

Abstract (for 10 min. presentation)

Diplomatarium Fennicum – Online Database of Finnish Medieval Documents

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Diplomatarium Fennicum is a database of medieval documents concerning Finland (i.e. the medieval Diocese of Åbo). The database contains information on circa 7000 documents known from medieval Finland. The data includes edited texts, translations, digitized publications, digital images of archival sources, and a large set of metadata on places, persons, languages, and archives. The data is available through a web service (www.arkisto.fi/df) where it can be searched in detail and visualized on timelines and maps.

Diplomatarium Fennicum has been created by the Finnish National Archives with funding from the Kone Foundation in a project running from 2015 to 2017. The database is now in its beta-stage with the scheduled release of the full service in November 2017. The service makes a key part of historical Finnish medieval sources accessible online. The focus of the project has been on creating an all new web infrastructure as well as greatly expanding and improving the data deriving from an earlier Diplomatarium Fennicum database (from the late 1990's and early 2000's).

Finnish medieval charters have been studied and edited since the early 19th century and Diplomatarium Fennicum draws from a rich research tradition and the work of dozens of scholars for its information content. New data and metadata has been produced both manually and with computerized means such as datamining. The user interface will be available in three languages (fin/swe/eng) and flexible technical solutions have been used to ensure long-term upkeep. The needs of historians and linguists have been addressed specifically, and potential users include scholars, students, and the wider public.

The presentation will highlight the main features of the web service and the processes of metadata creation.