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Improving access to information - defining the core electronic resources for research and welfare

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Improving access to information - defining the core electronic resources for research and welfare

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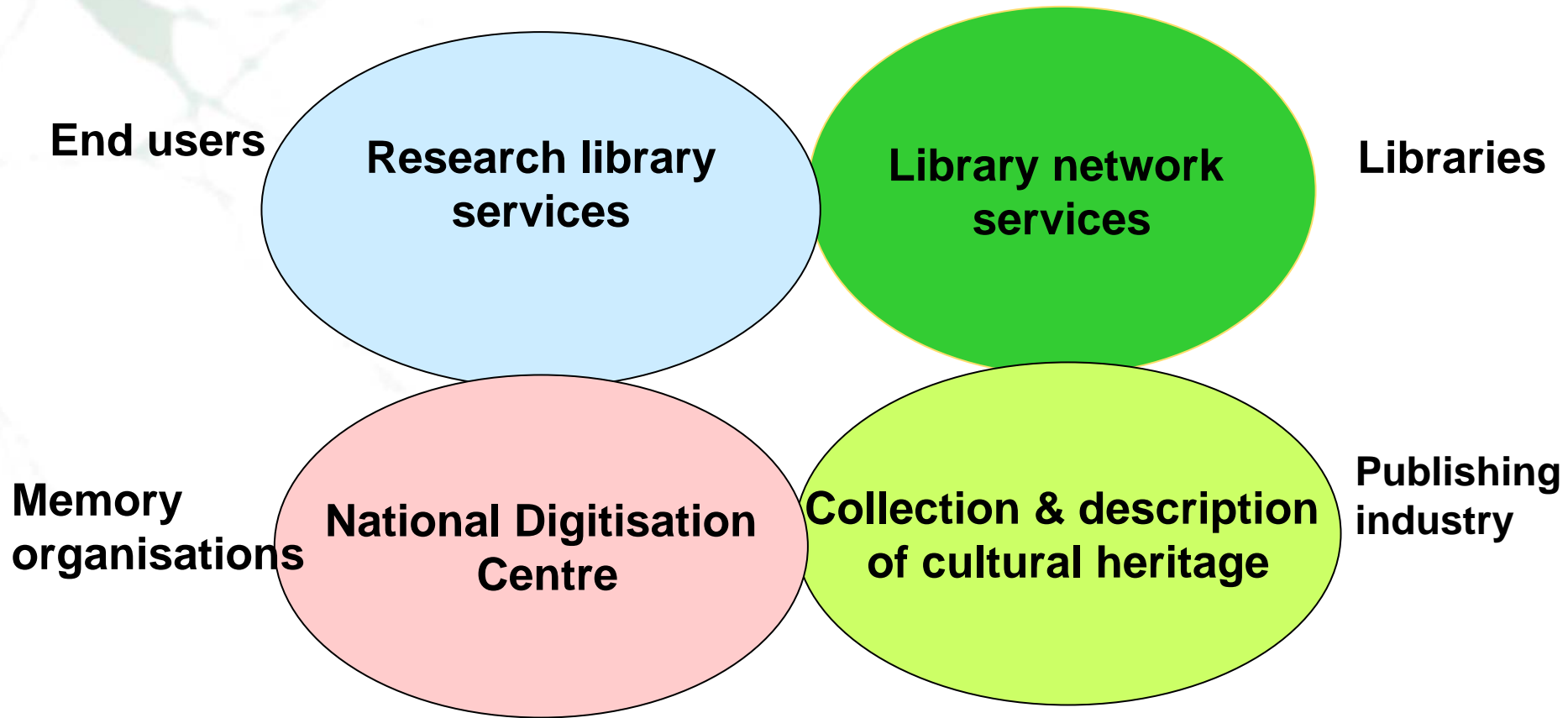National Library of Finland

Background

- National Library is a service centre for the library network since 1.8.2006

- The library network in Finland is well organised

- Universities, polytechnics and public libraries are under the Ministry of Education

- There are major structural changes taking place in the network of universities and polytechnics, research institutes as well as public libraries

National Library of Finland

- Change of the name of the organisation 1.8.2006
- Legal changes
  - University law and act
- New steering mechanism
  - Ministry of Education
  - National Library & libraries network
- New budgetary system

- Enlarged clientele
  - Universities
  - Polytechnics
  - Special libraries
  - Public libraries
- Central funding for universities, polytechnics and public libraries
- Defined services for the libraries

National library organisation 2007

End users

Research library services

Library network services

Libraries

Memory organisations

National Digitisation Centre

Collection & description of cultural heritage

Publishing industry

The Library Network

- The network consists of 4 library sectors
  - Universities, polytechnics, special libraries and public libraries
- Each sector has organised its own activities
  - Council + working committee structure
  - Each sector has a chair person and a secretary
- 3 library consortia in the country
  - FinELib – national licensing and national portal
  - Linnea – library system
  - AMKIT – polytechnic libraries consortia
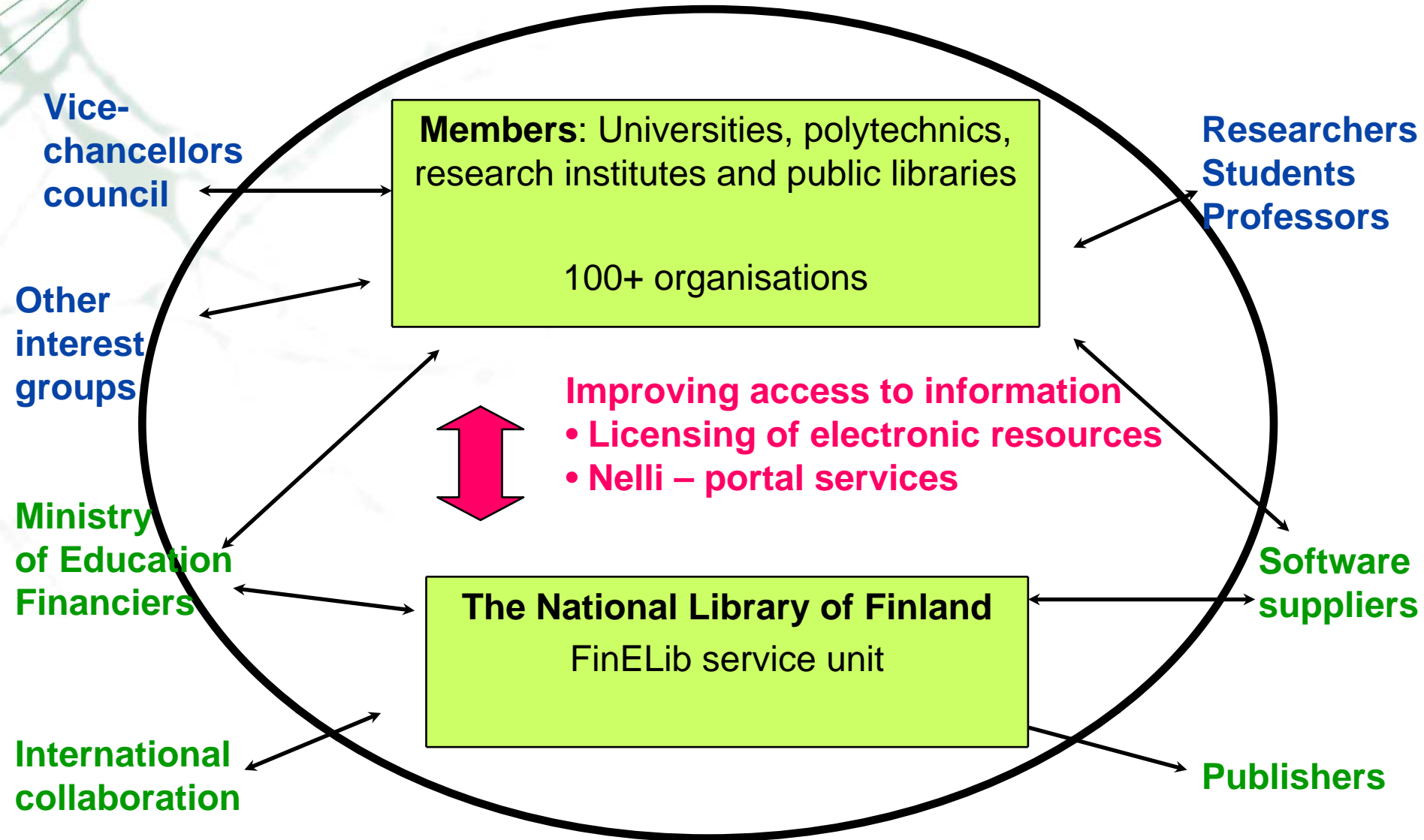
Structural changes

- University consortia are being created
- Mergers of polytechnics are taking place
- Municipalities are merging affecting the operations of public libraries

- Structural change will have an impact on the funding of universities and polytechnics
- National and international infrastructure policies will become forces of change in the development of scientific libraries

The frame of the work - FinELib-Consortium

Vice-chancellors council

Researchers Students Professors

Members: Universities, polytechnics, research institutes and public libraries

100+ organisations

Other interest groups

Improving access to information
- **Licensing of electronic resources**
- **Nelli – portal services**

Ministry of Education Financiers

The National Library of Finland
FinELib service unit

Software suppliers

International collaboration

Publishers

Key figures of FinELib 2007

Turnover	EUR 15,12 million
Licences	60 license agreements
Content	273 databases 18 600 e-journals 273 000 e-books
Usage	6,2 million Downloads 42 million Searches
Consortium	110 organisation

Core e-resources for research and well-being – the process

- Working group of library directors formed
  - 2 representatives/library sector
    - Universities, polytechnics, special libraries, public libraries
  - FinELib staff; chair + 2 specialists
  - Model example of cooperation
- Available data analysed
  - Usage + user feedback
  - Total cost
  - Size of consortium
  - Feedback from e-resources working groups

Core e-resources for research and well-being – the process

- Defining the vision
  - **E-resources to support the competitiveness of Finnish research**
  - **E-resources to support wellbeing, studying, economic life**

  - **Tool to reallocate central funding to support strategically access to information**
- Defining the price tag
- Presenting the idea for stakeholders
- Preparing marketing/ lobbying materials

E-resources to support the competitiveness of Finnish research

CONTENT

- Scientific e-journals
- Reference databases
- Aggregator databases
- E-books
- Reference management tools
- 10 resources

CRITERIA

- Much used
- High quality
- Multidisciplinary
- Resources to support research in strategic research areas

Why should the government invest in scientific e-resources?

- To develop the national innovation system
- To develop the infrastructure for research
  - Content being one important part of it
- To guarantee access to information in the structurally changing environment (merges, new partnerships etc.)
- To support internationalisation of research

E-resources to support wellbeing, studying, economic life

CONTENT

– Reference databases

– Reference works

– Dictionaries

– 7+ resources

CRITERIA

- National resources in Finnish and Swedish

- Resources describing the Finnish society

- Resources covering health issues, law, statistics

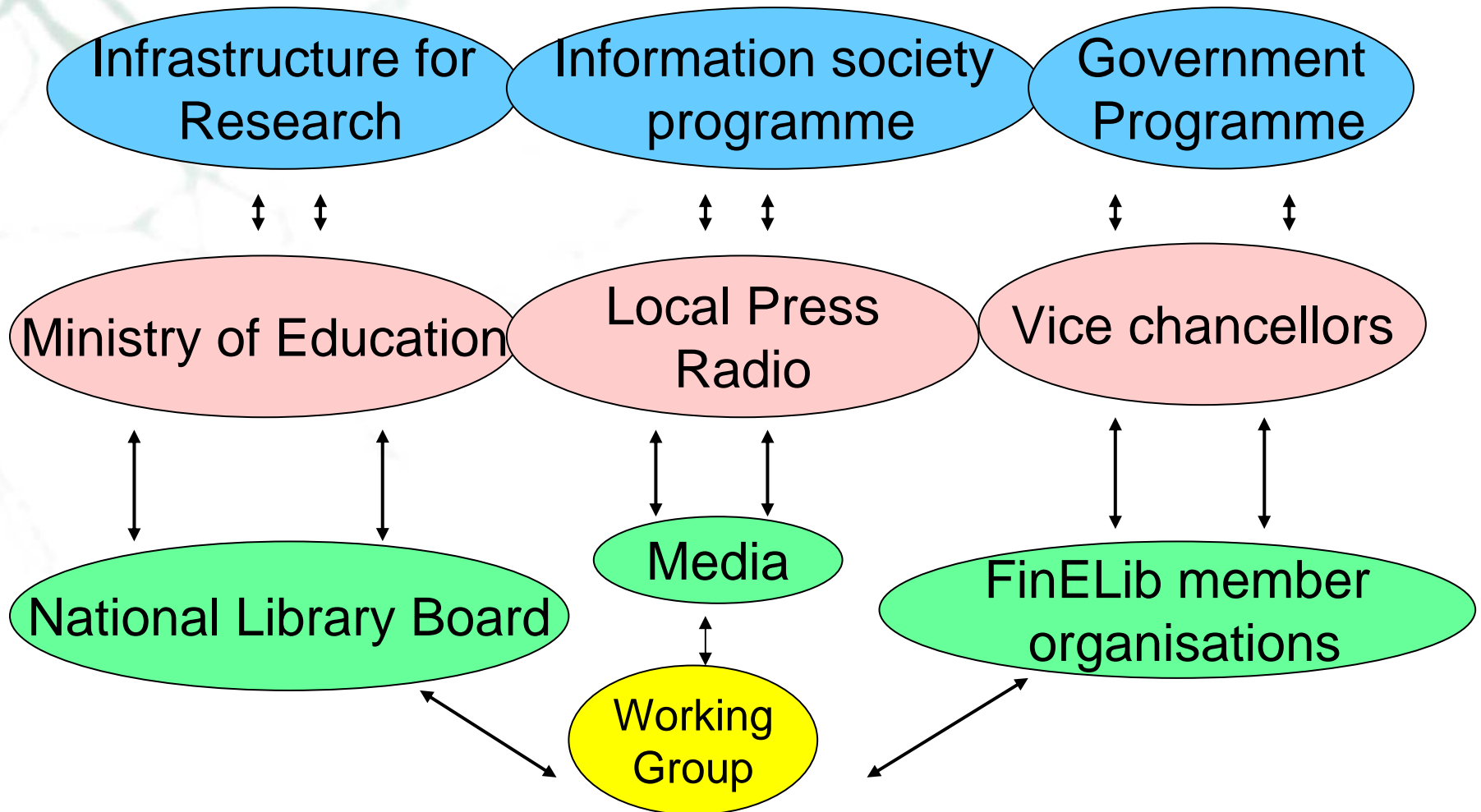# Why should the government invest in e-resources for citizens?

- To guarantee equal access to information all over Finland
- To safeguard citizens´ access to reliable information resources
- To support studying and learning

Proposed: EUR 5-10 million

- 5 million
  - 50%-50% central / own funding for resources to support research
  - Current resources; current consortium
  - 100% funding for resources to support well-being
- 10 million
  - Same share between central/ own funding
  - National licenses
  - More resources for a larger user group
  - New content
  - New technologies to make access easier

EUR 5-10 million to support access to information!

Status summer 2007

- The idea has been introduced into
  - Government programme
  - Infrastructure for research programme
  - Information society programme
- Stakeholders have been very interested in the concept

- We are waiting for the reactions – and the funding!

Thank you!