

Koha in Finnish University and Special Libraries

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National Library of Finland
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KANSALLISKIRJASTO

1. How We Selected Koha

Long history of shared library systems

- 1990s: VTLS for all "old" universities
- 2002: Voyager in all university libraries,
 - including universities of applied science and some bigger special libraries
- Around 2011: "Voyager is aged. Let's change!"

2012–2017: Quest for a New System

- 2012: Project, all libraries: university, public, special libraries.
- 2014: No clear path forward – different priorities.
- 2015–2016: Vendors were invited to pitch their products.
- 2017: Universities started a new project without others.
- 2018: No clear path forward – different priorities.
- 2018: Some universities decided to publish an invitation to tender.
 - (Result: Alma & Primo.)
- 2018: Others decided to go Open Source
 - and selected Koha.

2018–2019: When It Happened, It Was Quick

- February 2018: Discussion about Koha option begins.
- April 2018: First meeting of interested parties.
- October 2018: First new Koha Library goes live.
- October 2019. All 17 libraries in Koha.

Why Koha?

- **Affordable** – we *were* able to cut down costs.
 - Also had an effect on the costs of the commercial option!
- **Security** – we can be sure about the data security.
- **Openness** – important factor for some libraries.
- **Good experiences** – Finnish public libraries were happy.
- **Requirements** – we did not need bells and whistles.
- **Knowledge base** – Developers in the public libraries.

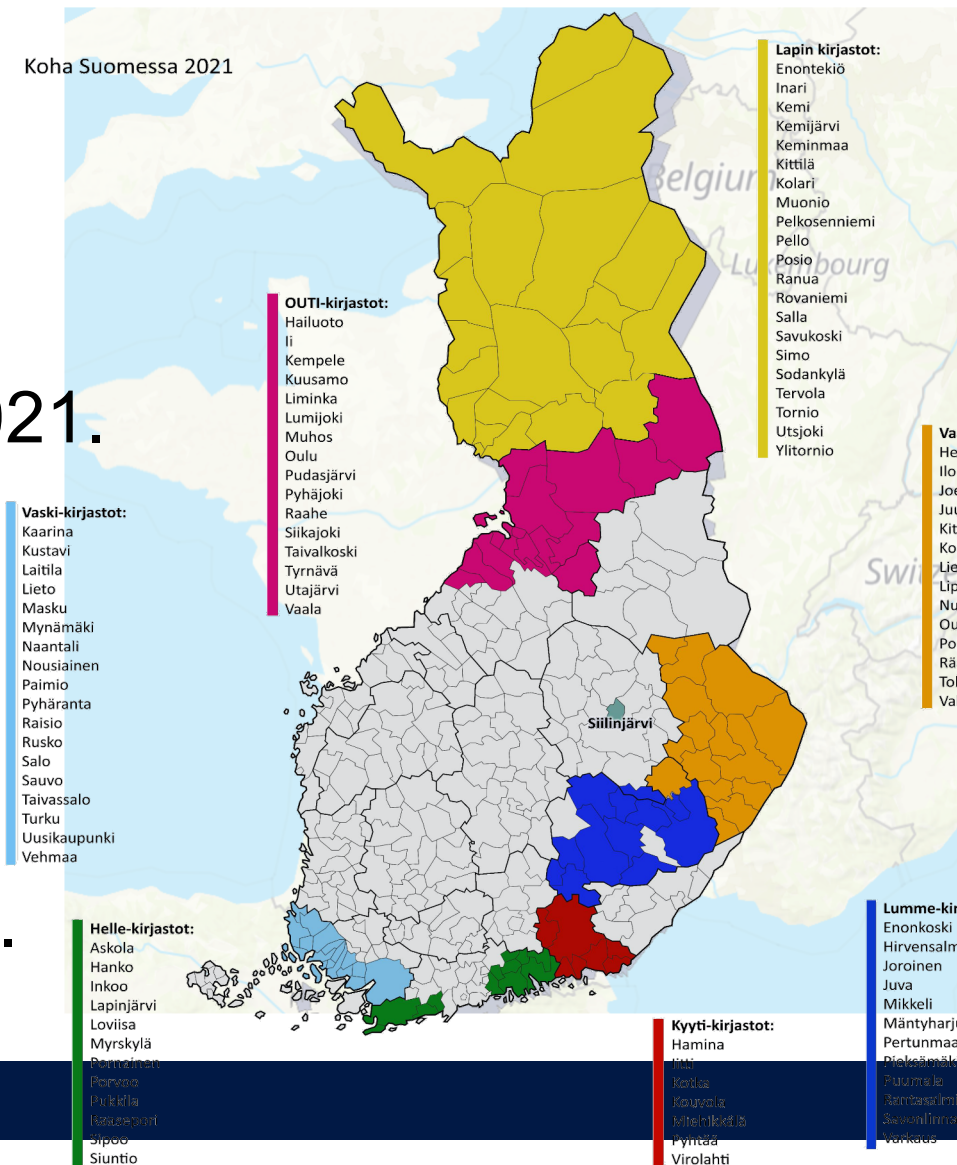
From a Local Fork to the Community Version

- 2018 we first adopted the existing Finnish fork of Koha.
 - Pros: customized for local practices.
 - Cons: burden of maintenance.
- 2020 we moved to the Community version.
 - Effort in the Community version where it benefits all.
 - Need to convince the community about your vision.
- Public libraries in the process of cleaning up their version, upgrade in summer 2022.

2. Koha in Finland Today

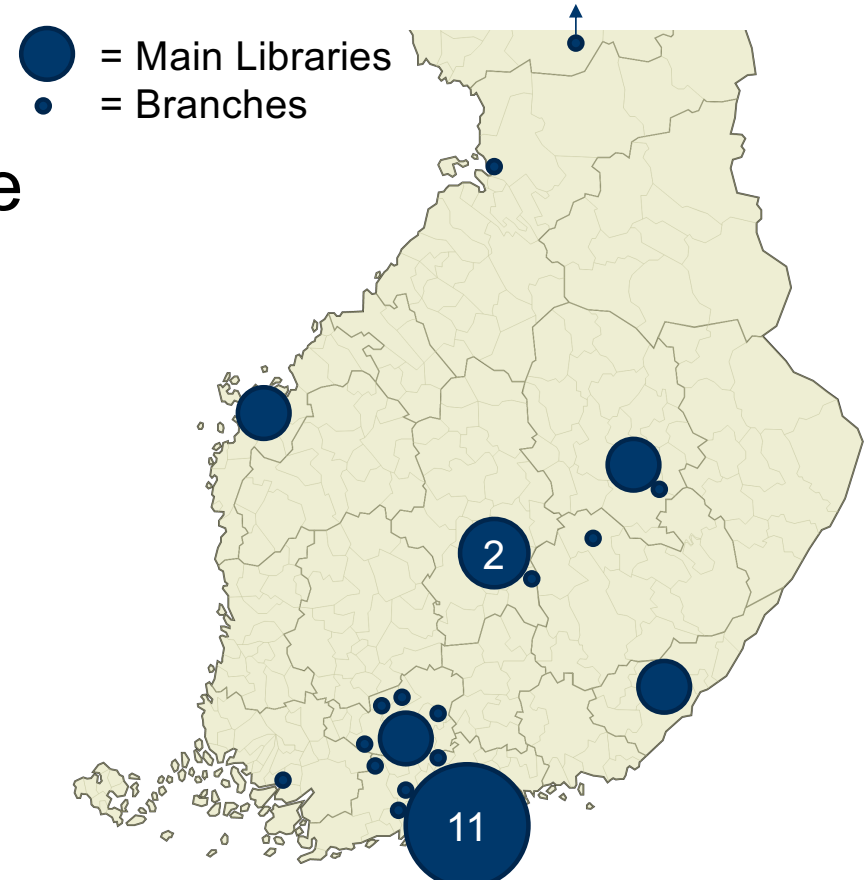
Many Finnish Public Libraries Use Koha

- First libraries in 2014, newest 2021.
- ~100 municipalities, out of 309
- 25 % of population
- 7 "circuits", 1 mpty on its own
- Koha-Suomi Ltd, owned by the municipalities, provides services.



Koha University and Special Libraries

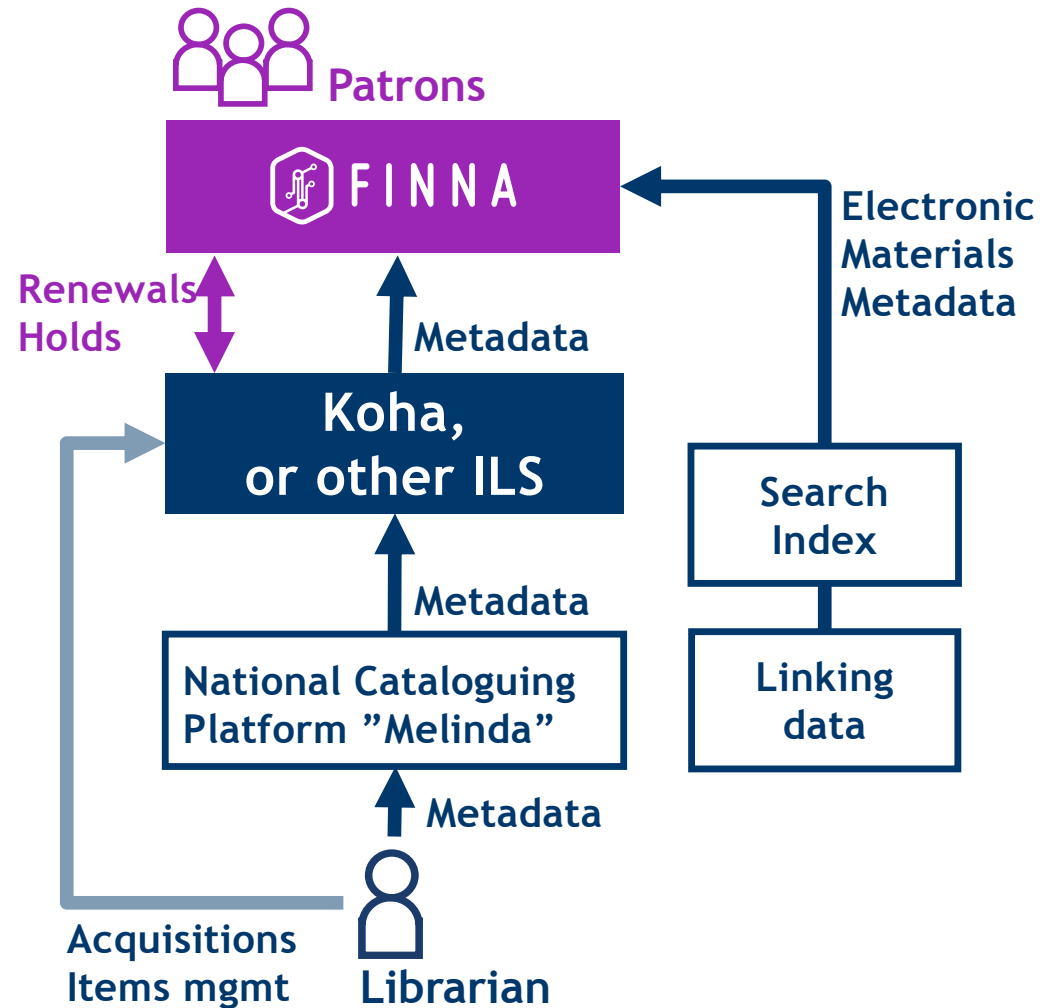
- 4 universities
- 9 universities of applied science
- National Library
- National Repository Library
- Statistics Finland
- National Archives



Koha is a Component


Koha Is a Component

- [Finna.fi](https://finna.fi) – National Discovery and Delivery Service.
- Koha ILS
- [Melinda](https://melinda.fi), the National Cataloguing Platform and Metadata Repository (based on Aleph)

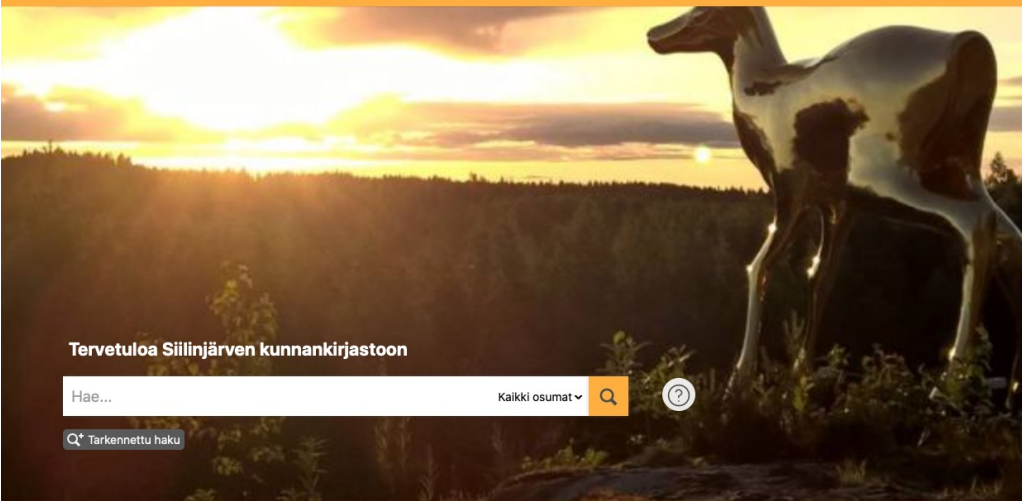


Finna is the Only Customer Interface

- <https://www.finna.fi/Content/about?lng=en-gb>
- Organization can build its own look-and-feel,
- and select what resources are shown in searches.
 - Own library catalogue, neighbour libraries, institutional repository, others
 - Scientific journals through a central index (at the moment, Primo Central)
 - All customer actions: holds, renewals, etc.
 - E.g. Abo Akademi University's own Finna: <https://abo.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb>
- In addition, “national” <https://www.finna.fi>
 - Gathers together resources that are easily accessible to all
 - public libraries' holdings
 - Open access online text, images, etc.



Hakuohjeita
Asiakkaan opas
Kokoelmat ja palvelut
eKirjasto
Vuorelan kirjasto
Kirjastoauto Pikku-Marja
Artsi
KIR.JAUD



Tervetuloa Siilinjärven kunnankirjastoon

Hae...
Kaikki osumat

Q* Tarkennettu haku

SELAA
Omat lainat
Celia-palvelu
E-kirjat
CD-äänikirjat
Viddia-elokuvat
Pelit


Ajankohtaista

- Ukrainankielisiä kirjoja, mistä niitä löytyisi?
- Tiedotusasioita
- Ohje alueen varaamiseen verkkokirjastossa
- Mahdollisia käyttökatkoja verkkokirjasto Siili-Finnassa
- Savonetin digiohjaukset senioreille jatkuvat pääkirjastolla ja Vuorelan nuorisotalolla
- Näin käytät sähköisiä kirjoja ja äänikirjoja – katso video
- Lasten musiikkikokoelma siirretty lasten- ja nuortenosastolle
- Käyttöäännöt 1.4.2021 alkaen

Aukioloajat

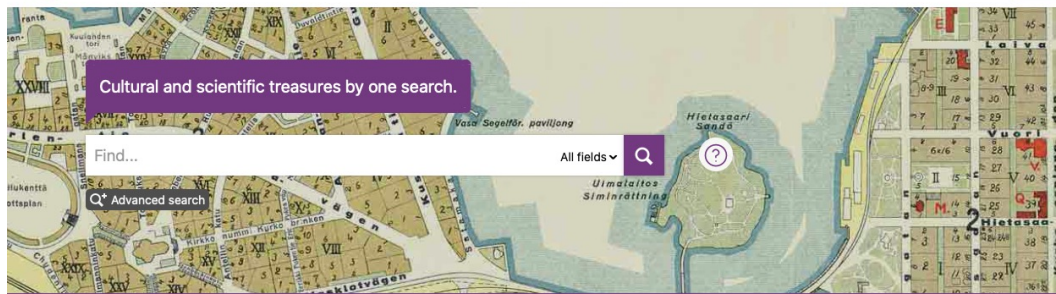
Siilinjärven pääkirjasto			Auki
Viikko 17			
25.4.	Ma Henkilökunta paikalla	9 - 19 10 - 19	
26.4.	Ti Henkilökunta paikalla	9 - 19 10 - 19	
27.4.	Ke Henkilökunta paikalla	9 - 19 10 - 19	
28.4.	To Henkilökunta paikalla	9 - 19 10 - 19	
29.4.	Pe Henkilökunta paikalla	9 - 19 10 - 19	
30.4.	La Vappuaatto Henkilökunta paikalla	9 - 15 10 - 15	
1.5.	Su Vapunpäivä	Kilnni	





SEARCH FUNCTIONS
ABOUT FINNA
HELP

FI
SV
LOG



Cultural and scientific treasures by one search.

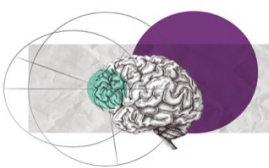
Find...
All fields
Q* Advanced search

BROWSE
Educational resources
Images
Literature
Physical objects
Videos
Works of art
Other collections

Finna.fi is everyday discoveries, opportunities for learning and sources of research.


A search service for finding fascinating material from archives, libraries, museums and other organisations. [Read more about Finna.fi](#)

Selected content



CONTENT
A shortcut to research-based knowledge


Explore



SEARCH
Finna Street

Search for historical photos based on your location.

Search images



SEARCH
Open Educational resources

Find teaching and learning materials on different subjects.

Find educational resources



KANSALLISKIRJASTO

Melinda is the source of Bibliographic Records

- Shared metadata repository: re-use others' records
- Cataloguing done either in Melinda, or in your own system
- Records replicated to local library systems
- Items (and holdings) created in local systems
- melinda.kansalliskirjasto.fi



3. Koha Organization

Our Koha Team

- Supervisor (with other responsibilities)
 - Chief Developer (Andrii Vashchuk)
 - 2 Developers (Petro Vashchuk and Slava Shishkin)
 - System Administrator for small libraries (Jussi Brunberg)
 - 1 person doing projects that rely on Koha (Ari Ahlquist)
 - Library support for IT, communications, etc.
-
- Libraries usually have a system librarian of their own, some buy extra services from the National Library

Koha Consortium of Uni and Special Libraries

National Library –
Koha Team

Server platform

CSC –
Platform Services

CSC Ltd = Centre for Scientific
Computing, non-profit owned
by the State and Universities. Csc.fi

Maintenance & Developmet

Library

Library

Library

Koha Consortium of Uni and Special Libraries

System Librarians 2/month **PN**

Specialist Group 1/month **PN**

Steering Group 1/month **CN**

QA Meeting 3/year **CN**

Directors' Meeting 2/year **CN**

P = visited by
public libraries

C = Visited by
CSC

N = Visited by the
National Library

Active Communication with System Librarians

- Bi-weekly meetings
- Slack for discussion
- Jira for tickets
- System Librarians' mutual support important
- Learning how to formulate your problem – learning the business logic
- Especially important: upgrade piloting. Libraries take turns in putting extra effort in testing.

Koha in a National Library

- Some challenges, mostly solved, with
 - Complexity: service desks & reading rooms & stack locations & different rules for different collections.
 - Component parts – Finns cannot do without them
 - Older literature, esp. bound volumes
 - Holdings records still a bit under construction
 - Reading room loans were a challenge, now solved
- Printed collections do and will matter for us.

4. Future of Koha

SWOT

Dec '21

STRENGTHS

Customizations
Participation
Trust
Costs

WEAKNESSES

Electronic materials
Layered Code Base
Hidden Use of Resources
Agility Needs Learning

POSSIBILITIES

Modular Architecture
User-Centered
International Community
Knowledge Sharing

THREATS

Electronic materials
Dependence on Community
Development Resources
If one leaves...

In the Focus Now

- **Electronic Resource Management**
 - Comparing Practices, Solutions
 - Also focus in the Community
- **Inter-Library Loans**
 - Customer self-service through Finna
 - Especially loans from the Repository Library
 - Standard support (ISO 18626)
- **Bibframe, Open Linked Data, Death of MARC**
 - Melinda makes the change first

Potential Future of Koha in Finland

- Public libraries:
 - Future growth is possible
- University and Special libraries:
 - Other solutions have strengths, too, but Koha is affordable and flexible.
 - Needed: a service model for small libraries: even cheaper but more bare-bones service.
 - ERM needs work.

Future of Global Koha

- Positive outlook
- Vibrant community
- Listening to suggestions
- Needed:
 - Vision and Direction
 - Participation of non-coders



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