Public libraries must provide equal services to residents everywhere in Finland. To help libraries develop, Finnish legislation provides for the national and regional development of these activities.

Nine Finnish public libraries are tasked with the regional development responsibility. National Development Services (Helsinki City Library) promote and support cooperation between libraries and produce and develop online services for the use of public libraries throughout Finland.

They oversee joint activities and developing the skills of library personnel within their region in four languages: Finnish, Swedish, English and Sami.

All public libraries in Finland are reaping the benefits of regional development through workshops, webinars and seminars, virtual coffee breaks and library visits, projects, podcasts, conferences, borrowable media appliances, workplace exchange and study trips, cycling for libraries, mentoring for smaller libraries, on-the-job training and so on. Staff in public libraries also has access to a nationwide online learning platform, called Liboppi www.liboppi.fi.

Regional development creates possibilities for library networking in Finland and with foreign libraries.

Cooperation is occurring on many levels and with numerous organizations. Finnish regional development libraries are constantly striving to better meet the rapidly changing and diversifying demands of modern library work.