

Preparing a New Library and Learning Centre as an Interuniversity Initiative: Norms

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The idea of a new L&LC for ULB and VUB

A new Library & Learning Centre!

How to start ?

Basic ideas:

ULB – Faculté des Sciences & Techniques

VUB – 2 or 7 faculties?

Can VUB keep the advantages of a central library (for its 7 faculties)?

Where ?



First estimation ULB 2 faculties, VUB 7 faculties

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Totale oppervlakte: | 9.000 m² | Gebouw: 35 x 46m = 1.610 m ² |
| | | Atrium: 16 x 14 m = 224 m ² |
| Verdeling per verdieping: | niveau -2 | 1.610 m ² |
| | niveau -1 | 1.610 m ² |
| | gelijkvloers 0 | met atrium 1.610 m ² |
| | niveau +1 | met atrium 1.386 m ² |
| | niveau +2 | met atrium 1.386 m ² |
| | niveau +3 | met atrium 1.386 m ² |
| | Totaal | 8988 m² (= afgerond 9.000 m ²) |

About 9,000 m²

A "common sense" estimation

Stand van zaken: huidige collecties volgens niveauverdeling

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|--------|--|
| Niveau 1: | Collecties WF & IR | | | | |
| | Boeken | Tijdschr. | Thesissen | Totaal | Waarvan nu in leeszaal CB: |
| | WE | 14,000 | 30,000 | 4,000 | 48,000 |
| | IR | 8,000 | 7,000 | 5,000 | 20,000 |
| | Gloobaal | 22,000 | 37,000 | 9,000 | 68,000 |
| | Gemiddelde jaarlijkse groei: 1.900 volumes | | | | Nu in magazijn: 2.000 lopende meters of 400 RM |
| | ULB collectie: ? | | | | Inhoud van 3 à 4 Modules! |
| Niveau 2: | Collecties LW & PE | | | | Waarvan nu in leeszaal CB: |
| | Boeken | Tijdschr. | Thesissen | Totaal | 5.100 lopende meters of 850 RM boeken |
| | LW | 176,000 | 45,000 | 6,000 | 227,000 |
| | PE | 18,000 | 9,000 | 3,000 | 30,000 |
| | Gloobaal | 194,000 | 54,000 | 9,000 | 257,000 |
| | Gemiddelde jaarlijkse groei: 5.800 volumes | | | | 770 lopende meters tijdschriften of 150 RM tijdschriften |
| | | | | | Wiedoperatie naar magazijn: 30 à 50% |
| | | | | | Inhoud van 6 à 8 modules |
| Niveau 3: | Collecties RC & ESP | | | | Waarvan nu in leeszaal CB: |
| | Boeken | Tijdschr. | Thesissen | Totaal | 2.480 lopende meters of 410 RM boeken |
| | RC | 32,000 | 33,000 | 4,000 | 69,000 |
| | ESP | 45,000 | 22,000 | 5,000 | 72,000 |
| | Gloobaal | 77,000 | 55,000 | 9,000 | 141,000 |
| | Gemiddelde jaarlijkse groei: 3.700 volumes | | | | 2.200 lopende meters of 440 RM tijdschr. |
| | | | | | Wiedoperatie naar magazijn 30 à 50% |
| | | | | | Inhoud van 5 à 7 modules |

How big ?

Can we make use of existing norms & standards?

- ACRL
- SCONUL
- Other

Most existing norms & standards:

- estimate storage of collections and administrative “in accordance” to our “common sense” estimation
- seem to overestimate (largely) surfaces for user areas

What to do now? Take a good example and derive own norm:

- University of Antwerp merged three universities into one
- With one large central city campus (serving humanities)
- Used existing buildings and converted them to library & learning spaces

Second estimation

Based on measurements on the spot in the library of the University of Antwerp

We derived new calculation rules
(= maybe a better term than “new norm”)
by performing “reverse engineering”

Results regarding first estimation:

- surface requirements for display of collection OK
- surface requirements for administrative spaces OK
- surface requirements for study and consultation OK

Regarding ACRL and SCONUL norms:

→ obvious overestimation of surfaces for study and consultation

Overview of new “norms” for spatial needs (1/3)

| Item | ACRL/SCONUL | VUBULB |
|---|--|--|
| Seats per alpha student (arts & humanities) | 1 seat per 5 students | 1 per 10 students |
| Seats per beta student (sciences & applied sciences) | 1 seat per 5 students | 1 per 15 students |
| Surface per seat (incl. circulation) | ACRL: 2.3 to 3.2 m ² SCONUL: 2.39 m ² | Mean: 2.6 m ² (4 types, ranging 2.1 to 5.1 m ²) |
| 6,197 alpha students 6,148 beta students | 2,465 seats 5,670 to 7,889 m ² | 1,030 seats (common sense estimation: 1,178 seats) 2,678 m ² |

Overview of new “norms” for spatial needs (2/3)

| Item | ACRL/SCONUL | VUBULB |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Monographs in standard fixed shelves | ACRL: 108-154 volumes per m ² SCONUL: percentage total surface | 115.38 volumes per m ² |
| Monographs in compact movable shelves | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 360.00 volumes per m ² |
| Current periodicals | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 17.9 titles per m ² |

Overview of new “norms” for spatial needs (3/3)

| Other items | ACRL/SCONUL | VUBULB |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Library & information desk | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 163 m ² |
| Photocopy room(s) | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 4 or 5 rooms of 25 m ² (each) |
| Cloakroom(s) | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 140m ² (each) |
| Exposition room | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 350 m ² |
| Canteen | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | 150 m ² |
| Small meeting room(s) for personnel | ACRL: / SCONUL: / | Several small rooms, 200 m ² in total |
| Staff room(s) | ACRL: 1/8 total surface SCONUL: / | Landscape: 10 m ² Standard: 15 m ² Director: 20 m ² |

Besides consultation, administration and learning

Centralised approach → bring together, as much as possible, student spaces:

- to study
- to work
- to get guidance
- to find information

Lots of seats for:

- consultation / individual study (silent)
- group work (discussion allowed)

Distances between loan /information desk(s) and outer corners of the publicly accessible places as small as possible

Number of loan / information desk(s) as small as possible, preferably 1 (one)

Next steps

We now have a set of calculation rules that allows :

- versatile approach(es)
- calculate rapidly required spaces for any approach
- to maintain the centralised approach as much as desired
- a flexible design (= “universal design”)
- to continue to go (on) for a green library on a green campus (with sustainable and ecological construction)