the Library
of the
Rolex Learning Center

considered as the
« best place to be »
on the Campus @

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Outline

• EPFL’s Context and figures

• RLC’s Architecture project
  – 21st century opens the « No-tech building » era
  – Interaction and transparency in a library ?
  – Can slopes and landscapes inspire study and exchanges ?

• Added value(s) of such a (not so) new academic Library
  – Facilities
  – Collections
  – Services
  – Team
Education – Research – Tech Transfer

A short film «Reception of the new students» is available online
http://videoserv.epfl.ch/RealContent/Nas/427_ACCUEIL2008ENG.flv
EPFL is one of the 2 Swiss Federal institutes of Technology, besides 10 Cantonal Universities and 9 Hautes écoles spécialisées.
A multicultural middle sized technological university

- 112 nationalities on campus
- 60% of faculty from abroad
- 40% foreign students (MS: 34.5%, PhD: 68%)
- Some Librarians are imported too...

5’000  Ba+Ma Students
1’600  PhD Students
270   Professors (FTE)
3’500  Staff

Federal money : ca. 300 Mio €
Grants and contracts : ca. 100 Mio €

One of the world’s most international campuses!
(Times, Higher Education Suppl., 2004)
Proud to compete well in the « Race »

The Top 100 Global Universities, 2006

1. Harvard University  
2. Stanford University  
3. Yale University  
4. California Institute of Technology  
5. University of California at Berkeley  
6. University of Cambridge  
7. Massachusetts Institute Technology  
8. Oxford University  
9. University of California at San Francisco  
10. Columbia University (New York)  
11. University of Michigan at Ann Arbor  
12. University of California at Los Angeles  
13. University of Pennsylvania  
14. Duke University  
15. Princeton University  
16. Tokyo University  
17. Imperial College London  
18. University of Toronto  
19. Cornell University  
20. University of Chicago  
21. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich  
22. University of Washington at Seattle  
23. University of California at San Diego  
24. Johns Hopkins University  
25. University College London  
26. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne  
27. University Texas at Austin  
28. University of Wisconsin at Madison  
29. Kyoto University  
30. University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Top 100 Universities in Engineering, 2008

1. Massachusetts Inst Tech (MIT)  
2. Stanford Univ  
3. Univ Illinois - Urbana Champaign  
4. Univ California - Berkeley  
5. Univ Michigan - Ann Arbor  
6. Univ Texas - Austin  
7. Carnegie Mellon Univ  
8. Georgia Inst Tech  
9. Pennsylvania State Univ - Univ Park  
10. Univ California - San Diego  
11. Univ Southern California  
12. California Inst Tech  
13. Univ California - Santa Barbara  
14. Univ Maryland - Coll Park  
15. Univ Cambridge  
16. Cornell Univ  
17. Purdue Univ - West Lafayette  
18. Swiss Fed Inst Tech - Lausanne  
19. Tohoku Univ  
20. Northwestern Univ  
21. Univ Toronto  
22. Ohio State Univ - Columbus  
23. Kyoto Univ  
24. Princeton Univ  
25. Imperial Coll London  
26. North Carolina State Univ - Raleigh  
27. Univ Washington - Seattle  
28. Univ Wisconsin - Madison  
29. Natl Univ Singapore  
30. Tokyo Inst Tech  
31. Univ Minnesota - Twin Cities
Building a library
The needs of our EPFL community have evolved

- Increase from 2’000 → 7’000 students
- Ambition: High quality teaching / Cutting edge research
- New goals:
  - « make our students the entrepreneurs of their knowledge »
  - « focus groups » have revealed the expectations of the EPFL inhabitants:
    - Students and guests housing
    - International conference center
    - A real campus, living 24h/7
    - With a LIBRARY as its heart
Architecture competition in 2004
Among 12 projects

...The project offers an interesting prolongation of and analogy with the philosophy adopted during the first stage of the EPFL’s construction: importance of itinerary, movement, interior courtyards with different surroundings, atmospheres, richness of vegetation, uniqueness and unity whilst still creating diversity... The proposed programme offers a new living space, opens up the possibility of new teaching approaches, everything being integrated into one single building as place of assembly and breeding-ground for enriching encounters and synergies...

Sanaa, Tokyo
Kazuyo Sejima
Ryue Nishizawa
Actual and artist’s views of the Rolex Learning Center
RLC: Main functions

- Training room
- Students Association, Alumni
- Carrier Center
- Services
  - Book shop
  - Bank
- Library
  - Open stacks
  - Info desk
  - Rare books
- Main Entrance
- Multifunction Hall
- Food & Drinks
  - Café
  - Self-service restaurant
- Exhbititions
- Offices
- OFFICES
- CRAFT
- Research Collection
- Library Offices
- Group Work Rooms

+ basement: moving shelves, 500 car park places, technical spaces
Slopes and open spaces as internal landscapes
Embedded in a global transformation of the campus
The rationale of the library as a place
21st Century Library

- A couple of issues for all libraries are how to deal with the legacy of paper based materials in an increasingly electronic world, and how to move the focus to people and learning...

- The Learning Center holds the complete University collection...

- The bookstock was split into 2 sequences - books ... borrowed regularly and those that are browsed.

- The borrowed stock is available on open shelves ... and the browsed stock is housed in moveable compact shelving.

Les Watson

Saltire Caledonian Learning Center, Glasgow
Existing libraries are LCs already
The youngest students are our target

Relative value given to scientific sources in order to find a scientific paper

- Search engine as the 1st used tool
- Importance of Expertise, social network

Facilities
Collections
Services
10 libraries are merging into 1

40 people, 500,000 documents
11,000 e-Journals, 15,000 e-books, 10,000 monogr./year
Facilities and Collections: ground floor

- **Beginners corner**
  - History of Sci.
  - 3,000 vol
  - 100 magazines
  - Showcases

- **Architecture**
  - Urbanism
  - Arts
  - 16,500 vol

- **Mathematics**
  - 57,000 vol

- **Sciences & Techniques**
  - 22,200 vol

- **Beginners corner**
  - History of Sci.
  - 3,000 vol
  - 100 magazines
  - Showcases

- **Humanities**
  - Social sciences
  - Science fiction
  - 21,500 vol

- **Course reserve**
  - Reference
  - Dictionaries
  - Atlases, Maps
  - 13,500 vol

- **Language dictionaries**
  - (on trolleys)

- **Newspapers**
  - (in the Café)

- **And of course...**
  - A huge electronic collection

- **Communication**
  - Books
  - Desks
  - Self checks
  - Printers, copiers, scanners
  - OPACS, Internet access
  - IT Help desk
Facilities and Collections: basement

Later Extension
If needed
ca 200’000 vol.

10 Km of documents
Public compact shelving
Partly locked accordingly to the needs
Services of the library

• **RLC Opening hours:**
  
  7h30 – 24h    Mo-Fri    Free access, RFID automatic lending, scan, print, copy, wifi
  9h – 24h    Sat–Sun

• **Library Desk:**
  
  8h – 20h    Mo-Fri    Professionals: Enquiries, reference, ILL, troubleshooting, training

  **Other schedule**
  Students: Limited service, safety

• **IT Help desk:**
  
  11h – 20h    Mo-Fri    Students: Troubleshooting for laptops, software, network access
Team
Organisation
Skills
The Team: Prepared for the shock

The RLC Library has been in our mind for years
Flat Organisational chart / Versatility as a virtue

Public

Information & Public services
- Reference, Info Literacy, Troubleshooting, Lending, ILL, Exhibitions, Communication

Academic support & Collection devlpt
- Subject acquisition of all Info, IR and publication counselling, Document processing

IT services
- Servers, network, PC, Software, RFID
- Printers – scanners - copiers
- Website(s) - SFX – ALEPH
- Infoscience IR

Subscriptions and Licences

Lead & Support
- Direction, H.R., R.P., Finance, Logistics

Document
Duties of the RLC Library team

- Information, desk, public services, virtual reference: 6.4 FTE
- Acquisitions, Collection management: 6.1 FTE
- Subscriptions and licences, OPAC updating and linking: 3.7 FTE
- Projects and team management: 3.1 FTE
- IT services and support for users+staff: 2.1 FTE
- Lead, administrative support, training: 1.8 FTE
- Logistics, mail, general work and maintenance: 1.0 FTE

Total = 33.8 FTE
How important are traditional and (yet) non conventional skills

- Traditional library skills for document acquisition and processing
- Institutional archive management, publication workflows
- Scientific knowledge
- E-resources negotiation and management
- IT technologies 2.0 (OAI-PMH, API, Firefox plugins, ...)
- ILS technologies 0.2
- Training skills
- Communication and marketing
- Exhibitions and cultural activities
- ...
### Conclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21st C. Academic Library as place and facility</th>
<th>BIOTOPE</th>
<th>INFORMATION GATEWAY</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A place for work and life for the students</td>
<td>Organised access to all the information resources in the world</td>
<td>Transmission of a culture of information i.e. the capacity to</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A meeting place for the others</td>
<td>With an emphasis on the most useful</td>
<td>- search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It provides an help for success in everyone’s projects</td>
<td>Whatever the media</td>
<td>- criticise</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- make use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- produce information</td>
</tr>
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**Provides & Goes**

- More Comfort Services
- More Access Flexibility
- Beyond Google
See you on the 22nd of Feb. 2010

Merci de votre attention
Thank you for your attention

http://learningcenter.epfl.ch