



# Three angles of the Digital Library System

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# Outline

- Role of the NLF (National Library of Finland)
- Technical Services provided by the NLF
- Future plans & Challenges
- Questions / discussion

# National Library of Finland as a Service Centre

- "The NLF shall provide national-level services to libraries, and facilitate national and international cooperation in the library sector." - *Universities Act*
- NLF provides services for
  - university libraries
  - polytechnic (universities of applied science) libraries
  - public libraries
  - special libraries (in research institutes, administration, parliament, etc.)

# Library Network Services

- Infrastructure services
  - Centrally managed software
  - Centralized hardware infrastructure
- Database services
  - Union catalogues, article reference database, etc.
- Standards and interoperability
  - formats, standards, best practices, etc.
- Licencing services (FinELib)
- National and international cooperation

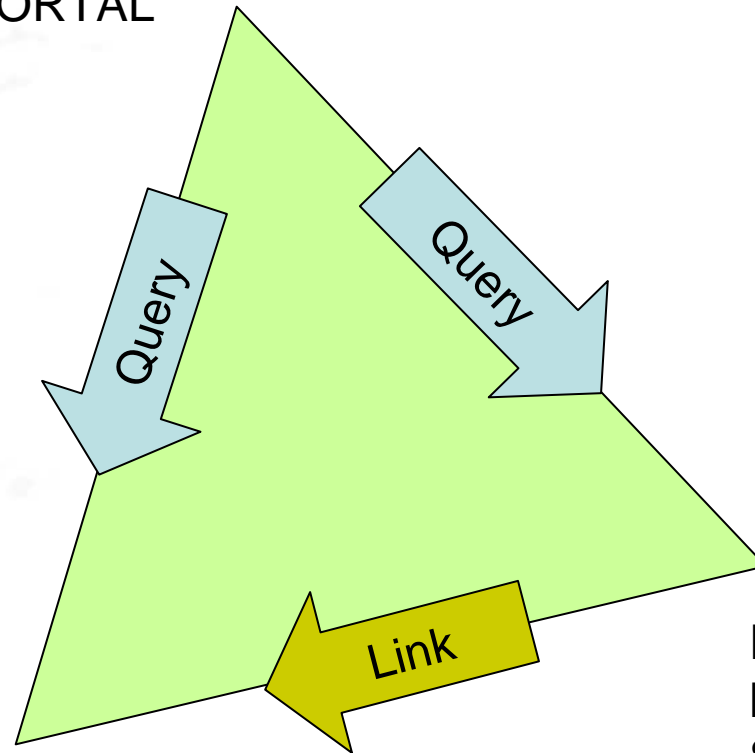
# The Distribution of Responsibilities

- NLF provides tools.
- Libraries use the tools to manage contents and services.
- End-users are customers of a library.
- Libraries are customers of the NLF.
- Part of the services funded by Ministry of Education
- Part is funded by the participating libraries

# Infrastructure that the NLF Provides

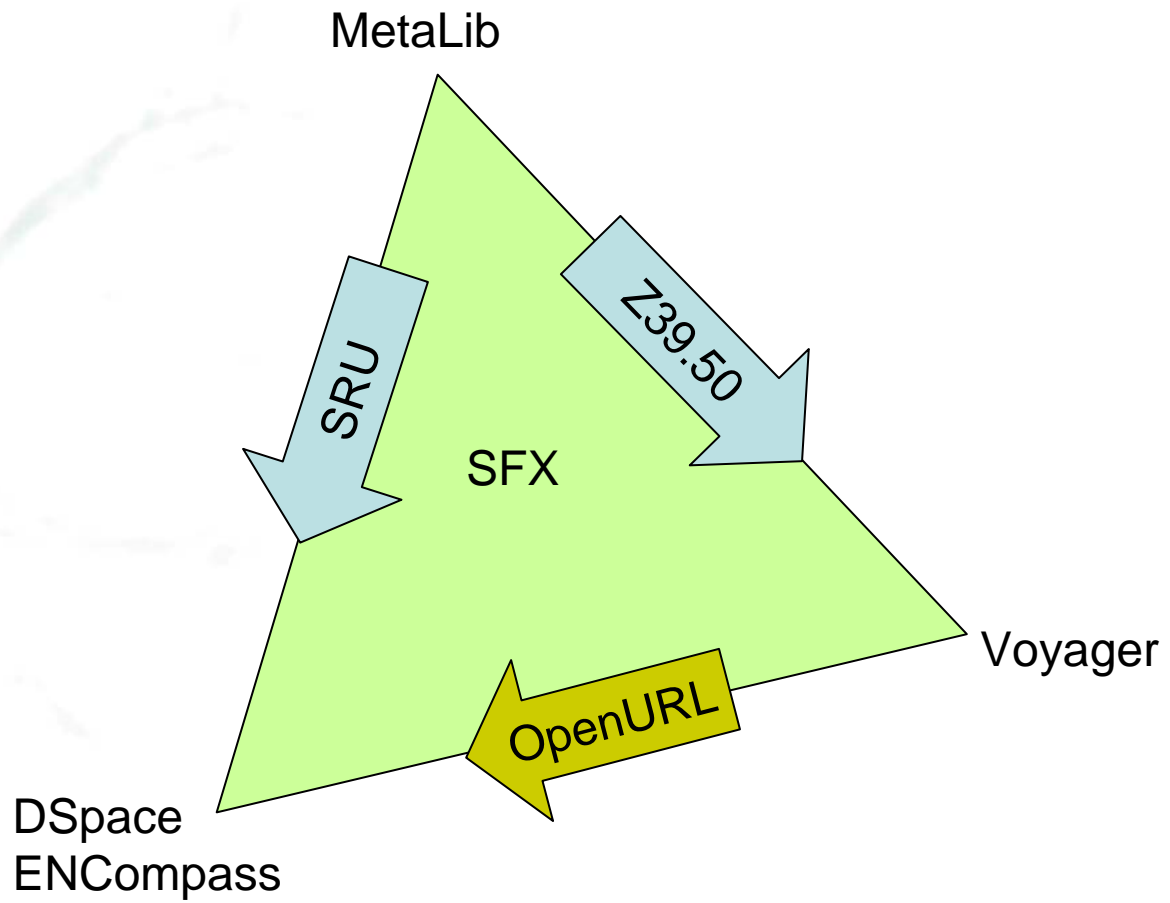
- Information Retrieval Portal (Nelli)
  - Public, university & polytechnic libraries
- Integrated Library System
  - University & polytechnic libraries
  - Union Catalogues, national bibliographies
  - A few special libraries
- Digital Object management System
  - A number of university & polytechnic libraries

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL  
PORTAL



INTEGRATED  
LIBRARY  
SYSTEM

DIGITAL OBJECTS  
MANAGEMENT





# Interoperability is critical

- Smooth flow of data between the systems
  - Metadata standards, query standards
- Smooth movement of end-users between the systems
  - Single sign-on
  - Linking
- "Technical Standards in the Information Environment of Finnish Libraries" – requirements and recommendations.

# Not a Closed System

- Web 2.0 → Library 2.0
- Library must go to the patrons
  - and not wait the patrons to come to the library
- Quality information in all contexts
  - University portal, learning environments, internet search engines, social spaces
  - More need for interoperability & cooperation
- Interaction
  - Patrons need help in different situations
  - Patrons can help libraries
  - Personal services, customization

# Future Challenges

- Local indexing
  - collect metadata to one place to be searched (instead of searching remote databases)
  - Better control over metadata, better search results, better customized services
- Research data
  - Libraries' role?
  - What is a document? What is a publication?
- Research and learning environments

# Nothing New Under the Sun

- Books are for use.
- Every person his or her book.
- Every book its reader.
- Save the time of the reader.
- The library is a growing organism.

(S. R. Ranganathan, 1931)