

# Using Koha in the National Library of Finland and in other Finnish libraries

Inkeri Hakulinen

Information Specialist

The National Library of Finland

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# A Big library that started from small

- In **1640** a gymnasium in Turku was turned into the Royal Academy of Turku. The book collection of the gymnasium, about **20 volumes**, served as the starting point for the Library of the Royal Academy of Turku.
- Since **1707**, legislation has ordered the printing houses to provide one copy of each publication to our library. Similar legislation has prevailed through the times of being part of different reigning states.

# Library relocated to Helsinki

- In **1828**, the University was moved to Helsinki.
- In **1845**, the Library moved into its current main building.
- In **2006**, the name of the library was changed to the National Library of Finland.
- Nowadays we're an Independent institute at the Helsinki University.

Source (20.5.2024) & read more at:

<https://www.kansalliskirjasto.fi/en/history>



# The Collections in the National Library of Finland

- National collection, called **Fennica**
  - Based on the legal deposit material, i.e. all publications in Finland
  - Books, magazines, newspapers, games, records
  - Includes The Finnish National Sound archive
  - In addition to that, we have a lot of ephemera, paper archives, Finnish web archive, digital collections etc. All of them are not catalogued into Koha.



# Other collections present in Koha

- Special collections
  - Oldest deposit copies and other old materials
- The Slavonic collection
  - Roots back to the deposit copies at the 19th century, in various languages
  - Serving research related to Eastern European and Russian studies
- The Humanities collection
  - Research literature in various languages
  - Concentrates on history, art studies, literature and philosophy

# Huge Koha database

- The National Library of Finland has maybe one of the biggest Koha databases
  - 3 398 000 bibliographic records
  - 2 330 000 holdings records
  - 2 351 000 items



Photo: Marko Oja

# How we use Koha

- Some statistics:
  - Approximately 10 000 customers have our library card (at May /2024)
    - Customers are mostly researchers and students, but we're open to anyone who needs our collections
  - 27 000 loans / year
  - 306 000 renewals / year
  - Over 120 librarians with Koha accounts



# Homeloans and reading room loans

- Most of our collections are located in closed storages.
  - Customers can place the holds themselves, through our Finna OPAC  
<https://kansalliskirjasto.finna.fi/>
- We have a lot of material that we don't lend outside the library.
- Even though we're just a one library, we have different "branches" in Koha, to represent our different reading rooms and lending spots.





# Koha as a part of our library system infrastructure

In addition to Koha, we also use other library systems to manage our services.



## Melinda

- Melinda database, using Aleph.
- Cataloguing in collaboration with other libraries in Finland.



## Koha

- Circulation and customer data
- Holding records
- Items
- Reports
- Acquisitions

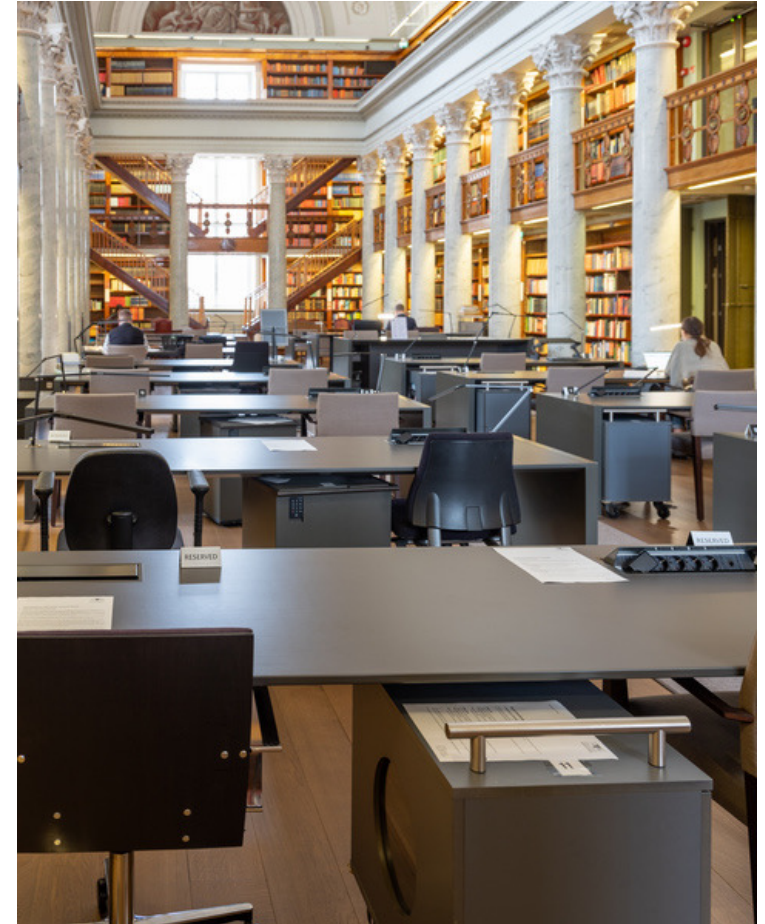


## Finna

- Serves as OPAC for our customers.
- Our data visible both in our own [kansalliskirjasto.finna.fi](https://kansalliskirjasto.finna.fi) and [finna.fi](https://finna.fi), covering most Finnish libraries + many museums and archives.

# Koha in Finnish scientific libraries

- The Koha Consortium of the Finnish scientific libraries is an open consortium of 17 libraries that use Koha.
- Priorities are decided together.
- Library collections were converted to Koha during years 2018-2019.
- Regular meetings between main users and between library managers.



# Koha in Finnish scientific libraries (technical perspective)

- Finna is used as an OPAC – no work for Koha's own OPAC.
- The National Library of Finland provides software development and maintenance services.
  - Small fixes can be done swiftly
  - Our code goes to Koha main version, too.
- CSC (IT Centre for Science) provides server platform services.
- Integrations, for example a student app in some of our libraries is integrated to Koha.

# Koha is popular in Finnish public libraries

- Koha has become quite a popular library system among Finnish public libraries.
- Koha-provider for them is a company called Koha-Suomi (Koha-Finland)
  - owned by over 100 participating municipalities.
  - Founded in 2016
- Often the public libraries work in collaboration with other nearby cities / municipalities in library consortiums.

# Koha-libraries from south to north

- Public libraries from Hanko to Utsjoki use Koha
  - See <https://koha-suomi.fi/> for a map!
- 9 consortiums total, 1 joining later this year
  - About 1 million citizens live in their area
- Biggest library consortiums in Koha-Finland are Outi-libraries around Oulu and Vaski-libraries around Turku.
  - Vaski: ~ 3,3 million loans / year
  - Outi: ~ 3,1 million loans / year
  - Other consortiums: 0,9-1,6 million loans/year

# Finnish Koha community

- Collaboration between scientific and public libraries
  - Regular visiting in each other's meetings
  - Sharing of best practices and tips
  - Translating Koha into Finnish language together
  - Finnish Koha seminar held about every other year
  - Small, warm, welcoming



- Our aim is to be actively participating in international Koha community
  - For example the international Koha convention, KohaCon, was held in Helsinki last year, bundled with PerlCon

# Koha has problems, too

- Some slowness in cases of
  - Many holds for same title (around 1000 it's quite slow)
  - Many items for same title (showing many hundreds of items takes time)
- Some local resolutions already made for those
  - For example paging of holds or items
- Holdings records added to Koha by Finnish scientific libraries
  - We aim to get them included into Koha main version as well
- Customizing settings for your own installation is possible, but customizing for individual users is quite difficult.

# Open source library system benefits

- Ownership of the system & data
- Predictable costs
- Transparency of possibilities
- Collaboration & community
- Agility
- Ideology & commitment
- International dimensions





# Links

- The National Library of Finland: [nationallibrary.fi](http://nationallibrary.fi)
- Koha in Finnish scientific libraries: [https://www.kiwi.fi/x/PQI\\_Dg](https://www.kiwi.fi/x/PQI_Dg)
- Koha-Suomi Ltd (providing Koha for Finnish public libraries): <https://koha-suomi.fi/>
- International Koha community <https://koha-community.org/>

**Thank you!**  
**Vielen Danke!**

Inkeri Hakulinen  
Information Specialist  
System Librarian for Koha  
[www.nationallibrary.fi](http://www.nationallibrary.fi)

Email: [inkeri.hakulinen@helsinki.fi](mailto:inkeri.hakulinen@helsinki.fi)  
Mastodon: [@inkeri@mastodontti.fi](https://masto.fi/@inkeri)

