Empowering Helsinki City Residents
- the importance of libraries in everyday life

Maija Berndtson
Library Director
Helsinki City Library – Central Library for Public Libraries

September 5, 2011
Republic of Finland

- Capital: Helsinki (approx. 1 million people live in the Helsinki Metropolitan area)
- Population: 5.3 million
- Area: 338,145 km² of which 10% is water and over 70% covered with forest
- The maximum length is 1160 km and the maximum width is 540 km
- Neighbour of Sweden, Norway, Russia and the Baltic States
- Currency: Euro / EUR, €
- Language: Finnish 93%, Swedish 6%, Sami (about 1700 people)
The vision for Helsinki Region

The Helsinki Region is a dynamic world-class centre for business and innovation. Its high-quality services, arts and science, creativity and adaptability promote the prosperity of its citizens and bring benefits to all of Finland. The Metropolitan Area is being developed as a unified region close to nature where it is good to live, learn, work and do business.
Educated and wired citizens

Education:
- 78% of the population aged 25 to 64 have upper secondary or tertiary education
- 35% have university or other tertiary qualifications (the highest percentage in the EU countries)

Wired:
- 87% of Finnish households own a personal computer and 77% broadband
- 99% of households have cell phones of which 26% are smartphones
The Ubiquitous Society

Connects everyone and everything.

Easy connection to networks "anytime, anywhere, by anything and anyone". A society where ICT will be everywhere in daily life and can easily be used.

Person to Person plus Person to Goods, and Goods to Goods. In every aspect, communication will play an even more important role.

Creation of vitality of the individual, vitalize the society.
   Based on users’ viewpoints.
   Close to the user.

Users can be suppliers too, "prosumers".
What is the new library?

If this is the new library accessible everywhere, why would you need the traditional library?
Helsinki City Library 2010

588 600 inhabitants
36 libraries
1,9 million library items
9,2 million loans
15,6 loans / inhabitant
6,4 million physical visits
11 visits / inhabitant
6,8 million virtual visits
Budget 35 million €, 61 €/inhabitant
Helsinki City Library is...

The Home Library for Citizens in Helsinki

HelMet-library
(Helsinki Metropolitan Area: Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Kauniainen, 1 million people)

• A Central Library for Public Libraries
• Multilingual Library
• Libraries.fi
THE FINNISH LIBRARY NETWORK

Central Library for Public Libraries. Multilingual Library. (Helsinki City Library)

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

LIBRARIES IN POLYTECHNICS. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS

THE FINNISH LIBRARY FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED (the state library)

MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES = PUBLIC LIBRARIES

THE FINNISH LIBRARY NETWORK

Provincial Libraries (18 municipal libraries excl. Åland)

LIBRARIES OF UNIVERSITIES

LIBRARIES OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

THE NATIONAL REPOSITORY LIBRARY (the state library in Kuopio)
The National Digital Library of Finland

The priorities of the project are:

• The creation of a joint public interface for the materials and services of libraries, archives and museums
• The digitisation of key materials of libraries, archives and museums, making them available through the public interface
• The development of a long-term preservation (LTP) solution for digital cultural heritage materials
• Competence development
Library 10 in a nutshell

• Opened April 1, 2005
• Open 78 h/wk
• Customers 2 000/day
• Collection 63 000
• Recorded works 47 000
• Workstations 40
• Public space 800 m²

A Combination of Music and Information Technology
Urban Office in Meetingpoint open for all

Modern equipment, free work and business negotiation place

Skype calls, scanners, headsets, printing, WLAN-N wireless, web cams for loan, chargers
Meetingpoint in a nutshell

• Guidance for electronic services and communication
• Co-operative with public and private sectors
• Urban Office
• Laptop services for seniors
Helsinki City Library Vision 2005 -

The boundless library –

a source of

enlightenment

and

inspiration

throughout your life.
The Access To Learning Award 2000

“Libraries are the intellectual infrastructure of a country. They are as important as a city’s physical infrastructure and deserve as much investment as our roads and bridges. We applaud Helsinki City Library for its commitment and investment, and see it as a model for other countries seeking to make libraries and public access to digital information a priority.”

Patty Stonesifer, Co-chair and President of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Paradigm shift
The New Central Library in Helsinki - Facts

A hub of knowledge, skills and stories

- 5,000 visitors a day
- 1.5 million visitors a year
- Extensive selection of items to borrow
- Events and guidance
- 10,000 m² of the library of the future
- Open public space, free for all
- Open 24/7 – part of it
- Every day something new
- Construction cost about 69,9 million Euros
The Central Library – developing the city center for citizens and for those who visit Helsinki
The New Central Library, 10 000 m²

Orientation, 490 m²
Service point for circulation, 440 m²
Events, 1740 m²
Meeting, 1050 m²
Learning, 2100 m²
Doing, 2200 m²
Staff, 1360 m²
Maintenance, 620 m²
World of thrills, frills and adventure

Lobby, lounge, creative office, oasis, silent areas, exhibitions spaces, Suomi-experience, studysauna, studios, auditorium, cinema, wintergarden, meeting rooms, free speaker’s corner, brainstorm, play room, family space, space for young people, restaurants, cafés, shops, market, gallery...
Central Library project

Showing the way from classics to the digital universe
New information search, participation and knowledge creation practices
Development of new information aggregation business models
Management process, outsourcing to be designed
Incubating the knowledge creating information society
New funding models: public-private partnerships
Multiscientific and multicultural laboratory of change
Open learning living lab in the center of the metropolitan area
Drivers of library development

Creating values

- Thinking and problem-solving skills
- Working skills
- Skills to master working tools
- Skills of active citizenship

Library as a passive subject:
Separate libraries as data resources

IT and telecommunication

Prevention of social exclusion
Democratic agent
Development of social capital

Interaction and collaboration

Digital media and the internet

Exploratory learning and interactive communication as drivers of development

Value-adding communities Web 2.0 methods of participatory economy

Development of the value network and ecosystem of libraries

Interactive IT

Building and strengthening the structures, processes and networks of the information society:

Library as an active agent:
Citizens as active and informed agents and as intelligent communities

Interpretative learning and interactive communication as drivers of development

Thinking and problem-solving skills
Working skills
Skills to master working tools
Skills of active citizenship


Copyright Helsinki City Library
The strength of the library

Customer is the “doer”
Service is based on the customer’s needs
Creative milieu for everyone
Every “performance” is unique and individual
Personal guidance face to face
"Fantasy is more important than knowledge".

"Logic will take you from A to B but imagination takes you anywhere”.

Albert Einstein, 1879-1955
Central Library 2017

www.keskustakirjasto.fi