



UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, UNIVERSITÉ D'EUROPE

Bibliothèques

LIBER Architecture Group Seminar

Changing needs, changing libraries

ULB – Humanities Library

Visit

20 March 2006



UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, UNIVERS

Bibliothèques



7 Faculties

- **Philosophy and Literature**
- **Law** (incl. School of Criminal Science)
- **Social Sciences, Politics and Economics** (incl. Solvay Business School, Institute of Sociology, Institute of Labour Science)
- **Psychological and Educational Sciences**
- **Science** (incl. Institute of Environment Management and Land Planning, Institute of Statistics and Operational Research, Inter-faculty School of Bioengineering)
- **Medicine**
- **Applied Sciences – Polytechnical School** (incl. Inter-faculty School of Bioengineering)



UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, UNIVER

Bibliothèques

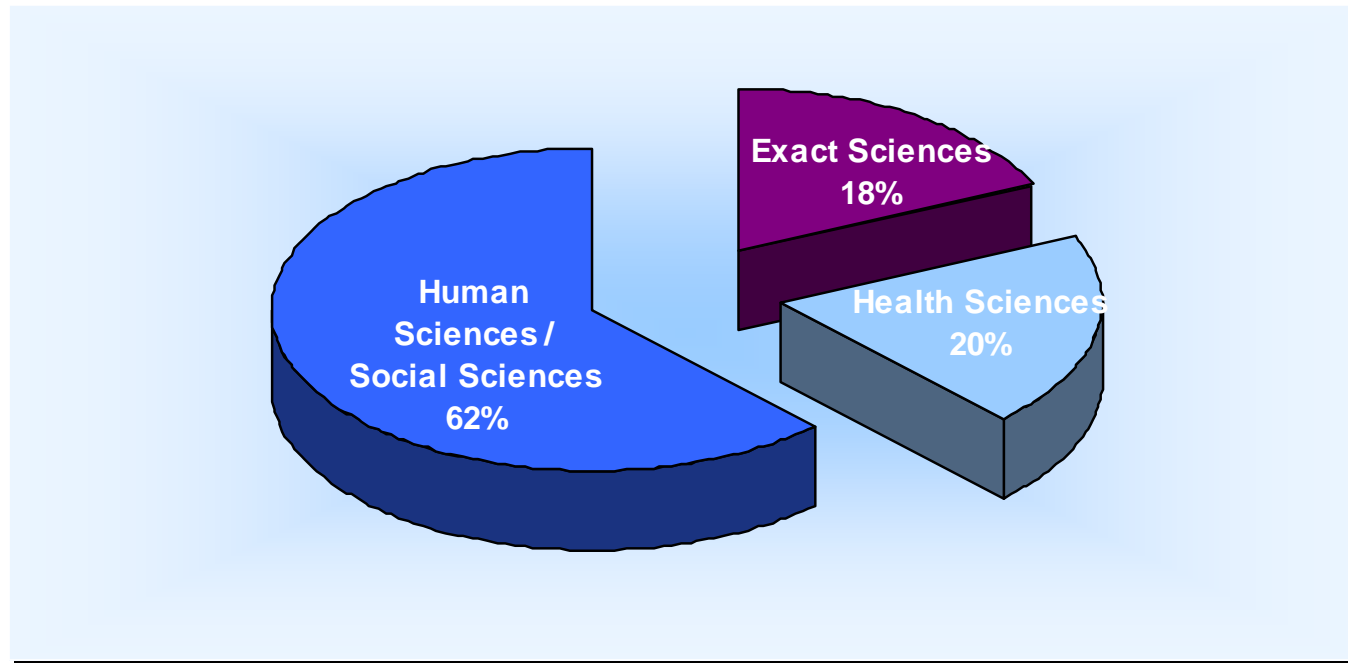
Institutes / Schools



- **School of Public Health**
- **Higher Institute for Physical Education and Physiotherapy**
- **Institute of Pharmacy**
- **Institute of European Studies**

The ULB in Figures (1)

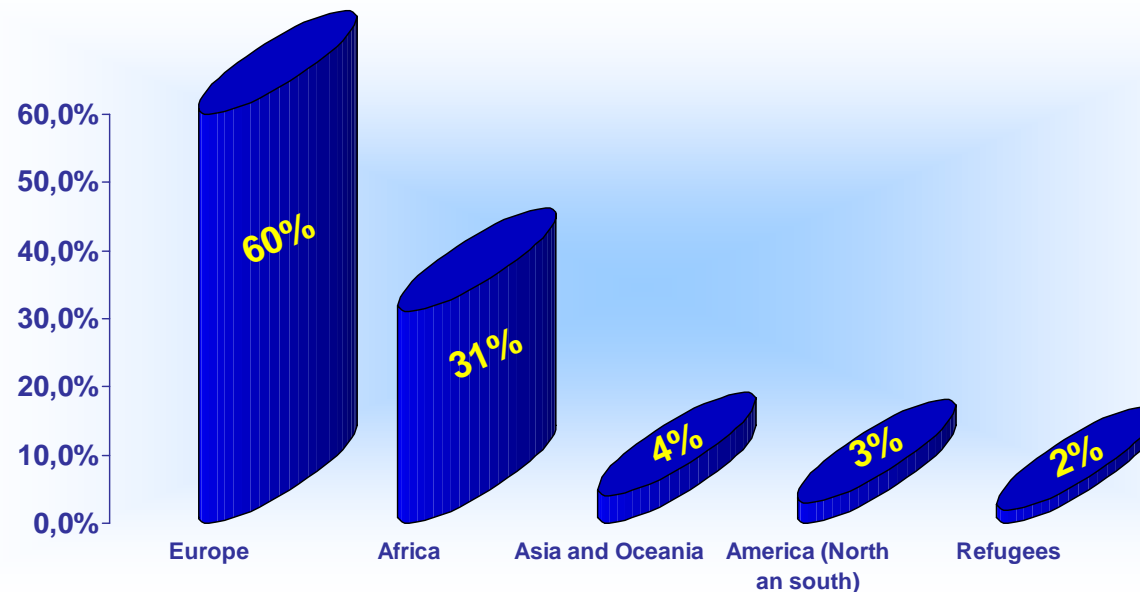
19,500 students in 2004/2005 among whom :



Number of graduates between 1971 and 2004 : 85,000

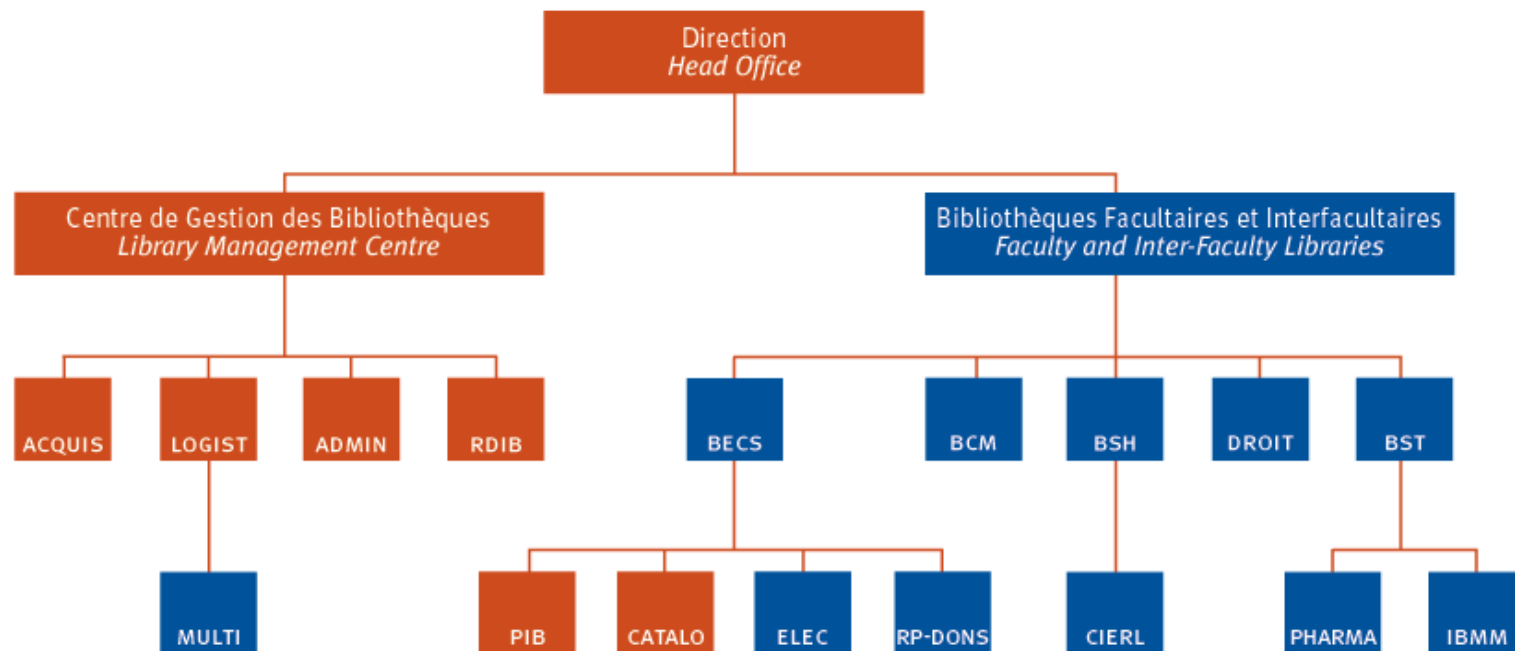
The ULB in Figures (2)

25% foreign students. Among foreign students:



Organigramme Organisational Chart

- Le réseau des bibliothèques de l'ULB regroupe cinq grandes bibliothèques principales, des bibliothèques spécialisées et des bibliothèques périphériques, soutenues par le Centre de Gestion des Bibliothèques.
- *The ULB network of libraries consists of five main libraries, specialised libraries and peripheral libraries, all of which are underpinned by the Library Management Centre.*





UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, UNIVERSITÉ D'EUROPE

Bibliothèques

ACQUIS _____ Département Acquisitions
Acquisitions Department

ADMIN _____ Département Administration générale
General Administration

CATALO _____ Département Catalogue
Catalogue Department

LOGIST _____ Département Logistique
Facilities Department

PIB _____ Département Prêt Inter-bibliothèques
Inter-Library Lending Department

RDIB _____ Département Recherche & Développement
et Informatique des bibliothèques
*Research & Development and Information
Technology Department*

BCM _____ Bibliothèque centrale de Médecine
Central Medical Library

BECS _____ Bibliothèque Électronique
et Collections spéciales
Electronic Library and Special Collections

BSH _____ Bibliothèque des Sciences Humaines
Humanities Library

BST _____ Bibliothèque des Sciences et Techniques
Science and Technology Library

CIERL _____ Bibliothèque du Centre interdisciplinaire
d'Étude des Religions et de la Laïcité
*Interdisciplinary Religion and Secularism
Research Centre*

DROIT _____ Bibliothèque de Droit
Law Library

ELEC _____ Bibliothèque Électronique
Electronic Library

IBMM _____ Bibliothèque de l'Institut de Biologie Médicale
et Moléculaire
*Library of the Institute of Medical
and Molecular Biology*

MULTI _____ Département Multimédia
Multimedia Department

PHARMA _____ Bibliothèque de Pharmacie
Pharmacy Library

RP-DONS _____ Réserve Précieuse et Département des Dons
et Échanges
*Precious Reserve and Department of Donations
and Exchanges*

Humanities Library: A History

- After World War I:
 - A new campus outside the city centre
 - A new main University building
 - A new library within
(open in 1929)



Humanities Library: A History

Big and bright reading room



New book reserve





Humanities Library: A History

- In 1975, division of the central library into four Faculty Libraries:
 - Central and Humanities Library: Faculty of Philosophy and Literature, Faculty of Social Sciences, Politics and Economics, Faculty of Psychological and Educational Sciences
 - Science and Technology Library: Faculty of Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences – Polytechnical School
 - Medical Library: Faculty of Medicine, Public Health School
 - Law Library: Law Faculty



Humanities Library: A History

- In the beginning of the nineties:
 - Too small central library
 - Small libraries scattered on campus
 - Too few workplaces for students (500)



Programming a new library – objectives

- One single library for all fields of the faculties of Philosophy and Literature, Social sciences, Politics and Economics, Psychological and Educational Sciences and their School and Institutes
- Provide more workplaces for students
- Improve access to information, both printed and electronic
- Improve services to the end-users



Programming a new library

- Integration in the general University policy:
 - Quality of teaching
 - Autonomous learning
 - Symbol of the institution
- Conception of a new building:
 - Access and preservation —————> Free access and compact storage
 - Single building with a unique entry
 - Collecting all the documents from scattered small libraries
 - Enough workplaces for students



Programming a new library

- Characteristics of the new building (1) :
 - Extension of the existing building
 - Integration in campus life
 - Comfort for the user
 - Accessibility: extended opening hours
 - Distributed workstations for the consultation of electronic documents : catalogues, databases, electronic books and periodicals



Programming a new library

Characteristics of the new building (2):

- Direct access to information
- Research
- Teaching
- Study
- Training for library research
- Free access collections and reading rooms
- Research rooms
- Seminar rooms
- Reading rooms and study room
- Training room

The new Humanities Library was inaugurated on 12 September 1994 –
The library part of the ancient building was renovated in 1994-1995



Division by level / section

New building	Old building
1st level: Reserve	3PSY : Psychological and educational sciences
2d (2NIV): Hall and services	Free access to periodical collections
3rd (3NIV): Reference	5ORI – 5SLA: Slave and oriental literature and linguistics
4th (4NIV): Social sciences, Politics, Anthropology, European Studies	
5th (5NIV): Economics and Management	
6th (6NIV):Linguistics and Literature	
7th (7NIV): History of Art and Archaeology	
8th (8NIV): History and Religion	
9th (9NIV): Philosophy	



Bibliothèques

Key figures of the Humanities library (2006)

Surface	18.850 m ² (12.700 + 6.150)
Reading places	2110 seats (1780 + 330)
Collections in free access	250.000 volumes
Collections in reserve	800.000 volumes
Increase in catalogue collections	18.000 units / year
loans	165.000 / year of which 35% by Selfcheck device
Visits (2004-2005)	1.500.000 visits / year Between 5.000 and 10.000 visits / day
Opening hours	67 h / week 79 h / week (exams period)
Staff	28 FTE



ULB Libraries: Key figures

Collections (january 2006)	~1.530.000 volumes	
Books, theses and dissertations	1.030.000	Volumes (76% catalogued)
articles, brochures, miscellaneous	31.318	units
Audiovisual documents	11.685	units
Digital images (Iconothèque)	4.518	images
Digitalised books (Digithèque)	6.383	pages
e-books	2.100	titles
Printed periodicals - current	5.206	titles
Electronic periodicals	5.232	titles
Databases	500	titles
<i>Increase in catalogue collections in 2005</i>	32.600	units
	26.000	Periodical issues



What has been evolving for twelve years?

- Equipement, especially computer equipment, including selfcheck for lending books
- Integration of new collections (recently Institute of European Studies, Goethe Institute)
- Usage change of some rooms
- Development of training activities for library research

Some difficulties

- The library is more and more overcrowded
- The circulation of users is frequent and not always easy (namely due to teaching activities and to the multiple floors in the library)
- Too much noise in the hall and sometimes in the reading rooms
- The reserve will be saturated soon
- Problems with the fastenings of the marble slabs of the façades

Nevertheless...

- The new library is a success
- Problems are mostly caused by the attractiveness of the library
- Users are happy to work in the library





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Bibliothèques

Thank you

Let us visit the library

Have a nice seminar