



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)



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Bibliothèques

Institutes / Schools



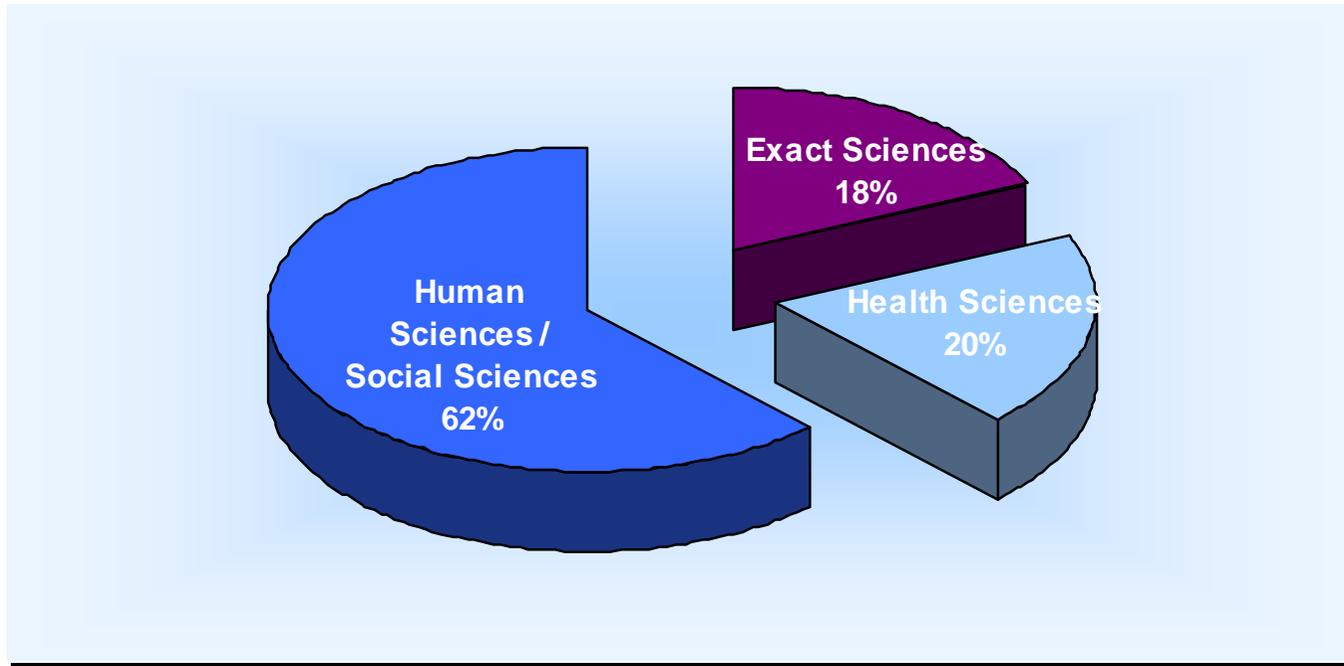
- **School of Public Health**
- **Higher Institute for Physical Education and Physiotherapy**
- **Institute of Pharmacy**
- **Institute of European Studies**



Bibliothèques

The ULB in Figures (1)

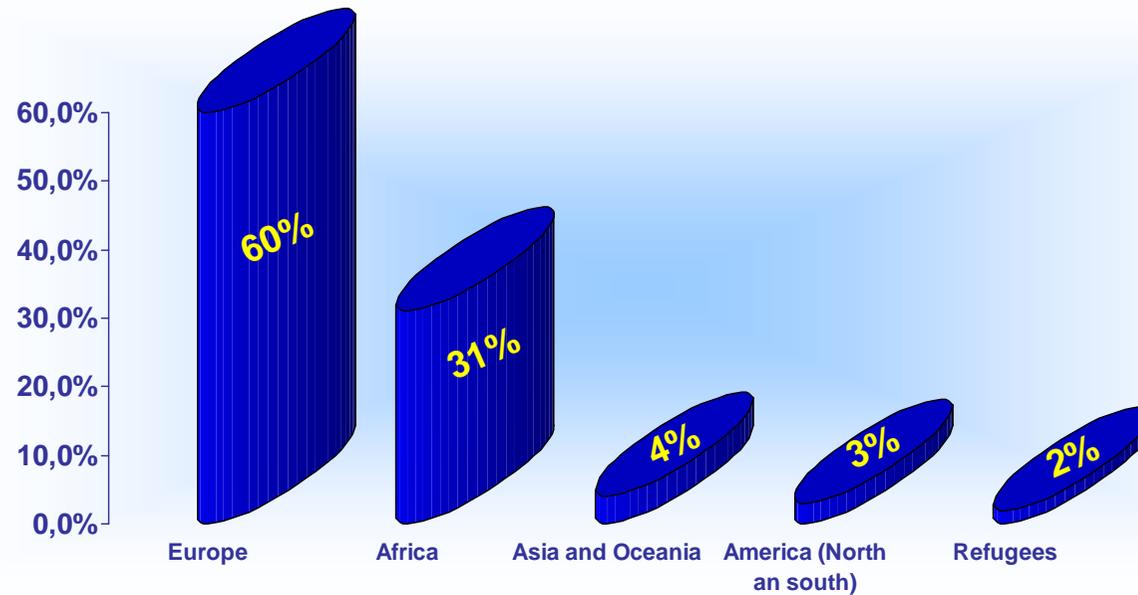
19,500 students in 2004/2005 among whom :



Number of graduates between 1971 and 2004 : 85,000

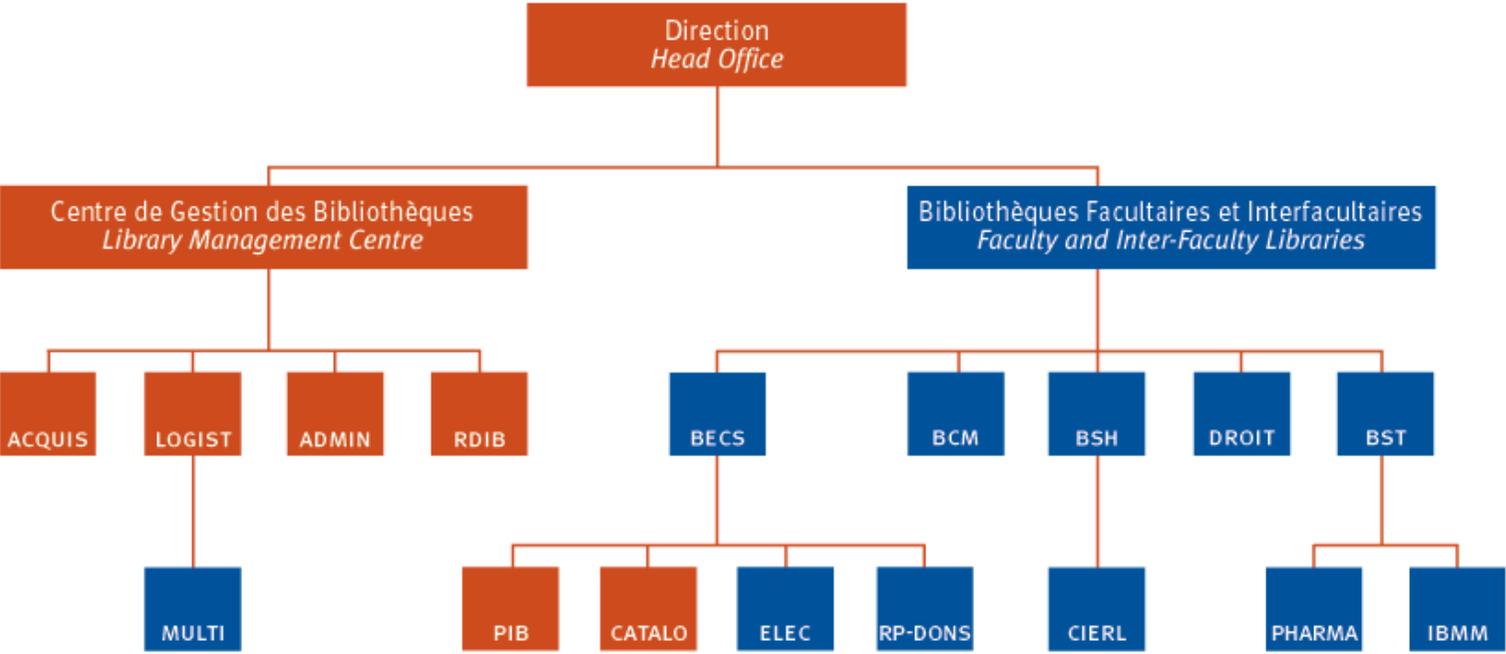
The ULB in Figures (2)

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.*



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 2d (2NIV): Hall and services 3rd (3NIV): Reference 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	3PSY : Psychological and educational sciences Free access to periodical collections 5ORI – 5SLA: Slave and oriental literature and linguistics



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



Bibliothèques

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