

Bringing community to the data

digilab.
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Developing a digital lab at the National Library of Estonia

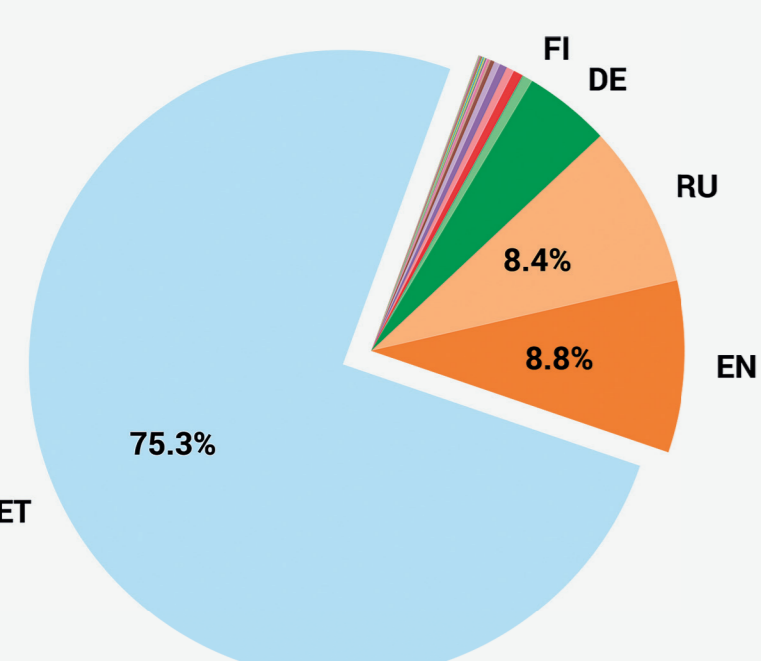
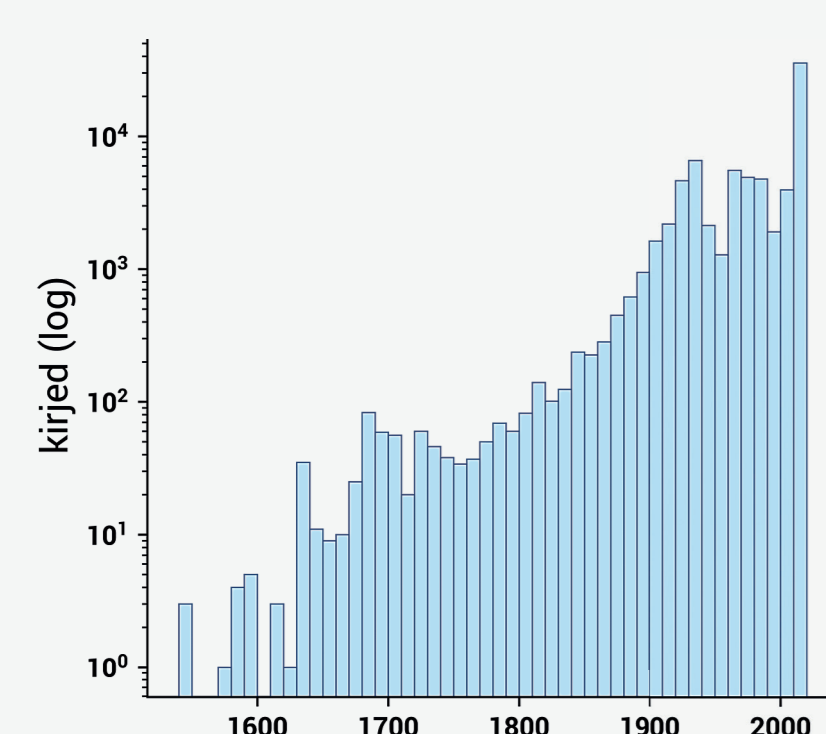
- Libraries and other cultural heritage institutions have digitized troves of data
- Now a new user is emerging – the “data geek cultural historian”
- To connect data maintainers with users, it’s important to take collaborative steps within the community and build a strong infrastructure
- Increased value from the data benefits all

- 2013
Open Data portal
- 2019–2021
Going Beyond Search – NordPlus project
- 2020–2023
Open Digital Libraries – Creative Europe project
- 2023
DigiLab launch

Data

Computational access to digital collections

- 12M newspaper articles, 70k books, 785k objects metadata
- Different formats (TSV, JSON, MARC, etc.)
- Descriptions and access conditions
- Data from other organizations



DigiLab offers various kinds of cultural data. Statistics on digitized books in our collections.

Tools

Explore data & write code

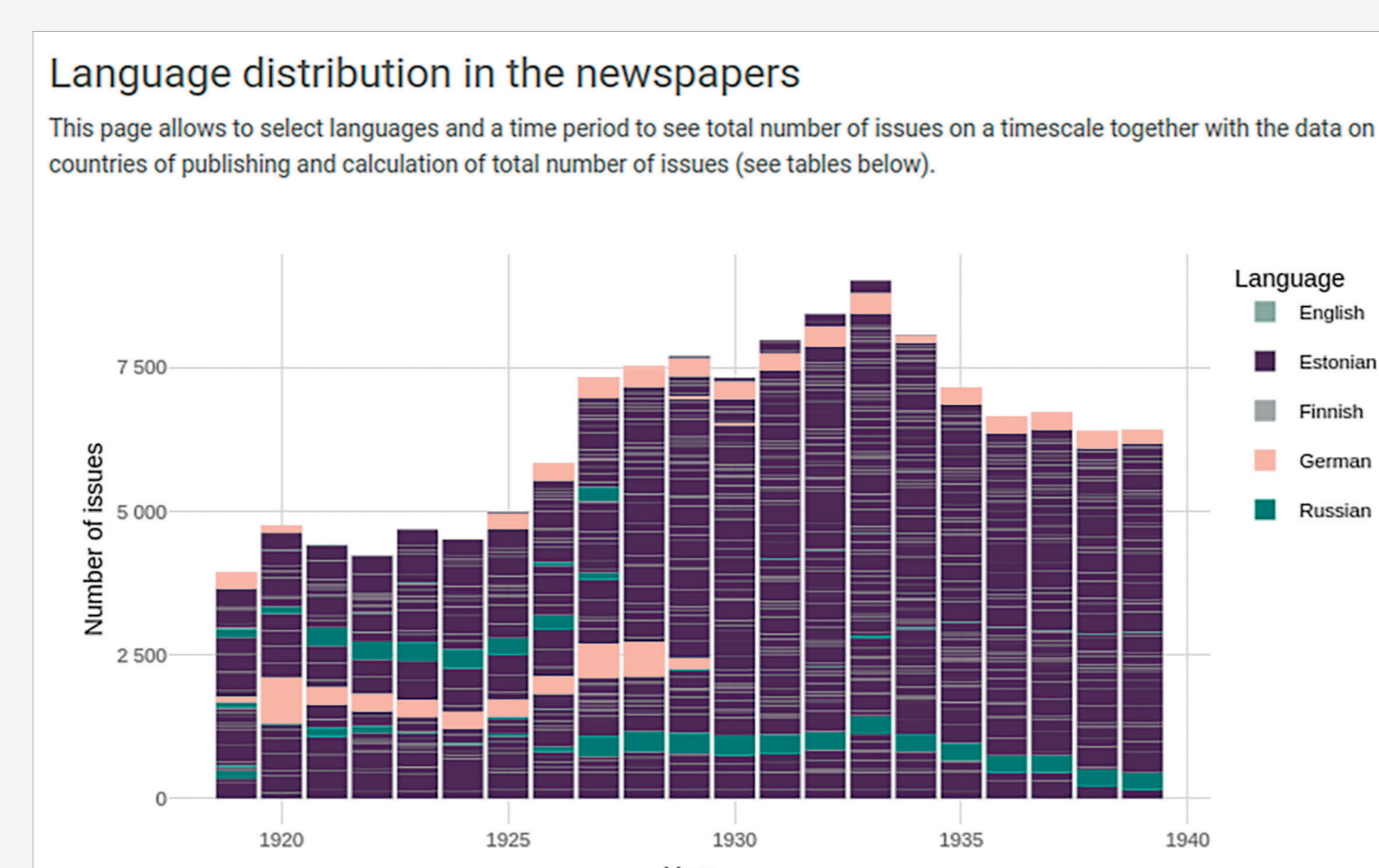
- Metadata explorers
- Ngram reader
- What’s been digitized?

Browse tools from other GLAMs

- Simple NLP lemmatizer
- Photo similarity network



A spatial visualization tool that maps diachronically where the works listed in the Estonian national bibliography are published.



Our collections are multi-lingual. Snippet of the digiLab journals metadata explorer.

Community

Developing contacts inside and outside the library

- Showing the value of digitization to other library specialists
- Looking for partnerships and mutual benefit
- Offering a joint university DH course
- Collaborating with the private sector (companies looking for translation data, etc.)

Fostering data reuse, exploration and recognition

- Encouraging reuse of data and publishing of results
- Cherishing and crediting the authors
- Organizing campaigns for data use
- Conducting case studies
- Social media advertisement
- Introductory videos and tutorials
- Competitions and scholarships

