Finna API & Auth API

**29.11.2017**

**Authors: Axel Neergaard, Tomi Panula**

# **GENERAL**

The Finna API would allow us to perform searches to material provided by varying organizations, including libraries, archive, and museums. With the use of the Auth API we would know which organizations’ database’s a user can access.

The official documentation can be found on the following page:

<https://www.kiwi.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=53839221>

However, they do state that the documentation on the page is deprecated and that we should use the following *Swagger UI*:

<https://api.finna.fi/swagger-ui/?url=%2Fapi%2Fv1%3Fswagger>

The former page above gives more information about allowed use, links to other documentation, example queries (with examples of use), and links to other documentation regarding Finna, such as the Auth API. The latter, on the other hand, includes more technical details regarding the API and has a very nice UI to test queries with.

# **USEFUL FOR LIBBY**

In my experience thus far, we should mostly be using the *lookfor* function with a *GET* request to *Search*. This *lookfor* function works as a simple search function that provides results closest to the matching term (variable) associated with the function. As a user of Libby would most probably not want to give loads of information or get asked by Libby constantly for more information about what she is currently looking for, I suggest that we should use this method the most. If the user’s request is too vague so that the results are tremendous we could ask her to specify some more, e.g. *“Are you looking for a book or a CD”*.

Currently there exists a branch on GitHub under the name *api-testing* which includes some basic functions that can be used to access material from the library with the *lookfor* function.

# **USEFUL API CALLS**

**authors**

Finds all the authors of a book. We can use this to find a specific book or get author(s) of a specific book if it’s already found.

**buildings**

Finds all the buildings (libraries) where the book is located in.

**callNumbers**

One of the most useful calls for Libby but doesn’t work at the moment because of a bug on the Finna API’s side. Could find the shelf number/location where the book is located in.

**cleanIsbn**

Returns the ISBN of the book. Could be useful if a screen is integrated to Libby at some point.

**edition**

Returns the edition number of the book (e.g. 4th edition).

**id**

Returns the unique id of the book. This can be stored in session attributes when the right book is found. Easiest way to find an exact book.

**languages**

Returns the languages of the book. Can be used to find only the books written in english.

**nonPresenterAuthors**

A different way to find author(s) of the book. With this call, it’s easier to filter out the corporate publisher if needed.

**publicationDates**

Returns the different publication dates of the book. Helps to find a specific book if the user knows when the book she is looking for is published.

**pubilcationFrequency**

Could be useful with magazines. Not a priority feature to add.

**publishers**

Returns publishers of a book. Some users may want to know the publisher of the book.

**subjects**

Returns a list of subjects for a book.

**title**

Returns the title of a book.

# **FINNA API TERMS OF USE**

The [Finna API Terms](https://www.kiwi.fi/display/Finna/Finna+API+Terms+of+Use) of use recommends that Finna.fi and OCLC should be mentioned in the use of the API. The Terms of Use also states that they would like information regarding user use of the API and that this information, along with suggestions, should be relayed to the following address: [finna-posti@helsinki.fi](mailto:finna-posti@helsinki.fi).

## **LINKS**

Official Finna API documentation:

<https://www.kiwi.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=53839221>

Finna API Swagger UI:

<https://api.finna.fi/swagger-ui/?url=%2Fapi%2Fv1%3Fswagger>

Finna Auth(entication) API:

<https://www.kiwi.fi/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=78382572>

Finna API Terms of Use

<https://www.kiwi.fi/display/Finna/Finna+API+Terms+of+Use>