

# Catalan university libraries<sup>1</sup>

M DOLORS DILMÉ\*

NÚRIA GALLART\*\*

## Introduction

A university library is a cornerstone in the research of any country, and as the English say, it is the heart and measure of a university.

Before we embark upon the study of Catalan university libraries it would be convenient to have an overview of the university features which will contribute to our understanding the fundamental traits of the universities that they rely upon.

The Universitat de Barcelona (UB) was founded in the 15th century and was the only Catalan University until the 20th century. It has the largest number of students and centres of all the Catalan Universities.

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) was founded in 1968 and is located in Bellaterra, in the municipality of Cerdanyola. It is the only Catalan university with an out-of-town campus.

The Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) was founded in 1971 and it brought together the various technical colleges and universities that already existed in Barcelona and other Catalan towns, some of which were over a century old. This university is solely devoted to technical studies.

The Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) was founded in 1990 in Barcelona. It specializes in social sciences and the humanities, and it has not yet developed its full potential.

The Universitat Ramon Llull (URL) was officially recognized as the first private Catalan university in 1991. It amalgamates several private further education colleges which were run by religious institutions, such as the Institut Químic de Sarrià and Escola Blanquerna.

\*<sup>1</sup> Biblioteca de lletres, UAB. (UAB Arts Library).

\*\*<sup>†</sup> Serveis bibliotecaris, UAB. (UAB Library Services).

<sup>1</sup>. This article is being published simultaneously as chapter 3rd of the book *Les biblioteques de les universitats públiques de Catalunya en els anys 90 = The public university libraries of Catalonia in the 90's*. Bellaterra, UAB, 1993 with the title "Panoràmica de la situació actual". The data presented in the comparative tables was gathered through a survey carried out in May 1993.

The Universitat de Girona (UdG) was founded in 1991 and it started to operate as an independent university in the academic year 1992-1993. It was created by bringing together all the UAB and UPC tuition centres located in Girona to form the new university.

The Universitat de Lleida (UdL) was also created in 1991 by integrating all university departments belonging to UAB, UB and UPC in the city of Lleida. It started to operate as an independent university in the academic year 1992-1993.

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) was also founded in 1991 by bringing together the UB departments located in the towns of Tarragona and Reus with the UPC departments of the Escola Universitària d'Enginyeria Tècnica Industrial in Tarragona. It began as an independent university in the academic year 1992-1993.

As it can be appreciated in this introduction, five of the existing universities in Catalonia have been founded during the last four years. Due to their short life span and the different origins of their departments, these universities are undergoing a process of organization and fast growth, and their departments offer some features that differ from those in more consolidated universities.

## **Legal status**

Catalan university libraries are under the State and the Catalan Autonomous administrations and that implies a dual dependence on both; on the one hand, as a university department, they are under the direct control of the Ministry of Education and Science, and provisionally they are under the Presidency Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya through the Commissioner for Universities and Research; and on the other hand, as "public" libraries they are indirectly under the Ministry of Culture and the Department of Culture.

We shall give an overview of the statutory provisions that affect them in one way or another, starting with the more general provisions and finishing with those dictated by the universities themselves.

## **General statutory provisions**

In 1989 the *Regulations for State Public Libraries and Spain's Libraries System*<sup>2</sup> were enacted; they consider libraries in public university as an integral part of Spain's Libraries System. Besides this specific case, only the general articles referring to interlibrary cooperation, information exchange, and the National Library computer network are applicable. The Libraries Coordinating Council was also created, it is formed by three Spanish-university chief librarians.

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2. Real Decreto 582/1989, May 19th, by which the State Public Libraries and the Library Spanish System normative is approved (BOE no. 129, 31-5-1989, p. 16279-16281).

Nevertheless, in practice no interlibrary cooperation bases have been set up, the National Library has not issued any clear guidelines on computer connections or information exchange, and neither have any results been forthcoming from the activities of the Libraries Coordinating Council.

The *Catalonia Libraries System Law*<sup>3</sup>, passed by the Catalan Parliament on March 3rd, 1993, is a step forward from the *Libraries Law*<sup>4</sup>, since it deals with the existing university libraries and the relationship they ought to establish with other libraries in the Catalonia Network through the National Library. The official link between university libraries and the national library are the two spokesmen of the Catalonia Library Governing Council, nominated by the Inter-universities Council.

The Law recognizes explicitly that university libraries are a basic component of the country's bibliographical wealth and, as an integral part of the Catalonia Libraries Network, they are obliged to take the necessary technical measures that would enable them to provide information exchange and allow the integration of their stocks into a collective catalogue created by the Generalitat de Catalunya.

As far as teaching is concerned, in 1983 the *Organic Law for University Reform*<sup>5</sup> was implemented, establishing the new Spanish universities structure. The main feature of this law is that it gave universities a self-regulating capacity and this fosters competitiveness among them. Although there is no direct reference to university libraries in this law, it has had, nevertheless, an effect on their development because it incites universities to improve their services.

This considerable lapse in overlooking one of the most fundamental university services was partly amended by the Royal Decree on the creation and recognition of Universities and University Centres,<sup>6</sup> passed in 1991 and which defines the minimum qualitative and quantitative requirements that the new university services have to meet, in keeping with the real financial situation of the country; libraries are doubtlessly one of these services.

## University Regulations

The legal norms that directly affect Catalan university libraries are the Statutes of each one of the universities that they belong to. In 1985 the statutes of the three Catalan universities, that existed at that time, were passed. UB's<sup>7</sup> and UPC's<sup>8</sup> in-

3. Llei 4/1993, of March 18th, on Catalonia Libraries System (*DOGC*, no. 1727, 29-3-1993, p. 2217-2222).

4. Llei 3/1981, of April 22nd, on libraries. (*DOGC*, nº 123, 29-4-1989, p. 370).

5. Ley Orgánica 11/1983, August 25th, On University Reforms (*BOE* no. 209, 1-9-1983, p. 24034-24042).

6. Real Decreto 557/1991, of April 12th, on the creation and recognition of Universities and University Centres. (*BOE* no. 95, 20-4-1991, p. 12326-12329)

7. Decret 217/1985, of July 1st, by which the Statutes of Universitat de Barcelona are approved. (*DOGC* no. 577, 19-8-1985, p 2773-2794).

8. Decret 232/1985, of July 4th, by which the Statutes of Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya are approved. (*DOGC* no. 580, 26-8-1985, p. 2851-2862).

clude their Library Statutes and make a reference to establishing regulations in the future. The UAB<sup>9</sup> Statutes do not specifically mention the library, but in 1989 the Board of Directors passed the *Regulations for Library Services*<sup>10</sup>. UPF have not yet passed their statutes, but they have had their *General Library Regulations*<sup>11</sup>, since October of the year it was founded.

A common feature to all these provisions is that they define libraries as a university service with a single structure that includes technical sections as well as their centre libraries.

The document and bibliography stocks acquired by a university, regardless of the procedures used, are an integral part of the library and this is reflected in the rules, except for the UPC Statutes, which make no reference to this matter.

Each university creates its own specific technical grading of library staff, Tenured staff, and Library and Archives Assistants. Regarding budgets, only UB and UPF have a specific budget and distribute it directly from the library.

The other universities have not yet passed their statutes, nor their library regulations. The integration decrees for the Girona,<sup>12</sup> Lleida,<sup>13</sup> and Rovira i Virgili<sup>14</sup> university centres make a mention of their "library services". On the other hand, the library regulations of UdG and UdL are about to be approved.

## Standards

Traditionally, when studying the university libraries situation, the standards of more advanced countries have been a reference point because they had already been put into practice. They are basically quantitative standards and this causes problems, since the university context and objectives are not taken into account.

The norm-drafting tendency has evolved lately towards establishing qualitative values, underlying the existence of some services rather than achieving figures and rates.

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9. Decret 37/1985, of January 8th, by which the Statutes of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona are approved. (DOGC no. 515, 22-2-1985).

10. *Reglament del Servei de Biblioteques de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*. Passed by the "Junta de Govern" on 22nd November, 1989. Bellaterra. UAB, 1989 p. 35.

11. "Reglament General de la Biblioteca (passed by Accord of the Governing Committee on October 3rd, 1990)". Universitat Pompeu Fabra. *Reglaments de la Biblioteca*. Barcelona: UPF, 1991. p. 24. It also includes Regulations for the Lending Services, Interlibrary Loans, and Teledocumentation.

12. Decret 13/1992, of June 22nd, by which several centres under Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya are incorporated to Universitat de Girona. (DOGC no. 1613, 1-7-1992, p. 3915-3922).

13. Decret 133/1992, of June 22nd, by which several centres under Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya are incorporated to Universitat de Lleida. (DOGC no. 1613, 1-7-1992, p. 3933-3943).

14. Decret 132/1992, of June 22nd, by which several centres under Universitat de Barcelona and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya are incorporated to Universitat Rovira i Virgili. (DOGC no. 1613, 1-7-1992, p. 3922-3933).

In 1986 the IFLA published the *Standards for university libraries*,<sup>15</sup> by Beverly P. Lynch, representing the Section of University Libraries and other General Research Libraries, with a global appreciation with a view to applying these standards to a variety of countries and situations, leaving up to each particular case the task of laying down minimum rates according to their needs.

This document sets ten standards on: Objectives, Organization and management, Services, Collections, Staff, Premises, Budget and finances, Technology, Conservation, and Cooperation. It is worth pointing out the need to clearly define library objectives and their place within the university structure, as well as the responsibilities and management capacities of library staff and chief librarian. It is recommended that services and collections be adapted to the objectives laid down by the university and the library, and it mentions that libraries should take part in the process of selecting and acquiring materials together with the teaching staff and the consent of the university management. According to IFLA, librarians carry out the fundamental core of all library activities, and staff training programmes must be organized.

It also mentions the premises and building design factors, such as lighting, ventilation, temperature and dampness control. The budget chapter points out the need to establish this as a specific item within the general university budget and that this be drafted and managed by the chief librarian. Finally, there is a reminder of the duty to be up-to-date in technology and to develop policies and conservation programmes. and cooperation programmes with other libraries.

In Spain, the *Decree on the creation and recognition of Universities* lays down a minimum of services and follows the IFLA model in its basic advice at a qualitative level. We quote the whole paragraph for its relevance and since it is the only legal provision on this matter,

“The building and pertinent university library services as a whole will have to provide simultaneous use for at least 10% of students. It will provide reading rooms, archives and a lending system, guaranteeing the use of these facilities for at least fifty-five hours per week. It will equally guarantee the number of volumes needed for an adequate development of the subjects being taught and the use of non-conventional support, as well as the main scientific periodicals in each field of knowledge in those subjects”.

It is also interesting to quote the text of the *Recommendations on university library regulations*<sup>16</sup> gathered during the University Library Working Days of 1986 in “Castillo Magalia”, distributed to all Spanish University Rectors by the Director General of Books and Libraries, and published by the Ministry of Culture in 1987.

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15. Beverly P Lynch. *Standards for university libraries*. The Hague: IFLA Section of University Libraries and other General Research Libraries, 1986, p 38.

16. *Recomendaciones sobre reglamentación de bibliotecas universitarias*. Elaboradas en las Jornadas de Trabajo sobre Bibliotecas Universitarias, 27 y 28 de mayo de 1986 en el “Castillo Magalia” de las Navas del Marqués, Madrid: Ministerio de Cultura, Dirección General del Libro y Bibliotecas, Centro de Coordinación Bibliotecaria, 1987.

The standards laid down in these recommendations are as follows,

Premises - One square meter per reader, providing seating places for 20% of readers, which is the equivalent of 4.5 m<sup>2</sup> per reading place in free-access rooms. The premises should be at least 1,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Stocks - Monographs should have a minimum of 130 volumes per student. With a yearly increase of 0.5 books per student. One subscription to a periodical publication per 10 students.

Budget - 5% of the regular university budget, item 1 excepted.

Staff - One library assistant per 500 students; one qualified librarian per 3 assistants; two computer experts per university; one administrative assistant per 2 assistants; one auxiliary for each assistant, pointing out that this depends partly on the premises.

Services - Free access, reading room, bibliography information, information and scientific documentation service, lending, interlibrary loans, reproductions.

Timetable - A minimum of 12 uninterrupted hours.

The three norms mentioned will be the guidelines for evaluating the present-day situation of the Catalan university libraries, always bearing in mind that statistics are of relative value, gathering different concepts under the same heading, and the difficulties encountered when they are collected on uncertain aspects.

## **Organization**

The organization of Catalan university libraries is based mainly on area or central libraries, or centralized technical sections that form a working unit under one management, except for libraries in URL centres, which are completely independent, and in UdL and URV, where a definite structure has not yet been decided, but provisionally they do have someone in charge of coordinating the various libraries.

It can be concluded from organization charts that most Catalan university libraries have governing bodies headed by a board of directors that is under the vice-rector for research, except UPF that has a speaker (the equivalent of a vice-rector) under university management. It must be pointed out that only the UB director is part of the Governing Council.

All universities, except UdL, URL and URV, have a general committee made up of academic staff, library staff and management. UAB and UPC also have some student participation. This general committee decides the library policies of the university and distributes the library's central budget, be this global (UB and UPF) or only partial. This structure with a technical head and a committee that defines the policies and objectives is found in all central or area libraries.

During the last few years, there has been a clear tendency towards bringing together the stocks previously held in central library departments, and in some cases in large libraries covering various subjects.

One extreme case is that of UB, where 150 seminar libraries have been reduced to 18 sections. Nevertheless, the proposed target of one library per division has not yet been reached.

UAB already started with a clear centre-library structure, except the Sciences and Veterinary Faculties, where department stocks were created in spite of a definite policy against this trend. According to the *Regulations of the UAB Library Services*, departments had up to 1991 to integrate their stocks to the library of their centre and this objective has not been completely reached. In 1989 the Law, Economics and Politics, and Sociology Faculties joined together their libraries to form the Social Sciences Library; and there is a new project to create a new library comprising the Arts, Teachers Training, and Translation and Interpretation libraries.

UPC keep their stocks distributed amongst their libraries and departments, whilst nevertheless, introducing all bibliographic materials into their computer catalogue, thus offering access to all departments stocks.

UPF make no provisions in their regulations for centre libraries, but they already have three locations at present.

This tendency towards stock centralization can be clearly seen in the way several libraries are evolving. The creation and/or reshaping of large surfaces, with specialized services and free access, have proliferated during the last few years and it is made evident in some new building projects purposely designed as libraries. This stock centralization tendency has been preceded by some technical processes, such as acquisitions, cataloguing, and interlibrary loans, applied in various degrees according to their universities.

The basic problem in centralizing or decentralizing lies in whether to bring the material physically closer to the reader or in the need to offer a quality service with all its implications regarding staff and infrastructure.

In general, centralization is sought and proposed by librarians with the aim of achieving greater efficiency and advantages from their work, but it is looked upon with scepticism by teaching staff, who are not fully convinced that they will see a significant improvement in services, but rather see the inconvenience of having to go further away and of having their access to the stocks of their particular department impaired.

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### **Surfaces and equipment**

In the last few years there has been a great qualitative change in Catalan university libraries. New premises have been purposely built as libraries and old ones have been enlarged and modernized. Furniture has been renewed and improved.

Some of the more relevant aspects of this modernization have been the distribution of stocks in area libraries as well as free access.

The surface allocated to university libraries has been increased in square meters as much as in seating room, nevertheless the levels recommended by regulations have not yet been reached, these are necessary to give readers a satisfactory service.

Catalan university libraries, except UPF, are far from the square meters per reader established by the *Recommendations on university library regulations*.

Nor have the minimum standards been met in providing simultaneous seating places for at least 10% of students, as it is laid down in the *Decree on creation and recognition of universities*. The UdG and UPC libraries are notorious for their lack of space and seating places per student, but the new buildings and premises planned will solve these problems in the immediate future. In the Seminar of the LIBER Working Group on the Library Architecture, that took place in Barcelona in March, 1993, new projects were presented for a library for the UPC north campus and a UPF central library in "Edifici de les Aigües de Barcelona", and the building works of the UdG general and humanities library could be seen in progress.

It must be noted that the same square-meter per student rate in different universities gives differing rates in the number of seating places. This is related to the quality of the places concerned. The shortage of space has meant that some libraries have started to restrict access to students from other universities.

Together with the extension and modernization of the premises, an effort has been made to modernize and increase library equipment.

Free access to most facilities has meant that anti-theft security systems have had to be installed and these have a high cost.

The introduction of automated systems has required computers, terminals and support services that are used as daily working tools.

Other non-book support documentation, such as microforms, audio-visual material, optic discs, and all the devices needed for consultation have been fully integrated to the Catalan university libraries stocks.

Regarding document transmission, self-service photocopiers have been installed, and the telefax is regularly used although these machines are not always found in the libraries themselves.

The computer connections available in the libraries have allowed the use of academic networks like Internet to obtain information from other library stocks and the introduction of orders through electronic mail; and in the near future it will be possible to obtain documents electronically.

## **Holdings**

The features of each university library holdings depend on its history and the kind of tuition imparted at that university.



The UB Library, since it is the oldest, gathers the disentanglement stocks and is the holder of material published in the Barcelona province as a Provincial Public Library. These characteristics partly justify its abundant holdings, and they also imply added responsibilities regarding the conservation of antique material as well as the processing of works not selected according to objectives set by a service to the university community.

The UPC Library as well as the sciences libraries in other universities are having to face up to the rapid obsolescence of their monographic holdings, and this means that very often emphasis is laid on the acquisition of periodicals related to these subjects.

In order to achieve a balanced growth of collections, it is necessary to follow the international recommendations on specific library budgeting and the involvement of library staff, as well as teaching staff, in the selection process.

On the other hand, the fact that acquisitions are decided by departments generates an uneven growth since it depends on the interests of some professors, thus causing a neglect of other materials needed for tuition.

These centralized acquisition needs have been identified sooner and more easily in periodicals subscriptions because of the high costs that they represent each year, and from the fact that basic titles subscriptions cannot be cut out for particular reasons and the need to have available a wide coherent base as a research tool. It is hoped that subscriptions of materials on CD-ROM will follow the same pattern.

An evaluation of whether Catalan university library collections are adequate has to be done in accordance with the objectives defined by the library and following the criteria of the IFLA norms, but this requires in-depth knowledge of the library context and its holdings.

Regarding the quantitative data, it can be seen in the annex on holdings that all Catalan university libraries are well below the 130 volumes-per-student mark recommended by the Ministry of Culture. Despite this fact, it is encouraging to see that the recommended annual increase is being met in practically all Catalan universities. The relevance given by UPF to providing bibliographic materials to their library must be stressed; it means that their monograph increase for 1992 is well above the one suggested by the *Recommendations on university library regulations*.

The recommendations on subscriptions to serials are met and the subscription-per-ten-students rate is surpassed by all libraries except UPC's.

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## **Services**

The main change in library services concerning readers has been the dispersion of most of the stocks in free-access systems. The fact that shelves can be reached directly has meant a dramatic increase in volumes consulted and in library users.

In the annex referring to services usage, very high reader figures can be seen as a result of implementing automatic counters; these do not bear comparison with the figures obtained with traditional methods. It must also be made clear that it is hard to count the volumes consulted in a free-access system, since these data depend on the frequency shelves are replenished.

Lending methods vary from library to library, depending on the lending periods and the various types of regular readers and the amount of books they can take out. Libraries with automated lending have unified regulations and operations in all their units.

Catalan university library opening hours average 60-65 hours per week; this means that they meet the minimum requirements established by the *Decree on the creation of universities*. In the year 1990-1991 UPF started opening its library at weekends and over bank-holidays. Now this special timetable has caught on in UAB and UB libraries. Some UPC and URL libraries open on Saturdays; and some UAB and UPF libraries also have night time tables until 1.00 h and 1.30 h, respectively on working days. All Catalan university libraries are willing to extend their opening hours, but the multiple locations mean an unsustainable cost when trying to keep these timetables.

Although the usefulness of keeping libraries open at weekends, or at least on Saturdays, is very obvious, there is a need for an accurate study of whether it is economically worthwhile to keep them open at night, taking into account the number of students as well as the use of the premises as a study room.

Interlibrary loans are another important part of the services provided since they enable university libraries to have access to the stocks needed to carry out research, considering that a library can never be completely self-reliant. In the last few years there has been a considerable increase in these services, probably due to an improvement in the equipment used, particularly the electronic facilities of access to other library catalogues and to document retrieval from foreign sources. We must point out that UB uses more material from its own stocks than from other libraries, probably because it has very good stocks and also because it has widely distributed its catalogue through the REBIUN CD-ROM.

CD-ROM database consultation is the service that has undergone the fastest development in Catalan university libraries. This medium has allowed lower costs in database consultations, as well as the keeping of information on line for further research; therefore, it has become very popular.

Since society has increased its awareness of the physically handicapped and there is a tendency towards making access to all kinds of services easier for them, Catalan university libraries have slowly caught on to the idea of providing adequate space and acquiring special equipment. Recently, one important step forward has been the installing of a printed document reading device for the blind in UAB libraries.

## Staff

In 1985 when the Statutes of Catalan universities were passed, they added a transitory provision to adapt existing staffing institutions to the modernized structures that were being approved. One of these provisions was the creation of the "Scale for Assistants of Archives and Libraries", an euphemism for "Librarian", in the university administrative language. This university scale allowed the integration of library staff who had been working at the previous scales of "Assistants of Archives, Libraries and Museums" and that were going to become obsolete in most Spanish universities. They also indicated the need for examinations, so that all qualified staff holding a Diploma could have access to the new scales as well as the staff who were working or who had been employed by universities needing staff to cover their need of qualified personnel. These assistants are the bulk of the library staff and they are in charge of the technical aspects, the managing of centre libraries, teledocumentation services, and so on.

In 1991 the Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris-Documentalistes de Catalunya (Official Association of Librarians-Documentalists of Catalonia) encouraged the Catalan university chief librarians to promote a change of denomination for the "Assistants of Archives and Libraries", but this has not been achieved.

It is surprising that the Diploma in Librarianship and Documentation is not yet a requirement to work as a librarian in Catalan universities, 15 years after it was created, except at UPC.

As well as assistants, in 1985 universities acknowledged the existence of technicians on the "Scales of Facultatives of Archives and Libraries". Both grades inherited the denomination of Facultatives and Assistants Bodies of the Ministry of Culture. Facultative staff must have a degree and be in managing posts or in charge of specialized technical sections.

The tasks of attending to readers and controlling material are carried out by staff belonging to the grade of Administrative Assistants, without any specific selection requirements for people who are really interested in this line of work and who are working in libraries without any chance of promotion or recognition.

There are also the auxiliary staff who used to belong to the public officials body, now in the process of being abolished and replaced by labour auxiliaries. They are in charge of supervision, making photocopies, distributing mail and assisting in other tasks. They do not have to meet any requirements, and they do not have any promotion chances.

UB and UPC have a specific rank called Library Auxiliaries, who have an intermediate role between administrative auxiliaries and auxiliaries.

Between 1981 and 1983, the new post of Student Assistant was incorporated by some universities; they are students who assist at the lending counters and in re-stacking shelves, working three hours a day throughout the academic year. They have really become an essential element, covering the most basic services

and substituting for administrative and library auxiliaries, and at a considerably lower cost, since no social security contributions have to be made on their behalf. Although they are a great help, the frequent staff changes mean that they offer a lower quality service to the readers, and force the permanent staff to provide constant training of the new recruits, with the subsequent loss of time and efficiency.

The lack of staff specializing in information services to the public is patent in most Catalan university libraries.

Some universities also employ students from the University School of Librarianship and Documentation to assist in technical and reconversion jobs, and are a help to librarians while they acquire practical experience in their profession. But they pose problems similar to those encountered with student assistants.

After installing automatic systems there is also the cooperation of computer technicians to give support in that area. There are also specialized technical staff for restoration and microfilming in some of the Catalan university libraries.

In the staff annex, a big fluctuation in the students-per-librarian rates can be observed, from 53 in UPF to 1,317 in UdL. In 1986 the Ministry of Culture recommended one librarian per 500 students. The importance of Student Assistants in the library personnel is also pointed out, especially in UdL and URV, where they make up more than half of their staff. UAB also stands out for having the lowest librarian rates in relation to non-librarians.

After adopting the new technologies and automation, there has been a considerable change in quality regarding the training of technical staff, responding also to new trends in business management.

## **Budget**

One of the most difficult aspects to grasp in university libraries has traditionally been the budget due to its distribution in items originating in other sections of the general university budget, the incidence of grants for research schemes and infrastructure, which include bibliographic materials, and the common practice of entering account items under ambiguous headings; all these factors mean that sometimes not even the library managers know what exactly the university is investing in this service.

The factor that prevents the comparison of the various rates between the global university budget and the fraction allocated to their libraries is the lack of comparable data. Only UB and UPF have a centralized budget, UdL and URV have no data available because during part of 1992 they were still under their previous university administrations; and URL has not issued any financial data.

Universities without a centralized budget have consolidated their annually allocated amounts for bibliographic items specifically dedicated to teaching, keeping the basic subscriptions and to general activities. The acquisition of bibliographic materials channeled through centre and department budgets are also maintai-

ned, their main feature being that the amounts allocated vary from one year to the next according to their policies, with the inconvenience that this implies regarding collection coherence.

During the last few years, a great increment of specific items for investments in libraries has been noted, affecting premisses and equipment, such as the automation process and the acquisition of bibliographic materials. This has been possible thanks to the obtention of special resources through Europe, government and autonomic grants. Other fund sources are the research agreements with private companies, who include bibliographic materials in their budgets.

Finally, we must point out the need to follow international regulations regarding budgets, they establish that a library must have a specific item in its general university budget.

### **Automation**

The Catalan university libraries automation process has had an uneven development. After a few initial tests carried out during the academic year 1978-79 in UB and UPC with the help of "Caixa de Pensions per a la Vellesa i d'Estalvis", both universities started a separate process based on their own computer resources.

The UB Library started to implement an automation programme developed *ad hoc* in January 1985 for their catalogue, which from that time was centralized. This system, called BUBIS (UB Library Information Service), was adapted in 1992 to a new operating system called FIGARO, taking over the old obsolete system. At present it has modules for cataloguing, acquisitions, authority files and serials control, and products extracted regularly, such as new acquisitions lists and CD-ROM editions. Consultation through OPACs is proving difficult and new lending modules are being developed.

Stocks previous to 1985 are being reconverted using the foreign database record copying services, like OCLC and Bibliofile. but the pace is slow considering the volume of library stocks. Records are also copied to catalogue from the *Bibliografía Española* tapes, and the *Bibliografía Nacional de Catalunya* tapes up to 1988. The computer is being shared.

The programme designed by UPC was called MBUP (Mechanization of UP Libraries). Initially, data were recorded in IBERMARC format, but in 1986 it was changed to CATMARC together with other improvements. This new programme was called MDUP (Documental Module of UP) and was used to automatize the catalogues of the fourteen UP libraries. The main disadvantage of this programme was that it did not allow the handling of the general catalogue and that it only implemented cataloguing and consulting operations. In 1990 the UPC Library acquired the VTLS (Virginia Tech Library System) programme and a dedicated computer. VTLS is an on-line integrated programme that handles all library func-

tions -cataloguing, authority files, serials control, acquisitions, and loans. It is very easy to use; the user can access the catalogue by consulting the OPACs from any terminal or PC connected to the university network, or through a modem. They were able to use the records from previous computerizing stages, and some special resources were used for the reconversion of all the stocks by contracting an outside company.

UAB kept out of the automation process until 1990, when they adopted the VTLS programme. Reconversion of stocks is nearly completed by an outside firm that has made all modules operational except acquisitions.

The UPF Library also adopted the VTLS and implemented all modules. They even made available to users consultation PCs that allow printing of screens or recording them in diskette.

The UdG, UdL, and URV libraries, since they merged centres from different universities, have several systems -BUBIS, MDUP, and VTLS. The need to integrate and unify several catalogues has led to the decision of choosing an only system in the three universities and they have decided on VTLS, since it is the system used in most Catalan university libraries, it had developed all modules, and offers the widest consultation and interconnexion facilities.

The URL libraries are in several automation stages and are running under several systems. Escola Blanquerna started in 1990 with SABINI, the Faculty of Philosophy started with TINLIB in 1993, and the Institut Químic de Sarrià adopted VTLS in 1993.

### **Interlibrary cooperation**

No university library by itself is capable of getting all the resources needed for research. This has led libraries to see cooperation as essential -first of all in their local area and their subjects, and then at an international level.

The basis of this cooperation is the bibliography information exchange through access to the catalogue of each library, or through a collective national catalogue. This access to the various library holdings would optimize resources in their services to readers and in their technical processing.

University library readers would be aware of the holdings available in their country and could get access to them through interlibrary loan services, which would have to run accurately and incorporate new technologies.

Access to alien bibliography records would save cataloguing costs, particularly if it were possible to use the information found. This is why it is so important to adopt international exchange norms and formats.

With proper cooperation and coordination it would be possible to establish specialization areas in acquisition matters, which would mean a good return on investments and a wider scope of subjects. This coordination possibility is quite remote, especially if the financial support of national institutions is not forthcoming.

Cooperation between university libraries should take place within a national-library context, opening possibilities of access to the National Library holdings and thus of other research libraries in the country. This would mean savings in cataloguing the existing holdings, the integration of a conservation policy at national production level and the chance of expurgating the collections without fear of losing unique items.

In theory, the Spanish Library System includes interlibrary cooperation, but in practice this does not exist. The Catalan Library System, according to a Law passed on March the 3rd, 1993, establishes a general integrating framework for university libraries in the System through the National Library. Let us hope that the spirit of the law will soon be a reality.

Concerning the institutional structure that Catalan universities depend upon, on December the 28, 1992,<sup>17</sup> the transference of responsibilities for universities and research to a Commissioner in the Presidency Department made coordination easier for the various activities of organs directly involved in the planning and running of Catalan universities and organs responsible for stimulating scientific research in Catalonia. In Catalan university libraries, this coordination is reflected in the support given by the CIRIT to various computerization proposals, following a defined line that should enable maximum benefit from the existing resources. The initiatives of the private URL are included in this programme for improving infrastructures, as long as they follow the established guidelines.

The creation of the Committee for Library Coordination by the Catalonia Inter-university Council in 1992, formed by the research vice-rector of each university and the library spokesman of UPF, the finances obtained to start a network of university libraries in Catalonia through the creation of a collective catalogue, and the meetings to find the way to integrate all catalan universities into the network have opened up new possibilities of coordinated work and provided common viewpoints on the country's bibliographical resources.

The present-day situation of this network scheme can be summed up as follows: the UAB, UPC and UPF libraries are connected in a way that enables consultations of each other's catalogues without any problems. In 1991 these three universities applied for a grant from the Inter-ministry Committee for Science and Technology (CICYT) in order to create a library network with VTLS. The Committee agreed to partly finance the creation of a university library network but without subjecting it to the use of a computer system. Therefore, the Commissioner for Universities and Research has available a grant, frozen since 1992, from CICYT, CIRIT and the General Direction for Universities to carry out this university library network.

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17. Decret 318/1992, of December 28th, by which the post of Commissioner and the regulation organization and distribution of roles for Universities and Research are created. (*DOG*C no. 1690, 4-1-1993, p. 9-10).

Besides this, the Culture Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya is carrying out, during summer 1993, technical and feasibility studies in order to define the basic computer structure of the national collective catalogue and the interconnexion conditions for all the automation systems already in use at the catalan libraries, including those of the university libraries. At the end of this year it will be possible to start building this national catalogue.

For the time being, Catalan university libraries have laid down the basis, at a regulatory and format level, for possible cooperation amongst them, as can be seen in the normative annex.

The CAPS (Automatized Catalogue of Serial Publications) is already a fact. The UB Library started this collective catalogue in 1987 using the CRUC (Catalogue of Catalan University Periodicals) records, gathered between 1981 and 1983 with 24,000 titles. The format was changed from ISDS to CATMARC. The participants have varied throughout its life; nowadays they are the UB Library, the specialized libraries of the Barcelona Council, the ICESB, the Escola Universitària Santa Madrona, the Observatori de l'Ebre, the UdL, and the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares. UAB and UPC did not update their data since it has not been possible to reach an agreement and sign a cooperation agreement satisfactory to all parties involved. CAPS consultation is done through the REBIUN (University Libraries Network) CD-ROM. At present it has 29,000 news items.

The Library Services of UAB have also included in the periodical publications section of their catalogue the serials from the Abadia de Montserrat, and the Centre Borja de Sant Cugat Library. It gathers 26,000 titles altogether with 34,500 different collections.

In 1990 the University Libraries Network (REBIUN) was created for the whole of Spain, to which belong the Catalan universities UB, UPC, UPF and URV as well as nine universities from other parts of Spain. UdG has also submitted their application. The main aim of this network is to provide interlibrary loans. The differences in holdings mean that the well-endowed libraries do not benefit from the services given by the other libraries. Another REBIUN objective is editing a collective catalogue of all the participating libraries in CD-ROM. At this moment there are included information from Catalan university libraries, from centres of UdL formerly belonging to the UB and from the universities of Alcalá de Henares, Cantabria, Carlos III de Madrid, Pública de Navarra and Santiago de Compostela. The possibility of incorporating records from libraries using the DOBIS/LIBIS system is currently under study. These libraries form a network called RUEDO, four of them are also members of REBIUN. This CD-ROM also includes CAPS.

Unfortunately in Spain, due to a low cooperation level, there is still a great dependence on the great document suppliers from Great Britain and the United States; this causes very high costs and it also demonstrates a lack of efficiency in our library system.



Also within Spain, we find the members of the VTLS-Spain Users Group that gathers all libraries using this system, regardless of whether they are university or Catalan libraries. Therefore it also includes the Network of Public Libraries of the Diputació de Barcelona and the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló de la Plana Library. They hold regular meetings and set up technical committees. They are related to the VTLS-Europe Users Group.

At another level of cooperation, the Telephassa project is about to be finalized as part of the EC Comett-II programme, in which UAB, Tilburg University (the Netherlands) and Patras University (Greece) are taking part. Its main objective is to spread new information distribution technologies and to build fifteen interactive information modules.

## COMPARATIVE TABLES

**Table 1. General Description (1992-93)**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
students	30,753	78,097	6,851	7,905	30,836	2,043	4,391	8,500
lecturers	2,200	3,246	464	498	2,235	351	213	600
centres <sup>1</sup>	14	18	7	7	14	3	5	8
towns	3	2	1	1	6	1	1	2

**Table 2. Statutes and regulations**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
Explicit Statutes <sup>2</sup>	no	yes	-	-	yes	-	-	
Regulations <sup>3</sup>	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no

**Table 3. Organization chart**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
Director	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	Coord.
Deputy director	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no
Heads	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
General Committee	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no
Committees	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes

1. Attached centres are not included since they do not share services.

2. UdG, UdL, UPF, URL and URV do not have Statutes.

3. UdG and UdL are in the process of approving their Regulations.

**Table 4. Surface**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
<b>m2</b>	15,640	29,000	1,040	1,891	5,850	2,056	-	3,100
<b>places</b>	2,776	6,568	460	447	1,367	370	-	700
<b>linear metres</b>	31,663	-	3,200	3,350	-	5,078	-	-
<b>libraries</b>	11	18	4	4	14	1	5	8
<b>sites</b>	19	18	6	4	14	3	5	8
<b>teledocu- mentation</b>	3	3	0	1	1	3	1	1
<b>Rates</b>								
<b>m2/student</b>	0.50	0.37	0.15	0.23	0.18	1	-	0.36
<b>10% students places missing 10%</b>	3,075	7,809	685	790	3,083	204	439	850
<b>student /place</b>	299	1,241	225	343	1,716	0	-	150
	11.07	11.89	14.89	17.68	22.55	5.52	-	12.14

**Table 5. Equipment**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
<b>inside photocopiers</b>	15	3	6	2	0	1	1	0
<b>self-service photocopiers</b>	13	49	4	4	11	3	3	8
<b>microform readers</b>	12	30	2	5	8	1	2	6
<b>microform reader-printers</b>	10	6	2	4	8	3	1	2
<b>CD-ROM readers</b>	15	18	2	3	14+network	13+network	2	7
<b>telefax<sup>4</sup></b>	4	12	6	2	5	1	1	8
<b>micro computers</b>	54	200*	16	11	12	55	15	22

4. Most libraries use the telefax of the centre where they are located.

terminals	70	*	14	6	63	19	4	16
printers	41	*	10	8	21	33	4	8
videos	25	4	1	0	12	5	0	4
slide viewers	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	2

Table 6. Holdings

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
monographs	507,968	1,621,551	106,963	85,045	132,373	110,483	134,796	80,276
serials	24,382	25,484	2,087	1,373	6,953	3,234	1,656	1,764
current serials	10,647	11,535	1,661	1,031	2,485	2,481	957	1,764
non-book material	105,279	41,404	11,127	12,185	8,585	-	4,946	6,412
$\Delta^6$ monographs	28,887	31,420	7,396	3,350	18,957	40,000	15,282	5,136
$\Delta$ serials	1,989	917	-	130	443	1,000	-	75
$\Delta$ non-book	15,729	3,500	1,830	3,788	46	-	-	-

## Rates

monographs/ student	16.51	20.76	15.61	10.75	4.29	54.07	30.69	9.44
$\Delta$ monogr/ student	0.93	0.40	1.07	0.42	0.61	19.57	3.48	0.60
serials/student	0.79	0.32	0.30	0.17	0.22	1.60	0.37	0.20
current serials/ 10 students	3.46	1.47	2.42	1.30	0.80	12.16	2.17	2.07

5. These figure includes microcomputers, printers, and terminals.  
6. ( $\Delta$  = annual increase)

**Table 7. 1992 Use of services**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL91/92	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
<b>readers</b>	2,831,847	5,240,045	332,636	232,242 <sup>7</sup>	1,604,415	263,207	446,899	500,000
<b>loans</b>	221,240	510,831	40,757	47,572	151,100	18,440	-	52,253
<b>consultations<sup>a</sup></b>								
(m)	632,920	2,697,081	133,128	286,856	-	(m) 82,456	-	-
(s)	305,288					(s) 17,934		
<b>weekly opening hours<sup>9</sup></b>	60/104	60/84	70	60/70	58/63	65/109	50/72	70
<b>alien inter-library loans</b>	7,369	16,019	730	1,142	1,808	1,058	740	4,300
<b>own inter-library loans</b>	1,879	35,114	24	99	1,310	-	-	297
<b>on-line teledoc.</b>	376	5,339	-	208	70	102	-	-
<b>CD-ROM consultation</b>	4,537	<sup>10</sup>	-	192	4,746 <sup>11</sup>	3,225	261	-

**Table 8. Staff**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
<b>librarians</b>	67	133	22	6	51	38	7	23
<b>non-librarians</b>	77	84	8	9	34	23	8	3
<b>student assistants</b>	56	138	9	16	30	0	8	28
<b>staff total</b>	200	355	39	31	115	61	23	54
<b>total excluding student assistants</b>	144	217	30	15	85	61	15	26

7. The Escola Tècnica Superior d'Enginyeria Agrària data are missing, since they do not record their readers.

8. Data referring to consultations carried out in free-access libraries depend on factors such as shelf-tidying frequency. Some libraries select a few weeks of the year as statistical samples for their annual results.

9. The first figure represents regular hours and the second figure special hours for some libraries.

10. CD-ROM consultations at UB are free-access and they do not record them for statistics.

11. It refers to bibliographical searches on networked CD-ROMs.

**Rates**

students/librarian	459	587	311	1.317	604	53	627	369
students/ non-librarian	399	929	856	878	906	88	548	2.833
students/ staff total	153	219	175	255	268	33	190	157

**Table 9. 1992 Budget (in thousand pesetas)**

	UAB <sup>12</sup>	UB	UdG	UdL <sup>13</sup>	UPC	UPF <sup>14</sup>	URL	URV <sup>15</sup>
monographs	110,900	86,305	38,700	4,169	44,189	125,000	-	11,819
subscriptions	58,000	200,640	10,500	14,154	27,073	33,000	-	18,280
undefined bibliographic materials	-	-	-	665	730	4,000	-	-
investments infrastructure	-	89,000	3,500	-	45,917	30,000	-	-
staff	215,095	823,321	65,000	-	223,282	141,000	-	-
maintenance and fungible material	18,000	127,360	2,000	997	6,815	2,000 +8,000	-	-
automation	35,012	10,000	21,000	-	16,624	30,000	-	-
central services	16,000	-	3,000	-	6,376	-	-	-
<b>University budget</b>	<b>18,871,894</b>	<b>32,217,138</b>	<b>2,423,000<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,070,584</b>	<b>5,208,685</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

12. Information extracted from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. *Pressupost 1992*. Bellaterra, 1992. The subscription data correspond only to centralized periodicals, and staff figures only to librarians.

13. Budgets were obtained from their former universities (UAB, UB and UPC) and data are not available.

14. The global expenditure figure includes direct charges, but not those from General Administration. Investment in research infrastructure for 1992 is not included, it amounted to 1,813,852 pesetas. The total UPF budget quoted is from DOGC no. 1636, 24-8-1992.

15. Budgets were made from their former universities (UB and UPC), and data are not available.

16. Consolidated final 1992 budget. It includes contributions from UAB and UPC.

**Table 10. Automation**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL <sup>17</sup>	UPC	UPF	URL <sup>18</sup>	URV <sup>19</sup>
<b>starting year</b>	1990	1985	1992	1987/90/92	1984/1990	1990	1990/1993	1985/1993
<b>records</b>	256,599	358,000	10,700	29,862	110,364	85,093	27,013	25,000
<b>system</b>	VTLS	FIGARO	VTLS	VTLS	VTLS	VTLS	SABINI	VTLS
<b>format<sup>20</sup></b>	CATMARC	CATMARC	CATMARC	CATMARC	CATMARC	CATMARC	TINLIB,VTLS USMARC, CATMARC	CATMARC
<b>cataloguing</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>acquisitions</b>	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
<b>loan</b>	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes/no	no
<b>serials control</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
<b>authorities</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
<b>OPAC</b>	yes	yes	yes	partly	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>reconversion</b>	en part	en part	en part	partly	yes	-	partly	-
<b>computer</b>	HP3000	IBM (shared)	HP3000	—	HP3000	HP3000	-	HP3000
<b>products</b>	new acquisitions	new acqu., cd-rom, cards	cards, listings, tapes, diskettes	microfiches, new acqu.	cards, new acq, ISO tapes	screen printing	-	-

**Table 11. Processing Norms**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
<b>description</b>	ISBD	ISBD	ISBD	ISBD	ISBD	ISBD	ISBD	ISBD
<b>cataloguing</b>	AACR2	AACR2	AACR2	AACR2	AACR2	AACR2	AACR2	AACR2
<b>classification</b>	UDC	no	UDC	UDC	UDC	no	UDC	UDC
<b>subject headings</b>	LCSH	own thesaurus	LCSH	UB thesaurus	LCSH, ICB	LCSH	ICB	LCSH
	ICB		ICB	ICB	REPertoire		thesaurii	
<b>catalogue language</b>	Catalan	Catalan	Catalan	Catalan	Catalan	Catalan	Catalan	Catalan
<b>signatures</b>	UDC	UDC specific	UDC	UDC specific	UDC specific	LCC	UDC	UDC

17. The first three years correspond to three different systems: BUBIS (1987) UB; VTLS (1990) UPC; MDUP (1992) UAB. As from 1993 it was decided to use VTLS only.

18. URL centres have different systems. Escola Blanquerna started automatization with SABINI in 1990, they are already running their lending system and reconversion is nearly completed. Escola La Salle started their own system in 1992. Facultat de Filosofia de Catalunya has begun automatization in 1993 with TINLIB and Institut Químic de Sarrià also in 1993 with VTLS.

19. From 1985 to 1992 they used BUBIS, the UB system. From 1993 they are using VTLS.

20. Libraries using VTLS have USMARC format for authorities and serials holdings records, since these records are not available in our national CATMARC format.

**Table 12. Interlibrary Cooperation**

	UAB	UB	UdG	UdL	UPC	UPF	URL	URV
<b>Catalonia</b> <sup>21</sup>	VTLS Spain periodicals	CAPS	VTLS Spain	VTLS Spain CAPS	VTLS Spain	VTLS Spain	VTLS Spain	VTLS Spain CAPS
<b>Spain</b>	-	REBIUN	-	REBIUN	REBIUN	REBIUN	-	REBIUN
<b>Abroad</b>	VTLS Europe Telephassa	-	VTLS Europe	VTLS Europe	VTLS Europe	VTLS Europe	VTLS Europe	VTLS Europe

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