

FINLAND

HELSINKI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY – THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

The National Library has traditionally served university libraries and other key research libraries in Finland. Since the National Library network is, from a 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 the Ministry of Education and the target libraries, how to extend its services to polytechnics, public libraries and special libraries. This extension will to a 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.

Implementation of the so-called triangle (consisting of the traditional integrated library system, information retrieval portal and digital asset management system) has progressed well during the last 12 months. The National information retrieval portal, based on MetaLib, will go into production in September 2004, initially in university libraries, followed by every public library in Finland. ENCompass, our digital asset management system, will become operational late in 2004. Use of the Voyager integrated library system is spreading from university libraries and polytechnics libraries (the last ones of which implemented Voyager late in 2003) into other research libraries, including libraries administered by Ministry of Defence and libraries in the archives sector. In order to foster standardisation of the portal applications, the library is an active participant in the NISO Metasearch Initiative.

The new copyright Act – which allows the national library to harvest and archive the Finnish Web, and to preserve electronic resources via any means necessary – is in May 2004 being processed in the parliament. The new Act on legal deposit is still on hold in the Ministry of Education, since funding needed for treatment of radio and TV programs need to be secured before the legislation is passed on.

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