



The Joint Higher Education Library of
Lahti:
Confluencing for Academic Knowledge

Supporting the Study Paths from Upper
Secondary School to University

IFLA
2014
LYON

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Pre-academic Information Skills

= the upper secondary school students' (aged 15-18) inquisitive and scientific attitude towards life that is needed later in university studies (Holmström & Karevaara, 2014)

“Digital natives”

= a person born during or after the general introduction of digital technologies who, through interacting with digital technology from an early age, has a greater understanding of its concepts (Wikipedia, 2014)



Digital Native = Information Literate?

Upper secondary school students have problems in

- formulating adequate search queries
- understanding how search engines work
- analyzing search results
- regulating search activities

They also lack in the skills relevant to evaluating information. (Kiili, 2012)





[Image courtesy of Stuart Miles/ FreeDigitalPhotos.net]

The Joint Higher Education Library of Lahti

Developed and maintained in collaboration with

- Lahti University of Applied Sciences (LUAS)
- Salpaus Further Education
- Lahti University Campus with units of three different universities: Helsinki University, Aalto University and Lappeenranta University of Technology

Learning Center Fellmannia

- for learners of different ages and levels of education from upper secondary level onwards



Advantages of a Joint Library



- information and library services as an integral and natural part of the whole educational continuum
- higher education library services available to students from upper secondary and vocational levels onwards



- IL teaching, training and guidance to all students and staff
- library staff with extensive experience & expertise

Offering Access and Supporting Knowledge Creation

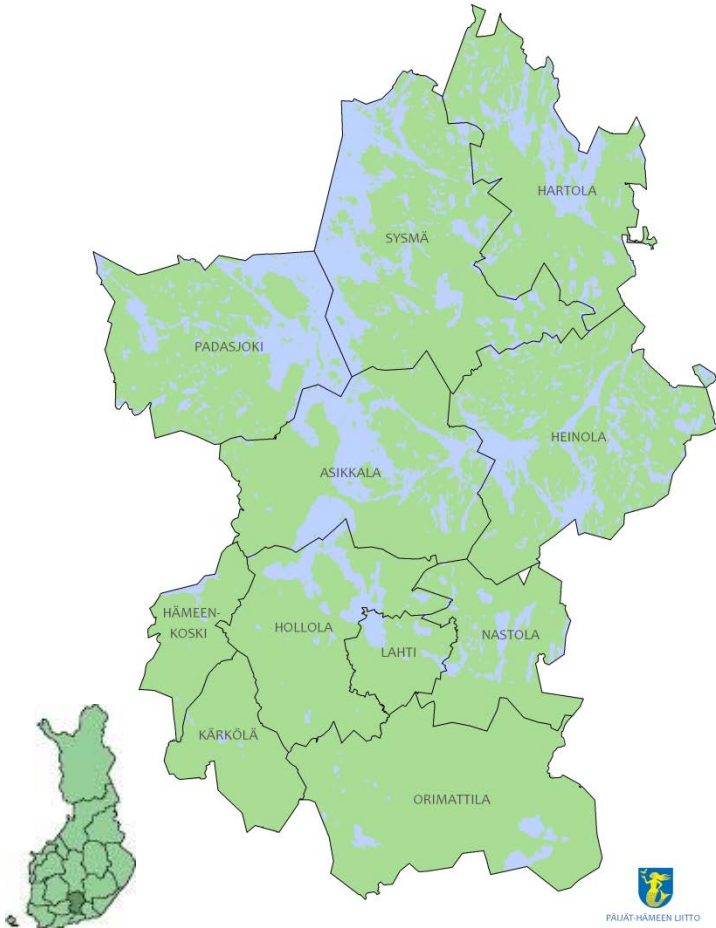
- local access to the licensed digital resources of three universities: LUAS, University of Helsinki and Aalto University
- services focus on teaching and guiding IL, source criticism and using the digital collections
- Information Skills Clinics
- Information Specialists as coaches



Access and IL in Remote Areas?

Offering access both to information resources and guidance in their use is a critical part in supporting knowledge creation and the development of both pre-academic and academic information literacy skills.

But how could upper secondary school students, who are living and studying in the more remote areas of the Päijät-Häme region, benefit from the services of a joint library?



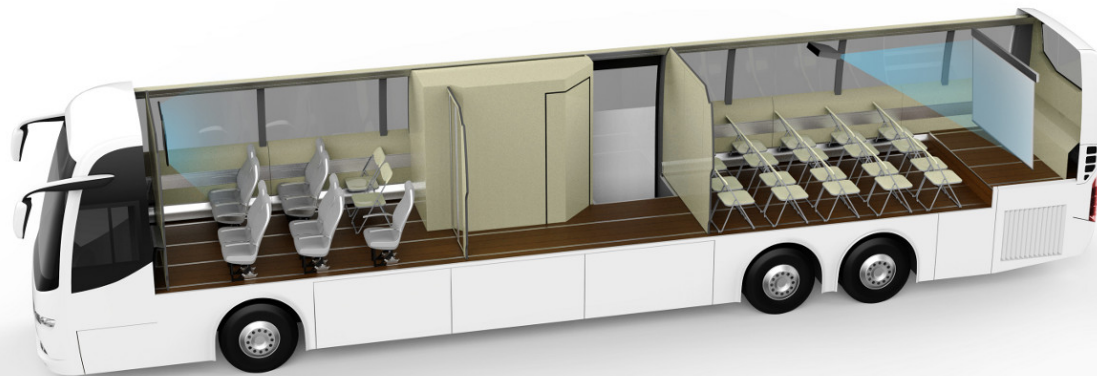
LINKKU= a Multipurpose, Mobile Service Unit

- in cooperation with LUAS, Salpaus Further Education, Learning Centre Fellmannia and several of the region's social and health care service providers
- easily modified to adjust to the needs of several different services
- piloting starts in Päijät-Häme in Autumn 2014



Putting the Joint Library on Wheels

- a new kind of mobile learning environment
- availability of the LUAS licenced digital collections and expert services of the Joint Higher Education Library to students and other learners in the whole Päijät-Häme region
- creating an equal opportunity for learning IL skills regardless of location



New Environment = New Ways of Teaching



- a futuristic and mobile Information Skills Clinic
- in collaboration with Kannas Upper Secondary School's IB-programme
- participatory design together with students
- games available online and in Linkku

Serious IL Gaming

Role Play

- students interacting with Information Specialist in a chosen role (a researcher, a chemist, a historian,...)
- trying out different strategies for searching and evaluating information
- an opportunity to use their imagination and get a real working life experience in information searching
- feedback and assistance online by the Information Specialist



Serious IL Gaming

INTACT Information Battle

- students debating over a given topic
- student with most credible arguments wins, need to be based on scholarly articles
- how to find peer-reviewed, academic articles from different databases and use them in argumentation
- getting students acquainted with source criticism and other academic practices
- Information Specialist as game master



[Image courtesy of Ambro/ FreeDigitalPhotos.net]



Thank you!

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References

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Kiili, C., 2012. *Online Reading as an Individual and Social Practice*. Jyväskylä Studies in Education, Psychology and Social Research 441. <http://dissertations.jyu.fi/studeduc/9789513947958.pdf>

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