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NEW LIBRARY BUILDING – NEW PERSPECTIVES

Tallinn University of Technology Library

The new building of the Tallinn University of Technology Library was festively opened on 11th November 2009. The importance of the library in the contemporary society was emphasized by the President of the Republic of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves in his welcome address.



Campus of Tallinn University of Technology



Tallinn University of Technology (TUT) has about 13,500 students and personnel of about 2000. TUT is organized into 8 faculties, 33 departments, 9 faculty research centres, 10 affiliated institutions. The academic structure comprises 8 faculties: Civil Engineering, Power Engineering, Social Sciences, Information Technology, Chemistry and Materials Technology, Economics and Business Administration, Science, Mechanical Engineering.

TUT Library, founded in 1919, serves as the university centre of library services and electronic information and as the only scientific technical library in Estonia is open for public use.

Library in Figures (2010)

Printed collections (volumes)	734,000
Received books in printed form (2010)	10,100
Subscribed printed journals (titles)	570
Access to e-books (titles)	50,000
Access to e-journals (titles)	41,000
Readers	27,000
outside TUT	10,000
Visits	250,000
Homeloans	122,000
Library staff, FTE	71
Total staff (incl. TUT Press, Museum)	80



Aims of the new building

Bringing the library from seven different places on the campus and in town into one building; creating contemporary storage conditions for collections; expanding the capacity of the open access area; more seating places and computer workplaces for users; creating a contemporary working environment for individual learning, group-work, interactive learning, user training; offering various self-service facilities for users; improving access for users with disabilities; creating high quality exhibition space; modernizing ICT facilities; improving working conditions for staff.

Special features of the new library building

- the building is the dominant feature in a strategically important location – the university campus corner plot. Two galleries connect the library to other university buildings.
- the building has a simple form, shaped like a brick covered with printed facade textile, which serves also as a light filter. From close up, it looks like random pixels, but viewed from a distance, a wood grain pattern emerges. In its protective textile covering it is one of the largest public buildings to employ this technique.
- the interior architectural concept is based on wood – the floor plan, the interplay of forms and the selection of materials. Grassy-green leaf pattern carpeting has been laid down by the shelves to dampen noise and footsteps. Felt panels at the ends of the shelves also help absorb noise.
- the intensive inhouse traffic is assembled into the central part of each floor, quiet workplaces are located in side areas.

In 2010 Estonian government presented the architects who designed the library building (Estonian young architects from the firm AET Arhitektid) with the National Culture Award for architectural solution and interior design.



Changes in the structure of the TUT Library have been implemented: TUT Press and the University Technological Museum were united to the library by the Rector.

Print-on-Demand technology has been bought for offering printing and publishing services for clients. Black and white and colour digital printing equipment was bought at the beginning of 2010 for printing in small print runs.

Exhibiting the history of the university – a new area of activity for the library.

In mid-September an exhibition devoted to the centenary of the academician Heinrich Laul, the best-known construction engineer in Estonia, was opened. He helped to restore the “Estonia” theatre, which was destroyed during the war, and participated in designing the Song Festival choir stand.



New facilities are offered to users:

- 300,000 volumes on open access shelves (among them 100,000 volumes of textbooks)
- 500 different study places on the four floors of the building
- free access to Wireless Internet in the whole building
- a computer lab with 22 computers
- a training classroom for IL courses
- 26 individual study rooms
- 6 group study rooms
- 16 information kiosks
- 8 visual display screens
- 2 self check-out machines
- 1 self check-in machine
- use of Estonian ID Card as the Library Card

Considerable changes have taken place in service – for the first time facilities for self-service are provided for the visitors.

Borrowing books is easy and convenient using the check-out machines on the second and third floors of the library. More than 20% of the home loan procedures are performed using the check-out machines.

The check-in machine enables visitors to return books also when the library is closed.

There are self-service printing and copying machines on each floor. These and the self-service scanning machines have become very popular. Using scanning machines is free of charge for the readers.

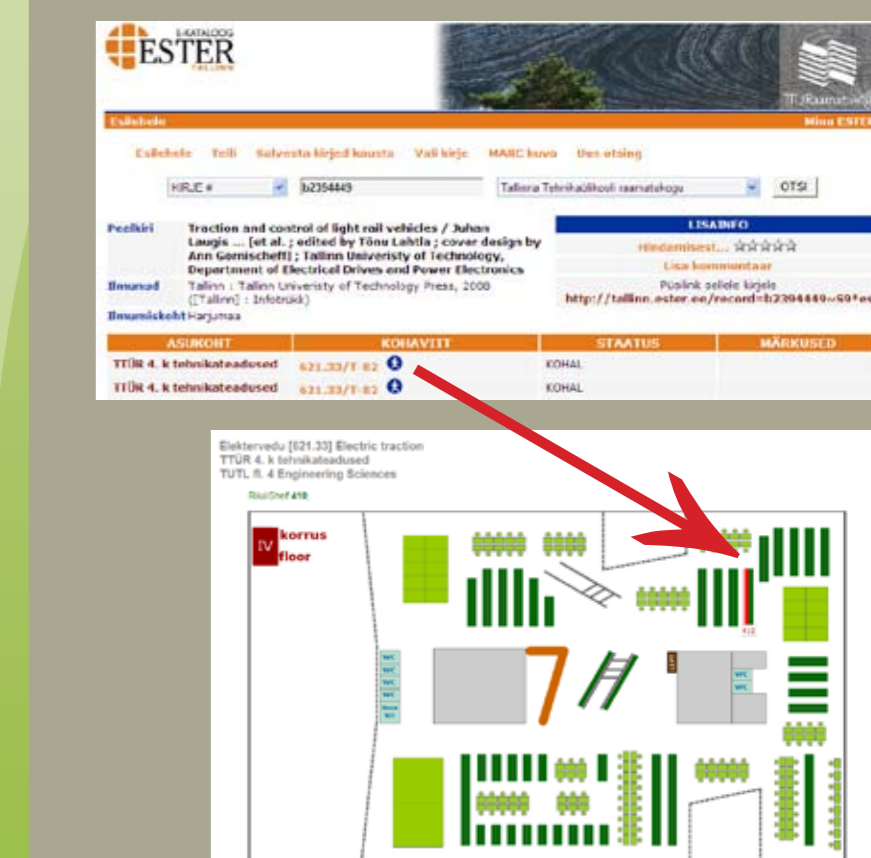
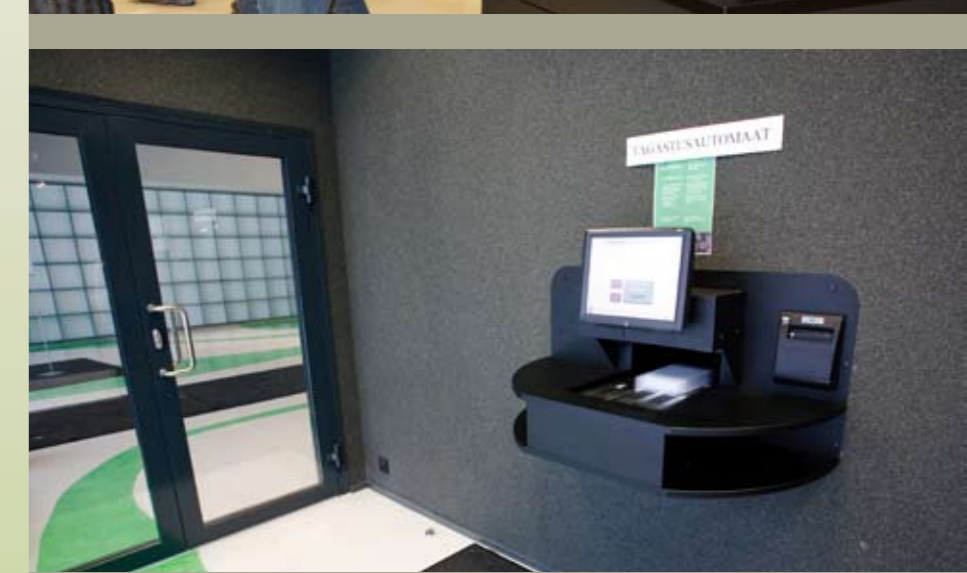
Information kiosks and visual display screens provide users with necessary assistance on every floor. At present the i-kiosks include the e-catalogue ESTER and an open stack guide.

The open stack guide, which is a unique software solution worked out at our library, is a topographical system for very precise spotting of the location of a book on the open stack.

Since autumn a new service of processing the inquiries from the e-catalogue ESTER has been in use.

Since autumn the icon “blue chap” as a development of the open stack guide and the e-catalogue ESTER has been in use. Clicking the “blue chap” next to the call number in the e-catalogue ESTER, the floor map and the number of the shelf where the book can be found are displayed on the screen.

The new library building is becoming a popular learning centre and meeting place where the user is able to interact freely with other and easily obtain help and assistance. The number of readers has increased by more than 22% within a year, 5,000 new readers have been added. Approximately 1,600 readers visit the library daily.



PER LIBROS AD SCIENTIAM!