

# Living and Flourishing with change

– development of Finnish libraries



18th of February 2020  
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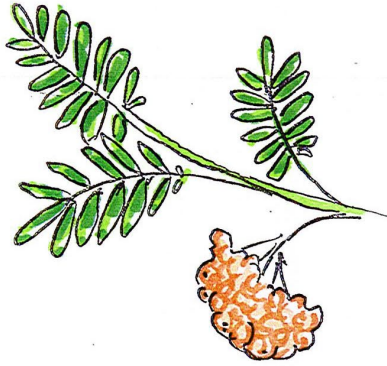
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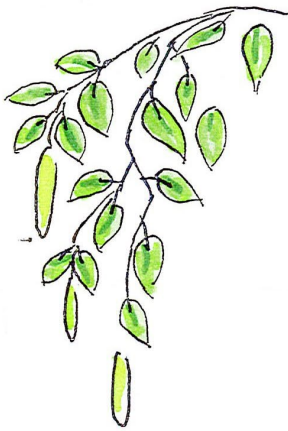


# Espoo – a green city





SIVISTYS



A Finnish word for something  
universal and unique at the same time





# SIVISTYS



Respecting Learning, Thinking, Knowing,  
Education, Culture, Compassion,  
Open-mindedness





*Sivistys* is in continuous growth and change

Public libraries and public education both actors for implementing the article of constitutional law about *sivistys*.



They both are institutions for *sivistys*.

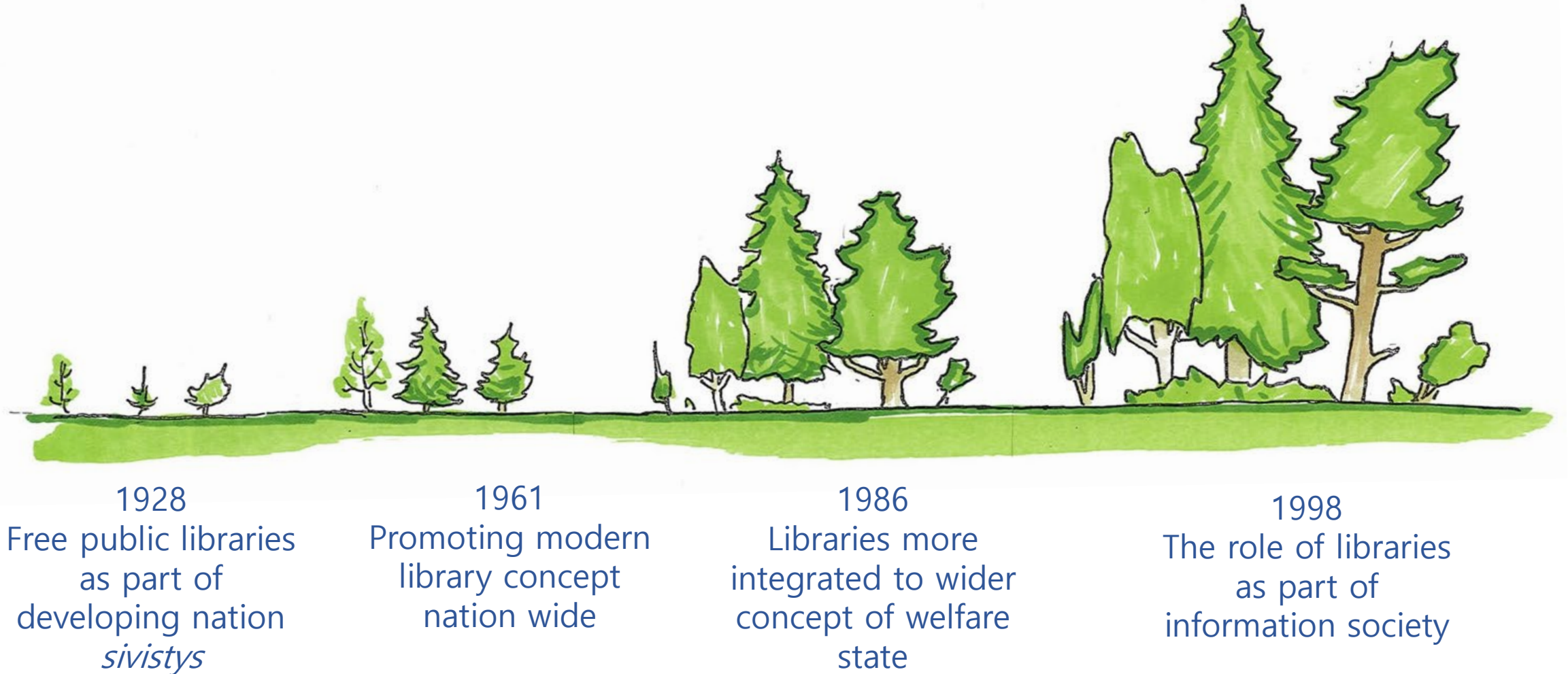


"Let all the flowers bloom."



The Library legislation is rooted in Nordic views on democracy, equality and freedom of speech.

# Development of public libraries is a part of Finlands development as a Nordic state





# Public Libraries Act, 2016

The objectives of this Act are to promote:

- 1) equal opportunities for everyone to access *sivistys* and culture;
- 2) availability and use of information;
- 3) reading culture and versatile literacy skills;
- 4) opportunities for lifelong learning and competence development;
- 5) active citizenship, democracy and freedom of expression.

The implementation of these objectives is based on sense of community, pluralism and cultural diversity.



Today, libraries are an important part of Finnish society.



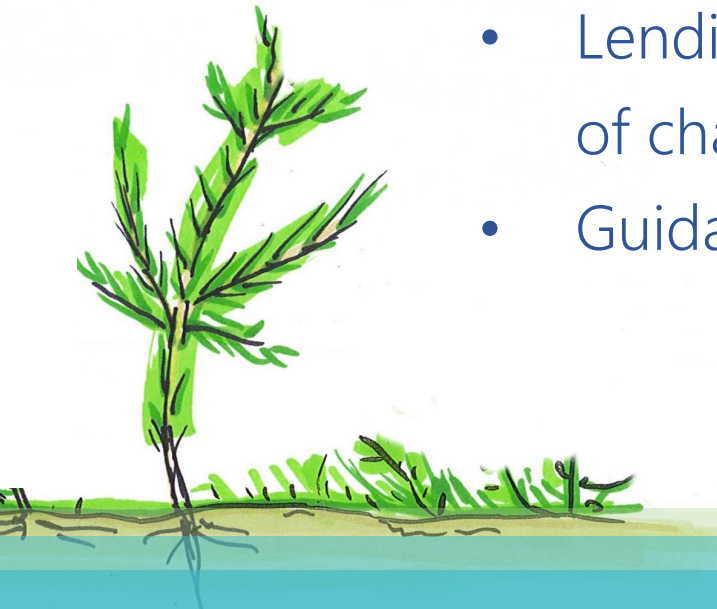
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Government of Finland publishing their  
programme at Helsinki central library Oodi.



# Public Libraries in Finland

- Every municipality has the duty to provide library services.
- Library card is free of charge for everyone, regardless of age or citizenship, only requirements are an ID and postal address in Finland.
- Lending books, music and other material is always free of charge.
- Guidance offered by staff is always free of charge.



# Libraries in Finland too are being redefined



Many libraries still focus on offering books and silent places to study.

But libraries have increasingly expanded their role and responsibilities. The new Library act gives a strong mandate for public libraries to be brave and try new things.



## New library legislation makes us flexible and looks far into the future



For example, we don't know the role of physical books in the future.

The Library Act does not mention books at all. Instead the law talks about access to diverse *collections, information, sivistys* and *culture*.

New library legislation makes us flexible and looks far into the future



The new employment criteria for librarians make it possible to have staff with diverse background, for example art teachers, engineers and musicians.

This builds adaptability to changes.



Today, we can be more than a storage of information.





We offer spaces for learning and doing, and facilitate and host activities that encourage curiosity and creativity.



Makerspaces are one way how we facilitate new ways of learning and offer everyone opportunities to try new things.





Our approach is learning without hierarchy. Customers learn from us, we learn from customers, and customers learn from each other.





We host an online community with 14 000 members taking part in a reading challenge. People discuss and give tips about books.

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook interface. On the left, a post from a user with a blacked-out name, dated 9 February at 20:59, discusses a recommendation for a fantasy book. The post has 6 likes and 68 comments. Below the post, two comments are visible, both from users with blacked-out names, discussing Finnish authors and books. On the right, the 'Helmet-kirjasto' group page is shown, featuring the group's logo, member count (11,808), a 'Send Message' button, and sections for inviting members, listing members, and a description of the group as a reading challenge.

**Post Content:**

Täällä taisi jossain välissä vilahtaa suositus jostain fantasiakirjasta vai oliko peräti kirjasarja. Nyt en kuitenkaan löydä sitä enää ja fantasiaan tekis mieli tarttua.  
Joten suosittelen omaa suosikkiasi!

6 likes, 68 comments

**Comments:**

Suomalaisista kirjailijoista kannattaa muistaa myös Pasi-Ilmari Jääskeläinen. Esikoisromaani on "Lumikko ja yhdeksän muuta", "Sielut kulkevat sateessa" on märkää kauhua ja "Harjukaupungin salakäytävät" taitaa olla ensimmäinen suomalainen romaani, josta on julkaistu kaksi erilaista loppua. Jääskeläinen kirjoittaa ns. maagista realismia, jossa arki silloin tällöin vinksahtaa.

Erika Vikin Kaksosauringot-trilogia ja Magdalena Hain Kolmas sisar. Tosin jälkimmäisen jatko-osia saa ilmeisesti odottaa. Ulkkareista jo mainittu Cassandra Claren Varjometsästäjät-sarja, Victoria Aveyardin Punainen kuningatar-sarja, ja Sarah J. Maasin ...

**Group Page: Helmet-kirjasto**

11,808 people like this

Send Message

INVITE MEMBERS

+ Enter name or email address...

MEMBERS 14,090 members

DESCRIPTION

Helmet-lukuhaaste on Helmet-kirjastojen leikkimielinen lukuhaaste... See more

GROUP TYPE

General

RECENT GROUP FILES

20200205\_093447.jpg Updated last Wednesday

See more

We actively seek changes in society that require us to react.



Refugee crisis of 2015 required us to react to people in dire need of information and learning in Finland.

Libraries serve to help everyone access information.

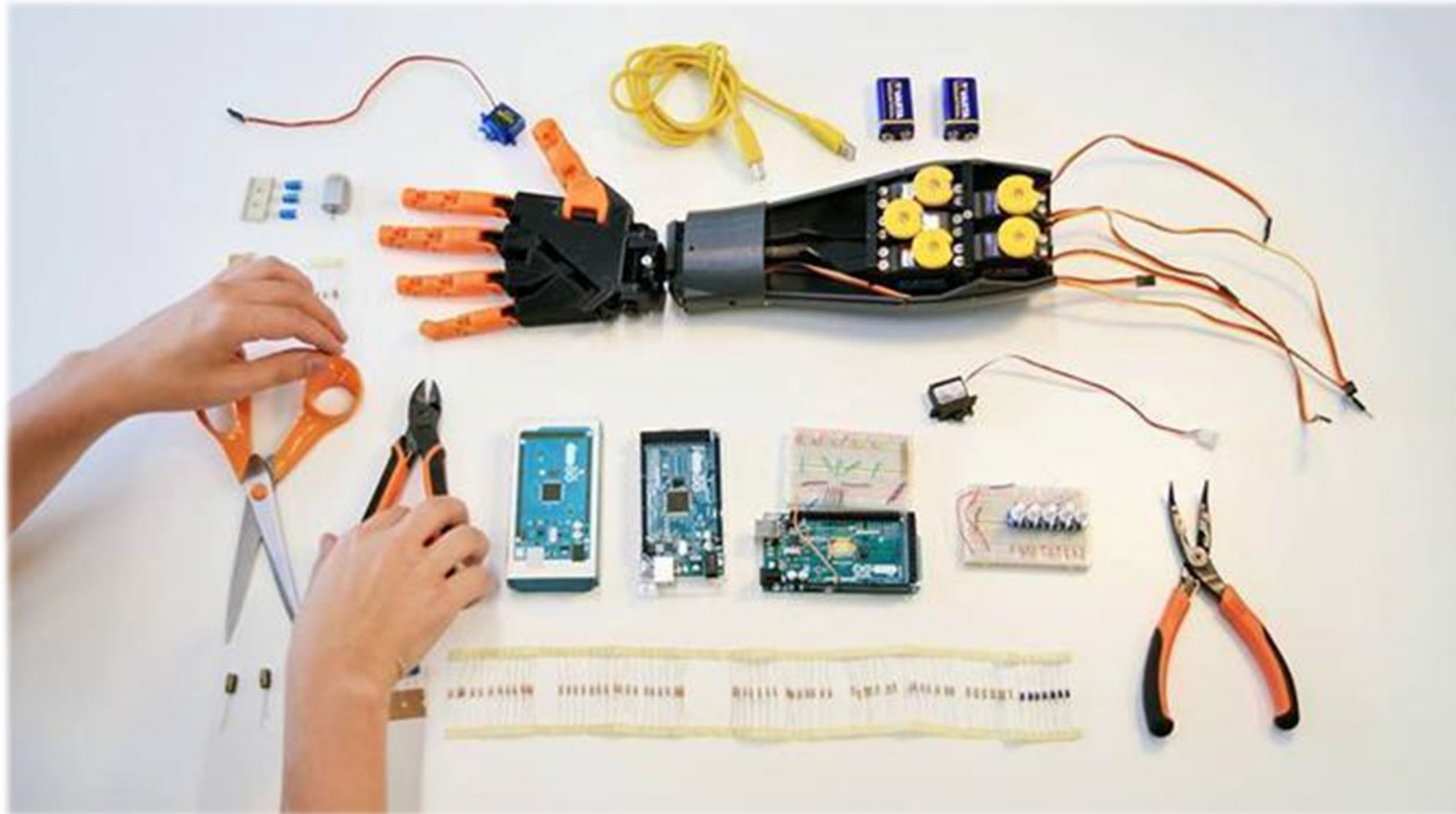
We actively seek issues and change in society that require us to react.



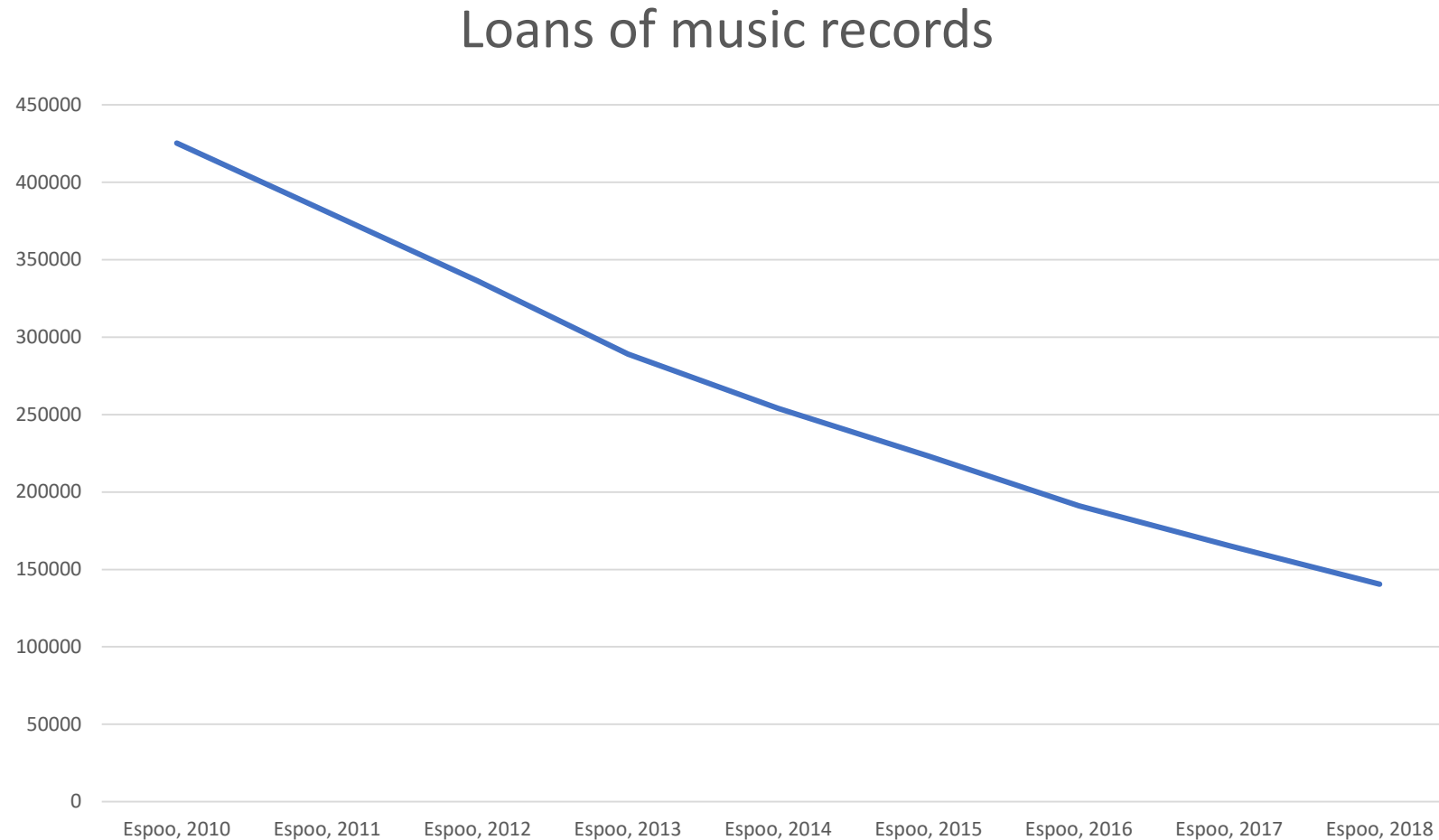
Since then, we have provided assistance in several languages for immigrants, often helping people to progress from residence permits and learning Finnish to handling bureaucracy and integrating to the society.



We raise awareness about changes in the society and help people get a grasp of them.



We also have to adapt. Music streaming services have significantly reduced lending of music from libraries.



We have kept the budget for music services the same, but refocused on community music activities and education.





For students, City of Espoo has created a collaboration model between schools and different services.



Schools have three services paths to choose:

- Culture service path
- Sport service path
- Library service path

The goal of library service path is that every student in Espoo gets to visit libraries regularly.





Teachers get to choose from planned activities designed to combine education and library services.



Storytelling for younger students.



An example activity is the *Media mystery game*



Students are taught basic principles of social media and information security as a game where they must protect library from a virus attack.

Librarians create reading lists for students to help students find literature that interests them.





We have mobile libraries which regularly stop at schools.





Once in a while book mobile is also used for sexual education for teenagers in collaboration with sexual health professionals.



Sexual education is also an opportunity to recommend youth literature about being a teenager, about love, about growing up and about minorities.





Our libraries have youth spaces with different activities, making youth culture inclusive and open for everyone.





Government has identified libraries as one important party in a network of organizations assisting people with digitalization.



Guidance on digital information services is one of our core responsibilities.





We collaborate with different organizations assisting with digitalization,  
for example support targeted to the elderly.





## The results our work in Espoo

- 80% of 283 000 residents of Espoo have visited the libraries during the past 12 months.
- Nearly 12 000 visits each day at Espoo City Libraries
- 4,2 million loans annually
- Half of the book loans are children and youth literature.
- 89 % of people living in Espoo think that libraries are well managed in Espoo.



# The results our work in Espoo

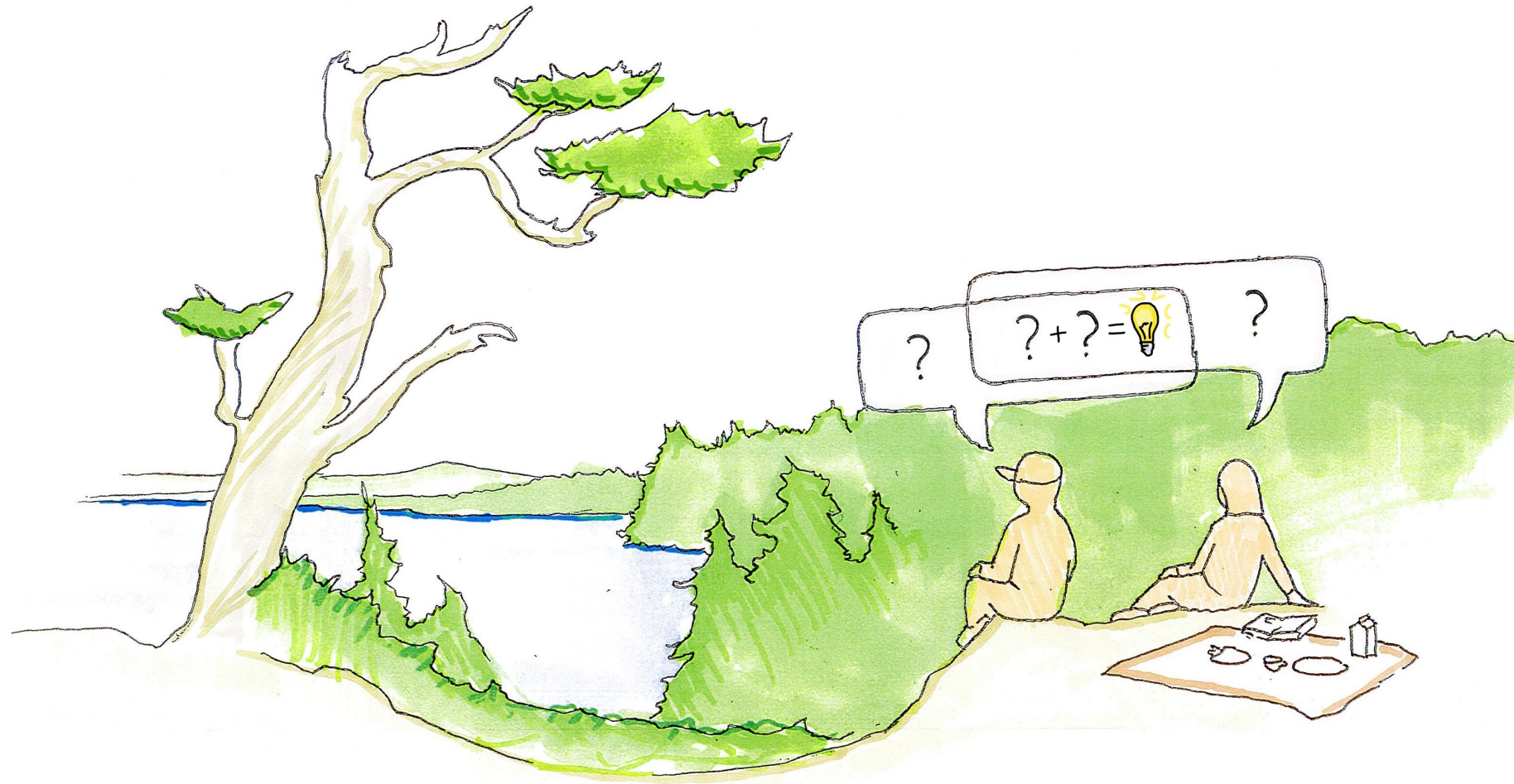
- We were awarded the first ever Finnish library of the year prize in 2018.
- In 2019, we were named the educational organization of the year by the mayor of Espoo.
- In 2019, we were awarded Library of the Year at the London Book Fair International Excellence Awards.

In addition, Oodi, the new Helsinki Central Library was awarded new public library of the year at the 2019 International library conference IFLA.









We hope we have an equal and inclusive society where we learn, think, create and respect.