Virtual Lab at the National Library of Estonia

Peeter Tinitis, Oct 6, 2022

DH Estonia 2022
Libraries have large digital collections

Long time effort in digitization

- Focus on preservation
- Interfaces for reading

New frontiers in usage

- Collections as data
- Creative reuse
Example: Texts as data

RaRa newspapers & periodicals

~9.1 M articles
~4.7 M pages
~465 K issues
~2601 publications

(+20-30% in last 2 years)

https://data.digar.ee
Researcher needs

Texts  Metadata  Tools
Approaches to collections: Search engine

https://dea.digar.ee
Approaches to collections: Search engine
More complex queries?

https://dea.digar.ee
Interfaces & libraries

Delpher
Open Science movement

FAIR data

- Not just open, but findable+usable

Open Science Movement

- FAIR in science

Make analyses transparent, interoperable, reusable

(Heunis 2020)
Researcher needs

Texts

Metadata

Tools
GLAM Labs

GLAM Labs community
(galleries, libraries, archives, museums)

Creative uses of data.

Computational access to digital collections
Virtual Lab at RaRa

Working towards from data to use

- Access points
- Data enrichment
- Case studies

Learning from international examples:

Creative Europe: Open Digital Libraries (with Dutch Royal Library and Austrian National Library)
Steps on the way

- Making the lab (last 2 years)
  - Service design (2021)
    - Mapping the needs - interviews with representative users and stakeholders
    - Reflecting and designing the plans on the basis of this
  - Legal analysis (2022)
    - What can we do in which limits
  - Platform (2022)
    - Updated website that caters for this (data, tools, case studies)
- Migrating and making (2022 onwards)
  - Datasets and tools
Data available, data planned

Estonian National Bibliography (enriched publication metadata, people and organizations)

Digital archive text collection - metadata, fulltext access, ngrams (periodicals, books)

Thematic collections (e.g. images of postcards, parliamentary collections etc)

Goal: multiple formats where possible
Tools available, tools planned

Comfortable access to full texts and metadata (jupyter notebooks)
National Bibliography metadata explorer (point & click interface)
Ngram search on newspapers (like google ngrams)
APIs, SPARQL etc
Bibliographic metadata explorer (work in progress)

Explore aspects of the bibliographic data

- Here, enriched with geoinfo
- But also just explore the contents

Get a better understanding of

- Dataset (gaps and biases)
- Cultural history

https://peetertinits.github.io/reports/nlib/all_works_geo.html
Virtual lab

Data, tools, case studies

- Website due to release in 2022
- Finding creative uses
  - Mapping what’s being done
  - Encouraging use (scholarships, prizes)
- Getting the work done back into the system
  - Derived & enriched data
  - Algorithms and tools made
A call

If you want to help! If you see what you like or want to show how to do better.

Talk to me after or e-mail at data@nlib.ee.

We may have a job for you. :)

raRa
EESTI RAHVUS-RAAMATUKOGU
Thank you

From the team at the National Library of Estonia
& only possible through the work of generations of librarians