

## Sámi bibliografiija – Sami bibliography

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### **Abstract:**

*The Sami bibliography is a joint project between the National library of Norway, the Sami special library at the Rovaniemi City Library in Finland, the Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library, and Ájtte, Swedish Mountain- and Sami museum. It was launched on the Sami National Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2017.*

*BIBSYS, an institution under the Ministry of Education and Research in Norway, is responsible for harvesting the data and the dissemination of the bibliography in the discovery system Oria (made by Ex Libris): <http://sapmi.oria.no>.*

*In 2011 the Ministry of Culture in Norway instructed the National Library of Norway to be responsible for realizing the bibliography. Only the four bibliographies together from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, can display the wholeness of Sami literature.*

*Sami bibliography is the sum of all the four bibliographies, but you might also choose to search in one particular. The bibliographies vary when it comes to volume and selection criteria. They reflect more diversity than homogeneity in the ways they are produced.*

*The joint Sami bibliography is a resource to the indigenous people in Sapmi and is of great importance as it can be seen as a carrier of the Sami heritage beyond borders.*

*Every country and institution produces their own bibliography as usual, but the records are exported regularly to the discovery system.*

*Much material in the bibliography is in other languages than Sami. The literature is spread all over the Dewey Classification system and is difficult to get hold of.*

*Finally, we have now an entrance to everything written about Sami relations regardless of publishing country up North.*

**Keywords:** Joint Sami bibliography, Løøv classification system, Sami literature

## 1. What is Sámi bibliografiija – Sami bibliography?

The Sami bibliography is a joint project between the National library of Norway, the Sami special library at the Rovaniemi City Library in Finland, the Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library, and Ájtte, Swedish Mountain- and Sami museum. It was launched on the Sami National Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2017.

The joint bibliography contains documents in various Sami languages and other languages when the subject matter is relevant to Sami culture regardless of publishing country.

It is the sum of all the four bibliographies, but you might also choose to search in one particularly. The bibliographies vary when it comes to volume and selection criteria.

They reflect more diversity than homogeneity in the ways they are produced.

**Sámi bibliografiija - Sami bibliography**

New search | Language/Giella: English

Sami Bibliography | Finland | Norway | Russia | Sweden

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**About the bibliography**  
The Sami bibliography is a joint project between the National library of Norway, the Sami special library at the Rovaniemi Provincial Library in Finland, the Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library, and Ájtte, Swedish Mountain- and Sami museum. All documents use the Leav classification.

**Sami bibliography - Finland**  
Documents in all Sami languages are registered, in Finnish and other languages when the subject matter is relevant to Sami culture. The cataloguing is done by Rovaniemi Provincial Library of Lapland. The documents collected are mainly based on the legal deposit act.

More information:  
Laponica  
Finnish Sámi Special Library  
Lappi library

**Sami bibliography - Norway**  
Documents in all Sami languages are registered, in Norwegian and other languages when the subject matter is relevant to Sami culture, which are published in Norway 1945-1967, and from 1993 onward. From 1993 the documents collected are based on the legal deposit act of 1989.

More information

**Sami bibliography - Russia**  
The documents registered are ones relevant to Sami culture in Russian, Sami, English and other languages published in Russia since 1776. It also shows the documents regardless of their place of publication and their availability in the library. Cataloguing is done by The Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library.

More information

**Sami bibliography - Sweden**  
The documents registered contain records of the literature in Sami languages and of the literature with Sami aspects published in Sweden. Some non-Scandinavian literature is added. Cataloguing is mainly done by Ájtte, Swedish Mountain- and Sami Museum, with additional work by the Swedish Sami Parliament.

More information  
Ájtte girjerájus

**Leav classification**

- +01 Book and library research
- +02 Comprehensive works and works of miscellaneous contents
- +03 Sami institutions and organisations
- +04 Religion, philosophy, psychology
- +05 Religious literature
- +06 Philology, Language
- +07 Medicine, physical anthropology
- +08 Geography and local history
- +09 History
- +10 Personal history
- +11 Cultural history
- +12 Industry and economy
- +13 Minorities, Conditions and rights
- +14 Social conditions
- +15 Schools and education
- +16 Art, music, theatre and film
- +17 Literary history
- +18 Fiction
- +19 Journalism and information operations
- +20 Sports, games, play and entertainment
- +21 Natural sciences, Technical science



1 Lappmarken (excerpt). Owner: National Library of Norway

## 2. The joint Sami Bibliography

The joint bibliography display provides slightly less information than the bibliographies do on their separate webpages, but each post has a link to the record in the local catalogue so one can get a full view.

Title:

Author:

Subjects:

Is Part of:

Publisher:

Creation Date:

Format:

Language:

Source:

There are currently almost 53.000 records available, with 23711 from the Norwegian Sami bibliography, 24089 from Sweden, 3212 from Finland, and 2133 from Russia.

There are variations in what the different bibliographies contain, 6200 of the posts from the Sami bibliography in Sweden are audio, while more than 16.000 of the posts from Norway are articles, 6500 are books, and only 289 are audio posts.

## 3. Why is it necessary to produce a joint Sami bibliography?

The joint Sami bibliography is a resource to the indigenous people in Sápmi and is of great importance as it can be seen as a carrier of the Sami heritage beyond borders.

Every country and institution produces their own bibliography as usual, but the records are exported regularly to the discovery system. Much if not most of the material in the bibliography is in other languages than Sami. The literature is spread all over the Dewey Classification system and is difficult to get hold of.

Authors and organizations often publish materials that are relevant across the entire Sami nation, and thus also across the nation states of the four countries. This means that a Sami bibliography is not complete if it only concerns itself with the materials found in one of the four countries. Authors can be published in different countries, depending on where and how they work and live, publishers can be based in one country but publish materials of special interest to another country. And while most readers, especially Sami readers themselves, are quite capable of finding the material they need regardless of country of origin, it is not necessarily an intuitive process for someone not well versed in the particulars of Sami culture.

Additionally, while certain aspects of the culture and writing thereof differ based on country of origin, for example regarding policies of the nation state when it comes to rights and language, there are other aspects which are universal for the entirety of Sápmi; while the type of oppression the Sami languages have encountered depended on which country one was located in, the oppression is a common theme throughout. This means that writing on, for example, how to relearn a native language is of interest across all four nation states.

The four bibliographies have many differences and variations, such as the fact that each of them is written in a different language, and one even in a different alphabet.

This makes it difficult to have one simple way of searching through all the various subjects, because even though all four bibliographies are likely to contain records related to for example reindeer herding, the topic will be marked with four separate subject standards. Luckily, there is one thing they all have in common: the classification system known as the Løøv classification. Where Dewey, as we all know, is large and complicated, Løøv's classification can fit on one sheet of paper. It is simple, to the point, and based entirely upon what one is in need of when classifying Sami literature and materials. And because Løøv is created with categories marked by numbers and letters, it stays the same throughout all languages.

#### **4. Background information**

First a glimpse faraway back to the 1950's, when a man named Justin Siegert, a Sudet-German, became an employee at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim. He was preoccupied with the Sami in many ways, also from a bibliographical view.

In 1979 he got funds to support work he had been doing on a hobby basis since 1973 regarding bibliographical information about the Sami relations. In 1980 a steering group took over. One of the members was Anders Løøv, who was a central contributor in Sami library and information services. Not only did he work at NTNU's university library for several years, he also created the previously mentioned Løøv classification system, designed specifically to fit the subject matters that literature of and relating to the Sami most often deals with.

The classification system Anders Løøv created is a fairly simple one, with twenty-one main categories with either no additional groupings, or up to six sub-groups which in turn might have additional sub-groupings. The main categories are numbered, while the first layer of sub-groupings is numbered. There can be at most four layers, which end up looking like for example 6b1a (Philology – linguistics – language history and etymology – Name research), or you can have just 17 (Literary history).

Topics that demand long numbers to fit into Dewey's system are easily found here, like various aspects of reindeer herding (11b3, 12a), the Christian religious movement læstadianism (4d), and the traditional Sami handicrafts (11c4). In addition literature is separated into relevant categories: children's (18c) and adult, in Sami (18a1/18b1) or about Sami subjects (18a2/18b2), by Sami authors (18a) or not (18b).

There is also room for topics that aren't necessarily Sami, as such, but that will need classification when written about in Sami, so there are also categories for subjects like journalism and information operations (19), sports, games, play and entertainment (20), and natural sciences, technical science (21). In a regular library, classifying everything that fits under the subject of natural or technical sciences under one number might not be feasible, and it definitely would not be easy to navigate. In the joint Sami bibliography, however, that category returns 738 hits, out of almost 53.000 records.

In the late 80's, work on the bibliography was proving too extensive for NTNU's university library, so a process was begun to see who could continue the project. Around that time, in 1989, the first division of the National Library of Norway was established in Mo i Rana, situated in the North of Norway. In December 1992 a letter from the Ministry of Culture, dated December 16<sup>th</sup>, stated that the National library was given the go-ahead to start the work. There were a variety of reasons for this decision, the main one being that the legal deposit act makes it very easy to access practically everything published in Norway, thus ensuring the bibliography is about as complete as it can be. Another reason was the fact that Eli Karin Svingeseth, who had previously worked at the Sami special library in Karasjok, was starting work there, and having those qualifications would make the work easier. In addition, the location was considered a beneficial side effect, seeing as how Mo I Rana is located within the area known as Sápmi.

Anders Løøv wrote in the last of the two printed volumes of Sami bibliography published in Norway by NTNU's university library that it is a goal to get a complete registration of everything written about Sami relations, no matter where it is published. As part of that goal, one needs a bibliography

that contains what is published not just in the specific nation states that comprise Sápmi, but also a bibliography that combines all four.

In the National Library in Norway, we started the discussion of a joint bibliography about 20 years ago. For various reasons it took more time than anyone wanted, but the work gained more speed, when in 2011 the Ministry of Culture in Norway instructed the National Library of Norway to be responsible for realizing the bibliography. While it had been agreed all along, for reasons we will get back to, that Norway should be responsible for creating the joint bibliography, it was easier to realize the project once a departmental level had also decided it to be important and worth pursuing.

Only the four bibliographies together from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, can display the wholeness of Sami literature.

A well-functioning joint Sami bibliography is a premise for developing good Sami library services, regardless of which country the material originates from or is being used in.

## **5. Why has it taken so long to launch a joint Sami bibliography?**

There have been many challenges. First of all is the fact that we are dealing with four different countries. Within each country there are several Sami communities and with various languages spoken.

In addition to this, there have been technical differences, various library systems and metadata productions and other obstacles which have made the realization of the four bibliographies into one take such a long time.

Nevertheless, the four countries have applauded the project from the start. In Norway we struggled with an old library system not suitable for this kind of task.

The questions were which country should be responsible for hosting the data and the dissemination of the joint bibliography? And should we develop a new service or platform ourselves or buy a product which was already there?

The answer to the first question is based partly on the fact that there are more Sami living in Norway than in Finland, Sweden and Russia. In addition the Sami bibliography in Norway is the only one operated by the country's national library, which means we have easier access to more bibliographic resources.

The solution to the second question came when BIBSYS, an institution under the Ministry of Education and Research in Norway, and responsible for the old library System called BIBSYS, decided to buy a new discovery system from Ex Libris, called Primo, or Oria in Norway. This made it possible to easily harvest the data from all four bibliographies, and to then disseminate the bibliography in the new discovery platform: <http://sapmi.oria.no>.

Finally, we now have an entrance to everything written about Sami relations regardless of publishing country up North.

There are still some remaining challenges to the ongoing project of the joint bibliography. Like the fact that the Sami bibliography of Russia is only available in Cyrillic, thus making it not searchable using Latin letters. Also the subject headings from the various bibliographies are only in the main language of each bibliography, Finnish, Swedish, Russian and Norwegian, meaning one cannot search for a common subject across all four bibliographies.

These are issues we were aware of during the creation of the common bibliography, but we chose to believe that it is better to create something that is as good as we can make it now, and then improving it as we go along, instead of waiting even longer for something that would hopefully be perfect.

## 6. About the different bibliographies

This is a general overview of the four bibliographies that combine to create the joint Sami bibliography, but there will be some additional information regarding the Norwegian Sami bibliography, because that is the one we know best, and because it is the host of the joint bibliography.

### **The Finnish Sami bibliography:**

It contains documents in all Sami languages, in Finnish and other languages when the subject matter is relevant to Sami culture. The cataloguing is done by Rovaniemi Provincial Library of Lapland. The documents collected are mainly based on the legal deposit act.

All Sami material (books, articles) incl. music, films (av-material, maps, posters) are in the Lapponica-database ([www.lapponica.net](http://www.lapponica.net)).

In 2016 there were 3600 Sami records published in Finland incl. av-material, newspapers and journals. Sami Bibliography contains monograph records of the literature in Sami languages (Skolt Sami, Inari Sami, Northern Sami) and of the literature having the subject of Sami (in different languages) or records made by an Sami author.

Publications are mainly received under the deposit law in the database Fennica – the Finnish National Bibliography and are dedicated to Finnish publication activities.

The growth per year is approximately 50-60 new titles (records) in Fennica. Here are only the books in Sami bibliography. The articles are in ARTO, The Reference Database of Finnish articles (<https://arto.linneanet.fi>). In Lapponica the increase is about 70-100 records a year.

The records can contain up to three classification numbers in them: UDK, Finnish Public Libraries Classification and Løøv Classification. The latter exists only in Sami bibliography (Lapponica).

The subject standard refers to The Lapponica-thesaurus / Finnish General Thesaurus: [www.finto.fi](http://www.finto.fi).

There is no special retrieval system for Sami resources in Fennica, but the platform in the Lapponica database: [www.lapponica.net](http://www.lapponica.net). In Rovaniemi they have used the open source library system Koha from the autumn 2016.

The cataloguing codes are ISBD (2011), AACR2 and for the library system in Rovaniemi where they use Koha, the metadata format is in Marc21.

The records can be exchanged in Marc files and HTML and accessed by Z39.50, FTP and OAI-PHM harvesting.

### **The Russian Sami bibliography:**

It contains documents which are relevant to Sami culture in Russian, Sami, English and other languages published in Russia since 1776. Included are documents which Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library doesn't have in their own collection.

The bibliography also shows the documents regardless of their place of publication and their availability in the library. Cataloguing is done by The Murmansk State Regional Universal Scientific Library.

The bibliographical index "The Sami bibliography: literature in Russian and Sami languages (1776-1996) in Russian was printed in 2005.

In spring 2016 there were 2670 records in the database:  
<http://opac.mgounb.ru/cgiopac/opacg/opac.exe>

The publications are mainly received as regional legal deposit and other publications. The growth is about 200 records a year. The classification systems used are The Russian Library Bibliographic Classification (LBC) and Løøv which appears only in Sami Bibliography.

The method of subject indexing is performed by the Russian National Library. The records are published in the electronic catalog "The Sami bibliography", which is part of the Russian Federation National Bibliography.

The records can be retrieved in the OPAC-Global with the access fields author, place of manufacture, subject heading, keywords, year of publication, context and another.

They use Russian MARC in accordance with ISO2709 and DUBLIN CORE according to protocol OAI and the data can be harvested by OAI-PHM .

There has been talk of possibly transcribing the bibliography from being only in Cyrillic to also having a Latin version, but as of yet there is no definitive information on that project.

### **The Swedish Sami bibliography:**

It consists of documents registered which contain records of the literature in Sami languages and of the literature with Sami aspects published in Sweden. Some non-Scandinavian literature is added. Cataloguing is mainly done by Ájtte, Swedish Mountain- and Sami Museum, with additional work by the Swedish Sami Parliament.

Excluded are reference information of music recordings, newspaper articles, most analytical entries from 2002 and maps.

In later years it has been Ájtte's librarian who has worked with the cataloguing (only monographs), with assistance from other Libris bibliographies. In spring 2016 there were about 25 000 records in the bibliography.

Publications are acquired by the libraries of Ájtte and the Sámi Parliament. The growth per year is approximately 100 records.

The classification systems used are Swedish classification SAB (up to 2011), Dewey (from 2011) and Løøv (only in Sami bibliography).

The subject standard refers to Svenska ämnesord. The Swedish Sami bibliography is one of the subdatabases in Libris and can be retrieved here: <http://libris.kb.se/db/SAMB>.

The library system used is Voyager, but the Swedes are working on developing their own library system now, based on the Bibframe format.

The catalog codes are KRS (Swedish Cataloguing Rules. They are an adapted translation of AACR2 in UTF-8 encoded MARC21.

The access options are FTP, Z39.50, API:s (incl. Xsearch, SRU, OAI-PMH and Linked Data.

The records can be exchanged in MARC files (ISO 2709), MARCXML, MODS, JSON, Dublin Core, RDFDC and a number of reference formats (RIS, Harvard ...).

### **The Norwegian Sami bibliography:**

In the Norwegian Sami bibliography documents in all Sami languages are registered, and documents in Norwegian and other languages when the subject matter is relevant to Sami culture, as long as they are published in Norway. The bibliography covers the period from 1945-1987, and extensively covers everything from 1993 onward. From 1993 the documents collected are based on the legal deposit act of 1989.

There are also records of objects from before 1945, but these are incomplete and not currently being added to in any kind of organized way. This is also true of the period between 1987 and 1993, but



there are plans of filling that gap in a more organized manner, made easier by the extensive digitalization the National library is undertaking.

At the moment we have about 24 000 records from the period 1945-1987 and from 1993-. About 70 % are analytical entries from books and periodicals. The majority of records are articles in periodicals, and the bibliography has around 270 periodicals picked out to review, as the total number of periodicals received is much too large to handle. The bibliography covers music in all Sami languages and/or about Sami relations, or with Sami musicians.

Records not included in the bibliography are maps, master theses, film/video/dvd/, photography, posters, and articles in newspapers. These are mainly not included due to a lack of resources and demanding more complicated routes of registration. In addition, records of electronic documents – while included in the bibliography – follow a different route of registration than printed matter, and therefore are slightly less thorough, but the fact that they are searchable in full makes them easier to navigate.

Until 2009 the Sami bibliography was produced in the system MikroMarc, which differed from the system used by the rest of the National library, and also meant new records were released to the end users only a few times a year. Since the introduction of the new systems release of new records has happened almost instantaneously. Also using the same systems as the rest of the National library enables us to in a larger degree cooperate with other bibliographies about the materials being registered, thus saving the institution having to do the same job twice. This cooperation is an ongoing project, and of particular interest is Norart, the Norwegian and Nordic index to periodical articles.

Because of its status as one of the largest bibliographies at the National library, while still being a very manageable size, the Sami bibliography has been at the forefront when it comes to creating easier access for end users, especially in collaboration with Bibsys, who does a majority of the technical work.

The growth is approximately 1200 records a year. The classification systems used are WebDewey and Løøv (only in Sami Bibliography). The subject standard is a controlled vocabulary.

The bibliography is produced in the library system Alma and disseminated in the discovery system Primo, in Norway called Oria: <http://Samisk.oria.no>

The Norwegian National Bibliography includes Sami Bibliography. The cataloguing codes are MARC21 and AARC2 for access points. The access options are Z39.50, FTP, OAI-PHM harvesting. The media and format options are MARC exchange file and XML.

## **7. More about the joint bibliography**

As we have pointed out earlier, the joint Sami bibliography shows a more complete picture of the production of documents or material regarding Sami relations in the whole Sami area in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

The documents are in many written languages. In the Norwegian Sami bibliography for instance the Sami languages are in the minority, and most common is Norwegian.

Six of the nine living Sámi languages currently have standard written forms:

Northern Sámi (davvisámegiella / sámegiella), a Western Sámi language spoken by about 15,000 people in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Lule Sámi (julevsámegiella), a Western Sámi language with about 1,500 speakers in Norway and Sweden.

Southern Sámi (åarjelsaemien gielle), a Western Sámi language with around 600 speakers in Sweden and Norway.

Inari Saami (anarâškielâ), an Eastern Sámi language with about 500 speakers in Finland.



Skolt Sámi (sää'mkiõll / nuõrttsää'm), an Eastern Sámi language with about 400 speakers in Finland and Russia.

Kildin Sámi (кӀЛЛТ сӀмь кӀЛЛ), an Eastern Sámi language spoken in the Kola peninsula of Russia by about 600 people.

The other Sámi languages are:

Pite Sámi (Bidumsámeigiella), a Western Sámi language with about 25-50 speakers in Sweden.

Ume Sámi, a Western Sámi language spoken in Norway and Sweden by about 10 people.

Ter Sámi (saa'mekiill), an Eastern Sámi language spoken in Russia by 2 people.

While the languages can be very different from one another, they also exist on a continuum, meaning that a Sami speaker is capable of understanding the neighboring languages. This means that when the material is easy to find, even across borders, someone speaking one variation of Sami can be subjected to the other languages, thus fostering an increased understanding between languages, and opening up for access to even more literature. Because it is an undeniable fact that there are not very many books published, and therefore it is especially important to make the ones that do exist easily accessible.

More and more material is born digital and much printed older material is being digitized. The challenge here is giving access to these documents and material beyond borders and also within each country due to copyright laws.

Bokhylla.no, in English it means Bookshelf.no, is an online service giving users with Norwegian IP addresses access to every book published in Norway up until 2000. That implicates that all the books in Bokhylla which also are in the Norwegian Sami bibliography, are available in full text. In accordance with the agreement with Kopinor, upon which the service is based, users without Norwegian IP addresses can apply for access for specific purposes, primarily research, education and professional translation. Access is normally granted for a period of six months, with the possibility of an extension.

In the time to come we will see if it would be possible to make an agreement with publishers in the Norwegian part of Sápmi to give access to all printed Sami written relevant material for digitizing and making it available in full text in the Sami bibliography, at least for all the participating countries in the joint Sami Bibliography.

There are many items we can digitize ourselves at the National Library in Norway in Mo i Rana. Some years ago we had big problems with the scanning programs and OCR recognizing Sami letters. These problems are now solved.



**References:**

Wikipedia.