

**CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
(CDNL), BERLIN, 6 AUGUST 2003**

Name of Country ...Finland

Name of Library...Helsinki University Library – The National Library of Finland

Name of Chief Executive...Kai Ekholm

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003

The National Library has traditionally served university libraries and other key research libraries in Finland. Since the National Library network is, from technical point of view, becoming a single harmonious unit, the traditional scope is no longer sufficient. The National Library is currently planning, in co-operation with target libraries, how to extend its services to polytechnics, public libraries and special libraries. This extension will to large extent be based on present cooperation, which has been largely project-based, with limited continuity. In the future our role as the national service unit and coordinator for all kinds of publicly funded libraries will also be recognised in the National Library Act.

The National Library will not only serve more libraries than before; it will also have more services available. These will be based on the traditional library system (Voyager), information retrieval portal (MetaLib) and digital object management system (ENCompass). The triangle formed by these applications is the basis for future services. This will require seamless interoperability; the only sustainable means of achieving this is standardisation. Therefore the National Library will increase its participation in standardisation work, both in domestic and international levels. In Spring 2003 we have become both a voting member in NISO – the first one outside U.S.A. – and the first national affiliate of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative.

A proposal for the new Act on Legal Deposit was completed in June 2003, with complementary work with Copyright Act. The new law will cover a wide variety of electronic resources, including Web content and radio + TV programs. The law allows a wide variety of deposit strategies, depending on the material – for instance, freely available Web resources are harvested by the library (we are doing this in practice already). The law will be processed by the parliament in Autumn. After the law has been approved, it as well as some parts of the supporting documentation will be translated to English.

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