



Digital cultural heritage resources for users

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National Library of Finland

Content

- Briefly about the National Library of Finland
- Digital collections
 - General introduction
 - At the heart of the academic community (researchers' needs)
 - A resource of education and learning (example collaboration)
 - For the common good (two projects with new user groups)

National Library of Finland

- Two legal obligations
 - The NLF is responsible for the accumulation, description, preservation, and availability of the national published heritage
 - The NLF functions as the guiding force for the entire library sector and works closely with museums, galleries and archives.
- Collections are available for all
 - Books, manuscripts, sound recordings, webpages etc.
 - Analog, digital (digitized, born-digital), data
 - Onsite and online use



Liewendal, Frans Oskar. Helsinki University library (National Library) - *Universitetes Bibliotheket*. National Heritage agency. Historian kuvakokoelma 1877

Four strategical objectives

1. Cultural heritage for the common good
2. National Library at the heart of the academic community
3. National Library as a resource of Bildung (*meaning broadly education, knowledge and skills*) and learning
4. Creating a powerful hub of expertise through network cooperation

Digitised content – digi.nationallibrary.fi

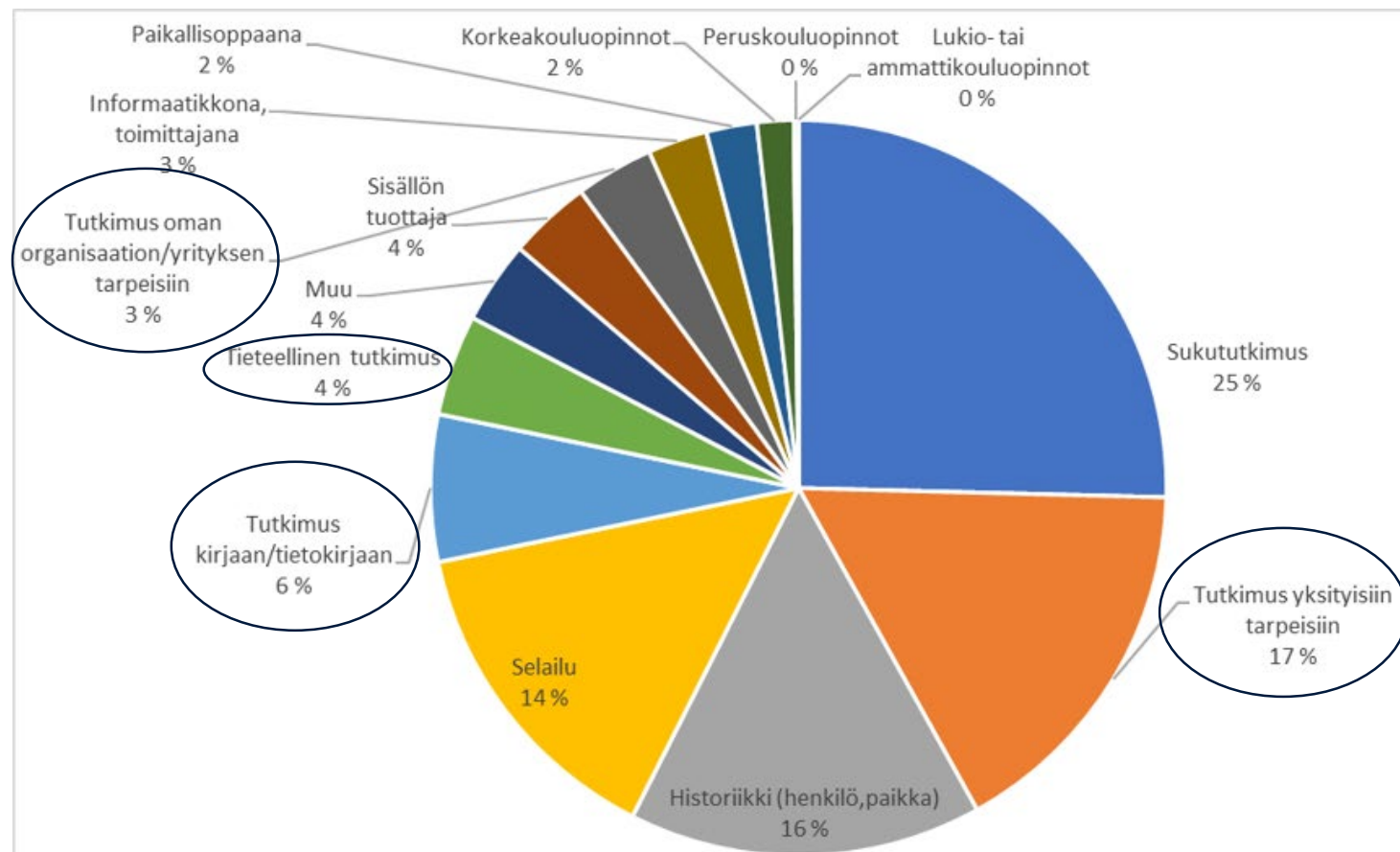
- Around 31 million pages available
- Digitisation programme 2025-2028 guides the digitisation of the following years
- Thanks to the licences the public can access to the content online
 - In Finnish 1939 and older
 - In Swedish* 1949 and older
- Researchers affiliated to the Finnish higher education institutes can access the content until 2021
- All digitised materials are available in legal deposit libraries around Finland

The screenshot shows the homepage of the digital library. At the top, there are logos for the National Library of Finland (1640), the Finnish National Library (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi), and the European Union (Leverage from the EU 2014-2020). Navigation links include Search, Collections, Serial publications, 100 years ago, Clippings, and Tutkain service. A search bar is prominently displayed with the text "Search the digital materials" and "31 189 232 pages of material". Below the search bar, there are categories for Newspapers, Journals, Ephemera, Books, Manuscripts, Maps, Music Notations, Pictures, and Library Card Indices. A section titled "Samples of collections" features five thumbnail images: a ship (Ephemera), a book cover (ABC-books), a newspaper page (Newspapers), a newspaper page (Priozersk and Lake Ladoga region), and a book cover (Classics Library).

*Long history of Swedish publishing tradition as today Finland has two official languages and around 300 000 Swedish speaking Finns. The collaboration with foundations have made possible the large-scale digitisation of these newspapers.

Digitised resources (digi.nationallibrary.fi) are used in many ways (multiple choice)

- Genealogy and family history related purposes (25%)
- Local/place based or personal histories (16%)
- Research (private 17%, book 6%, academic 4%, company (3%) etc. purposes)
- Browsing (14%)
- Professional (librarians, local guide, content creator) (9%)
- Studying (2%)



Pääkkönen, T. 2022 Digi survey 2022

Research use

Information collection from researchers

- Surveys 2020 and 2024
- Interviews 2020
- Collaboration (active feedback 2021)
- Benchmarking and comparison of needs with National Archives of Finland 2024-2025
- Seminars and conferences
 - Newspaper symposium (biannual, CFP this autumn)
 - Presence in research days: history, cultural studies, literature etc.
 - International conferences

Different needs and users

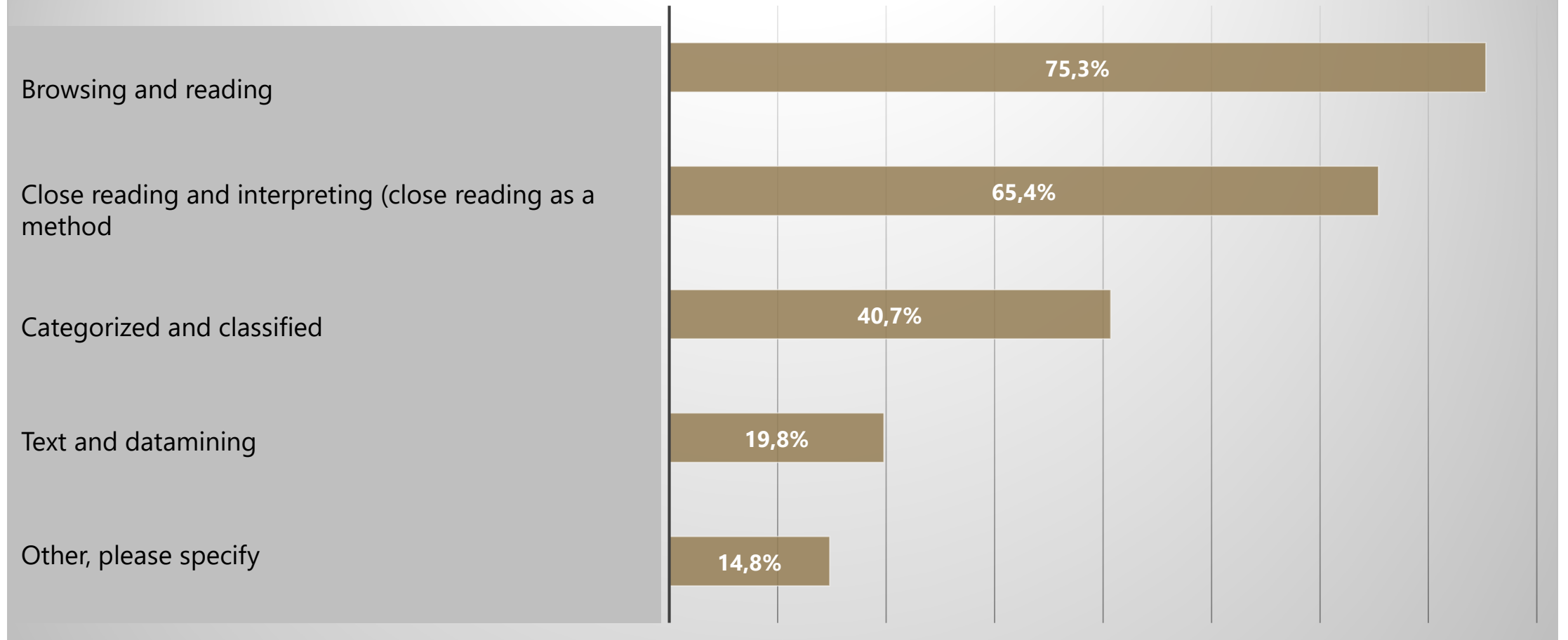
Discoveries by exploring

- **Frequency of use**
 - Active (almost everyday) users
 - Occasional users
 - Newcomers
- **Main source in research**
 1. Digitised newspapers
 2. Other NLF's Sources
 3. Other sources (digital or analog)
 - Most of the users need materials elsewhere

- **Method/approach specific needs**
 1. Digital materials used as sources
 2. Digital methods support the analysis
 3. Research methods are basis of the research



Methods of the researchers



Other: statistical analysis, quantitative methods, using as sources
(Survey 2024)

Current topics

- Data life cycle and collaboration with researchers
 - Challenge of enriched data
 - The readiness to open the data after the study, but it has not been so much done
 - European data-related development targets
- The role of communication and knowing there are materials available
 - The potential of data-intensive research is increasing
- The legislative framework is challenging
 - Various regulations on copyright, data mining and artificial intelligence are still evolving

A resource for education and learning

Digitised materials in teaching

- Teaching materials in Finna Classroom
- Collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences of South Eastern Finland
 - Lectures about digi.nationallibrary.fi
 - Community Educator students have used digitised content as their game education course and created different types of content based on their interest and by given objective (e.g. game prototypes, videos on cultural heritage and sustainability) the NLF has scored the results with certain evaluation criteria
- Collaboration with Muisti - Center of War and Peace
 - Education day of history teachers (2024: general introduction to different library and archival material, 2025: theme democracy in library and archival materials)
- Other occasions
 - Introductions to history teacher students (guest lecture)
 - Introduction to collections and data for university students

For common good

Project ROOT

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**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Project ROOT

- Aim is to bring together young people (18-30 years) and local and regional heritage and to develop skills to strengthen their resilience and better adapt to professional developments induced by the ecological transition
- Workpackages
 1. Consulting young people about their climate concerns (2024-2025)
 2. Connecting young people with professionals who work with sustainable crafts (2025-2026)
 3. Discussions and resources around local and regional heritage (2026)
 4. Heritage environment of the young people (2026-2027)



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Project ROOT

- Highlights from consulting (13 young people)
 - Concerns: Global warming, declining of biodiversity, pandemics, increase in climate refugee
 - Young feel that they cannot do enough but feel that they choices are important as they walk and recycle frequently. However, the infrastructure needs to support the sustainable choices.
 - Generational differences are contradicting: self-sufficiency vs. overconsumption and information acquisition
 - Rural areas are rich in nature but are not very attracting in terms of work and recycling



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Project ROOT

- Next steps are focusing on the skills needed in the craft and heritage. Young people will interview professionals
 - Are traditional crafts relevant? Who will pass on the cultural heritage? And how? Which skills are needed in the future?
- Follow us on FB (**ROOT Resilient youth through local heritage**) and Instagram (rootprojekti, rootprojet, MOH)



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Project ETKOT



Background



Widening perspectives of the library
- Textual heritage to innovative use (digi.nationallibrary.fi)

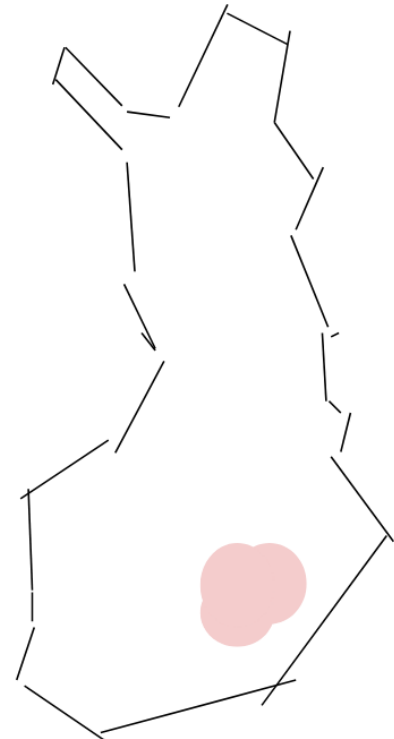


New user groups for cultural heritage – local business

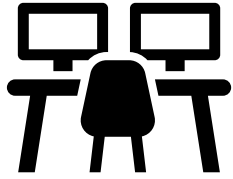


Funder's requirements to connect with local businesses

- ❖ Project named **South Savo Artificial Intelligence at Memory Lab** 1.9.2024-31.12.2025
- ❖ Co-Funded by the European Union, funding granted by the South Savo Regional Council
- ❖ Collaboration with South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences and Central Archives for Finnish Business Records

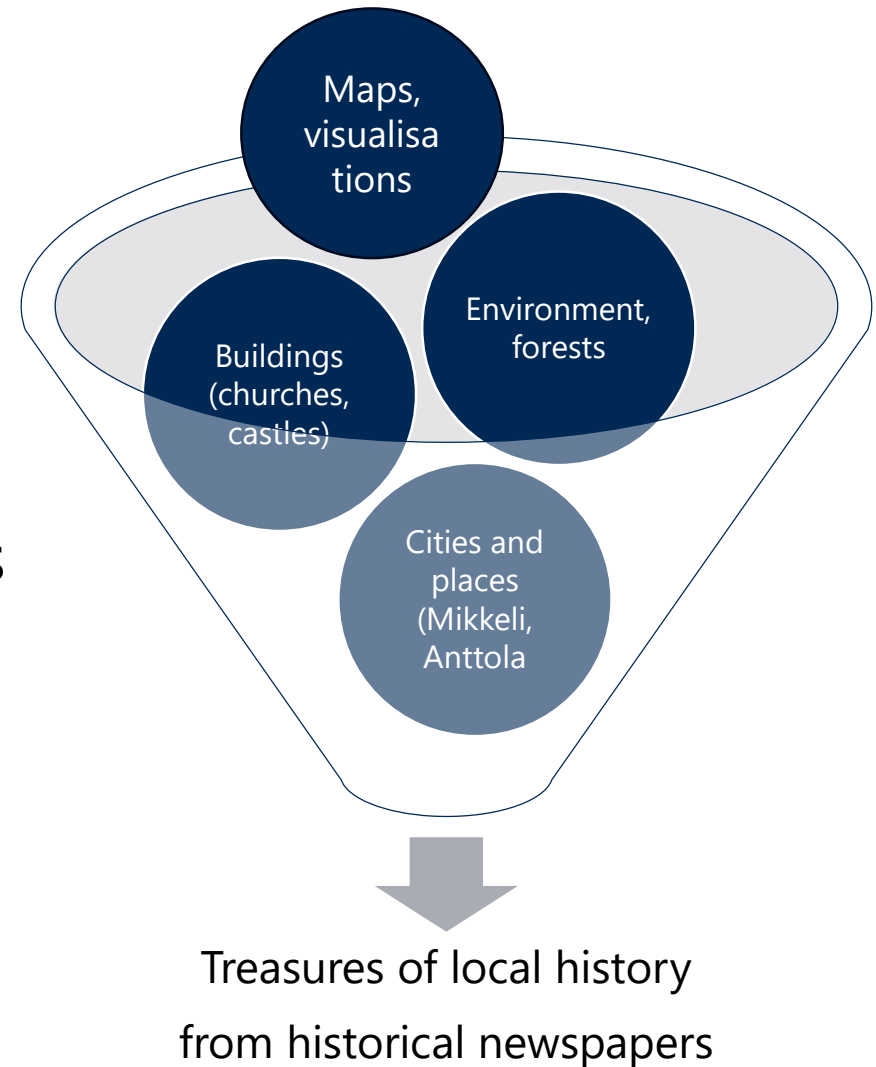


Treasures of local heritage



5 online events based on the needs of business (spring 2025)

- ❖ Going through historical newspaper sources
- ❖ Telling stories with the chosen thematics
- ❖ Enriched with old and new pictures
- ❖ Examples of how to use local history and cultural heritage
- ❖ To develop a model for connecting local business and the NLF



Feedback and continuum

- ❖ Based on the feedback, materials were developed further
 - ❖ Marketing materials (pictures, stories)
 - ❖ Place name origin stories (etymologies)
 - ❖ Maps with stories
 - ❖ Search tips and use tips of the original materials
- Upcoming event(s) in autumn
 - Examples, if the materials have already been used by entrepreneurs
 - New materials for local business
- Together with project partners, curated sets can be used to local LLM finetuning

Entrepreneurs find inspiration in local history

Entrepreneurs participating in the National Library's online events on local history in early 2025 noted how the compelling content inspired them and fostered their creativity. As one participant put it: "This is exactly what we've been after: an initiative that brings the local context to life and fosters a collective narrative."



J. H. Tuhkanen: Lasten kuvakirja 1893. <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fd2017-00011844> / Picture by: Alex Federley 1893

<https://www.kansalliskirjasto.fi/en/news/entrepreneurs-find-inspiration-local-history>

Lessons learnt with new user groups

- ❖ Reaching young needs collaboration with the education institutes
- ❖ Local business holds a plenty of potential if the business can find the right materials
 - ❖ Small resources
 - ❖ Lack of awareness of cultural heritage
 - ❖ Not only local but more regional benefits for the business
- ❖ The curated materials for different user groups can be further reused and modified for other purposes in cooperation with educators, artists etc. (not single use materials if published openly)



nationallibrary.fi