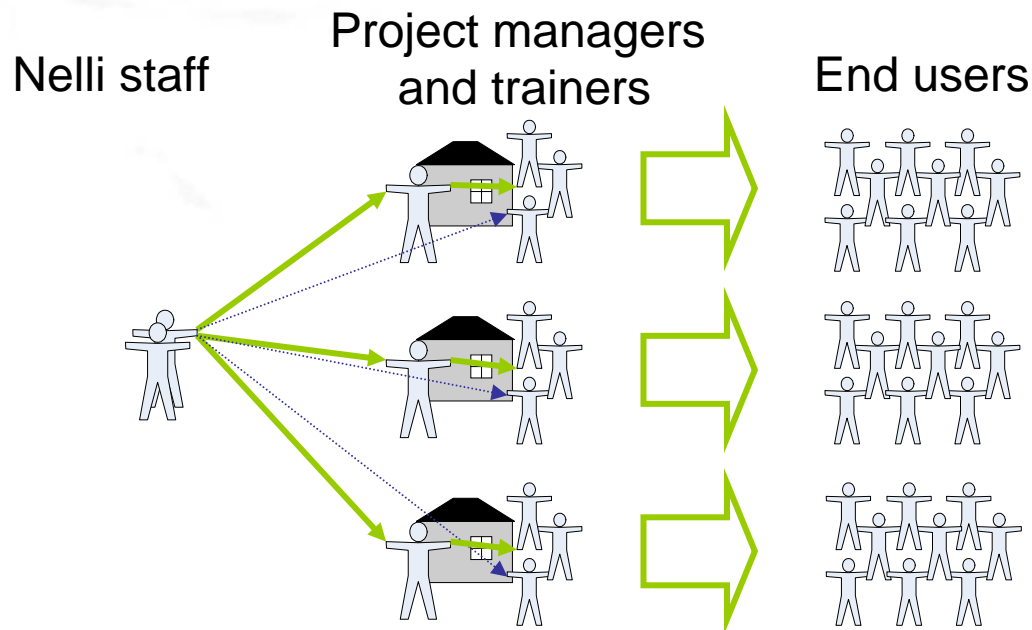# NELLI - INFORMATION RETRIEVAL PORTAL

NELLI

- Information retrieval portal
  National **EL**ectronic **L**ibrary **I**nterface
- One interface to all material
  - Licensed e-journals
  - Licensed citation indexes
  - Licensed E-books
  - Library databases and virtual collections
  - Free web-sources
  - Digital collections, Open Access material

NELLI CONSORTIUM

- Nelli the Nationwide portal
- All universities 20
- All polytechnics 29
- All public libraries
  - 20 regional libraries
    - More than 400 Municipal libraries
- License to special and research libraries
- Funding from Ministry of Education

NELLI ORGANIZATION

- Nelli staff: (6 persons handling development, technical support, licensing, training, management)
- Local project managers and trainers (over 70)

Nelli staff

Project managers and trainers

End users

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK

FinElib

- Software maintenance and updates
- Development of web services with local libraries
- Technical support
- International collaboration
- Communication with system providers
- Start-up training

Local libraries

- Local maintenance
- Understanding the end user and communicating the needs to Nelli staff.
- Developing the user interface to fit local needs
- Choosing the material to be offered through portal
- End user training and communication

Challenge to make services end user friendly:

1. Pilot partnerships
   User questionnaire
2. Direct communication
   FinSMUG, support, polls..

Nelli staff   Local libraries   End users

NELLI APPLICATIONS

- **Metalib portal software (ExLibris)**
  - Meta searching: Simultaneous searching of many sources (max. 20)
    - Uses standard gateways (z39.5 / SRU) or externals.
  - Each resource needs its own configuration
    - by Exlibris, Nelli team or local libraries.
    - Polls to prioritize needed configurations
    - Need of standard search gateways are emphasized during licensing negotiations
    - Local libraries choose the resources for their customers, end users
  - Default user interfaces are tailored by local libraries
    - Each institution has its own appearance
    - One address: http://www.nelliportaali.fi
      Visitors IP-address tells which Portal instance will be displayed
  - Each institution can localize their portal to work in many languages.

- **Metalib basic functions**
  - **Quick Search**
    - **Predefined resource sets**
  - **Meta Search**
    - **User selects resources categorized by librarians**
  - **Find Database**
    - **Search Resources**
  - **Find e-Journal (from SFX)**
  - **My Space**
    - **eShelf (Saved records), My Databases (Saved information resources), My e-Journals (Saved e-Journals), History (Saved searches and alerts)**

- **SFX OpenURL resolver (Exlibris)**
  - Works with Metalib
    - e-Journal list in Metalib is activated full-text object-portfolios in SFX-targets (Target is for example one EBSCO e-journal package)
    - OpenURL-linking
      - Metalib citation information is sent to SFX and checked if it matches objects in SFX knowledge base
    - SFX-knowledge base is one of the main services in SFX-product

USER AUTHENTICATION

- Users are either guests or members of an institution (IN)
  - You are considered to be IN if you come from a certain predefined IP-range or if you sign in.
  - External authentication
    - When users want to sign in Nelli, they are transported to the user authentication system of that institution of which portal they are using
    - Metalib can communicate with many user authentication systems
    - HAKA, the identity federation of the Finnish universities, polytechnics and research institutions, is based on Shibboleth technology
    - Shibboleth authentication middleware (uses institutions own authentication system) is open source and based on open standards

Remote use of licensed resources

- Licensed resources are usually accessible through pre defined IP-addresses
  - One has to sign in to a remote proxy server
    - Proxy is provided by local library institutions.
    - Nelli-team recommends EZproxy by Useful Utilities (Easy, inexpensive and widely used)
    - When user has authenticated to Metalib the use of remote proxy can be basically invisible.
- Username and password authentication to licensed material is also possible