Fragments of academic publishing in Estonia

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This fragmentary text introduces the venue of EASE Tallinn 2012 conference in the context of Estonian academic publishing.

Estonia’s printing press came into being in 1631 at the secondary school of Tartu, the predecessor of the University of Tartu, which was founded on 30 June 1632 by the Foundation Decree of Academia Dorpatensis, signed by King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden.

The University of Tartu History Museum showcases the history of science and publishing as well as university education from the 17th century to the present day. The museum occupies the former university library, which was built in the choir of the ruins of a former dome cathedral.

Main building of the University of Tartu (Photographer: Andres Tennus)

University of Tartu History Museum (Photographer: Andres Tennus)

Tallinn University of Technology (founded in 1918), the venue for the 2012 EASE Conference, is the second largest
public university in Estonia. The university is the nation’s leading academic institution in engineering, business, and public administration.

Tallinn University of Technology Library is housed in a building unique in architecture and exterior material.

In addition to recent publications, it also holds rarities.

Major scientific publications issued by the Estonian Academy Press in collaboration with the universities have international editorial boards.

All the journals published in English are peer reviewed and recognized by the Estonian Science Foundation and the Estonian Research Council, concordant with international science standards.


Copy editors and author’s editors of most of the journals are English philologists and English teachers who have qualified for editing in certain areas. As the authors are not native speakers of English, major revisions are occasionally the case. Senior writers, who were writing in Russian for years to publish their articles, still need substantial help. According to my experience, the main drawbacks are to do with the differences in word order: in Estonian the order is free, but English sentences carry a fixed word order. Many other troublespots need attention when training and working with PhD students and young authors who are writing for publication. Experiences of copy editing in Estonia may be a topic for an essay.