

FINNISH PUBLIC LIBRARIES NOW!

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General information on public libraries (2017)

- Finns (total population 5,5 million) are avid readers and library users:
 - total annual lending was 85,2 million items (15,5 per capita)
 - annual number of library visits: 50 million (9 per capita)
 - internet services of the libraries were used 37 million times
- The total material stock was 35,2 million items, 30,1 million of which were books
- There is a public library in every municipality (282), and most of them also have branch libraries (437) and mobile libraries (134)
 - According to the Library Act, municipalities have to organize public library services for their citizens

Most importantly people value their libraries



Library act of Finland (1492/2016), 2§

- (1) The objectives of this Act are to promote:
 - 1) equal opportunities for everyone to access education and culture;
 - 2) availability and use of information;
 - 3) reading culture and versatile literacy skills;
 - 4) opportunities for lifelong learning and competence development;
 - 5) active citizenship, democracy and freedom of expression.
- (2) The implementation of these objectives is based on sense of community, pluralism and cultural diversity.

The library act, 6§

- (1) Public libraries are tasked with:
 - 1) providing access to materials, information and cultural contents;
 - 2) maintaining versatile and up-to-date collections;
 - 3) promoting reading and literature;
 - 4) providing information services, guidance and support in the acquisition and use of information and in versatile literacy skills;
 - 5) providing premises for learning, recreational activities, working, and civic activities;
 - 6) promoting social and cultural dialogue.

Promoting reading

- Novellikoukku is a two-hours session in a library, where one person reads short stories according to her/his choice, others are listening & knitting or crocheting, and commenting on the stories heard



What makes the rate of utilization of public libraries so high in Finland?

- Tradition
- Ability to change according to the environment
- Easy access to, and high level of libraries

In a large country mobile libraries are popular!



Reading dogs

- Popular
 - Children with difficulties in reading can read to a dog
 - A stress-free situation: the dog never points out mistakes, so the child can relax and concentrate in learning in his/her own pace
 - Reading Dog training begun in Finland only in 2016



Services of the libraries - New concepts and service development in future?

We work under the theme '**the task of a public library is to serve citizenship**', adopted from our Danish colleagues

- **Lending** – Both traditional and new materials
- **Access to e-documents**
- **Space**
- **Help**

Services of the libraries - New concepts and service development in future? (2)

- **Promotion of reading and culture, more and more also to science**
- **Media education**
- **Makerspaces/Fablabs/Workshops**
- **Availability online**

Important new elements of public administration in Finland

- **Listening to the users**
- **Co-operation with other actors**
- **Self-service based opening hours**

Citizens planning the new central library Oodi in a workshop



Participatory planning, even budgeting

- Tax-payers' money, tax-payers' decisions
- Participatory practices create feel of ownership
- Support from private sector is in Finland marginal. The idea is that a non-partial and equal public service must be financed by tax-payers money

Challenges - which can be turned into possibilities!

- Tightening economy
- Material received from internet
- Diminishing reading
- Staying too much in tradition

Oodi Central Library



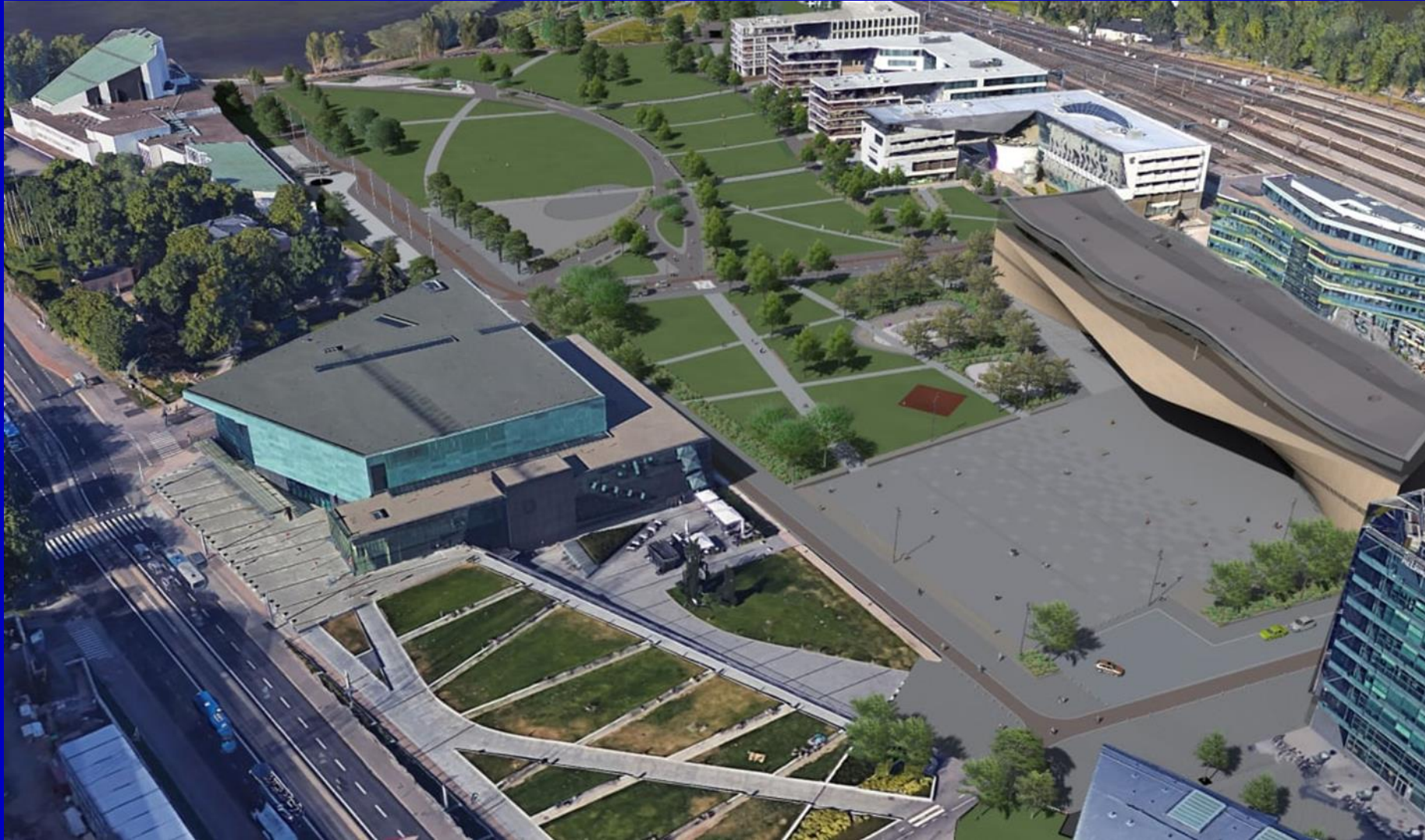
Helsinki City Library

- Main library + 36 branch libraries
- 2 mobile libraries
- 10 institutional libraries and home services
- Staff 474
- Collection 1 819 550
 - Of which books 1 524 152
- Loans 9 285 902
- Visits 6 279 521
 - Web visits 12 779 238

New central library and the 37 branch libraries of Helsinki

- We expect the total usage of libraries in Helsinki to rise
- A researcher specialized in evaluating usage numbers, based on population statistics and forecasts, traffic connections and lending statistics gives an estimation of 1-1,2 million netto growth in library visits in Helsinki (now 6,5 million physical visits per year)
- Together with the population growth and the improving metro network in Helsinki region, the effect of the new Central Library to the usage of other libraries seems to be negative only for 3-4 of our 36 libraries

Oodi in the planned park area



Key ideas from the plan, 2012

To be able to offer to citizens and tourists:

- Open, non-commercial, public space
- Information and skills for a more functional society
- Rich city experience created by the residents themselves
- The book's new life –a house of reading in Töölönlahti
- Pioneering intelligent everyday life
- A library for all senses—a new program everyday

How the planning process progressed

- First plan 2000
- More interest among politicians, media and citizens from 2007 on
- Several workshops from the beginning of year 2007
- The report of ideas for a new library, Heart of Metropolis, 2008
- Plan for architecture competition 2012
- Developing groups working in the background at the same time
- New ideas from citizens, the dream campaign etc. 2012
- International architecture competition 2012-13
- Work with both customers and staff members still continuing

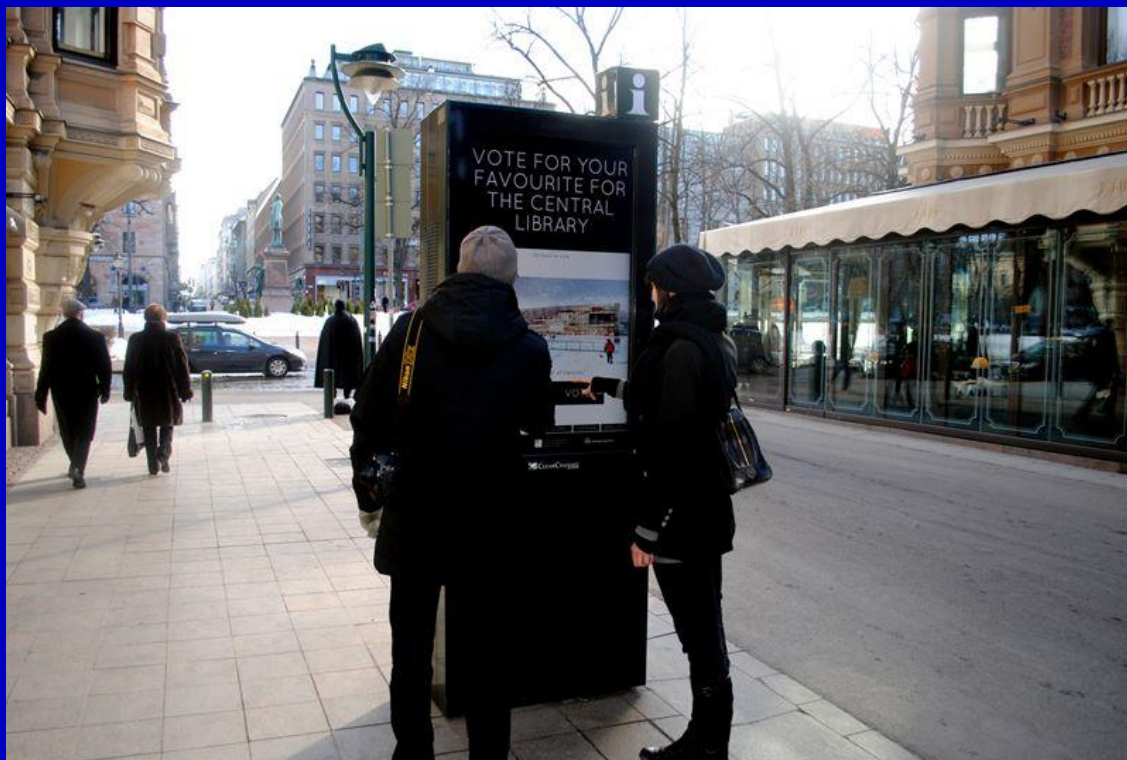
Open International Architectural Competition (We received 544 entries)



Goals:

- Supports the library's new functioning concepts
- A mark of excellence in the urban landscape and architecturally enduring
- Reinforces Helsinki's positive cultural image
- City of innovation

The citizens' participation during the competition process



- The top six entries were on display in March 2013
- The public could view and comment on the entries online
- The designed images were displayed on interactive street signs

Citizens' ideas and wishes

More than 2000 individual ideas

- Space for relaxing, slow life
- Space for happenings, workshops, city culture, DIY
- Space for working
- Concepts for peer-to-peer learning and for sharing
- Place for families and dialogue between generations
- Open for all, a non-commercial meeting place

Let's have look inside Oodi

- <http://keskustakirjasto.fi/en/2014/09/11/welcome-inside-the-central-library/>



- Construction cost 96 million euros
- Design: ALA Architects Ltd.

- 10 000 visitors a day, 2,5 million a year
- 10 000 m² of the library of the future
- Collection 100 000 items

Challenge: New needs for technology

- Intelligent staff scheduling system
- Integrated facility booking system
- Integrated venue booking system
- Integrated customer surveying system
- Digital navigation system
- Digital signage system
- Intelligent material management system

Welcome to Oodi!

Kolmannen kerroksen eteläinen parvitaso
Luonnos 23.4.2015



Thank You!

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Helsinki