

Printing in a Periphery: a Quantitative Study of Finnish Knowledge Production, 1640-1828

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2016-07-14

From particular data to global perspective?

Idea: Study early modern knowledge production, all of it (1470-1830)

How? Combine library catalogues (Fennica, Kungliga, ESTC, CERL HPB database)

Important: cleaning up the data (90% of the effort!) and considering how particular data collections (Finnish National Bibliography, English Short-Title Catalogue etc.) have been formed.

How to fail: take worldcat or similar combination of datasets and analyse it as a whole without cleaning it up first.

Overcoming a national gaze by focus on knowledge production through more complex cross-national network of cities

Data: bibliographic catalogues 1640-1828

Fennica Finnish National bibliography

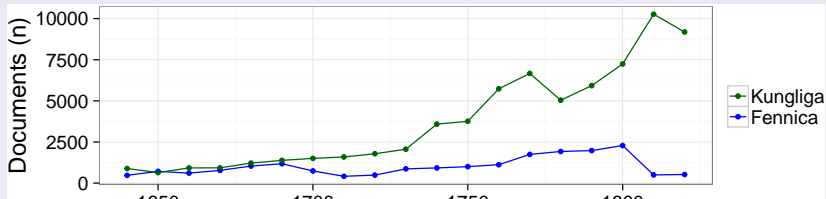
- ▶ 19241 documents 1640-1828

Kungliga Swedish National bibliography

- ▶ 69108 documents 1640-1828

Why this project?

- ▶ Visible roots of the diversity of “Finnishness” reflected in knowledge production, 1640-1828



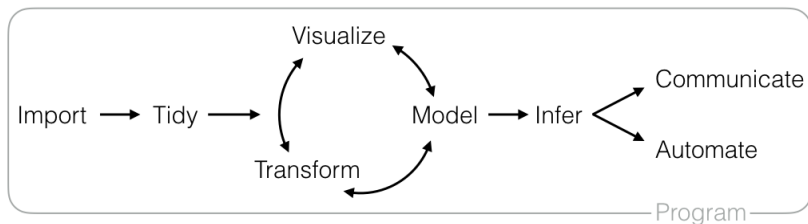
Methods: Open data analytical ecosystem

Customized dedicated R packages for bibliographic analysis combine flexibility with automation

Automated scales well with new data and unforeseen changes; a million documents ~ 30 minutes

Open source fully transparent and reproducible data analytics:
<https://github.com/rOpenGov/fennica>

Research potential greatly underestimated; world is full of metadata collections



(Figure by Hadley Wickham)

Preprocess & Enrich

Clean up messy entries

```
polish_physical_extent("iii-xxiv, 118, [2] p.")$pagecount
```

```
## [1] 142
```

Augment data (geocoordinates, gender, ..)

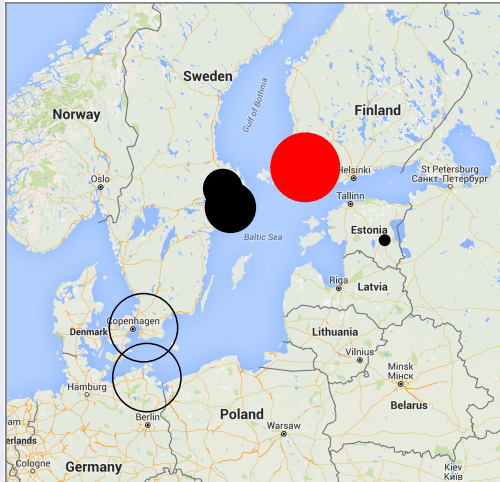
```
get_country("Porvoo")
```

```
## [1] "Finland"
```

1. General trends and political events

Turku as a Swedish University Town among Uppsala, Tartu and Stockholm (+ Lund & Greifswald)

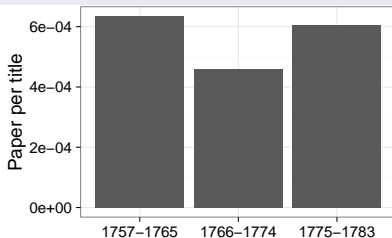
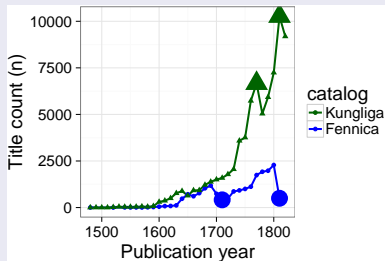
1650



[General trends & political events]

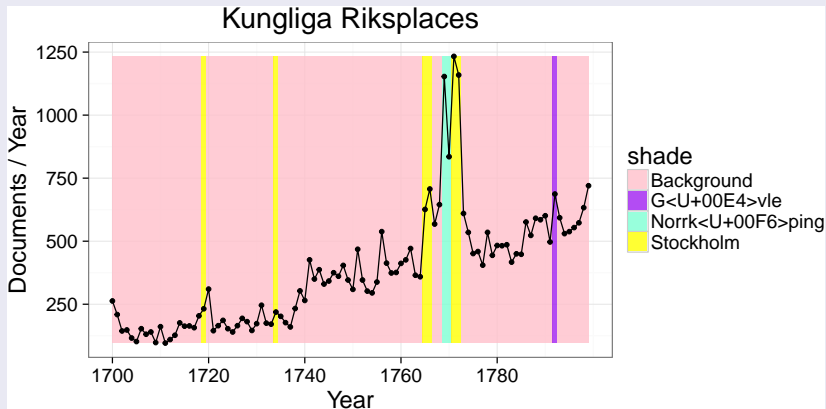
Publishing activity over time

- ▶ 1700-1721 Fennica drop
- ▶ 1760-1770 Pamphleteering plays a crucial role during abolished censorship
- ▶ 1803-1815 Napoleonic wars



Swedish knowledge production & cycles of representation

An example how historical events, namely **parliamentary assemblies** in the Swedish case, have an effect on knowledge production.



2. Publishers in Sweden and Turku

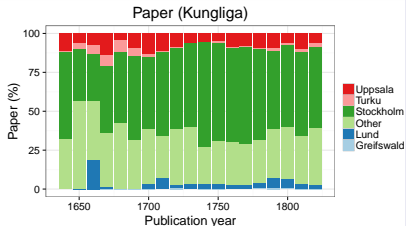
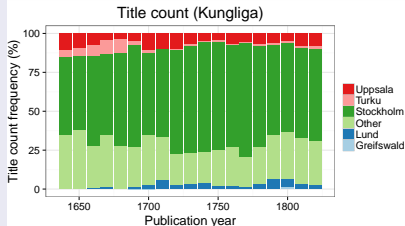
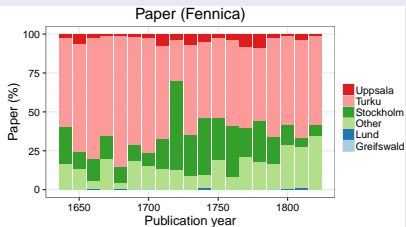
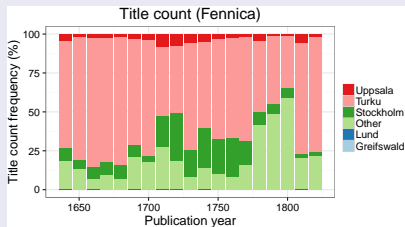
[Publishers in Sweden and Turku]

Publishers in Swedish University towns (and Finland)



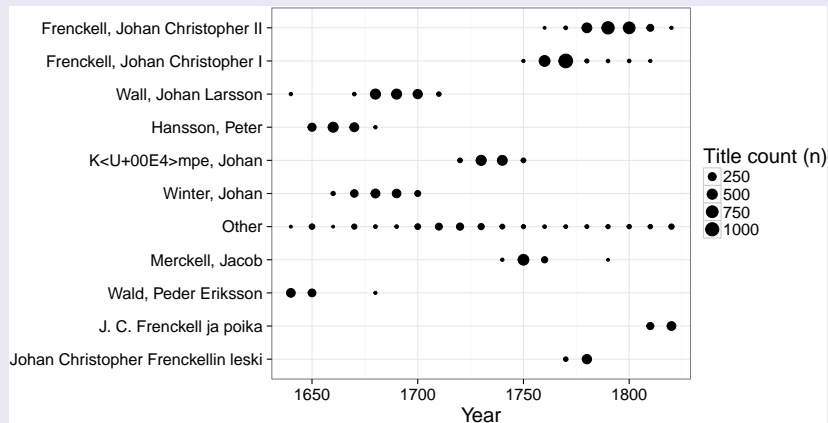
[Publishers in Sweden and Turku]

Turku in Sweden: proportions for title count and paper in Swedish University towns



[Publishers in Sweden and Turku]

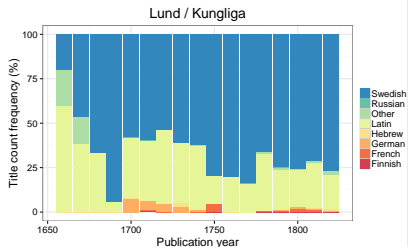
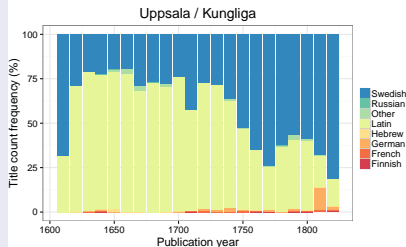
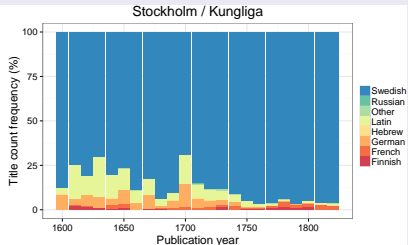
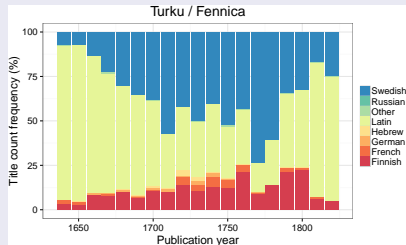
Top publishers in Turku/Fennica



3. Languages and religious texts in Finland

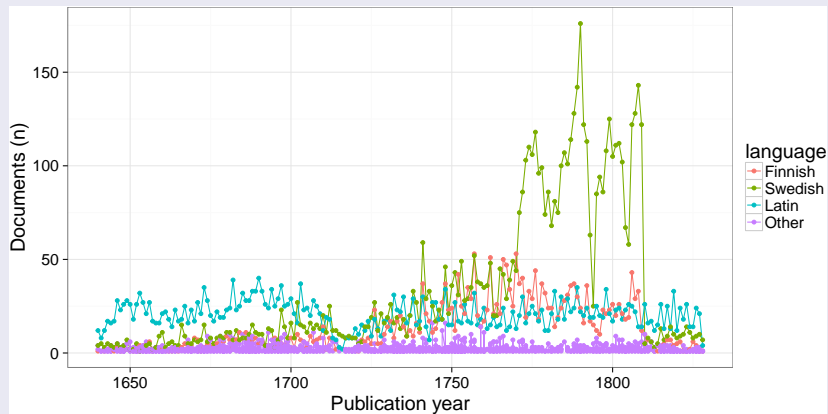
[Languages & religious texts in Finland]

Different languages in Turku, Stockholm, Lund and Uppsala



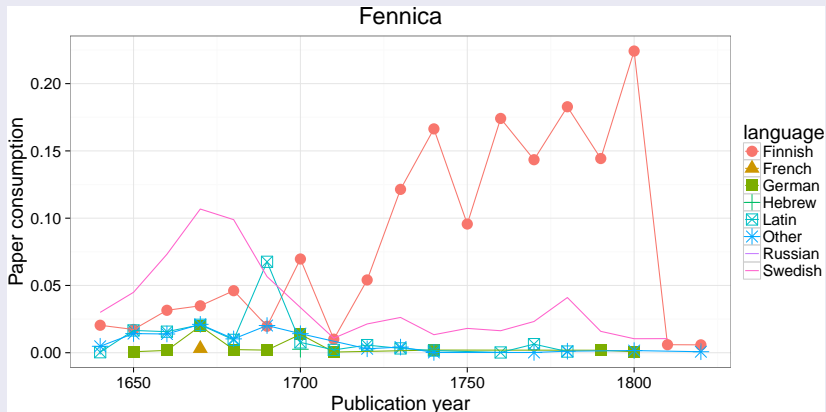
[Languages & religious texts in Finland]

Topic richness per language (Finnish publications)



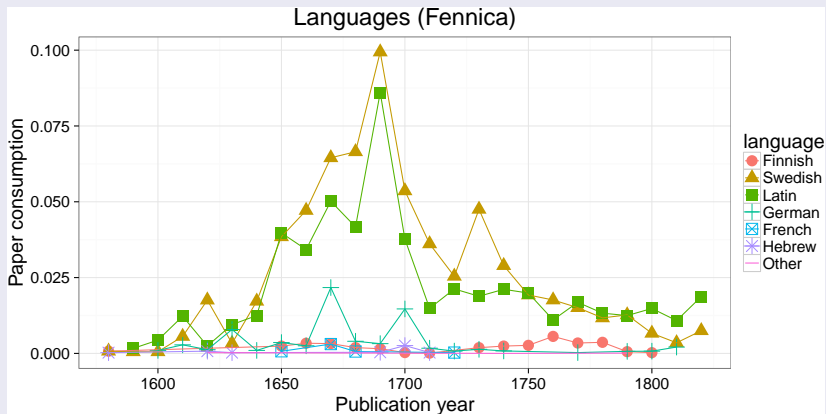
Devotional literature (catechisms, hymns, prayers, etc.)

Form of literature denoting the advancement of reading in Finland in the 19th century. It has been unclear when does it show up as a relevant category.



Temporary sermons in Latin and Swedish

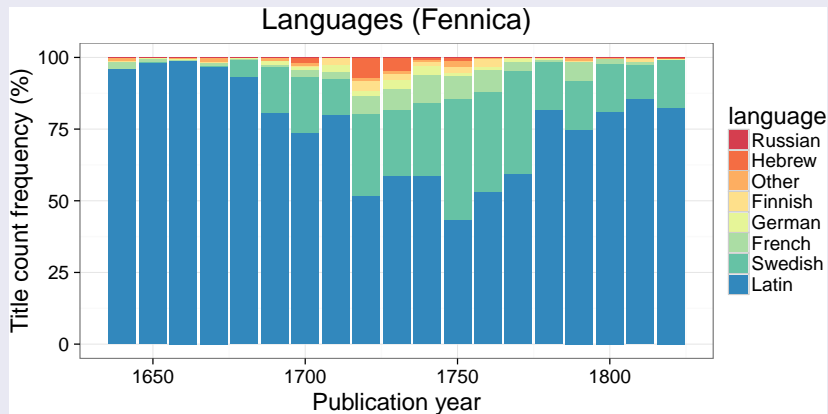
- Important role in early modern knowledge production. It has not been analysed in what language they were in Finland (and Sweden).

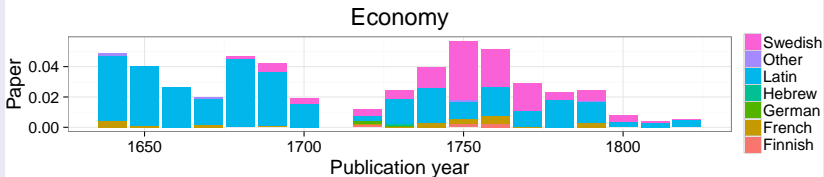


4. University curriculum and Enlightenment in Finland

[University curriculum & Enlightenment in Finland]

Dissertation languages in Turku 1640-1828

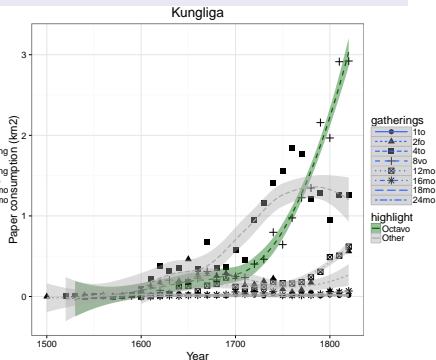
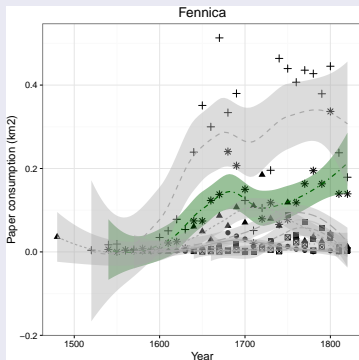




[University curriculum & Enlightenment in Finland]

Rise of the octavo sized book as vehicle of Enlightenment

Paper consumption: different document formats over time



Thanks !

Institutional support:

- ▶ Academy of Finland
- ▶ University of Helsinki
- ▶ Digitalia / The Regional Council of South Savo

Data providers:

- ▶ National Library of Finland
- ▶ National Library of Sweden

For more info, see:

- ▶ <https://github.com/rOpenGov/fennica>

Duplicate publications in Fennica/Kungliga

