UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, UNIVERSITÉ D'EUROPE

« **Workshop Library and Learning Center**»
9 Mai 2012

**Services and functions
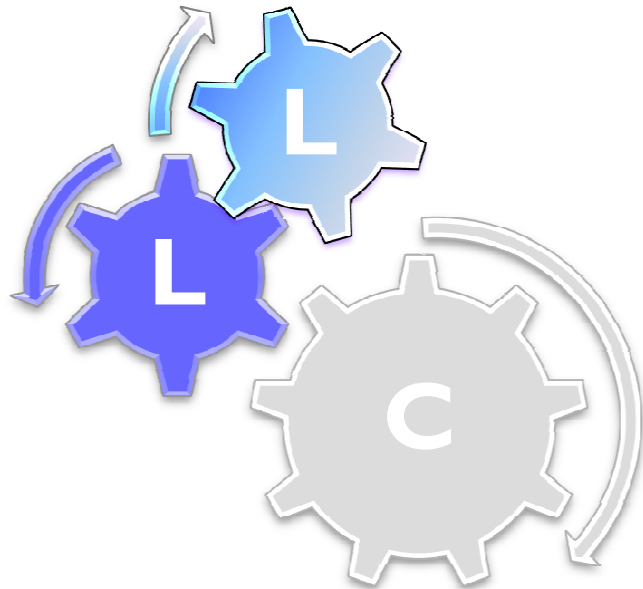of a LLC:
the joint project ULB-VUB**

Dominique Lerinckx

ULB

A sneak peek at LLC in ULB

The joint project ULB-VUB :

- Background at ULB
- Functionnalities and spaces
- Services: physical or virtual
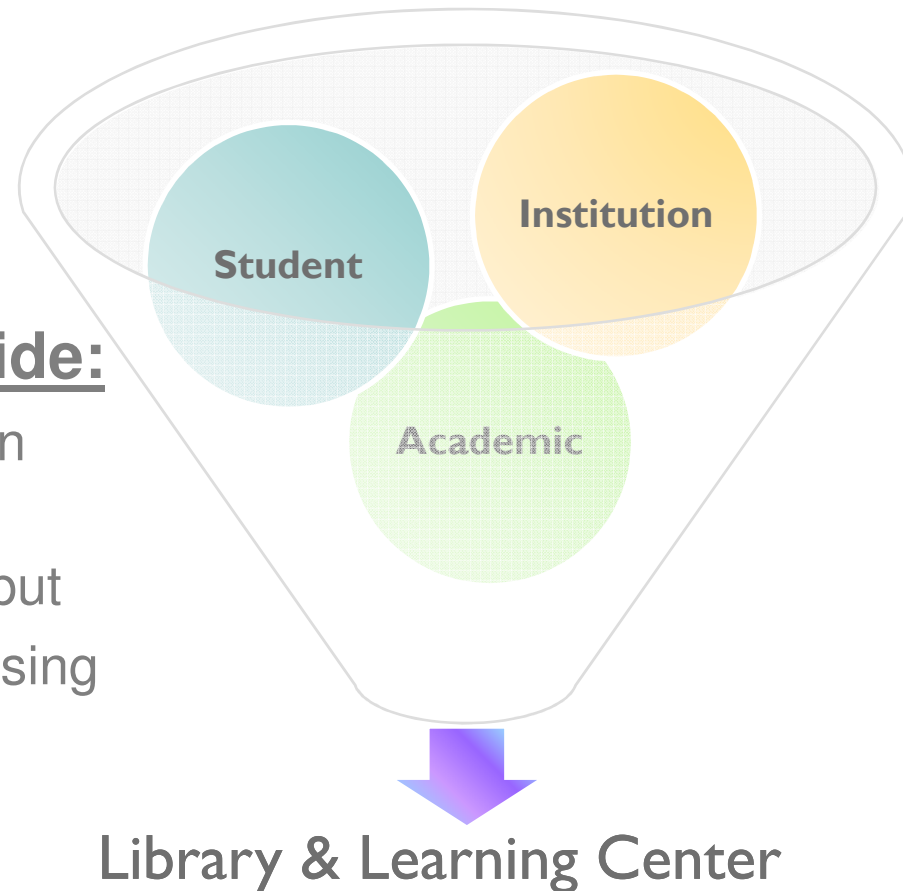- New skills

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Why a Library & Learning Center?

Challenges

On the institutional side:

- To encourage a change in teaching practices
- To promote scientific output
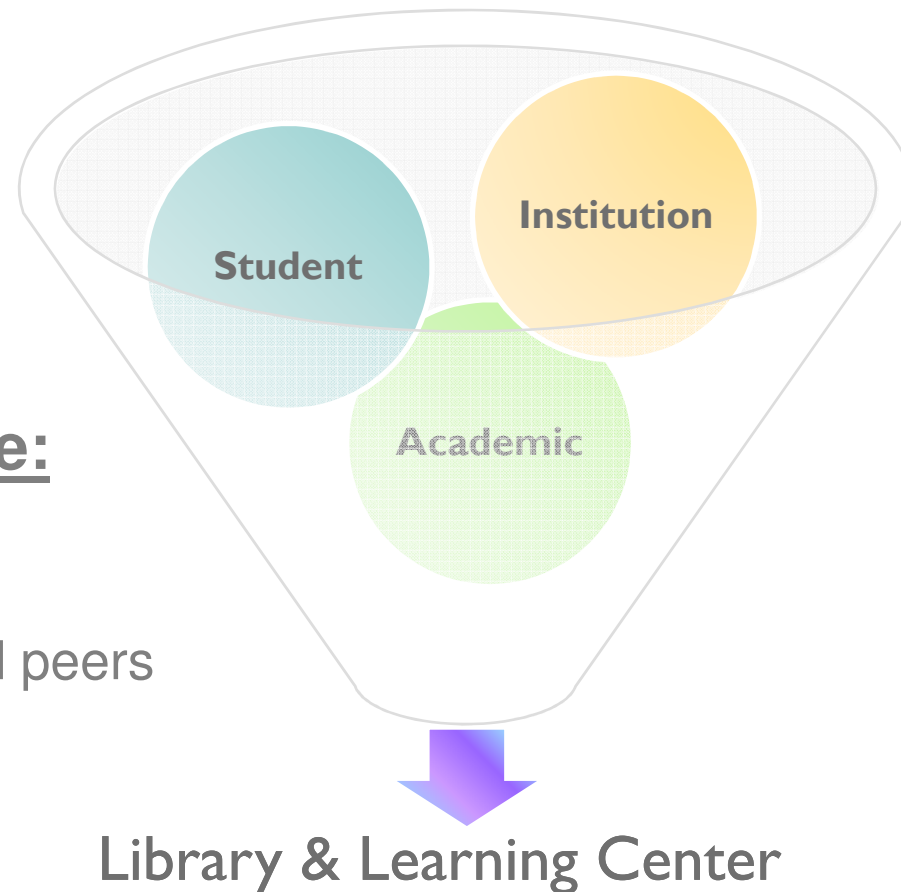- To handle an ever-increasing student population

Student

Institution

Academic

Library & Learning Center

ULB

Challenges

On the academic side:

- ❑ To gain access to more documentations
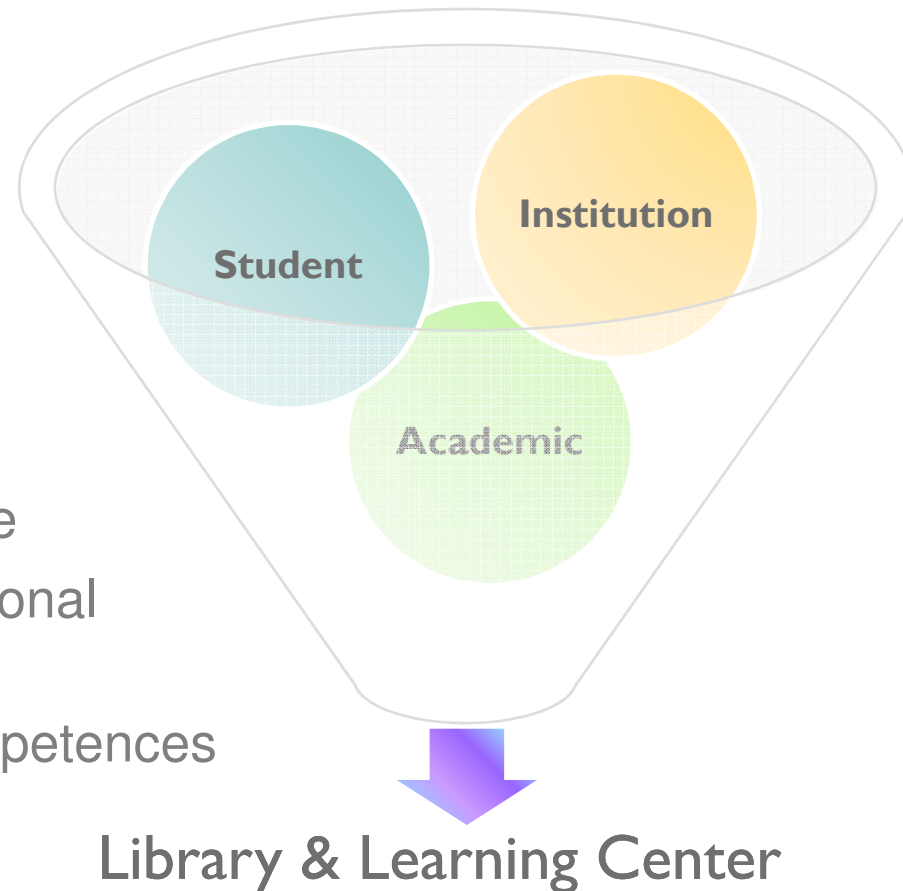- ❑ To enhance visibility and peers recognition

Student

Institution

Academic

Library & Learning Center

Challenges

On the student side:

❏ To improve success rate

❏ To better fit the professional world

❏ To gain broadened competences

Student

Institution

Academic

Library & Learning Center

Shifts

- **Teaching → Learning**
  - Active pedagogy based on problem-solving, participative, professionalizing

- **Collection centric→ User centric**
  - Library integrated in the workflow of their users

- **Access control → sense-making**
  - Library have to deliver added value on content

- **Mediation → Autonomy**

  - Librarians need to develop competences in communication and set up information literacy program

- **Local → Global**

  - Library must embrace the need for collaborative and social interactions

Background and constraints at ULB…

ULB Landscape

› **Increasing population of students**

› **Four campuses on geographically separated sites**

- ■ Four main libraries

    three of which are located on the same campus (Solbosch)
    Medical Sciences Library (Erasme)
    + two remote local libraries (Gosselies, Plaine)
    + lots of departmental libraries

- ■ Students in sciences and applied sciences scattered across three
  campuses ⟹ **Clustering**

› **VUB Central Library on the campus « Plaine »**

Actors

➢ The « *Département de Support aux Activités Académiques (DSAA)* » :

- ❑ « ***Archives et Bibliothèques (A&B)*** »
  - All branches of the Libraries

- ❑ « ***Centre des Technologies au service de l'Enseignement (CTE)*** »
  - Support for teachers in their teaching practices

➢ In collaboration with other departments of the university:

- « ***Accompagnement des étudiants*** » : faculty guidances
- « ***Enseignement*** » : pedagogy assessment and research
- « ***Compétence langagière »:*** linguistics
- « ***Recherche en pédagogie universitaire*** »
- « ***Guichet unique d'information »: orientation études***
- « ***Informatique*** »

Priority expectations

> More spaces must be dedicated to personal study and group work;

> New spaces design is needed: the physical infrastructure of the Sciences Library is completely outdated;

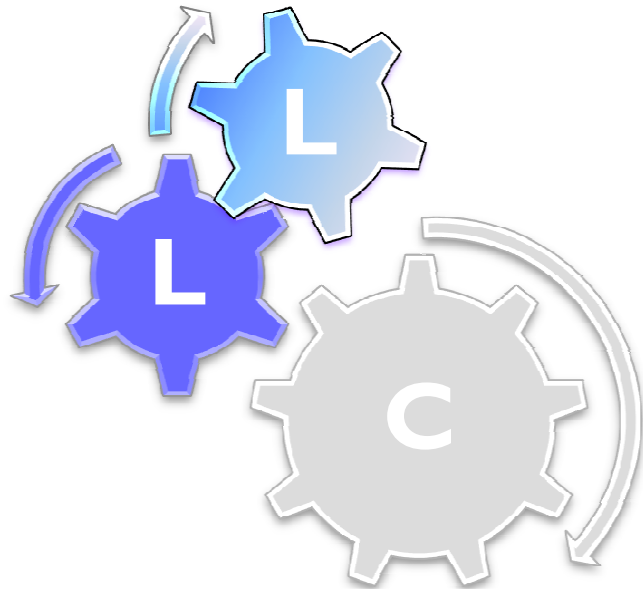> A modern IT infrastructure must be set up;

The ULB-VUB joint project

> A great opportunity for both institutions to collaborate:

- in creating spaces for interaction between the two communities
- In encouraging the pooling of resources, spaces and skills, in an effort of rationalization

→ A Library & Learning Center including a shared science library ULB-VUB

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>> **Functionnalities and spaces**

> Services: physical or virtual
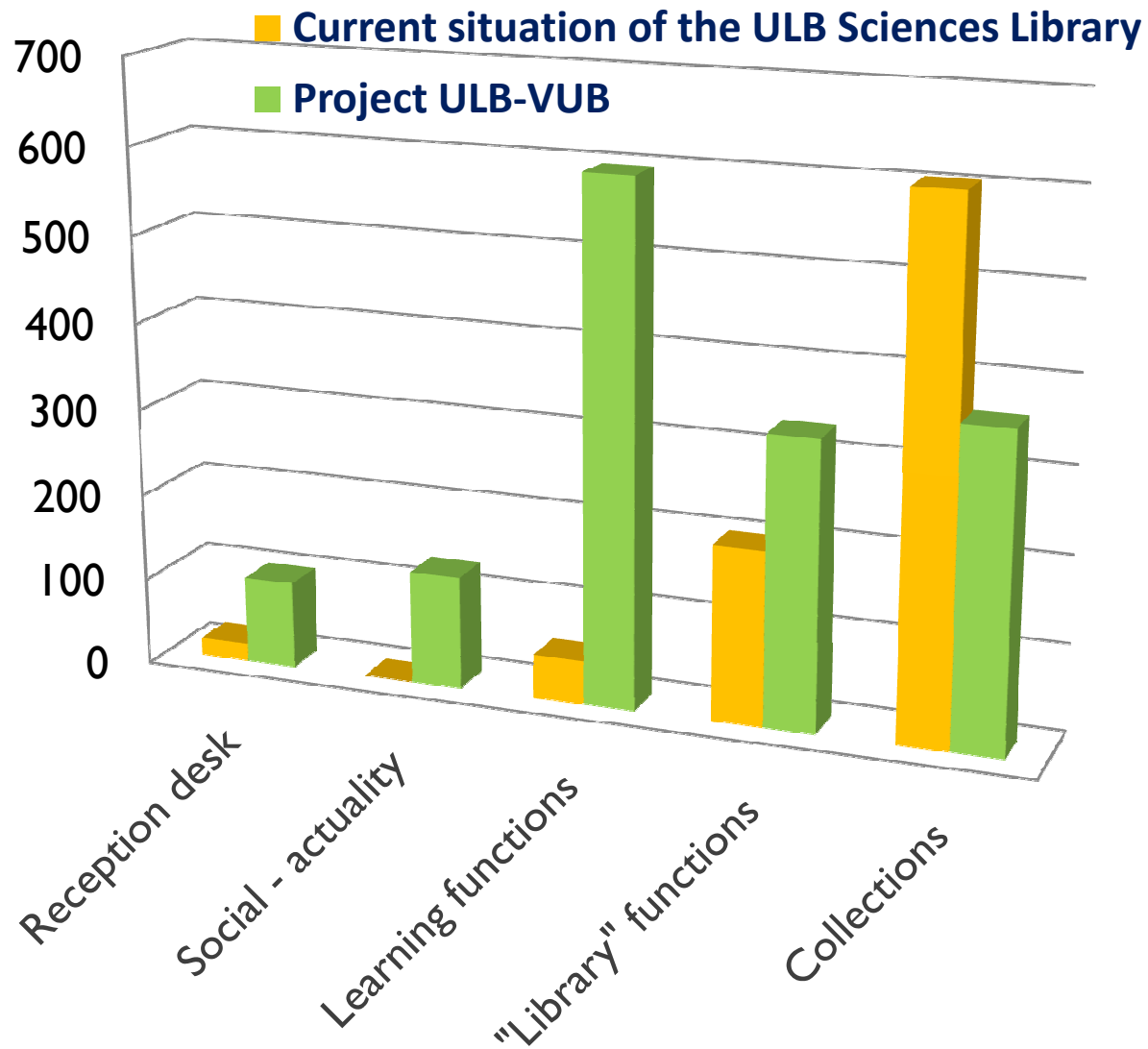
> New skills

ULB

The spaces as catalyst

> ## Welcoming rooms
> to encourage a better appropriation of the spaces

> ## Functional spaces
> which foster the setting up of a new pedagogy

> ## Flexible spaces design
> in order to meet the changing needs of our users

Spaces

m^2

Current situation of the ULB Sciences Library

Project ULB-VUB

700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0

Reception desk
Social - actuality
Learning functions
"Library" functions
Collections

ULB

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How to better use spaces

- ▷ In decreasing spaces devoted to print collections:
  - Relocation of paper journals along with a service of scanning on-demand
  - shifting to e-only whenever possible on the condition of having permanent archives
  - Subscription to platforms of e-books
- ▷ In redesigning interior spaces for learning purposes:
  - Study rooms and reading rooms
  - Collaborative and group work
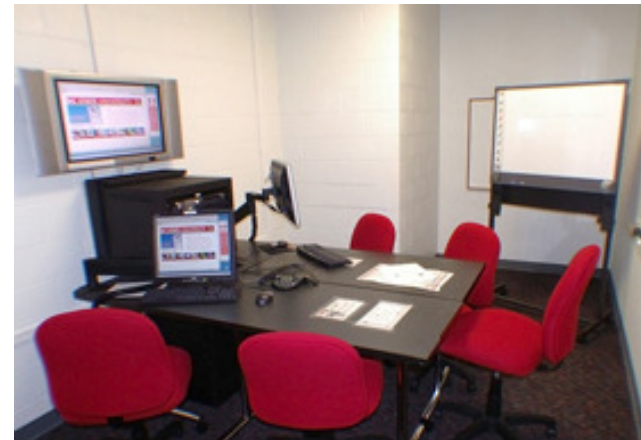 - Social spaces

Group Work Spaces

GroupSpace at Meyer Library (Standford)

GroupSpace at Toyon Hall (Standford)

Georgia Tech Information commons Practice Presentation room

Flyspace, North Carolina State University

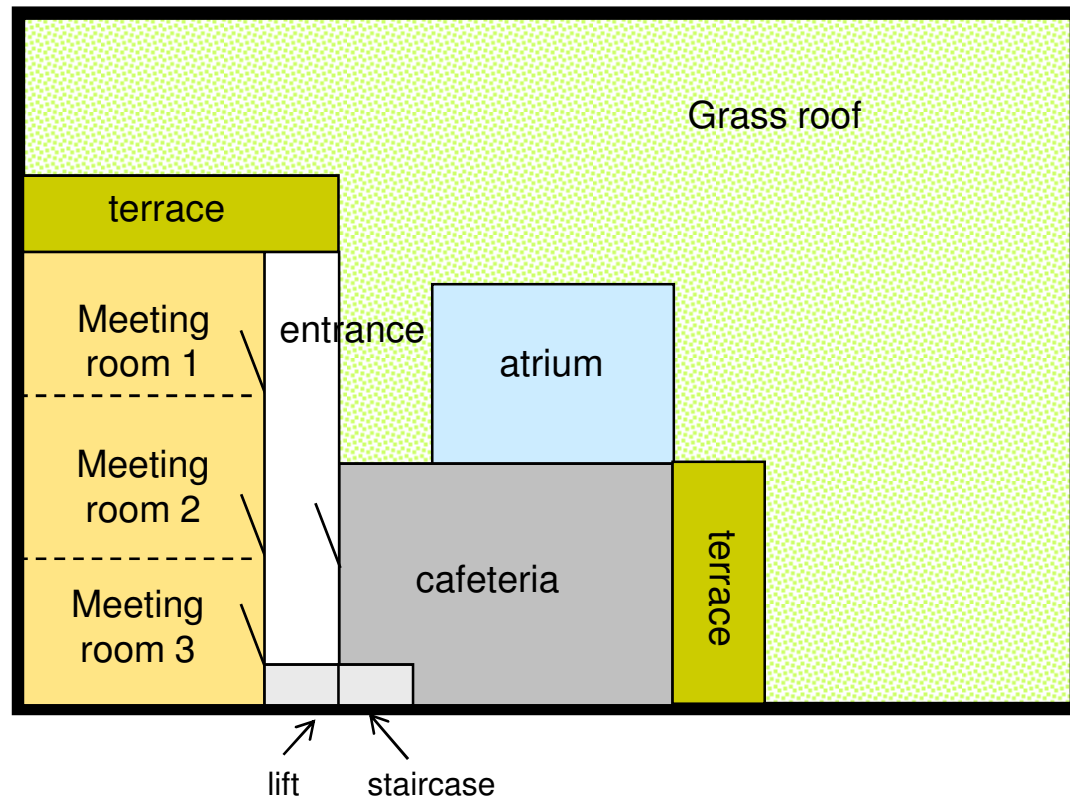Dominique Lerinckx - dlerinck@ulb.ac.be

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Social Spaces

> The Learning Café (Glasgow Caledonian University)
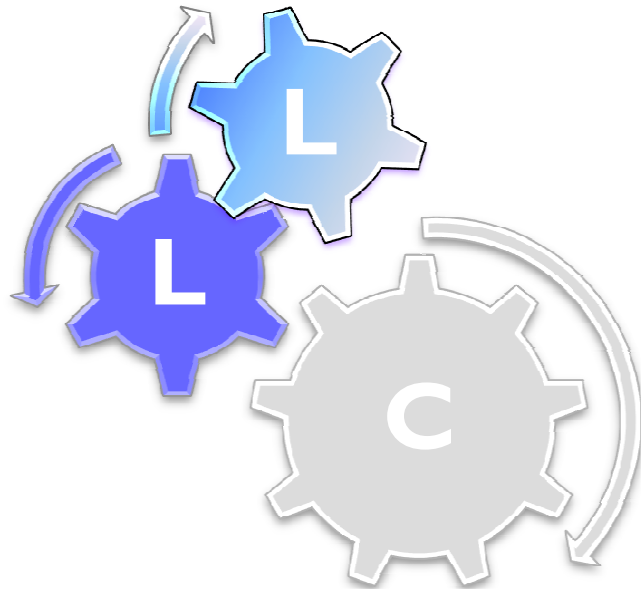
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A green roof

ULB

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Tools as a vector

▷ A variety of technological tools such as:

▷ Enhanced user interface:
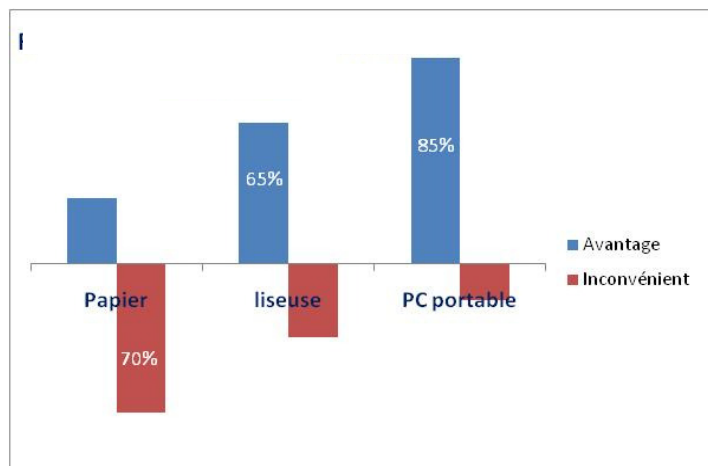
- Portable
- Integrated
- Collaborative
- Customizable

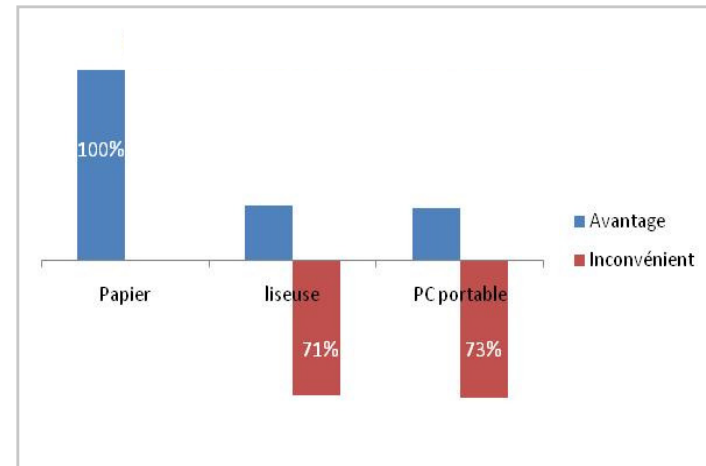*Tools*

Survey on the use of ebooks in sciences

> 80% of the students in BA3 chemistry are in favor of e-book

Comments regarding the testing of the reading devices	Oui	Non
The functionalities of the device	77%	23%
The range of content available	66%	34%
The ergonomics of reading in electronic format	47%	53%

To find quickly an information

To understand the content

Constantly assessing the needs

> in order to keep up with evolving practices
> for example:

- Ratio between the number of desktop computer and power supply needed for laptops

- Demand for bandwidth : multiple simultaneous connections for one student (GSM, laptop, desktop computer)

- Software needed: Skype, Webex, ….

> And to adapt the interior arrangement

- The lend of Netbooks in the library is a success → furnitures adapted to store and charge the Netbooks

- Videoconference → moveable noise barriers

- The need in group work infrastructures depends on the period of the year

End-user services without borders

> Mobile

- To meet students in their classroom, in the « learning café » ...

- To provide a remote help via Skype, Podcast, etc...

> Just in time

- electronic document delivery, automation of the circulation

> Digital

- Access anytime, anywhere, digitalization of ULB production

> Remote access technologies

- Videoconference, virtual university, virtual classroom: Elluminate, (ex: MIT's iLabs)

Services

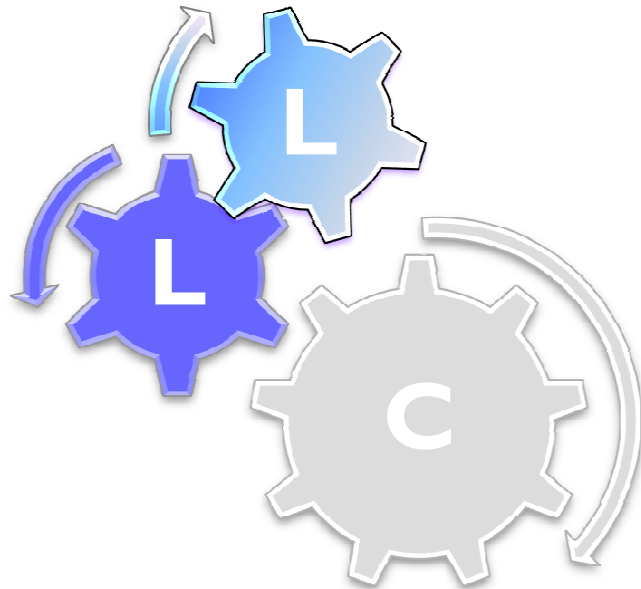Dominique Lerinckx - dlerinck@ulb.ac.be

Tailor-made contents

▷ **Multi-supports**

- Available on different formats depending on the purpose: print, digital format: html, pdf, epub…

▷ **Multidisciplinary**

- Enhanced cross-cutting search through specialized databases through a « discovery tool»

▷ **Flash contents**

- Contents aimed at a time-limited use

▷ **Added value**

- Collaborative features, reference management functionnalities, tagging…

Contents

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The role of librarians…

> **Tech-Savvy:**
To keep up to date with new information technologies and resources: assessing constantly usages and the new alternatives

> **Space planner:**
To ensure a physical space adapted to various uses and tools

> **Specialist in survey:**
Constantly assess the needs and problems faced by students by various means: surveys, informal discussions, statistics…

> **Social animator:**
To create a community of exchange and to be engaged in social media
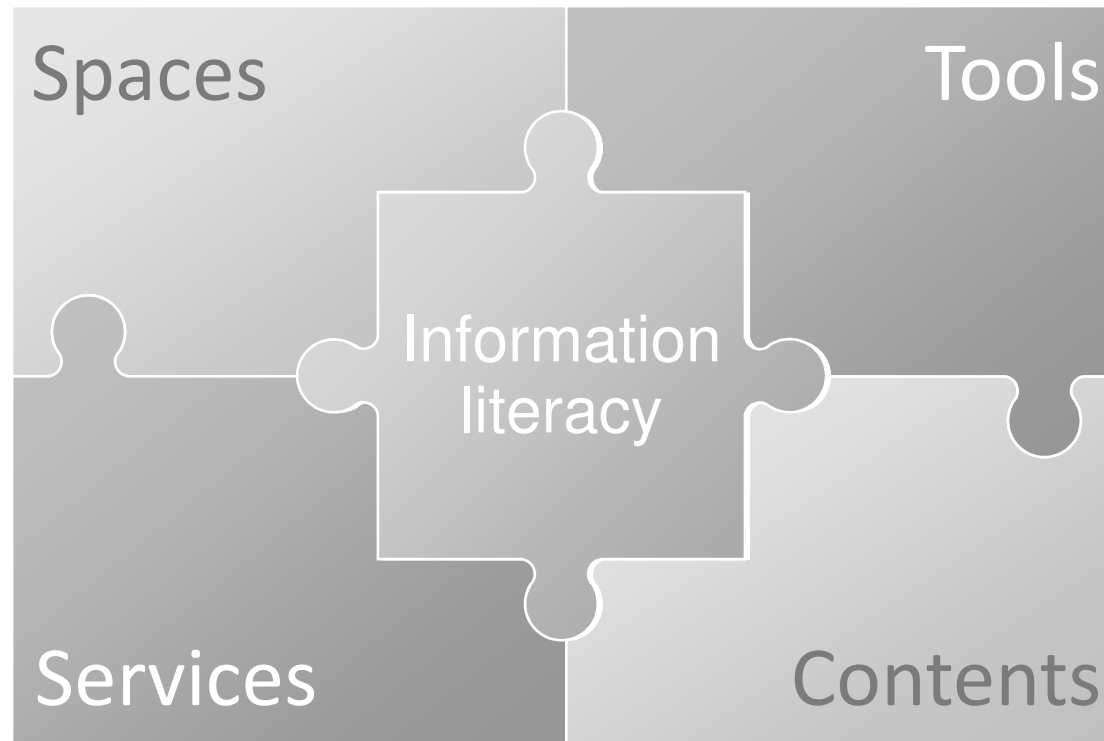
A new engagement for librarians…

Librarians have to be aware of each steps of the **user process** in order to deliver services **when** and **where** it's needed

→ New skills to develop **marketing strategies**
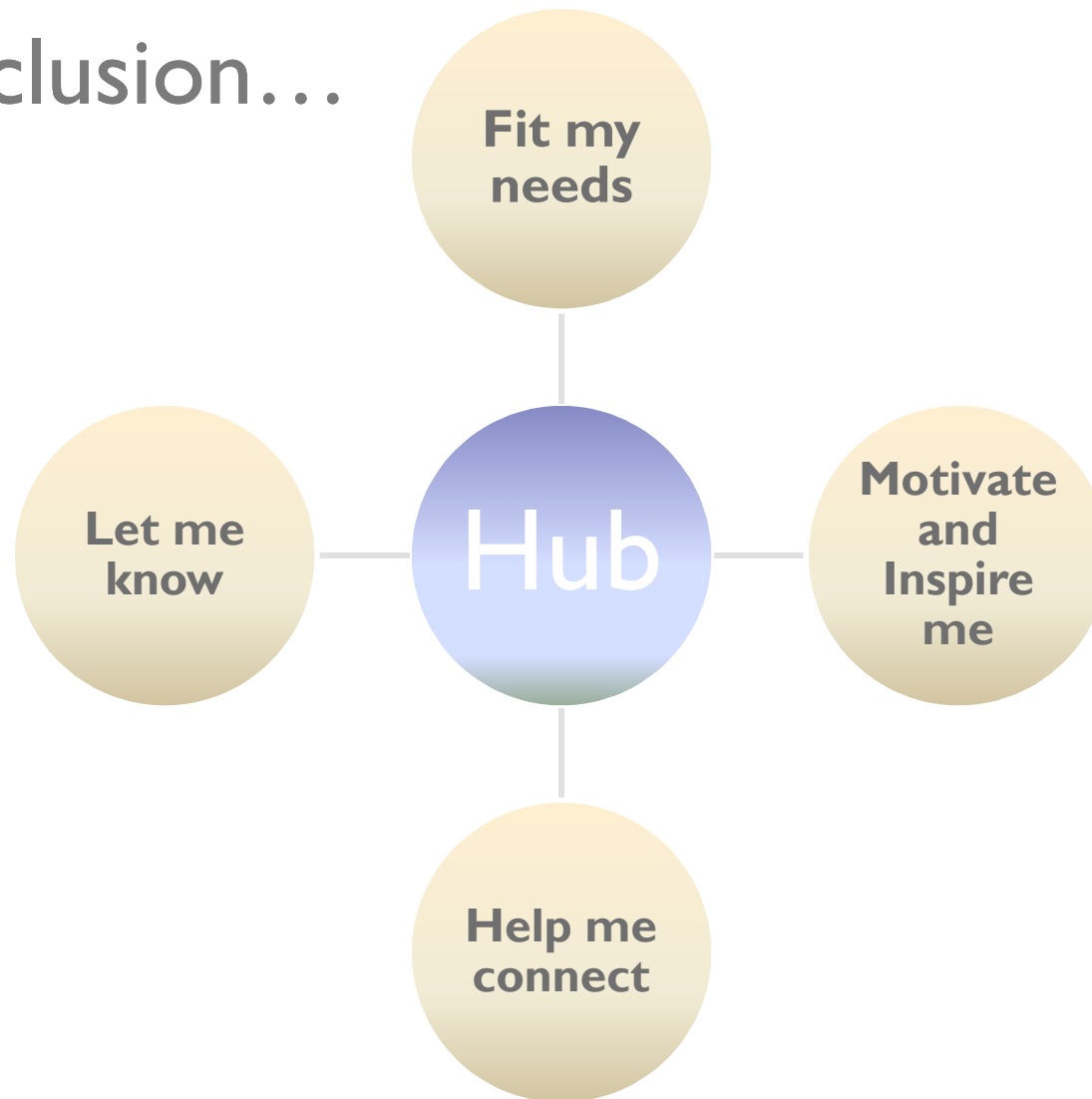
Hi-Tech Library → Learning Center

Spaces | Tools

Information literacy

Services | Contents

A new vision statement…

> Librarian has to **understand the educational objectives** of the teachers to better support students

- Close collaboration with teachers in the design of the information literacy training
- By providing the material, the infrastructure and support needed for group work

> Librarian must be a information specialist in a discipline

- To be closer to the students and become a « co-learner »
- To better understand the processes in which their users are involved

In conclusion…

Fit my needs

Let me know

Hub

Motivate and Inspire me

Help me connect

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Thanks for listening !

ULB