

LICENSING ELECTRONIC JOURNALS IN FINLAND

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FinELib, the Finnish National Electronic Library, has been established to provide higher education learning in general and research with nationwide access to an extensive range of electronic information. The Finnish University Network (FUNET) provides the technical infrastructure for services, such as virtual university.

Administration is through a consortium agreement, which includes all HE and public libraries and some research institutes. Usage has doubled over a two-year period.

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The Finnish National Electronic Library, FinELib, has been given the tasks of acquiring Finnish and foreign digital material to support teaching, learning and research, and of increasing the potential for using electronic material. Developments in the electronic library are closely linked with developments in study environments generally and in the evolution of the virtual university in particular. The resources available in the National Electronic Library will form a key element in the services offered by the virtual university.

The Electronic Library has become an essential part in the digital library services used by universities, polytechnics, public libraries and many publicly funded research institutes. When the Electronic Library's own user interface is ready, it will provide easy access to a wide range of electronic data resources in many different forms. These include Finnish and foreign scientific journals, electronic publications by universities, subject gateways, Finnish and foreign reference databases, library catalogues, Finnish digital material and other information resources serving the information society.

Finnish Higher Education and Research Environment

Finland has 20 universities - ten multidisciplinary institutions, six specialist institutions and four art academies - all of them state-run and engaged in both education and research. The university network covers the entire country. University-level education is also provided by a military academy under the Ministry of Defence.

There are 29 polytechnics, most of which are multidisciplinary institutions maintained by municipalities or federations of municipalities. Polytechnic reform was launched at the

Key Figures in 2001	
Budget FIM 30 million (5 million Euros)	
<p>Acquisitions and Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6000 electronic journals - 90 reference databases - 10 dictionaries - The Law of Finland - 24 licence agreements - 1 million articles printed out - 8 million searches - approx. 3500 journals catalogued 	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - user interface - national web thesaurus - survey and guide to e-publishing - language technology projects - Z39.50 and ISO ILL studies
<p>Training and Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - marketing strategy - promotional materials - seminars and conferences 	<p>Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - national (consortium, the Ministry of Education and the virtual university) - Nordic - international (ICOLC)

beginning of the 1990s with an experimental and development phase. The polytechnics were formed on the basis of post-secondary vocational institutions by raising their standards and by merging several institutions to create multi-field polytechnics. After evaluation the Government granted permanent operating licences for polytechnics, and all the polytechnics have had a permanent licence since August 2000.

Research is also carried out in several government funded research institutes, which organizationally are under various ministries. All except one of the Finnish research institutes are very small consisting mainly of 100 –200 researchers.

The Finnish University and Research Network (FUNET) connecting the academic and research institutions is one of the worlds most powerful data networks with a backbone speed of 2.5 Gbps. The new network is an infrastructure for new academic services such as the virtual university, distance education, and videoconferences.

Developing Finland as an Information Society

The National strategy for education, training and research in the information society, completed in early 1995, drew up outlines for the information and communication policy for education, training

and research in the 21st century. The aims of the strategy were implemented through the Information Society Programme (1995–1999) of the Ministry of Education. Almost FIM 1 billion (Euros 167 million) of funding was used to this end. In addition, the aims of the Information Society Programme were promoted via basic funding from different departments, additional research funding and different programmes of the European Union.

The National Electronic Library programme, FinELib, which was launched by the Ministry of Education in 1997, is aimed at supporting higher education, learning and research in Finland and was started in accordance with the Government’s Information Society Programme. The basic goals in FinELib are to increase the amount of electronic information available to users, to improve information retrieval from the Internet and to develop a graphical user interface to give access to heterogeneous information resources available from different sources.

During the period 1997-1999 the activities were of a project nature, but from 2000 onwards they have become a standard part of the activities of Helsinki University Library — the National Library of Finland. The programme receives substantial central government funding, about 3 million euros annually, from the Ministry of Education. Two thirds of the total budget is

obtained from central funding, whilst one third is consortia members own funding. During the first years of operation the financing came from a special grant for research, from the year 2000 funding is top-sliced from the University Budget at the Ministry of Education. The greater part of the funding is spent on licences for electronic resources and the National Library negotiates and signs the contracts.

FinELib Consortium – Working Together to Achieve Good Results

A formal FinELib consortium was formed early in 2001 and a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the basic guidelines for FinELib operations was signed. During the first years of operation (1997-1999) the consortium consisted mainly of universities but by May 2001, it comprised of a total of 95 organizations including all Finnish universities, polytechnics and regional public libraries and several research institutes. The consortium is likely to grow during 2001.

Several cooperative groups form the basis of the operation. A steering committee is responsible for policy making and drawing up the Plan of Action. A new, high-level steering committee was nominated in 2000, with members who are directors of universities, polytechnics, research institutes, public libraries,

the National Library and the Ministry of Education.

Directors of university, polytechnic and research institute libraries and public libraries participate in the work of the consortium group, which prepares pricing models, discusses licences, drafts marketing plans and so on. Science-specific groups propose annually the resources to be licensed to the corresponding field of science. At the moment there are seven science-specific groups (culture, economics, engineering, health science, humanities, life sciences, social sciences) and one group for public libraries.

The FinELib Consortium Day, a special seminar for the consortium members is organized annually to discuss the activities. The emphasis is in developing the activities to find even better ways to serve the consortium.

Excellent cooperation between the libraries and the other players involved has guaranteed the success of the activities. In issues related to acquiring material and licence agreements, cooperation contacts both in Finland and abroad have been of great benefit. The development work aimed at making the material easy to use would have been impossible without interactive international cooperation.

Licences and Use

At the moment there are about 6000 full-text

Table 2. Article downloads 1999-2000

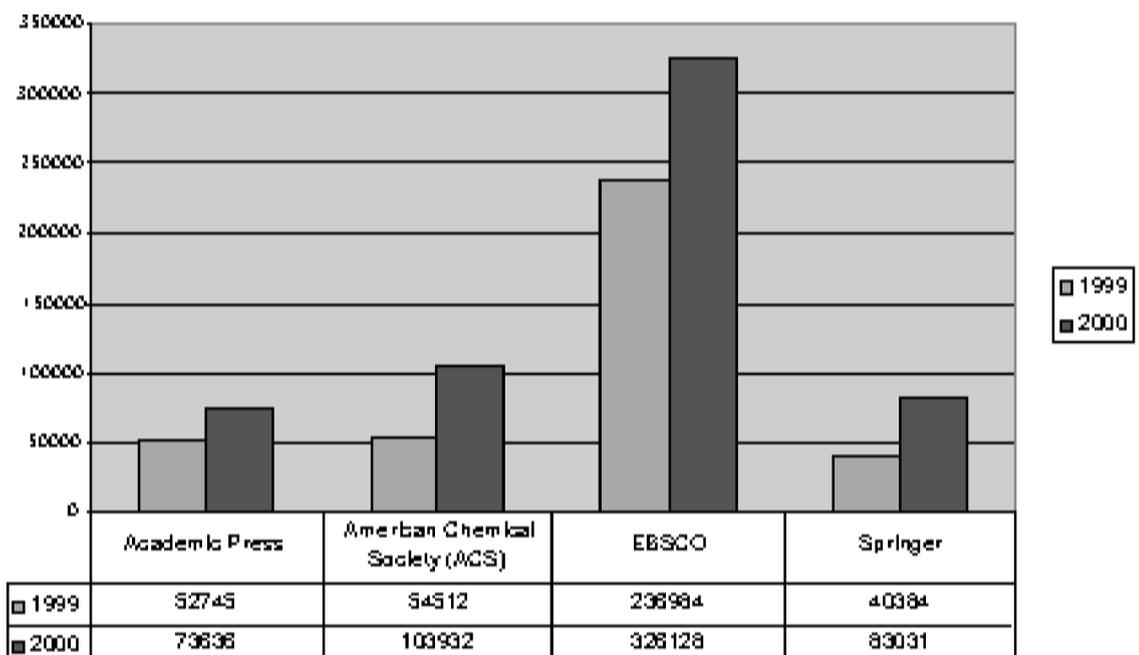


Table 1. Resources licensed to Finnish higher education and research

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS	REFERENCE DATABASES
<p>ABI INFORM: PROQUEST DIRECT More than 780 journals on economics plus a database, from 1971 onwards.</p> <p>ACADEMIC PRESS: IDEAL 175 electronic journals mostly from the fields of the natural sciences, medicine and technology, from 1996 onwards.</p> <p>ACS – AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 25 journals on chemistry.</p> <p>ANNUAL REVIEWS 29 full-text journals from the fields of medicine, the natural sciences, sociology and psychology, from 1996 onwards.</p> <p>EBSCO: EBSCOHOST Alternatives are Academic Search Elite, Business Source Elite, the Econlit reference database and Masterfile Premier</p> <p>ELEKTRA About 6500 articles from more than 30 Finnish scientific periodicals plus dozens of doctoral theses.</p> <p>HIGHWIRE 29 journals from the fields of medicine and nursing.</p> <p>IEEE/IEE – IEL ONLINE 120 full-text journals on technology; articles from 1989 onwards.</p> <p>IIMP – INTERNATIONAL INDEX TO MUSIC PERIODICALS A key reference database on music. It includes full-text material from about 30 music journals and material from 1874 onwards.</p> <p>JSTOR 130 journals on the humanities and the social sciences from the first volume of the journal onwards.</p> <p>MCB: EMERALD LIBRARY 118 journals on economics from 1994 onwards.</p> <p>OVID – DATABASES Three reference databases and six full-text compilations on medicine and nursing from 1966 onwards.</p> <p>SCIENCE ONLINE Articles mainly on medicine and the natural sciences, from 1995 onwards.</p> <p>SPRINGER VERLAG 232 journals from the fields of the natural sciences, medicine and technology.</p>	<p>ABC-CLIO Historical Abstracts; America: History and Life;</p> <p>CAS SCIFINDER SCHOLAR Material on chemistry from 1967 onwards.</p> <p>CSA – CAMBRIDGE SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS About 60 reference databases from various fields, with references from 1972 onwards.</p> <p>COMPENDEX & ENGINEERING VILLAGE 2 Reference database on engineering in which 5000 international journals, conference proceedings and technical reports are indexed, plus a user interface for the database. References from 1970 onwards.</p> <p>HELECON / FINP AND SCIMA DATABASES FINP – references to Finnish articles on economics. SCIMA – abstracts and references to international articles on economics.</p> <p>PCI – PERIODICALS CONTENTS INDEX Reference database on the fields of the humanities, the social sciences, art and culture from 1770 to 1990.</p> <p>SILVER PLATTER: BA, BIOSIS, CAB, INSPEC, MLA, Psycinfo</p> <p>ULRICH’S PERIODICALS DIRECTORY List of periodicals</p> <p>WORKS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>GROVE’S DICTIONARY OF ART Reference work on art containing 45 000 articles.</p> <p>GROVE’S DICTIONARY OF MUSIC AND MUSICIANS Reference work on music, with links to pictures and music.</p> <p>NETMOT DICTIONARIES Finnish-English-Finnish Finnish-Swedish-Finnish Finnish-German-Finnish Finnish-French-Finnish</p> <p>OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY</p> <p>THE LAW OF FINLAND, EUROPEAN UNION LAW</p>

journals, 90 reference databases, 10 dictionaries, law resources and several reference books available, and a total of 24 licence agreements have been signed (Table 1). The feedback from users has been very positive and according to user surveys, the selection of resources licensed seems to have been a success.

The growth of the use of the resources has been brisk. In a period of twelve months, the consortium has printed out 1 million articles and there have been over 8 million searches. Use has doubled over a period of two years. The same trend can be clearly seen when comparing statistics for the services (see Table 2).

Requests have been made for the addition of more foreign, scientific journals, Finnish university publications and foreign databases to the service in the future.

The resources are used for varied purposes. Information retrieval to support research is the most frequent way of using the materials but the resources are also used to monitor what is happening in a special field of research, as well as to find information to solve individual problems. Other ways of using the resources are for preparing lessons, for guiding students and for finding information for theses.

National Impact

Thanks to the National Electronic Library Programme, the material available to researchers, teachers and students is considerably more extensive than ever before and it can be accessed nationwide. Information provision has improved at all universities, especially at the smaller ones and at the polytechnics. The usability of the material and the search potential have improved significantly in all universities and in the other member organisations within the consortium. On the Internet, the material is always available. According to the user surveys researchers, students and teachers especially value the selection of resources and their ease of accessibility.

Centralised acquisitions have saved an enormous amount of time and cost in libraries. In addition the terms and conditions of the licence agreements are more favourable negotiated through the national service agency. By acquiring material for a large consortium, the costs for one individual organisation are smaller than if every organisation acquired its own material. At the national level the savings have been substantial.

The programme is developing into a truly national service.