

Multidisciplinary Development project

Libraries as Publishing Centers for Local and Small Editions Literature

As all well know, lots of valuable works fall annoyingly outside the traditional publishing field just because they are not selling enough to make profits for publishing companies. Libraries, which are a traditional part of distribution chain of books, are forced to cut down their services (through cutbacks in the number of qualified staff as well as acquisition) while they should instead support their local communities in storytelling and orderly dissemination of knowledge. Clearly variety ways of publishing and the versatile infrastructure of libraries do not meet. Both problems can be solved creatively by broadening the scope of libraries to more multidisciplinary fora of literary culture.

What is the Idea Behind the Service?

The basic idea in the project is to co-create a model for libraries in setting up a literature editor office to serve various types of writers in the library. The aim is to make better use of the already existing information skills and infrastructure and thus broaden the scope of libraries from lending to production. Unlike traditional library services that deals mostly with titles, the publishing service would focus on contents by editing, evaluating, and submitting manuscripts. It would guide the author and submit the work to the e-library and, if needed, publish it as a printed book. The publications would finally build up the local e-libraries which could be shared with other libraries. This means curating the library collections to meet better the wide field of local storytelling.

Who is the Service Intended for?

It is intended for all individuals or groups, whose works do not fit the publishing programs of commercial publisher, and who would for that reason be left on their own with their work. It fits also to so called gray literature of the community. It is an alternative to author's editions when the writer wants a permanent and long-term access to his/her work through library collections. Also it would greatly serve the local literature and so be a enricher for local culture.

Why is the Service Worth Doing?

With this service the library would produce new functionality in the library spaces and thus contribute to the continuation and development of libraries as literary arenas. Libraries are already active in promoting reading and literacy skills. Publishing works as a glue that connects the literacy and storytelling reducing effectively the number of people

with low literacy skills and increasing the social integration in the community. The service would allow the creative authors' economic development whenever the work proves to be popular. Library offers a large reading audience for every work. Literary events based on the activities of the publication service could also develop libraries as arena for wider literary discussion and debate. With this service the library could also take care of pluralism and multicultural without losing its focus on literature. The final tested service is easily distributable to any kind of libraries.

How We Would Realize This Service?

There are several methods of implementing a publishing service in a library. The best and most effective practices should be chosen by comparing and evaluating existing skills and tools as well as opportunities and willingness in every partner library. We know that our project partners already have elements for the service and capacity to develop more. In order to ensure interoperability of the cooperating partners, practices will be necessary to harmonize them. Thanks to the consistent standards and practices of the worldwide library community, this is feasible. After models have been tested, in addition to on-line service, the on-site service will be brought in the library space. The required IT tools for authors and editors will be put available. Editors will be guiding the writers by searching for the best solution for text and its style according to its readership. There will be also a model for publishing contract available defining the rights and obligations of both sides. Libraries store the e-books in public/shared e-book collection, that can be linked to other similar collections.

A Joint Project

The project will be implemented in co-operation with libraries and other partners mainly in EU area. Vantaa City Library is now looking for at least five (5) European partners for the joint project. The time span for partner search is from May **to the end of July 2016**. As these five should be located EU area, additional library applicant from another continent will also be accepted.

Creative Europe 2014–2020

The funding will be applied from the European Union's **Creative Europe 2014–2020 program**. The project is classified as a "larger scale cooperation project". The amount of funding to apply is a maximum of 2M EUR the self-financing being 50%. Division of tasks and budgeting will be negotiated individually with the partners. Creative Europe supports transnational cooperation projects involving cultural and creative organisations from different countries taking part in the programme. It aims to improve access to European culture and creative works and to promote innovation and creativity. Cross-border cooperation projects between cultural and creative organisations within the EU and

beyond. Projects can cover one or more cultural and creative sectors and can be interdisciplinary. The deadline of the application is the 5th of October. The maximum duration for all projects is 48 months.

Each European country has its own Creative Europe desk. Desks provide more information about the program in all European languages. The contact information (of the Culture sub-programme) can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/tools/creative-desks_en.htm

Read more about Creative Europe here:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/index_en.htm

More Information

The development project is carried out in cooperation with libraries and other partners in different countries. The project is coordinated by Vantaa city library (Lummetie 4, FI-01300 Vantaa, Finland).

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