

Package ‘finlex’

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Title Access Open Data from the Finnish 'Finlex' Legislative Database

Version 0.1.0

Description Provides functions to retrieve and structure Finnish legislative data made available through the 'Finlex' Open Data API (<<https://www.finlex.fi/en/open-data>>). Functions cover retrieval of statute catalogues, statute titles, structured statute metadata, and cross-references between amending and amended statutes, returned as tidy tibbles for further analysis.

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Encoding UTF-8

Language en-GB

URL <https://github.com/KristianVepsalainen/finlex>

BugReports <https://github.com/KristianVepsalainen/finlex/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

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 flx_download_statutes *Download the catalogue of Finnish statutes*

Description

Retrieves the list of Finnish statutes (Finnish: *säädökset*) published via the Finlex Open Data REST API (<https://www.finlex.fi/en/open-data>), for a given range of years and statute categories. Only the Finnish-language (fin) version of each statute is returned.

Usage

```
flx_download_statutes(
  start_year = 1987,
  end_year = as.integer(format(Sys.Date(), "%Y")),
  categories = c("new-statute", "amending-statute", "repealing-statute"),
  quiet = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

<code>start_year</code>	Integer. First year to include. The Finlex Open Data API currently starts from 1987.
<code>end_year</code>	Integer. Last year to include. Defaults to the current year.
<code>categories</code>	Character vector. One or more of "new-statute", "amending-statute", "repealing-statute". Defaults to all three.
<code>quiet</code>	Logical. If FALSE (the default), prints one progress message per year processed.

Value

A `tibble::tibble()` with one row per statute and the columns:

akn_uri The Akoma Ntoso URI identifying the statute.

year Year of the statute, as an integer.

number Statute number within that year, as an integer.

statute_type One of "NewStatute", "Amendment", "Repeal".

Returns a zero-row tibble with the same columns if nothing matches.

Examples

```
flx_download_statutes(
  start_year = 2023,
  end_year   = 2023,
  categories = "new-statute"
)
```

flx_get_affected	<i>Get statutes affected by an amending or repealing statute</i>
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Description

For a given amending or repealing statute, retrieves the statute(s) it affects (the affectedDocument references in the Akoma Ntoso document). A single amending statute can affect more than one target statute (for example, an omnibus act amending several other acts), in which case one row is returned per affected target.

Usage

```
flx_get_affected(year, number)
```

Arguments

year	Integer vector. Year(s) of the amending/repealing statute(s).
number	Integer vector. Number(s) of the statute(s) within that year. Recycled against year if shorter.

Details

This function does not check whether the supplied statute is actually an amendment or repeal; it simply looks for affectedDocument references in whatever statute is requested. New statutes will typically return status = "no_affected".

Value

A `tibble::tibble()` with the columns:

source_year Year of the amending/repealing statute, as supplied.

source_number Number of the amending/repealing statute, as supplied.

status One of "ok" (at least one affected statute found), "no_affected" (statute found, but no affected-document references present), "not_found", or "error".

target_href URI of the affected statute, or NA.

target_year Year of the affected statute, or NA.

target_number Number of the affected statute, or NA.

Examples

```
# Look up affected statutes for a known amending statute
flx_download_statutes(
  start_year = 2023, end_year = 2023,
  categories = "amending-statute"
) |>
  head(1) |>
  with(flx_get_affected(year, number))
```

flx_get_metadata

Get structured metadata for one or more Finnish statutes

Description

Retrieves core bibliographic metadata for one or more Finnish statutes from the Finlex Open Data API: the date of issue, the official title, and the number of sections (Finnish: *pykälät*) in the statute text.

Usage

```
flx_get_metadata(year, number)
```

Arguments

year	Integer vector. Year(s) of the statute(s).
number	Integer vector. Number(s) of the statute(s) within that year. Recycled against year if shorter.

Details

This function intentionally returns only raw, directly observed fields. Any derived classification (for example, grouping statutes into categories such as "Act", "Decree", or "Decision" based on title patterns) is left to a separate function, since that involves methodological choices rather than data retrieval.

Value

A `tibble::tibble()` with one row per (year, number) pair and the columns:

year As supplied.

number As supplied.

status One of "ok", "not_found", or "error".

date_issued Date the statute was issued, as a [Date](#).

title The statute's official title.

n_sections Integer. Number of section elements found in the Akoma Ntoso document — a rough, purely structural proxy for statute length.

Examples

```
flx_get_metadata(year = 1992, number = 1535) # Tuloverolaki
```

flx_get_title	<i>Get the title of one or more Finnish statutes</i>
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Description

Retrieves the official title of one or more Finnish statutes from the Finlex Open Data API, given each statute's year and number.

Usage

```
flx_get_title(year, number)
```

Arguments

year	Integer vector. Year(s) of the statute(s).
number	Integer vector. Number(s) of the statute(s) within that year. Recycled against year if shorter.

Details

Not every statute in Finnish legal history is available through the Finlex Open Data API (very old statutes in particular are not covered). When a statute cannot be found, `status` is set to "not_found" rather than raising an error, so that vectorized calls complete even when some statutes are missing.

Value

A `tibble::tibble()` with one row per (year, number) pair and the columns:

year As supplied.

number As supplied.

status One of "ok", "not_found", or "error".

title The statute's official title, or NA if unavailable.

Examples

```
flx_get_title(year = 1992, number = 1535) # Tuloverolaki  
flx_get_title(year = c(1992, 1993), number = c(1535, 1501))
```

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