



DIGITISING AND GIVING ACCESS TO NEWSPAPERS IN SWEDISH AND FINNISH VIA COLLABORATION INITIATIVES AND LICENSING AGREEMENTS

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Project funders:



The National Library of Finland

- The National Library of Finland is a cultural heritage organisation that is open to all and provides nationwide services to citizens, scientific communities and other societal operators.
- We secure the availability of cultural heritage published in Finland or relating to Finland as well as transmit and produce information content for research, studies, citizens and the society.
- We develop services in cooperation with libraries, archives, museums and other operators.
- The NLF was founded in 1640



Picture: Marko Oja, NLF

Several actors were involved in the planning, preparation and implementation of the project

The project was funded by 8 Swedish-speaking foundations

Brita Maria Renlunds stiftelse Svenska Kulturfonden
Föreningen Konstsamfundet Svenska litteratursällskapet
Stiftelsen Tre Smeder Harry Schaumans Stiftelse
Svenska folkskolans vänner Stiftelsen för Åbo Akademi

The National Library of Finland

Implementation of the project.
Digitisation and making the material available according to licensing agreements made.
Finance,
Communication and reporting

Publishers of Swedish-language newspapers

If they wish, they can submit press materials to the National Library of Finland electronically for the period 2006-2016

The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland

Brings together funders and archives for whose use the materials will be made available

Copyright organisation Kopiosto

Licensing agreements:

Open public access until the end of 1949, limited customer and research use in archives until the end of 2018

Project objectives and implementation

The objectives of the project were clear

- All Swedish-language newspapers will be digitised throughout their history by 31.12.2023
- Digitised materials will be made available according to the agreements made

Project implementation

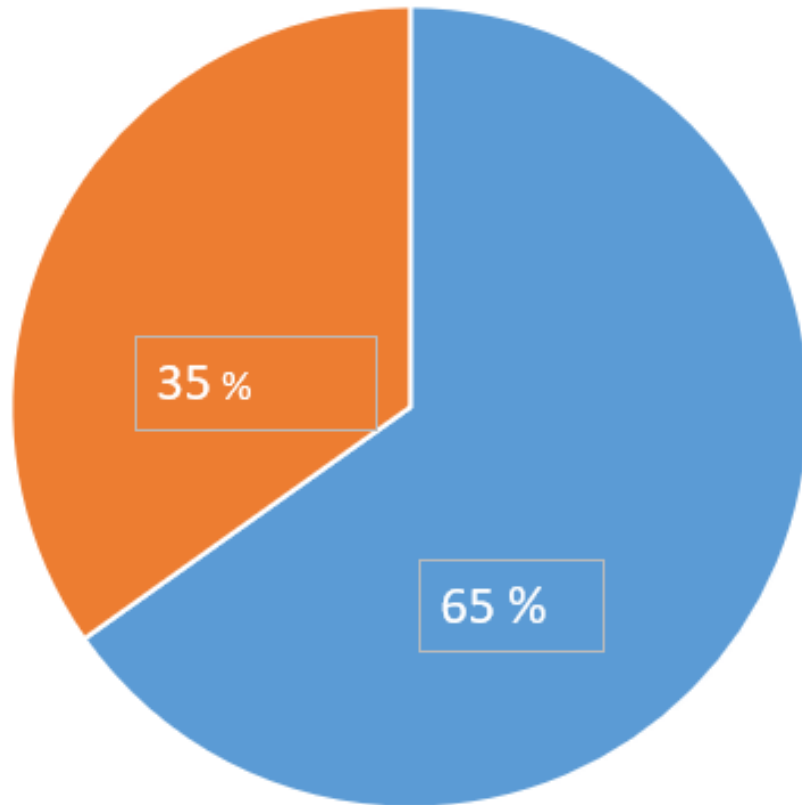
- New people were hired, more scanners, storage capacity bought
- 8-10 people worked full-time for the project
- Project team leaders + experts + communication, lawyer, controller etc. worked part-time
- Newspapers were digitised from microfilms until 1980, from original newspaper issues onwards

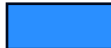



Picture: Hanna Arpiainen, NLF

Project results 1: Digitisation

All Swedish-language-newspapers published in Finland have been digitised
110 titles, 6 million pages. Project turned out to be a rescue-operation, too



-  Project funding was used to digitise 3.9 million pages 1940 –2016, 65 % of all pages
-  NLF funding was used to digitise 2.1 million pages before 1940 and after 2016, 35 % of all pages

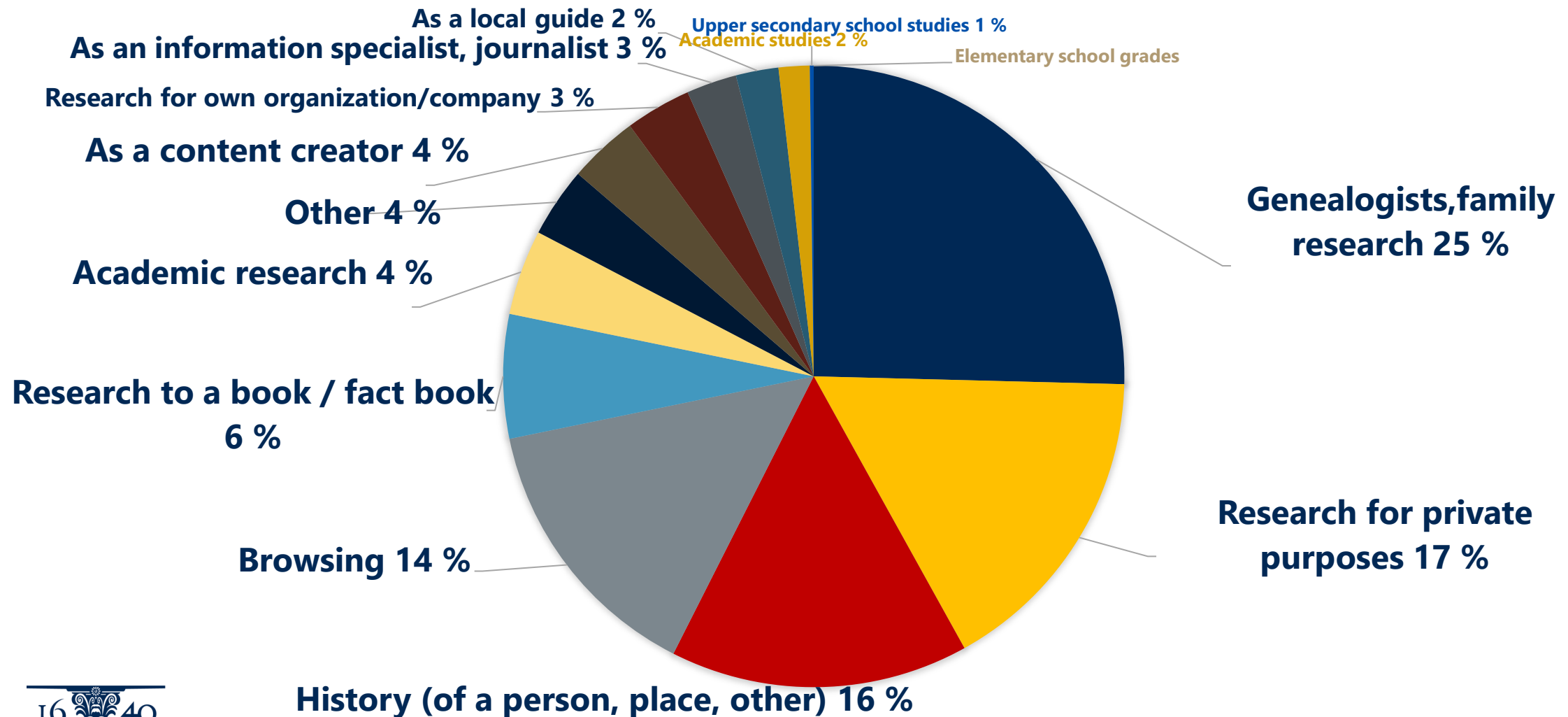
Project results 2:Deployment via <https://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi>

- Open online use for everyone all over the world: 1.8 million pages 1771-1949
- Local use in selected archives: 5.6 million pages 1771-2018
 - In selected archives in Finland, including the 90% Swedish-speaking Åland archipelago.
- Research use in selected Finnish universities: 5.8 million pages 1771-2021
- Use in Legal Deposit Libraries: more than 6 million pages from 1771 to present day
 - There are 6 legal deposit libraries in different parts of the Finland and additionally the Parliamentary Library and The National Audiovisual Institute Library in Finland.



Picture: Hanna Arpiainen, NLF

The most common use purposes of the digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi -service



Benefits of the project



- Project funding was used to digitise newspapers,
 - which would otherwise be digitised much later with NLF own funding
- A significant entity was digitised
 - all Swedish-language newspapers published in Finland throughout their history
- Digitised newspapers are widely opened for public and research use
- Employing several people for years, renewing scanners, acquiring storage capacity...
- Learning from problems solved, importance of active reporting and communication
- The use of newspapers in digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi -service is growing
- The NLF's good reputation and information as a digitising partner spreads

Some Challenges of the project

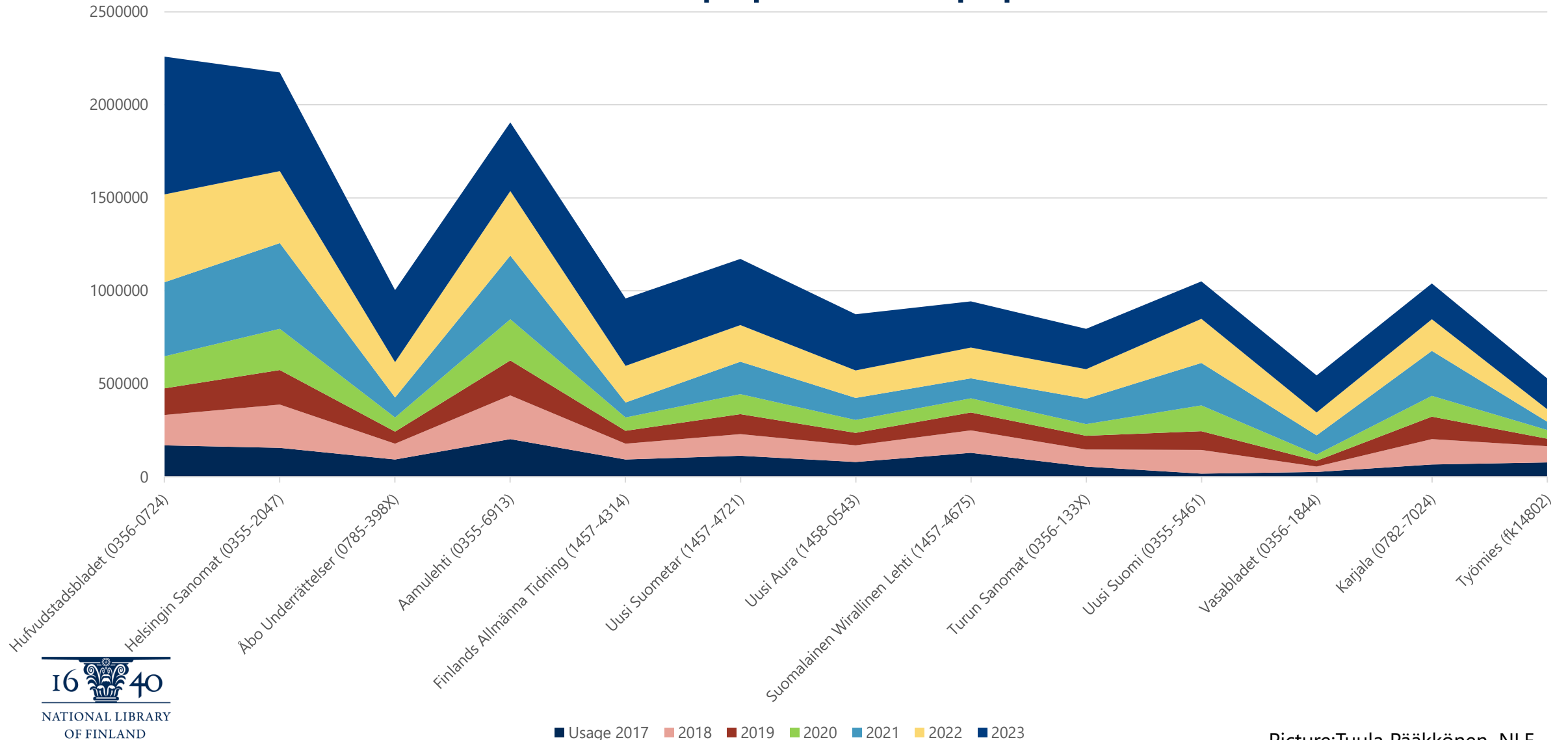


- Coronavirus delayed staff recruitment, deliveries of scanners and restricted work
- Publishers were unable to deliver high-quality electronic newspapers. Nearly a million pages were digitized from paper issues
- A lot of research work: e.g. newspapers with same title and searching for newspapers missing from collection
- The list of titles to be digitised grew from 40 to 110, to make the collection comprehensive

<u>Title</u>	<u>fk / ISSN</u>	<u>Published from</u>	<u>Published until</u>
Aftonposten	1458-0713	1895	1900
Aftonposten	fk10006	1944	1945
Annonsbladet för Kimito Bygden	0782-7105	1970	2015
Annonsbladet för Kimito, Dragsfjärd, Västanfjärd och Hitis	fk11010	1925	1970
Annonsbladet för Kimitoön	2343-5380	2016	<u>continues</u>
Arbetarbladet	0789-8274	1971	2009
Arbetarbladet	fk10000	1919	1948
Arbetarbladet-Svenska Demokraten	fk10001	1949	1958
Björneborgs Tidning	1457-4292	1930	1965
Borgåbladet	0358-6294	1860	2015
Dagens Tidning	2242-1009	2010	2011
Fiskarbladet	fk16621	1956	1970
Folktidningen	fk10057	1944	1947
Folktidningen Ny Tid	0357-1548	1958	1997
Folkviljan	fk10058	1936	1939
Hangö	1458-0764	1890	1940
Hangö	1458-0780	1941	1971
Hangöbon	1458-0772	1941	1941
Hangötidningen	0789-8193	1972	2020
Hufvudstadsbladet	0356-0724	1864	<u>continues</u>

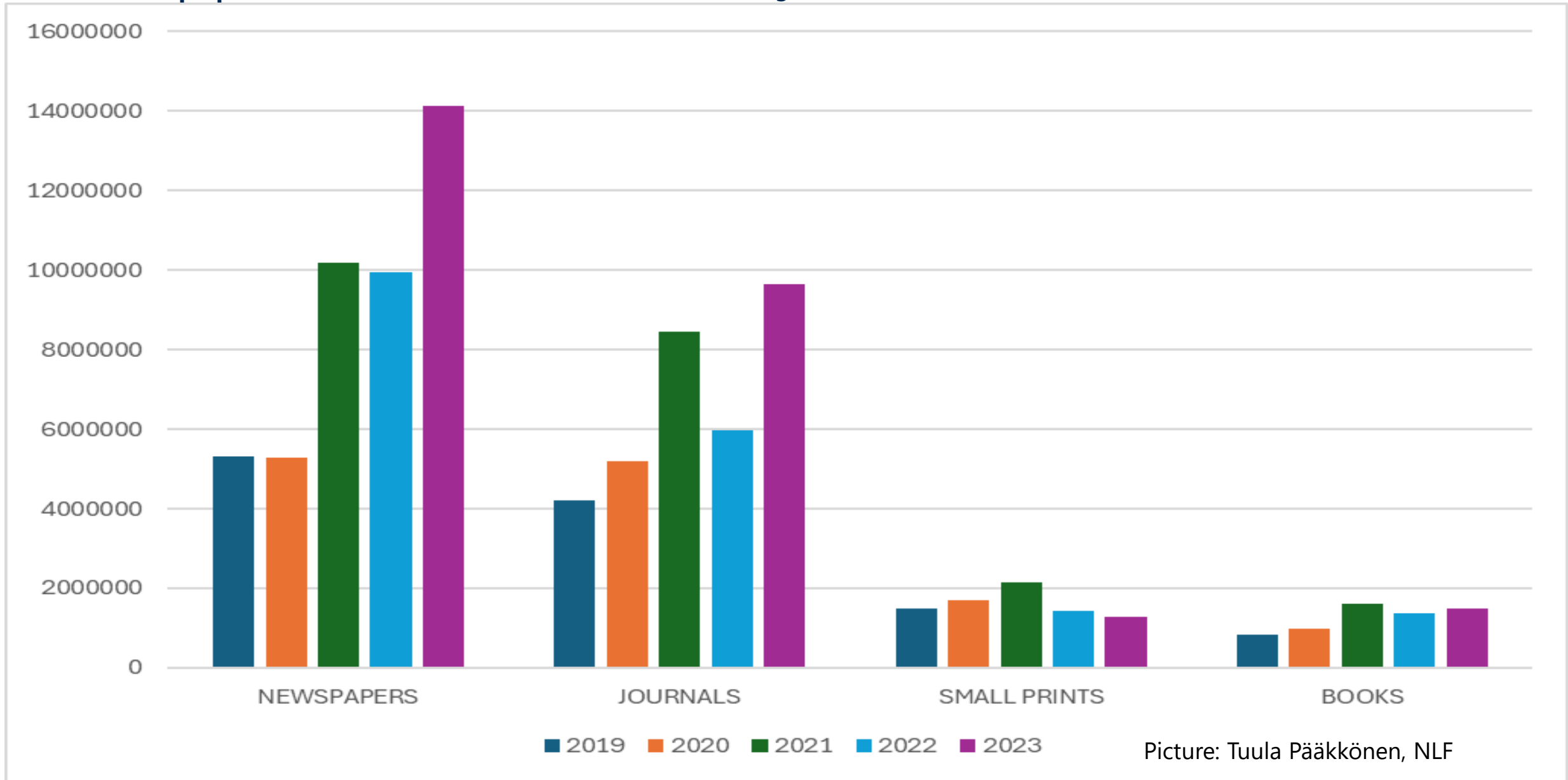
In 2023, as many as five Swedish-language titles were among the 20 most popular newspapers

Hufvudstadsbladet was the most popular newspaper in both 2022 and 2023



Materials used in the digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi -service

Newspapers, Journals, Small Prints, Books (Page use, Millions, no-bots)



Picture: Tuula Pääkkönen, NLF

Some other examples of co-operation with foundations, publishers and copyright organisation

- Online access to newspapers is opened via digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi
 - The biggest newspaper title in Finland "Helsingin Sanomat" and tabloid "Ilta-Sanomat" have been digitized until 1980. The papers are in online use in the foundation's own museum and archive.
 - The digitisation of Finnish Labour Newspapers and access to in-copyright papers is licensed locally in labour archives and financed by the foundation.
 - The whole history of national newspaper title Maaseudun Tulevaisuus (The Future of Rural Area) and the whole history of the regional newspapers Etelä-Suomen Sanomat and Länsi-Savo has also been digitized in partnership. Newspapers in the publisher's own editorial online use.
 - Newspapers from the Käkisalme region in the former Finnish Karelia: digitisation and open online access to the digitised newspapers until the 1960s has been funded by the Foundation.
- Some journals are open to access in legal deposit libraries
 - The Genealogical Society of Finland has been financing digitisation of 660 of their publications, family history books plus periodical Genos.
 - Hevosurheilu (Horse Racing Magazine) is one of the special magazines that have been digitized in partnership with the publisher throughout the magazine's whole history.

Communication was an important part of the project

- Regular communication with the steering group, funders and project participants was particularly important and focused on
- The seminar 31.8.2023 in Helsinki: Digitized Swedish newspapers in Finland - For use and enjoyment!
- Media releases on digitising and opening newspapers for use where published regularly
- Several articles, presentations and interviews about the project were published in several publications and media, including social media
- The project has its own website, where the final report will also be available in near future

Valtava projekti päätökseen: 3,9 miljoonaa sivua suomalaista historiaa digitaaliseen muotoon

Joakim Kullas 19.2.2024 15:35 | päivitetty 19.2.2024 15:35 MEDIA DIGITALOUS

Rahoitusta projektille oli saatu reilut 1,8 miljoonaa euroa. Aikaa kului kolme vuotta.



Kansalliskirjasto. Ruotsinkielisiä sanomalehtiä on saatavilla Kansalliskirjaston digipalvelussa nyt lähes kuusi miljoonaa sivua. -

Some thoughts on the future

- The NLF will continue to search for missing individual journals
- The digitisation of new published journals at the NLF continues
- Negotiations on the continuation and financing of the opening agreements will begin in 2025
- It is to be hoped that Finnish-language newspapers will also start supporting digitisation in greater scale



Acknowledgements

- The 8 funding foundations
- The copyright organisation Kopiosto
- The personnel who worked with enthusiasm and skill for the project sparing no effort to find ways to solve the questions that have arisen
- The libraries, archives, museums and publishers, who donated or lent us newspaper issues for digitalisation: Åbo Akademi University Library, Vaasa City Library, Vaasa Labour Museum, Närpes City Library, Vöyri Library, HSS Media /Syd-Österbottens arkivet, Östnyland Newspaper, KSF Media/Hufvudstadsbladets arkiv, Ålands landskapsarkiv.
- Steering group and project group

Digital Archiving Futures Conference 4th – 6th Sept 2024

- <https://memorycampus.fi/en/digital-archiving-futures/>
- Online and Mikkeli, Finland
- “Data Spaces, Artificial Intelligence, and Cluster Collaboration”, speakers from the GLAM sector and information management field from Finland and across Europe
- “Data Spaces”: perspectives on data space, shared data and also more specifically development activities in different networks related to this topic, for example Europeana and Time Machine.
- “Artificial Intelligence”: highlights future possibilities for the use of artificial intelligence in the archive, library and museum sector, as well as in the field of information management in general.
- “Collaboration”: the strong role of cooperations in creating the future, in terms of co-development and co-creation, ecosystem collaboration and interconnection with other actors to develop a common future and knowledge.



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