The Sign Language eLibrary of Finland

By Whom, How and Why?

FINNISH ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
FINLAND

- Population 5.5 million
- 854 public libraries, funded by the government
- Special tasks: visual impaired, language
- Academic libraries
- Privately owned special libraries
THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT

1) Equal opportunities everyone to access education 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 first version 1928, the newest 2017
www.viittomakielinenkirjasto.fi
THE SIGN LANGUAGE E-LIBRARY

By Whom?

- First plan 2006: Association of the Deaf (FAD) & Ministry of Education and Culture
- National budget 2013: fund granded to the FAD
- FAD has long tradition, knowhow, equipment, good networks
THE SIGN LANGUAGE E-LIBRARY

Why?

- Legal perspectives: equal opportunities to everyone (libraries act, sign language act)
- Individual perspective: collect, produce, record and publish sign language and sign language culture for everyone to enjoy and transfer it to the next generations
THE SIGN LANGUAGE E-LIBRARY

How?

- Producer, media worker, production team
- Topics: direct requests, arising from signing community
- Videos are stored in media server and shared online platform, WCAG2.0
- Visual interface Finnish and Swedish
- Most videos have subtitles
Thank you!

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