build a mega-journal-like generic national platform that could be used for the evaluation and dissemination of pre-prints/articles
- However, the current journal-based infrastructure seems to be supported by the researchers, at least on a national level
  - "Our own journal" often important for building researcher communities and defining researcher identities
  - The case of [Kasvatus ja aika](#) ("Education and time"): a new OA journal founded in 2007 re-vitalized the study of educational history in Finland

# Flipping to OA?

- Many of the Finnish journals have been enthusiastic about the benefits moving to OA would provide
- In theory, the transition to OA should be a relatively easy process, as there aren't any big commercial interests in the way
- In practise, however, it is not possible to simply flip the current the acquisition costs to cover the OA costs - there is not enough money
  - The subscription and licensing costs paid by the research libraries for these journals have been minimal
  - The total acquisition budget of the Finnish university libraries is ca. 30 million euros a year
  - It has been estimated that they have been spending ca. 150.000 euros a year on domestic journals (about 0,5 % of the total acquisition budget)

# Value of the journals

- Although the acquisition costs are small, the journals are actually quite valuable to the research communities and organizations
  - About 8 % of all peer-reviewed journal articles published by Finnish researchers come out in domestic journals
  - The share of domestic publications is far higher in many fields within the humanities and social sciences

# Domestic journals and journal rankings

- [Publication Forum](#) ("JUFO") started out as a project in 2010
  - Based on the Norwegian and Danish models
  - Co-ordinated by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies
- 23 panels rate all scientific publication channels used by the Finnish researchers into three categories (levels 1-3)
  - 100+ domestic journals on levels one and two
  - After some debate, about 20 key Finnish-language journals from the SSH fields ended up on level two
  - The ratings are updated on regular basis
  - The ratings are used in the current funding model for the universities

# Journals and university funding in Finland

- The universities benefit directly from publications
  - 13 % of the total state funding for the universities is distributed based on the number and quality of research publications
  - The universities upload the metadata of their publications to the national Virta service (the data is publicly available at [Juuli.fi](https://juuli.fi))
  - A peer-reviewed article in level 1 journal brings ca. 4.000 euros of funding to a university; article in level 2 journal 12.000 euros
- The articles published in the 90 domestic journals receiving state subsidies account for nearly 5 million euros of state funding paid to the universities

# A report for the Ministry

- A national recommendation of OA principles by the "Access to Knowledge" working group came out in November, 2013
  - A special task for the National Library and the Federation of Learned Societies: an investigation on the possible business models for Finnish OA journals
- A two-person working group, Jyrki Ilva (National Library) and Johanna Lilja (Federation of Learned Societies), took the assignment
  - Came up with a sixty-page report, which was presented to the Ministry of Education and Culture in April, 2014
  - Concentrated on journals, as book publishing would require another survey



# Recommendations of the working group (1)

1. Finnish scholarly journals must be kept alive
2. The share of OA journals among the journals receiving state funding should rise from 30% to (at least) 50% in three years
3. The technical platform(s) used by the Finnish OA journals should be modernized to give them equal status to similar international publication channels
  - The journals should be integrated with national and international infrastructures (incl. adoption of DOI and ORCID)
  - The visibility of articles, permanent access, re-use of article-level metadata in research information and discovery systems and co-operation for linking to open research data should be supported
4. Practices and metrics should be developed to measure the prevalence and impact of Finnish OA publishing

# Recommendations of the working group (2)

5. The development of OA funding models should be built on national co-operation between all parties involved in and benefitting from the publication activities
  - A pilot project should test a consortium-based funding model in 2015-17
  - The funding should be directed to OA journals with no embargo to compensate for lost subscription income & to support long-term viability
  - In addition, the journals should continue to be supported by subsidies from the societies and state funding
  - The consortium should be funded by the Ministry, universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutes & research funders
  - The funding should be distributed based on pre-defined metrics, which would be developed during the pilot project

# Recommendations of the working group (3)

6. The publishers should be allowed to move to OA using a funding model that is viable for them in the long run
  - The consortium-based funding should continue after the pilot phase
  - The publishers that are not participating in the pilot project may use an embargo of 6-12 months
  - Journals aimed for a mostly international audience may choose to adopt APCs
  - All journals should allow self-archiving of their articles and their self-archiving policies should be collected into Sherpa/Romeo

# Making open access viable for Finnish journals

- The Kotilava project ([www.kotilava.fi](http://www.kotilava.fi)), 2015-2017, was a part of the Open Science and Research initiative funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- The project had two main goals:
  - To provide an improved Open Journal Systems -based technical platform for the Finnish journals (Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, started in September 2015)
  - To create a sustainable funding model for the journals to support their transition to Open Access (National Library of Finland, started in March 2016)

# Journal.fi

- The newly branded Journal.fi platform was launched by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies in January 2017
- The journals at Journal.fi will be integrated with national and international infrastructures via APIs, use of identifiers (DOI, ORCID)



## Recent issues



Puhe ja kieli  
VOL 37 NO 2 (2017)



Studia Orientalia  
Electronica  
VOL 5 (2017)



Journal of Structural  
Mechanics  
VOL 50 NO 1 (2017)



Science & Techno-  
logy Studies  
VOL 30 NO 2 (2017)



SQS - Journal of  
Queer Studies in  
Finland  
VOL 10 NO 1-2 (2016)



Tieteessä tapahtuu  
VOL 35 NO 3 (2017)

## Last week's most read

[Puhutun kielen variantit resurssina monikielisten kouluisten kirjoitelmissa \[Variants of spoken language as a resource in essays by multilingual schoolchildren\]](#)  
● 95 | VIRITTÄJÄ

[The effects of light-emitting diode lighting on greenhouse plant growth and quality](#)  
● 81 | AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCE

[War and Violence in the Ideology of the Qumran Community](#)  
● 65 | STUDIA ORIENTALIA ELECTRONICA

[Varpasalon Hirvokset](#)  
● 60 | SUOMEN SUKUTUTKIMUSSEURAN VUOSIKIRJA

[Television nykyinen kehitysvaihe ja sen sotilalliset käyttömahdollisuudet](#)  
● 55 | TIEDE JA ASE

● Downloads in the last 7 days.

## Journal.fi

Journal.fi is a new journal management and publishing service provided by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. The site features 40 Finnish scholarly journals, with more to come.

Journal.fi is designed to meet the needs of authors, readers, publishers and funders in the age of Open Access journals. The service is using the Open Journal Systems 3.0 software.

# A national consortium to fund the journals?

- The Kotilava project has been working on a consortium-based funding model
  - The journals generally agree that a consortium-based funding model would be the preferred solution for them
  - Adoption of article processing charges (APCs) as such is not seen as desirable
  - The organizations that benefit from the work of the journals are seen as potential funders: e.g. universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutes, research funders
- The continuation of state funding is also seen as essential
  - The income received from the consortium and the state funding would compliment each other

# The aims of the new funding model?

- The research organizations may end up paying more than they do now, but they should feel that they get compensated for that
  - In return for the funding the journals would pledge to follow certain standards in e.g. openness, licensing, peer review, infrastructure
  - The researchers would have competitive high-quality publication channels, which provide visibility and metrics for their work
- A compromise between different interests
  - There are big differences in the cost structures and operational cultures of the journals, and in the long run there might be winners and losers
  - This should be OK, as long as the model is fair and transparent