Finnish Language Newspapers
- A Minority In Swedish Publishing

Kalevi Lehtonen and Pär Nilsson
Finnish newspapers in Sweden can be categorized in three groups:

1. The newspapers published in the northern part of Sweden before World War I
2. Illegal newspapers impossible to print or publish in Finland 1900-1927
3. Finnish immigrant newspapers after World War II
The birth of the Finnish press in Sweden

- New border between Swedish and Finnish along the River Tornio after the Finnish war in 1808-1809
- A Finnish speaking minority in Sweden as a result
- Efforts from the 1880s to make the population Swedish-speaking
- The teaching language gradually became Swedish
- Prohibited for the pupils to speak Finnish between lessons
Rajalta and Nyaste Riksgrensen

- Rajalta: First Swedish newspaper in Finnish (1875-1876)
- Only six issues published
- Nyaste Riksgrensen: First bilingual newspaper (1875-1882)
- Monolingual 1875-1876
- By 1879 50% in Finnish
- Bilingual layout
Haaparannanlehti and Haparandabladet

- Haaparannanlehti (1882-1923)
- Haparandabladet (1882-)
- Successors to Nyaste Riksgränsen
- Merged in 1923 to Haparandabladet
- Haaparannanlehti in the masthead until 2010
- Today 25 % in Finnish and Meänkieli
Competitors: Pohjolan Sanomia and others

- Pohjolan Sanomia (1886-1888)
- Pohjola (1896-1898)
- Haaparannan Sanomat and Haparanda Nyheter (1916-1917)
- Samekansan Oma Lehti (1922-1923)
Newspapers in Exile 1899-1905

• Kaikuja Euroopasta (Echoes from Europe)
  - first newspaper smuggled into Finland
  - printed in Sweden (Aftonbladet)
  - edited by Eino Wallin; only nine issues (1899)

• Other titles: Veckans Nyheter, Viikon Varrelta, Nordisk Revy

• Fria Ord and Vapaita Lehtisiä (1900-1905)
  - successors to Nya Pressen (Helsinki)
  - edited by Konni Zilliacus and Arvid Neovius
  - smuggled into Finland once a week
Newspapers in Exile 1918-1927

- Viesti (1918-1920)
  - only leftist newspaper in Finnish
  - published by the Finnish Society of Stockholm

- Revontulet (1919-1927)
  - Finnish edition of the Swedish newspaper Norrskensflamman (1907)

- Edited by emigrant revolutionaries during and after the Finnish Civil War (1918)

- Printed in Sweden and smuggled into Finland
The Finnish immigrant press in the 20th century

- After WWII Finland transformed from agriculture to industry
- 198,796 Finns emigrated to Sweden 1961-1970
- > 100 Finnish-language "newspapers" in Sweden over time (Korkiasaari)
- In 1992 there 57 Finnish "newspapers" (journals, etc)
- Newspapers with a Finnish language page or column
  - 37 in 1971, but only 27 in 1981
  - Borås tidning: Finnish page 1/w from 1967 to 2011 when it was discontinued
  - Now (2012) only 2 newspapers: Ruotsin Suomalainen and Haparandabladet
  - And recently: Suomen Uutisviikko
The project – cooperation, preservation and research

Aims of the project:

- to foster cooperation and exchange of experiences and results from the digitization projects in the two national libraries
- to preserve and rescue the material through microfilming and digitization of the microfilms
- to support historical research about the historically important Finnish speaking minority in the public debate (academic researchers, genealogists, the general public)
Thank you!

Questions and suggestions to
kalevi.lehtonen@kb.se