

National Voyager/Aleph User Group: Finland

Country Report 2009

Consortia

There are two large Voyager Consortia in Finland: the Linnea2 Consortium and the AMKIT Consortium.

Linnea2 Consortium consists of 21 universities (including the National Library), the Library of Parliament, the National Repository Library, the Library of Statistics, The Finnish Institute for Russian and East European Studies, Lahti Science Library and the National Archives. Altogether these libraries maintain 28 databases. 24 of these are local library databases, the rest are national or union catalogue databases maintained by the National Library:

- LINDA - Union Catalogue of Finnish University Libraries (5,2 million records)
- ARTO - Reference Database of Finnish Articles (ab. 1,4 million records)
- VIOLA – Finnish National Discography (800 000 records)
- FENNICA - Finnish National Bibliography (850 000 records)

Altogether there are about 19 million bibliographic records and about 15 million item records in these databases.

AMKIT Consortium consists of 26 universities of applied sciences who all have their individual Voyager databases. Altogether there are almost 1,8 million bibliographic records in the AMKIT databases. In addition to managing Voyager cooperation, the Consortium coordinates many other cooperative projects of the libraries.

Hardware

Since 2007 Linnea2 and AMKIT Consortia have shared a Sun SPARC Enterprise M9000 server, which also hosts the NELLI portals (MetaLib/SFX) for universities, universities of applied sciences and public libraries. The server has 8 system boards and 32 CPUs.

The maintenance of the hardware is outsourced to the Center for Scientific Computing, CSC, a non-profit company owned by the Ministry of Education. It hosts Finnish supercomputers and maintains the Finnish Academic and Research Network FUNET and is in close cooperation with the universities and universities of applied sciences in all areas.

Software

Voyager

Apart from Linda, all databases in both Consortia are using Voyager. The present version in their production databases is 6.2.

Aleph

The union catalogue Linda was using Voyager Universal Catalogue until the end of 2008. A new Linda, using the Aleph Central Catalogue model, was created in 2008 and opened in January 2009. The present version of Aleph is 18.01. The cataloguers in most of the Linnea libraries create and update the bibliographic records in Aleph-Linda and a locally designed replication program handles updating the Voyager databases.

Functions and projects

The Finnish libraries are using all modules in the basic Voyager package. Some add-ons or projects worth to mention:

- Local MARC format, MARC21-Fin, was replaced by pure MARC 21 in 2008.
- tri-lingual WebVoyage – Finnish, Swedish, English, with locally designed enhancement scripts
- self check-out in most libraries and self check-in in a few libraries
- Bibliographic Record Linking in several databases
- Universal Borrowing implemented in 12 Linnea libraries and 5 AMKIT libraries (one way requesting from the National Repository Library only).
- All Voyager libraries in both consortia have implemented YAZ Proxy (developed by Index Data) to enhance Voyager's Z39.50 server.
- A 600 users license of BookWhere Z39.50 client has been purchased in order to maximize the efficiency of copy cataloguing. BookWhere has over 1750 free Z39.50 databases configured in the system. USEMARCON conversion program is used to convert the records, if necessary, to MARC 21 and into the correct character set before saving them into the Voyager or Aleph database.
- Shibboleth authentication has been implemented by a few Voyager libraries.
- SSL has been implemented both in Linnea and AMKIT.
- Linnea libraries have selected Relais Enterprise as their ILL software. At present contract negotiations are under way and the implementation will start later this year with pilots.

User group activity

The **Finnish Voyager Libraries** have their annual users group meeting together with MetaLib/SFX users. In October 2008 the three day meeting was held in Turku, with more than 350 attendants.

Annu Jauhiainen
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