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Re-defining our services – National Library's new initiatives to support the open science

Any relationship needs to be pampered from time to time. You got to respect your partner, listen to her, bring the flowers, prepare a dinner and talk, talk, talk. This applies to a relationship of researchers and libraries as well – a small spark may kindle a great fire and therefore we at the National Library are defining our services for researchers in a new way.

Developing digitizing and data services means compromising between copyrights, technological solutions and resources available, researchers' needs and research funders' conditions. Therefore, we would like to open a discussion of our plans and two pilot projects.

Recently, we have launched a pilot project, in which various user groups from six academic institutions may access the in-copyright newspapers and journals at our Digi service. In addition to access, we are providing an access to data sets and associated metadata as well to make text and data mining as possible. This is a pilot project that is running until the end of 2019 and it has been executed in co-operation with Kopiosto, the major licensing organization in Finland.

As of January 2019, we will take further steps in promotion of in-copyright content for research use as we will launch a set of 2000 books of Finnish literature online in Digi. This material can be accessed and downloaded for research purposes like the newspaper and journal data. We are also aiming to release the data sets of already digitized content during 2019 and you may find them from our Data Catalog. When it comes to the long-term development, we are building a service channel for data humanists, in which the on-demand digitization and data production would be made possible according to the open science principles. In order to make this happen, the dialogue between us is nothing but necessary.

How successful are we expecting us to be with this initiative? It is hard to say, since we haven't built the service up yet. Therefore, we are looking forward to have your feedback over our services during 2018 and 2019. Your response will also greatly help us to define future services for researchers. Not all the drinks are on the house, but if you hand in your wish list, we promise to contact you for closer consultation in order to meet your needs.