

# Openness of the Library of the Finnish Parliament and its services to support democracy

Sirkka-Liisa Korkeila, Information specialist

Tommi Peuhkurinen, Information specialist

Library of the Finnish Parliament



PARLIAMENT  
OF FINLAND

# The Library of the Finnish Parliament

- information on Parliament, law and society as mission
- openness and transparency
- purpose is to safeguard and promote free access to information

# Open to all since 1913

## Background

- Parliament Act 1906: universal suffrage and eligibility
- First-ever general election 1907
  - > growing political interest of citizens

Opening of the library to the public was a way of strengthening citizens' democratic rights.

# Everyone is welcome

- MPs, their assistants and Parliamentary officials
- students, researchers, other libraries, public sector agencies, the Council of State, businesses and the general public



# Services are available to all

- generous opening hours (57 hours a week)
- collection policy is to provide open access to all citizens (525,000 titles)
- loans and interlibrary loans
- information services
- customer computers

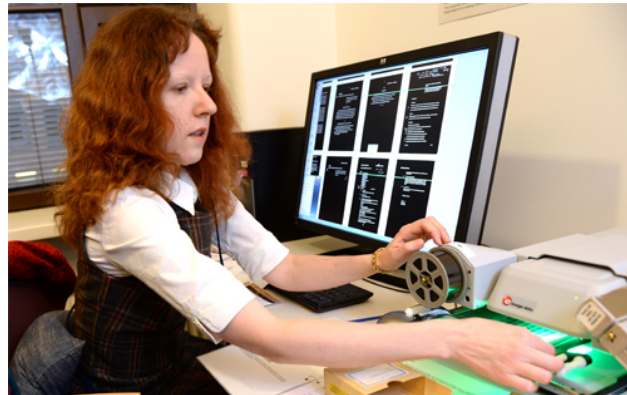


# Parliamentary information supports democracy

- printed and original parliamentary documents
- web service of parliamentary affairs and documents
- documents from other parliaments
- literature on parliamentarism and democracy
- books written by MPs

# The open Archive of Parliament

- all documentation produced in parliamentary work
- photographs via an online service
- unique collection of interviews of former MPs



# Providing tools for managing legal information

- official material and jurisprudential literature
- collections include material on Finnish, foreign, EU and international law
- information packages on key legislative initiatives
  - > helps to follow up the legislative process



# Helping to understand the society and politics

- large collection on social and political topics
- information packages:
  - Finland as a state
  - supporting citizens' participation
  - EU
  - European economic crisis
- collection include also documents of international organisations

# Training the public to find the right information

- information management training open to all
- tailor-made trainings to specific user groups
- personal guidance



# Social media presence

- Blog 2007
- Facebook 2009
- Youtube 2011
- Twitter 2013



# Conclusion

Awareness of how the Parliament and society functions is a key requisite for citizen participation and active citizenship.



Thank you!