
National Library of Finland

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND 2021–2030

Finnish original approved by the Board of Directors on 10 December 2019

Amendments to section 4 made by the Board of Directors on 3 March 2020



Vision

Bildung at the heart of society

1. National Library of Finland

The nation's collective memory is a resource for our society and the ground on which the present is built. The National Library of Finland's collections and services strengthen our society's knowledge base, *Bildung* (i.e., edification, education or intellectual and moral cultivation), learning and research. The principles of sustainable development are reflected in the National Library's operations and service development. We ensure that the cultural diversity and multilingualism of Finnish society are reflected in our operations and that the published cultural heritage is made available in a wide range of ways.

The National Library of Finland is a key cultural heritage organisation, an infrastructure of knowledge and scholarship, and the developer of a digital operating culture and open science. Our services enable equal access to knowledge, promote the availability of the Finnish cultural heritage and create the preconditions for high-quality research.

The National Library's social and research impact is based on its unique collections, digital materials and online services. We enhance the openness of research, science and the published cultural heritage, and strive to make materials and research-based knowledge as widely available as possible.

The National Library develops the digital environment and serves as a hub of expertise that strengthens the preconditions of memory institutions for operating in a changing society. The National Library's services constitute a nationally significant infrastructure that provides the basis for lifelong learning and *Bildung*.

2. Challenges posed by the National Library's environment in the 2020s

The preservation and maintenance of Finnish publications as well as ensuring their availability in a rapidly transforming world pose many challenges for the National Library of Finland. They also provide interesting opportunities for increasing and diversifying the use of cultural heritage materials.

Technological and social changes create new needs and opportunities for producing and disseminating information content for research and studying as well as for the public and society at large. The development of open science, evolving digital environments and new technologies will continue to have a powerful impact on the development of the National Library's operations and services.

The infrastructure of knowledge and scholarship will be developed together with key partners so that services meet the needs of research and provide the public with better opportunities for equal access to information. The need for research-based knowledge will increase as the focus of education shifts to lifelong learning and independent studying.

To respond to the challenges in its environment, the National Library must strengthen its cooperation with key partners. This cooperation will enhance the National Library's role in creating and enabling digital environments and services that enrich research and experiences.

The diverse skills of its staff are a basic precondition for the National Library to succeed as a nationally significant hub of expertise.

3. National mission

The National Library's mission is to preserve, maintain and ensure access to Finland's published heritage. The National Library provides and disseminates information content for research and education as well as for the public and society at large, and develops its services together with libraries, archives, museums and others. The National Library promotes a culture of cooperation as well as pioneering expertise based on it.

The National Library develops and offers nationwide services widely to the scholarly community, university libraries, public libraries, the libraries of universities of applied sciences, and specialist libraries, and promotes Finnish and international cooperation in the library sector in accordance with the Universities Act and the Public Libraries Act. The National Library cooperates with the publishing sector in preserving Finnish publications for researchers and other information-seekers.

Through its operations, the National Library strongly supports the objectives of the Ministry of Education and Culture's vision for higher education and research in Finland in 2030: "Education and learning, knowledge, science and technology for the benefit of people and society".

The National Library's status and duties are based on the following legislation:

- Universities Act and Decree
- Act on Collecting and Preserving Cultural Materials
- Public Libraries Act

4. Cornerstones of operations

The cornerstones of the National Library's operations in 2021–2030 are **openness, renewal** and **Bildung**. The National Library will operate openly, renew itself in various ways and strengthen the status of *Bildung* in Finnish society.

Openness. The principle of openness will guide the National Library's operations and service development. This principle will be implemented by sharing and receiving ideas openly and boldly and supporting open science. The National Library will establish and maintain a culture of openness.

Renewal. The principle of renewal means that the National Library will develop the quality, impact, customer orientation and equality of its services. We will promote a culture in which

curiosity is held in high esteem. Our renewal will be supported by active cooperation in Finnish and international networks and will be guided by the principles of responsibility, openness and sustainable development.

Bildung. The National Library is the custodian of Finnish culture and the backbone of *Bildung* – firmly on the side of knowledge. *Bildung* belongs to everyone, in good times and bad, also in our increasingly polarised world. The guiding lights of the National Library’s operations will be equal access to information, support for the preconditions of education and research, and the dissemination of ethical, reliable and research-based knowledge.

5. Strategic choices and development areas

I. Cultural heritage for the common good

- 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.
- We will be a world leader in the preservation of the diverse and changing materials included in the born-digital cultural heritage.
- We will influence the updating of the Act on Collecting and Preserving Cultural Materials so that the number of printed copies to be preserved will be reduced and that digital storage and long-term preservation will be made more effective.
- Digitisation will enable us to offer extensive and uniform open materials.
- We will promote the availability of information resources and services by developing compatibility solutions and related infrastructures through national and international cooperation.
- We will develop the description of information resources in accordance with the principles of open, linked data.

II. National Library at the heart of the academic community

- We will promote the opportunities of researchers to publish openly in Finnish and international publication channels and will increase the efficient long-term preservation of research publications.
- We will make sustained efforts to create multilingual and multidisciplinary collections to support research.
- We will develop our collection services to support the work methods of digital humanities and the open sharing of tools among scholars.
- We will participate in research projects that support the library sector.
- We will promote open science in both the Finnish and international contexts by operating on the principle that “research data are as open as possible, as closed as necessary”.

III. National Library as a resource of *Bildung* and learning

- The National Library's open digital service environments will create the preconditions necessary for redesigning teaching, learning, research and innovation activities.
- We will support the creation and use of open learning materials with the aim of promoting lifelong learning and education at various levels, including basic education, schools, higher education institutions and liberal adult education.
- The data produced by the National Library will be managed in accordance with the FAIR principles and we will instruct users in the responsible use of data.
- We will use an experimental approach to develop our facilities.

IV. Creating a powerful hub of expertise through network cooperation

- We will reinforce cooperation between cultural heritage institutions and promote the compatibility of services in Finland and abroad.
- We will develop the National Library into an extensive hub of expertise operating in cultural and scholarly networks.
- We will develop solutions of machine learning and artificial intelligence that use cultural heritage materials and metadata as well as dataset services together with our partner network.
- Digital service solutions will primarily be based on open source code, open interfaces and broad Finnish and international collaboration.
- 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.