

Trial and Error - Experiences of a Digi-curious Humanist

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Who's Talking?

- Historian, expert in medieval & early modern Nordic history (docent at the University of Turku)
- Learning by doing: from "hand-written" html to testing persistent identifiers
- Editor in Chief of *Ennen ja nyt* web journal

From Hyper Articles to Crowd Sourcing

- "Nanne Kärting" – a "hyper article" about a runaway monk, 2002
- <http://agricola.utu.fi/tietosanomat/numero2-02/index.html>
- Penchant for digitalizing medieval and early modern archival document projects:
Diplomatarium Fennicum, Codices Fennici
- Trying to grasp possibilities of Medieval multimedia, enriching e-books & some reports

The Ultimate Challenge: Ravages of Time

- Time span for historial research: 50, 100, 500, 1000 years
- Archived documents on paper & parchment crumble away
 - and so do many digital solutions
- Extreme efforts go down the drain
- From pilot project of the 1990s to a cripple to be revived: Diplomatarium Fennicum
- <http://extranet.narc.fi/DF/index.htm>

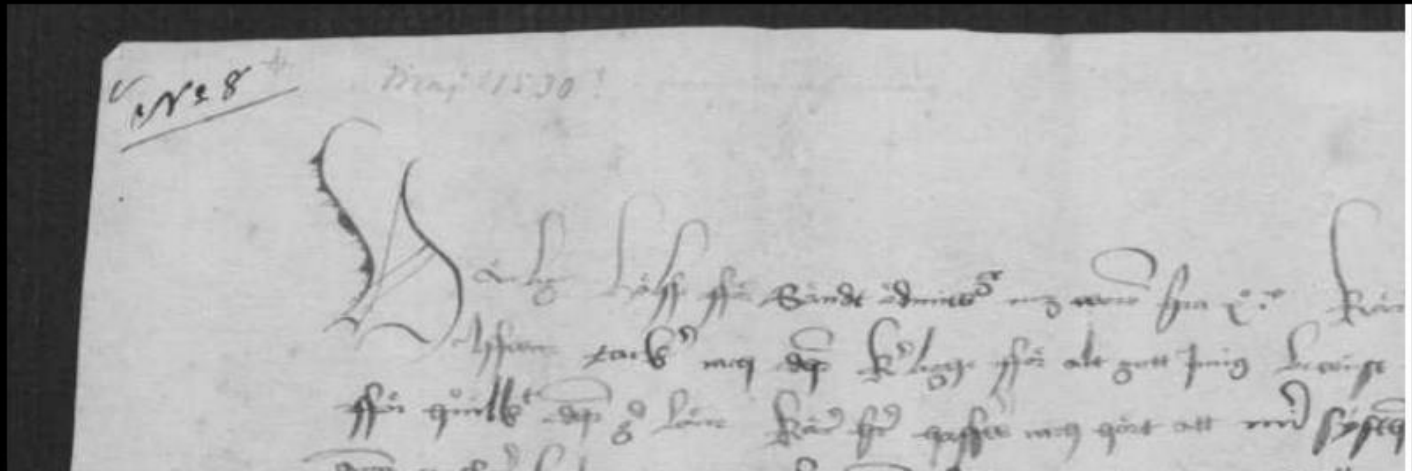
Testing Persistent Identifiers

- Trying to solve the "page not found" problem
- Persistent Identifiers tested by National Archives & *Ennen ja nyt*:
<http://www.ennenjanyt.net/?p=705>

Viite:

8, Ett brev om Ukkila gård i Vemo 1530-1530, Sundholman kartanon (Kalanti) arkisto, TMA. [URN:NBN:fi-al201304031325475325323](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:fi-al201304031325475325323)

Kopioi viite



Original sources



Sources selected by contemporaries
/ "natural selection"



Sources selected by archivists



Sources selected by editors of source books



Sources selected for databases &c.

Is the Time Right?

- Early html pioneering and lousy OCR scanning took a lot of time, there are projects that took ages in the 1990s, now only days
- However, one can't wait for perfect solutions forever...
- Decision makers may have right understanding about the situation – or not (“hey, let's demand that everybody builds a database / wiki / open source system”)

What Should I Master myself?

- "Humanists need to learn to compute" – I have got some other stuff to do as well...
- What is absolutely necessary (Endnote, good databases), what is necessary (PID), what is maybe nice (georeferenced maps Enriched e-books)
- Try this and try that... 3 Some platforms for one project

What Is Worth Paying for?

- I've got 30 000 euros - shall I pay to several historians for research or to one digi-expert for an interactive map? (What is the right price?)
- How do I find the experts I need?

One solution: projects for students?

(does it make me a slaveholder?)