

Viclink Tour  
Great Public Libraries of the World  
28 September – 17 October 2008

## **Finland Photos**

Album by tour participant  
Debra Rosenfeldt  
Manager, Public Libraries  
State Library of Victoria

# The tour group

## **Nine from Victorian libraries:**

- Camille Cullinan - Swan Hill Library Service
- Beck Henshall - Frankston Library Service
- Chris Kelly - Brimbank Library Service
- Lynette Lewis - Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Chris Mackenzie (leader) - Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Alix Massina - State Library of Victoria
- John Murrell - West Gippsland Regional Library ...

- Debra Rosenfeldt - State Library of Victoria
- Karen Ward-Smith - Greater Dandenong Library Service

**Six others:**

- Mandy Gatliff - Frankston Council, Vic
- Sharan Harvey - Brisbane City Libraries, Qld
- Sharon Robertson - Brisbane City Libraries, Qld
- Jane Cowell - AEC Group, Qld
- Geoff Strempele - State Library of South Australia, SA
- Patricia Genat - Australian Library Supply, SA

## The itinerary – six countries and 20+ libraries in 20 days

### **Singapore:**

- National Library
- Library @ Esplanade
- Bishan Public Library

### **Finland:**

- Sello Public Library
- The Royal Library
- The Meeting Place
- Library 10

### **Sweden:**

- Comics Library
- Children's Library
- Youth Library
- International Library
- Kista Public Library
- Asplund Public Library
- Malmo Public Library ...

**Denmark:**

- The Black Diamond
- Vanlose Public Library
- The Smart City and its Libraries - Conference

**Hong Kong:**

- Ma On Shan Public Library
- City Hall Public Library
- Hong Kong Public Library

**The Netherlands:**

- Amsterdam Public Library
- DOK Library Concept Center – Delft

# **FINLAND**

**1-3 October 2008**

# Sello Library - Helsinki



Sello Library is one of the main libraries in the municipality of Espoo, which is the second largest municipality in Finland, with a population of 240,000. Espoo is located on the outskirts of the capital of Helsinki and is a growth corridor area. Within Espoo, Sello Library serves a catchment area of around 24,000 people. It is located adjacent to a major new shopping precinct, which is still in development, and occupies nearly 6,000 square metres over two floors. It was opened in 2005.



Part of the vast foyer of Sello Library containing a lounge area, display of library materials, a temporary exhibition (not shown) and a very big customer service area (although the overwhelming majority of loans are self-check by the library user).





One of Sello Library's 12 stations for customers to check-out their own library materials. These are in the foyer and dotted throughout the library. In the children's area of the library there is a special low level check-out station for little users. 70% of lent items are checked out by library users. 80% of check-ins (or returns) are also done by library users.



When library customers check-in their library materials, they are sorted for shelving and return to other branches by a machine.



Another view of Sello Library's massive foyer showing a temporary exhibition based on a favourite Scandinavian children's book. This exhibition is touring throughout Finland. When the library opens little children and their parents flood in to play in the exhibition. Sello Library receives about 825,000 visits per annum, and somewhere between 3,000 and 4,000 visits per day.





Children playing in Sello Library's temporary exhibition.



Another photo of Sello Library's temporary exhibition.



Sello Library's children's area, located at the front of the library, immediately adjacent to the foyer. Like many Scandinavian libraries, Sello Library has a special enclosed space in the children's area for storytime. Also like many libraries, this space is circular in shape.





There are art works dotted throughout Sello Library, as in many Scandinavian libraries.



Looking down on the huge audio visual area in Sello Library.

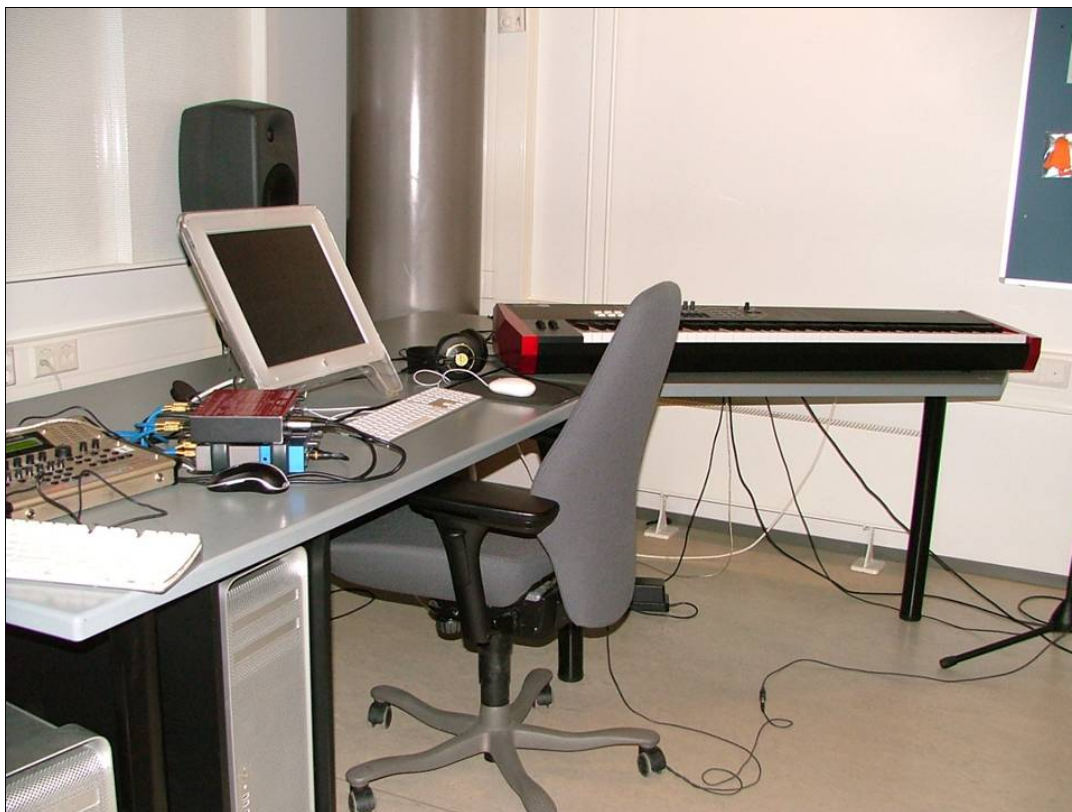




There are several reference/enquiry/information desks in Sello Library, including this one in the audio visual area. Library users can make a booking for a 45 minute consultation with a reference librarian.



The games room at Sello Library.



One of Sello Library's two studio/music rooms.



Sello Library's soundproofed music room containing a grand piano.





The enclosed quiet study area in Sello Library, with desks for 40 people.



The non-fiction collection area in Sello Library.



Mobile display shelving in Sello Library.





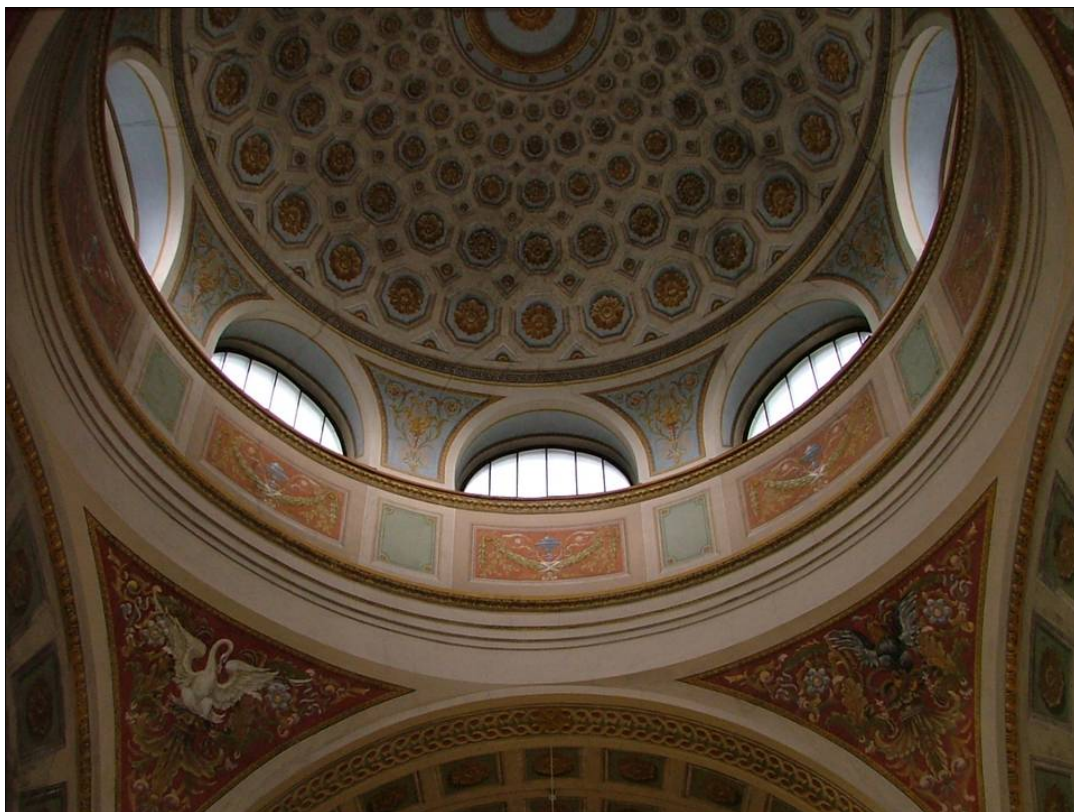
Items in the Young Adult Fiction collection at Sello Library – mostly English language authors translated into Finnish.



# The Royal Library - Helsinki



Finland's Royal Library (ie: National Library) is also a university library. The oldest part of the library, the Great Hall, was built in 1844.



The highly decorated dome in the Great Hall of Finland's Royal Library.



In 1903 Finland's Royal Library was extended. The Rotunda is built on six levels and features a beautiful glass domed roof.

# Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi – Helsinki

a library e-centre in the heart of the city; it's all about access, learning programs and getting help



Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi is a small branch (400sq m) of the Helsinki Library Service, located on the second floor of Lasipalatsi Film and Media Centre in the heart of the city, open Monday to Friday from 11am to 6pm and receiving about 300 visitors per day. There are no books in the library, as it is focussed entirely on e-services.





The entry area of Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi. Equipment available for customers includes laptops, multimedia workstations and many PCs dedicated to a variety of purposes such as general internet access, use by job seekers and for access to other services.



More workstations at the entrance to Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi. Services offered at the library include: technology training for other staff of Helsinki City Library; staff assistance to help customers use computers and other digital equipment (eg: digital cameras); courses and information sessions on how to use computers, the internet, etc; Laptop Doctor; lending of some technical gadgets; a volunteer program whereby seniors provide assistance to other seniors using the internet; a job centre.



Occasionally the area at the entrance to Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi is utilised for special events related to electronic services for the community.



Inside Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi. It's a long, narrow facility rather like a corridor.





A workstation for library users.



The 'classroom' in Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi.



Staff giving a lesson in the classroom of Meetingpoint@Lasipalatsi .



One of the computers reserved for job seekers.

## Library 10 – Helsinki

a music and technology library in the heart of the city; it's about listening, creating and performing



Entry to Helsinki's Library 10, a public library dedicated to music and technology. It's small (1,000sq m; 800sq m public space), but still handles a huge 600,000 visits per year.





Library 10 is located on the lower ground floor of Post Office 10 - the equivalent of an Australian GPO - in the heart of Helsinki. This slide is of the large Post Office building.



Information Gas Stations at the entrance to Library 10.



The staff of Library 10 are mostly male and mostly under 35 years of age – not your usual sort of public library staff. Their jobs are not ‘the usual’ either: Web 2.0-trainer; Media Assistant; Studio Engineer; Promoter; Sound Editor; Cameraman; Lighting Technician; Radio Journalist; Roadie. The staff reflect the user profile, which is also mostly male and mostly aged between 18 and 35 years – a demographic that public libraries usually do not attract in significant numbers.





Library 10 provides loads of music – in all formats.



The music formats available for loan from Library 10 include vinyl records (LPs), in great numbers .



Plenty of funky and fun furniture.





The mobile tables mean that customers can park themselves wherever they feel most comfortable to work. Nearly all of the furniture in Library 10 is on wheels for maximum flexibility.







The classical music section in Library 10 is decorated accordingly.



Customers can borrow an instrument.



There's a fully equipped studio in Library 10 for customers to record their own music.





Customers can make their own demo CDs for others to listen to.



A community radio station runs out of Library 10.



Even the main information desk is on wheels.



Staff sit beside customers when handling reference enquiries, so that the relationship is one of a discussion or dialogue around the topic, rather than the more impersonal traditional reference 'interview'.





The main circulation/customer service desk near the entrance of the Library 10 is also on wheels. The library is fully open at 10am from Monday to Friday, but there is a small section at the front of the library that opens at 8am so that early morning commuters can use the internet, return items, pick up reservations, etc.



The performance space at the rear of Library 10 – used every day.