

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2007

The library provides a basic cultural service, promoting the local people's equal opportunities to experiences and information and encouraging them to cultivate their abilities and facilities and to improve their civic skills. The library offers access to its collections, up-to-date systems of information retrieval, premises and competent staff, all free of charge.

The library function operates the main library and the newspaper reading room, 14 branch libraries, two mobile libraries (158 bus stops), the web bus Netti-Nysse and 2 NetSquares. It also provides institutional services maintaining five institutional libraries and varying collections in smaller institutions, old-age homes and community centres and offers domiciliary library services. Apart from the physical library network, users are served through the Internet, too.

The web bus Netti-Nysse as well as the net squares of the Sampola and Hervanta branches provide guidance in basic information society skills and an access to services provided by information society.

Tampere City Library also functions as Pirkanmaa Regional Library, covering the 27 other municipalities included in the Tampere Region. The total population of the region was 472 181.

KEY FIGURES

The number of library visits in 2007 was 2 696 274. The physical visits decreased 5,7 % from the previous year. The number has been decreasing every year partly due to an increase of using the web library services. On the other hand, the meaning of library as a free open space to sojourn is growing. Tampere's share of net library use based on the number of inhabitants was 1 972 580 visits.

The total number of loans was 5 135 721 and the number of loans per inhabitant was 24,7. Decreasing numbers are a national phenomenon, but compared to other major cities in the country, the citizens of Tampere remain active borrowers.

The total expenditure of the library operation amounted to 12,5 Million €. Net expenditure per capita was 60,25 €/inhabitant. The net price of a loan was thus 2,42 €. The library function has remained highly economical even in national comparison.

CHANGES IN OPERATING ENVIRONMENT; FOCUS AREAS

In every day library work the emphasis in year 2007 was put in producing quality basic services effectively. The collections were put particularly special focus on. Outdated material was removed a record amount, over 111 000 items, when last year's removed material was approximately 81 500 items. Evaluation of the physical collections was done and for that every responsible person of the collections worked for three weeks period in some other library than their own and evaluated its material. In this way the shelves were tried to be approached from a different angle.

The Kaukajärvi library was opened on 21.11 fully renovated and enlarged. Nekala branch was instead closed due to renovation starting from 28.5.

Library's work with processes was continued; renewal for the organization itself and productisation was set in motion. The principles of using the library facilities for free or with charge as well as the principles of how library opening hours are been decided were approved.

The year was very busy and therefore full of work. Changes made both delighted and frightened, but the overall view of the changes was yet positive. Library is looking towards the future with a positive attitude.

Tuula Haavisto
Library Director