

# Acquisitions Programme 2021–2024

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The Acquisitions Programme presents the National Library of Finland's acquisitions policy for research literature by discipline. The programme has been outlined according to acquisitions focus areas. The programme depicts the starting point for each discipline's materials, and the profile of the new material to be acquired presents the [Conspectus level](#) to describe the current status and objective.

## Conspectus levels

- 0 Out of the library's collection scope, works from this discipline is not acquired at all.
- 1 A very limited collection of the discipline's monographs and reference works.
- 2 A limited collection of representative general monographs, reference works and periodicals that provide an introduction to the topic and serve a need for general-level information.
- 3 A collection that serves teaching and research and provides systematic information on the topic and serves starting university-level studies.
- 4 A collection that serves research and contains the major published source materials and extensively both general and specialised monographs, reference works and periodicals. Older material is retained to serve the needs of historical research.
- 5 Comprehensive level, a collection that strives to be exhaustive in all applicable languages and publication formats. Older material is retained to serve the needs of historical research.

**Acquisition decisions** are made by the National Library of Finland's internal expert group. Selection responsibilities have been divided according to language areas as well as disciplines for applicable parts.

Research literature is acquired in **Finnish and Swedish, key western languages** (English, German, French, Italian and Spanish) **and Slavic languages**. Materials are primarily acquired in their original language. The licensing policy for electronic resources is defined in the appendix.

**When making selections, the following are used to help:** acquisitions proposals by customers, reviewing book lists, reviews in magazines or recension services, national bibliographies, new publications lists, profiled lists delivered by library vendors and publishers' releases on new publications.

**Key disciplines** from which the National Library acquires research literature and other material are

- History
- Russian and Eastern European Studies
- Philosophy
- Literary research
- Art history
- Music research

## History

Discipline	Starting point	Acquisition description	Current state	Objective
	<p>The National Library is Finland's most significant source library and provider of data material in historical research. A basis for this is provided by historical collections, a growing collection of research literature, the National Collection and the archives of individuals and associations.</p> <p>The library has vast and deep collections of foreign research literature in many historical areas, encompassing an extensive selection of monographs, magazines and periodicals.</p> <p>Due to the library's previous role as a central library, reference works and bibliographies have been acquired extensively. The library has primary source publications from fields that are relevant to research.</p> <p>As the archival collection of Finnish publications, the National Collection is a significant research infrastructure from the perspective of historical research. The Ephemera collection, in particular, contains inspiring source materials for historical research, as do magazines, newspapers and entertainment journals.</p> <p>The library's special and manuscript collections contain plenty of research and source materials that are relevant for historical research.</p>	<p>History is the library's most significant acquisition area.</p> <p>Key acquisition targets include history as a science, historical theory and philosophy, cultural history, world history, environmental history, classical studies, European history in the Middle Ages and the modern era, the Mediterranean, Jewish history and intellectual history.</p> <p>Geographical focus areas include European history, particularly the history of the Nordic countries, England, Germany, France, Russia and Eastern Europe.</p> <p>Regarding works discussing the history of European countries other than the abovementioned, general overviews and key reference works of those countries' histories are acquired.</p> <p>For other continents, general overviews and reference works are acquired.</p>	4	4
			2	2
			2	2
<b>Finnish history, local</b>	Basic works and reference works on Finnish history have always been acquired for the National	Research and primary source literature on Finnish history is acquired extensively. All Finnish local	4	4

<p><b>history and genealogy,</b></p> <p><b>Nordic history</b></p>	<p>Library's reference resources collection for research, and the library has always aimed to acquire local histories and biographies as extensively as possible.</p> <p>Since the 1970s, key research literature on Finnish history has been acquired for the library's open collection.</p> <p>Special and manuscript collections include a wide range of source material suitable for studying Finnish history.</p>	<p>histories that meet the quality criteria are acquired.</p> <p>Swedish local history is acquired extensively; however, from other Nordic countries, only key urban histories are acquired. Local history from other countries is not acquired with the exception of notable urban histories.</p> <p>Significant Finnish indexes of persons and registers are acquired, as are important foreign biographical reference works.</p> <p>Biographies in different fields of science and the arts as well as historically significant persons are acquired, as are autobiographies and vast correspondence collections that are relevant to research.</p> <p>All works important for Finnish genealogy are acquired, but no genealogical works about individual families (with the exception of historically significant Finnish or foreign families). Literature on foreign genealogy and heraldry is acquired primarily from Nordic and Baltic countries and Northern Germany, extensively from Sweden.</p>		
<p><b>European history,</b></p> <p><b>German history,</b></p> <p><b>French history, history of the United Kingdom. Political history, international politics</b></p>	<p>The National Library's collection contains a wide selection of foreign research literature on European history. The older section of the collection also features a significant amount of travel literature, which is important source material for modern research.</p> <p>Special collections include plenty of source materials that are suitable for the research of European history.</p>	<p>See a more detailed description above</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>4</p>

<p><b>Classical and medieval studies. Archaeology.</b></p> <p><b>Epigraphy, palaeography.</b></p> <p>(incl. both classical philology and archaeology).</p>	<p>Classical and medieval studies are among the library's research focus areas. The National Library's collection includes a representative selection of research and source publications from a long period of time in the discipline of classical languages and literature and history of Antiquity.</p> <p>Archaeological research literature acquired by the library is primarily classical archaeology. Nordic and European archaeology are not among the library's acquisition areas.</p>	<p>Specialised research literature is acquired from the field of classics. In the selection, the library engages in close cooperation with the University of Helsinki's classical philology subject.</p> <p>Literature on classical languages, such as Greek, Latin, Etruscan, and on classical authors is acquired extensively.</p> <p>Key reference works, some periodicals and individual works in the field of classical archaeology are acquired.</p>	4	4
<p><b>Oriental studies. Research on Oriental and African languages and cultures</b></p>	<p>Research literature from the field of oriental studies has been acquired extensively, especially when it comes to older literature.</p> <p>The acquired literature is primarily published in so-called Western languages, but source literature is also available in Oriental languages.</p> <p>The library features collections acquired as legal deposits during the Russian rule over Finland in 1828–1917, categorised by language, which are even unique source materials for the research of Oriental languages and cultures. These include the Caucasia, Arabica, Persica, Turcica, Armeniaca and Hebraica collections.</p> <p>The Collection of Oriental Manuscripts (including manuscripts in, for example, Arabic, Persian and Turkish) and the Sinica, Japonica and Tibet collection as well as the Papyrus collection are also source materials.</p>	<p>Regarding the literature of Asian cultures, the library acquires literature on Indology and Assyriology, in particular, especially text editions.</p> <p>Research literature on Middle Eastern cultures (Arabic, Hebrew) is acquired in western languages.</p> <p>The library acquires literature on Eastern Asia primarily in western languages.</p> <p>Literature on Africa is acquired to a limited degree in major western languages.</p>	2/3	2
<p><b>History of cartography. Geography.</b></p>	<p>The library's vast and valuable collection of historical maps is among the most notable in the world, and it includes unique</p>	<p>Geographical literature is acquired to support the research of the library's historical map collections.</p>	4	4

	<p>source materials for research use.</p> <p>The most significant and most extensive historical material is the <i>A.E. Nordenskiöld Collection</i> that is part of UNESCO's Memory of the World documentary heritage.</p> <p>The National Collection contains Finnish maps almost comprehensively.</p> <p>Research literature and reference works on the history of cartography have been acquired for the National Library's collection extremely extensively.</p>	<p>Key geographical reference works and handbooks are acquired. Important works on the exploratory expeditions and other expeditions are acquired as well as editions of original texts on exploratory expeditions.</p> <p>In addition, facsimile editions of important historical map works are acquired.</p>		
<p><b>History of science and learning.</b></p> <p><b>History of science</b></p>	<p>The library's historical collections are the most extensive in Finland and contain a wide range of source materials suitable for researching the history of science and learning.</p> <p>The old section of the collection, dating to the early 1900s, includes all disciplines, and it is a vast and diverse source collection of the history of science. In addition, several special collections include source materials for researching the history of science and learning.</p> <p>The library's donation collections received from St Petersburg in the early 1800s (a total of approx. 100,000 volumes) include extensive works from all disciplines from the perspective of the history of science and learning.</p>	<p>Literature on the history of science and learning is acquired from all of the library's focus areas, including those that are not included in the library's Acquisitions Programme (e.g. legal history, history of natural sciences and medical history).</p>	4	4

<b>Book history, book art</b>	<p>A wide collection of research literature and reference works discussing the book as an object, bookselling, publishing, reading and censorship have been acquired for the library.</p> <p>Library catalogues, which make up an impressive collection, can be mentioned in connection with book history.</p>	Both printed and hand-written literature on the book is acquired for the library's special and rare material collections for research purposes.	4	4
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## Russian and Eastern European Studies

Discipline	Starting point	Acquisition description	Current state	Objective
	<p>The legal deposit collections from the period of Russian rule in 1828–1917 is the key source material for Russian research. The collection has been complemented with micro-format recordings. After 1917, research literature in humanities, scientific series as well as newspapers and magazines have been acquired. The library also includes many publications by Russian emigrants. Since the 1940s, literature in humanities has been acquired in all Slavic languages, primarily in Russian and Polish.</p>	<p>Regionally, acquisitions cover Russian and Slavic Eastern European countries, and research literature and publications that can be used as source material are acquired from all key disciplines. The purpose is to create a collection that contains several different perspectives that serves both multidisciplinary regional studies as well as the research and teaching of specialised disciplines.</p>		
<b>Russian history</b>		<p>In acquisitions on the history of Russia and the Soviet Union, the focus is on political and cultural history, but also works on economic and social history, legal history and military history are acquired. Works on the history of Caucasia and Siberia are also acquired.</p> <p>The history of Central Asia is not a focal acquisition area.</p>	4	4
<b>History of Eastern Europe /</b>	<p>The legal deposit collection from the period of Russian rule contains Polish literature from different fields. Since the 1940–</p>	<p>Polish history is acquired primarily in English and German. Monograph series and magazines in Polish are received in exchange. The history</p>	3	3



<b>Slavic countries</b>	50s, series, monographs, newspapers and magazines in the field of cultural and social research have been acquired.	of other Slavic countries is primarily received in exchange (series, selected monographs) and as donations. Basic works on the history of Belarus and Ukraine are also acquired in those countries' native languages.		
<b>Research on Russian literature</b>		Research on Russian fiction and poetry is acquired extensively. From fiction and poetry, classics and commented editions in original language are acquired. New fiction and poetry is acquired selectively to meet the needs of university teaching and studying, such as works that have received several national literary awards.	4	4
<b>Literature in other Slavic languages</b>		Literary research is acquired selectively. Key scientific series are received in exchange.  From fiction and poetry, classics and commented editions in their original languages are acquired. New fiction and poetry is acquired selectively to meet the needs of university teaching and studying.	3	3
<b>Russian language</b>		Research on the Russian language is acquired extensively so that the main focus is on modern language, language use, translation and interpreting studies as well as language sociology.	4	4
<b>Other Slavic languages</b>		Language research is acquired selectively. Key scientific series are received in exchange. Dictionaries are only acquired for the reference resources collection.	3	3
<b>Russian art</b>		Acquisitions focus on art history and museology (Identifying and protecting historical objects). The history of fine arts and architecture is acquired selectively (reference works, general overviews, exhibition catalogues). The history of photograph, cinema and popular culture as well as theatre history are new key acquisition areas. The history of music is acquired selectively.	3	3

<b>Art in other Slavic countries and Eastern Europe</b>		Some film and theatre research is acquired. Some art history series are received in exchange.	2	2
<b>Russian culture</b>		The cultural history of Russia and the Soviet Union is acquired fairly extensively.  General overviews regarding the knowledge of a country are mostly acquired for the needs of teaching and studying. Some research on folk culture studies, studies on minority cultures and gender studies is acquired. Literature on Jews and Judaism is acquired in particular. Semiotics and gender studies are also among the acquisition areas.	3	3
<b>Eastern European culture</b>		Basic works in the cultural history and knowledge of Slavic countries in Eastern Europe are acquired. Folk culture research is received as exchange in series. Some research on minority cultures and literature on Jews and Judaism are acquired.	2	2
<b>Philosophy and religion</b>		Russian philosophy classics and related research is acquired. Some magazines and series in the discipline of philosophy are acquired.	3	3
		Acquired research focuses primarily on the history of the Orthodox church and other religions. In addition, works that discuss religion as a societal and cultural phenomenon are acquired. Orthodox theological literature is not acquired.  For Eastern Europe, general works that discuss religion as a societal and cultural phenomenon are acquired.	2	2
<b>Social sciences</b>		Research describing social changes published in Russia are acquired from the following fields:  - Political studies: democracy, political parties, human rights.	3	3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sociology, issues related to social and societal policies, research on daily life</li> <li>- Renewals in government and administration</li> <li>- Regional policy and research on regional development (particular interest areas: the Arctic, north-western Russia, Siberia and Caucasus), the effects of climate change.</li> <li>- Communications, mass media</li> <li>- International politics and Russian relations with other states, focus areas are: the relationship of Russia and the EU, Russia and the US, Russia and China.</li> </ul> <p>Research literature on the political and societal situation in Slavic Eastern European countries is acquired in English and German, and in Slavic languages, to some extent. Individual works are acquired in French and Swedish. Political and societal literature that is suitable as research source material is acquired from different countries.</p>		
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## Philosophy

Discipline	Starting point	Acquisition description	Current state	Objective
<b>Philosophy. History of philosophy</b>	Philosophy is one of the library's focus areas. The basis of the collections is created by the library's historical donation collections.	<p>In philosophy, the focus of acquisitions is in continental philosophy and the history of philosophy.</p> <p>Philosophy is acquired in the original language. All significant philosophical works translated into Finnish are acquired, including a selection of other philosophical literature related to topical issues. Swedish translations of significant or topical philosophical works are also acquired.</p>	4	4

<b>Ethics. Morals</b>		In the field of ethics and morals, important new special areas of monograph acquisitions include environmental philosophical questions posed by pandemics, global justice and climate change.	2	3
<b>Philosophy of science. Logic</b>		The library has a solid collection of philosophy of science and logic research based on classics and key publication series.	2	2
<b>Aesthetics</b>		The philosophy collection features classics in aesthetics and research in the field.	2	2

## Literary research

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Starting point</b>	<b>Acquisition description</b>	<b>Current state</b>	<b>Objective</b>
	<p>The share of literary research in the National Library's collection is notable. The monograph collection contains an extensive number of works on the history of theory of literary research and comparative literary research. The collection also includes literary research in old and new world languages, such as authors' monographs.</p> <p>There is a significant number of volumes of compiled works and critical editions of different ages by world literature authors, as well as volumes of published compiled letters. There is a representative selection of periodicals, magazines and series.</p> <p>The National Collection extensively contains literature published in Finland, which makes it a solid foundation for research on Finnish literature. The library also has the Reenpää Collection, which is stored separately. It contains early Finnish fiction and</p>	<p>The library acquires literature on literary research extensively: literary studies (foundations and theory of literature, its research and critique), general history of literature and comparative literary research.</p> <p>The focus areas of acquisitions are in research on Nordic, English-language, German-language and French-language literature.</p> <p>Regarding fiction and poetry, only compiled works and critical editions of major authors are acquired for the library.</p>	4	4

	<p>poetry as well as research on individual authors.</p> <p>Many of the library's special collections contain fiction and poetry and other source material for literary research.</p>			
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## Art history

Discipline	Starting point	Acquisition description	Current state	Objective
<b>Art history</b>	<p>Art history and the philosophy of art are extremely well represented in the library's old collections. The material also includes valuable plate and image works that are rare as source publications.</p> <p>Art history in all traditional fields of fine arts, as well as the history of architecture, have been acquired for the library for a long period of time.</p> <p>The special and manuscript collections contain source materials for research on art history.</p>	<p>The library extensively acquires literature on art: the philosophy and theory of art, literature on different forms of art and their histories (fine arts, architecture, garden art and historical urban planning).</p> <p>Large foreign exhibition catalogues that are vast studies and often include lists of works are acquired.</p> <p><i>Catalogue raisonné</i> publications are acquired for the most notable artists.</p> <p>Concerning contemporary art and photography, the library only acquires reference works and historical overviews.</p>	4	4
<b>Cinema and theatre</b>	<p>The historical section of the National Library's collection includes a significant number of literary works on theatre, opera and dance.</p> <p>Literature on the history of the theatre and cinema as well as research literature on drama have been acquired for the collection.</p> <p>In film studies, the library contains the very extensive Peter Von Bagh film literature collection.</p>	<p>Regarding theatre literature, key reference works and literature on the history of theatre are acquired. Material discussing theatre and plays is acquired in particular.</p> <p>Key reference works in film studies are acquired in addition to literature that has a theoretical approach to the history of film and cinema.</p>	3	2

## Music research

Discipline	Starting point	Acquisition description	Current state	Objective
	<p>The National Library's collection features research literature on music and source materials for a long period of time. The aim has been to acquire all key handbooks, reference works and periodicals from the field of music for the collection.</p> <p>Literature on the history of music has been acquired extensively from general works to personal histories. Interdisciplinary literature on music theory, and music and other arts and scientific disciplines (such as film music, music education, music philosophy), has been acquired selectively.</p> <p>The Finnish National Sound Archive located in the National Library is a solid foundation and source collection for research on Finnish music. The archive contains all Finnish music and speech recordings received as legal deposits since 1981, and the majority of Finnish recordings dating back to 1901 has been acquired for the collection retroactively. The sound archive also includes wide international recording collections.</p> <p>The Finnish music literature and note collection has also been received primarily as legal deposits and is almost exhaustive.</p> <p>Source materials are also included in the manuscript collection that contain plenty of private archives and composition manuscripts of Finnish compos-</p>	<p>In the acquisitions on music literature, the history of music is a focal topic. In addition, key Finnish and foreign reference works and more theoretical literature on performing music and music in general are acquired. Research literature on individual composers and performers is acquired. Composers' compiled works are acquired extremely selectively. Individual sheet music publications are not purchased at all.</p> <p>Discographies and other reference works, together with literature on the history of records, audio technology and preservation of recordings, are acquired to support recording studies and sound archive work.</p>	4	4

	ers and musicians as well as material from music associations and publishers.			
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## Other disciplines

Discipline	Starting point	Acquisition description	Current state	Objective
<b>Theology</b>	<p>Theology is not part of the library's acquisitions focus areas.</p> <p>Regardless, the National Library holds the oldest theology collection in Finland, which is based on the donation received from the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg in the 1800s. The donation included the academy's entire section on western theological literature, which is also of exceptional interest from the perspective of book history and the history of science and learning.</p>	<p>The National Library acquires theological literature that supports other research in humanities. The discipline's most important reference works and dictionaries are acquired for the reference resources collection.</p> <p>The most important theological acquisitions area is church history. Works on the history of the Middle Ages and the Reformation are acquired especially extensively.</p> <p>The library acquires biblical texts in their original languages, translations into major languages and material that discusses the Bible from the perspectives of literary studies and book history as well as art.</p> <p>From dogmatics, the library acquires some literature on medieval theology and scholasticism.</p> <p>Research on the history of liturgy is acquired especially on the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Modern era to support the research of the library's manuscript collection.</p>	3	3
<b>Science of religion</b>	<p>The science of religion as a whole is not among the library's focus areas. The collection covers primarily literature on classical and Indian religions. Islam and post-Biblical Judaism have also been included in acquisitions.</p>	<p>In acquisitions concerning the science of religion, the library focuses on classical and Indian religions. Also, literature on Islam and post-Biblical Judaism is acquired.</p>	3	2

<b>Folklore studies</b>	Folklore studies are not among the National Library's acquisitions focus areas. Primarily, Finnish and Nordic research literature has been acquired for the collections. The most extensive collections of the discipline can be found from the library of the Finnish Literature Society and the Finnish Heritage Agency's library.	The National Library acquires Finnish and Swedish research literature and reference works from the fields of ethnology and folkloristics selectively to support other research in humanities.	2	1
<b>Game studies</b>	Game studies refers to scientific research on topics related to games and playing.	The National Library acquires research literature in game studies with a focus on playing and newer theoretical research on sports and playing. A new focus areas is digital gaming.	1	2
<b>Gender studies</b>	Research literature with a philosophical, historical and cultural historical approach has been acquired for the National Library's collection since the 1960s. Interdisciplinary studies, reference works and classics have also been acquired in their original languages, mostly as critical and compiled editions.	The National Library acquires research literature with a philosophical, historical and cultural historical approach from the field of gender studies.	2	2
<b>Information science</b>	Information science is not one of the acquisitions focus areas. Acquisitions have primarily focused on library history and collection research.	Acquisitions are focused on the history of libraries (histories of individual libraries and development of the entire field) and contemporary research that focuses on the evolution of the role of the library and library work.  Key areas in the acquired materials include: the development and evaluation of collections, data collection and information retrieval, preservation and conservation, metadata, Digital Humanities and publication metrics.	2	2



<b>Social sciences</b>	Social sciences is not among the National Library's acquisitions focus areas. The library mainly acquires material in social sciences that supports research in humanities.	Literature in social sciences is only acquired selectively from certain fields. The focus is on literature that discusses the history, philosophy and methodology of research in social sciences.  Cultural research, political history, economic, social and legal history are fields that are emphasised in the selection.	2	2
<b>Communications, press</b>		Acquisitions are focused on the history of the press in different countries and individual newspapers as well as research on propaganda and censorship.	2	2
<b>Universities. Scientific research</b>	The National Library's collections contain a wide representation of literature on the history of the university, higher education and research from different eras.	The National Library acquires material related to the history of the university, scientific research and teaching as well as science policy. Focus areas are in humanities and social sciences.	3	3
<b>General works: Reference works, field or profession-specific or biographical reference works. Dictionaries, bibliographies, library catalogues</b>	The National Library of Finland has operated as the national central library for reference works and bibliographies. The library's collections include plenty of general reference works, such as encyclopedias, registers, dictionaries, bibliographies and library catalogues.	The National Library acquires special bibliographies in humanities and library and archive catalogues if the data is not already available in libraries and archives' databases. Catalogues of medieval manuscripts and incunabula catalogues are acquired as extensively as possible.  Finnish trade- and profession-specific biographical reference works are acquired extensively. For other countries, the focus is on general biographical reference works.  Both monolingual and special dictionaries (e.g. grammatical, frequency, slang and dialect dictionaries and etymology dictionaries) and bilingual dictionaries are acquired for the needs of scientific research on language, translation and other research in humanities.	3	3

# Appendix: Licensing policy for electronic resources

The National Library acquires access rights to electronic resources of its focus areas with licence agreements. As a rule, resource acquired in an electronic format is not acquired again in print. Source materials, such as digitised journal archives and reference works, in particular, are acquired in an electronic format.

## Acquisition decision

When selecting resources, acquisition proposals by customers are prioritised. Resource that supports the National Library's collection and its research as well as material that is not available in other Finnish libraries are acquired. Acquisition decisions are made primarily in the meetings of the selection team. Before an acquisition decision, a trial use of the resource is organised, if such is available. For renewable annual subscriptions, long-term usage statistics are monitored.

## Acquisition method

If the resource can be licensed via the FinELib consortium, it is acquired through it in the role of the University of Helsinki's member organisation.

If the resource is not available via the FinELib consortium, it is acquired as a direct acquisition. If, in this case, the resource can be acquired as a one-off purchase, it is favoured over annual subscription.

## Permissions

The licensing principles of the FinELib consortium are applied in licence agreements with the aim of reaching as vast permissions and access rights as possible. The resource should be available in the library but also accessible remotely, it must be possible to save and print reasonable amounts from the material, and it must be possible to forward parts of it as interlibrary lending. The aim is to receive the resource also in a format that enables text and data mining. The resource is licensed for the use of the National Library's customers, or the permissions are not limited on the basis of the customer's organisation.

## Exceptional acquisitions for the University of Helsinki's network

If licensing the resource is only possible for the use of an organisation and with user verification, based on, for example, the organisation's IP addresses, the question of whether the resource meets the criteria for an exceptional acquisition is reviewed. The resource can be licensed to a limited user group only if the research and collection management of the key sections of the National Library's collection require the acquisition of the resource. From the perspective of licensing, key sections of the National Library's collections include the National Collection, or the archival collection of Finnish publications and the National Sound Archive, the humanities collection's publications printed before the 1900s, the Slavic collection, special collections and the manuscript collection.

Resources licensed for the University of Helsinki's network can only be used remotely by the University of Helsinki's researchers, students and personnel. Users other than the researchers and students of the University of Helsinki can use the resource on the premises of the National Library and Helsinki University Library.

