

University Library Erasmus University Rotterdam

Focus on high-quality and reliable services

Annual Report for 2024

University Library Erasmus University Rotterdam

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Foreword

At Erasmus University Library, our mission is to empower academia and foster meaningful societal impact by making minds matter. In 2024, we remained dedicated to both the academic community and the broader society. Our primary focus was on delivering high-quality, dependable services that support research, education, and innovation. We also took significant steps to strengthen our internal organization, ensuring that our foundation remains robust and future-ready.

The topics we have elaborated on were:

- Strengthening our educational & research support
- Improving the use of our building & our digital services
- Intensifying our cultural programme
- Ensuring information integrity
- Communication

User engagement and Open Science

User engagement & cooperation and Open Science were central in all these activities. Throughout the year we managed to take steps and sometimes leaps, forward on these topics.

Strengthening our organisation

In the summer we started an internal journey to strengthen our organisation. We planned and implemented an organisation change to arrange our organisation according to our priorities: Library Educational Support, Library Research Support and Library Services, with our Scientific Information at the core. We gave ourselves time to adapt to the new situation, from the summer until the end of the year, to allow room for flexibility and adjustments along the way.



New strategy and priorities

During the last months of 2024 we wrote our Strategic Plan 2025-2030 in which we set our priorities for the next five years:

1. Fostering a culture of learning and collaboration
2. Amplifying research impact through open science
3. Driving societal engagement and knowledge sharing
4. Enhancing operational excellence and adaptability

All in all, 2024 was an eventful and positive year during which we took further steps to become an open, trustworthy, proactive and collaborative partner to our colleagues within the Erasmus University and to the wider academic community.

All of the above wouldn't have been possible without the continuous commitment of all of my Library team. Thank you!

Lucinda M. Jones

Director of the Erasmus University Library/Librarian of the EUR



Open Science Support

Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) is a frontrunner in the Open Science movement, which promotes transparency, collaboration, and responsible research. The University Library (UL) supports academic staff in adopting Open Science practices, such as Open Access publishing, the use of Open Educational Resources (OER), and the EUR Data Repository (EDR).

1.1 Strategy for Open Science Support

In 2024, the UL collaborated with colleagues from Engagement Research Services (ERS) to develop a strategy for Open Science Support within EUR. This strategy lays the foundation for supporting Open Science practices and services for the 2026–2030 period. It will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval in 2025. The UL is taking the lead in areas such as Open Access publishing, Open Educational Resources, and the EUR Data Repository. Additionally, the UL remained an active member of the Open and Responsible Science program council.

1.2 Support for Open Access Publishing

In 2024, the UL assisted EUR researchers with 580 inquiries related to Open Access. The UL also continued to uphold high standards in this area. Every article is stored in the [EUR Repository](#), in line with the Open Access policy. Furthermore, we are retroactively making articles from the 2015–2020 period available as Open Access. The UL also enhanced its tailored support for faculties, including the development of analyses and strategies for Open Access publishing across multiple faculties and Erasmus MC.

1.3 Open Access Book Fund

In addition to focusing on making short scholarly publications openly available, the UL also supports researchers who wish to publish their books Open Access through the [OA Book Fund](#). In 2024, nine Book Processing Charges were partially reimbursed by the UL, totaling €60,974.

1.4 Diamond Open Access

The UL actively supports [Diamond Open Access](#) by financially contributing €15,000 to three Diamond OA journals. Additionally, the UL initiated the establishment of the [National Expertise Centre for Diamond OA](#), which aims to promote and support this form of publishing.

1.5 Training and Awareness

The UL continued to actively promote its publication support and Open Access services through presentations at departments and faculties within EUR. We also trained early-career researchers by participating in various Open Science courses offered by the Erasmus Graduate School of Social

Sciences and Humanities (EGSH). Lastly, the UL was present at all onboarding sessions for PhD candidates, where we introduced the full range of Open Science support services.



2

**Accessible
buildings,
services, and
an inclusive
collection**



The University Library (UL) is committed to ensuring that its buildings, services, and digital collections are accessible to everyone. We also believe it is important that our collection reflects the diversity of our staff and students. Erasmus University Rotterdam has a highly diverse student population. It is essential that all students see themselves represented in educational materials, feel at home, and have equal opportunities to develop. In 2024, the UL, implemented several important improvements in this area, along with internal and external partners.

2.1 Markings for people with visual impairments

In collaboration with our Real Estate & Facilities department, we took steps to improve the accessibility of the library building. Our glass entrance doors and the revolving door were fitted with visual markers, making the glass walls more visible to people with visual impairments. We also added tactile markings to all staircases, indicating the start of the stairs and the size of each step

2.2 Accessibility of digital resources

The UL consistently prioritises the accessibility of all digital library collections. To ensure that digital learning materials are accessible, we regularly consult with our colleagues from Studying with a Disability (Team SMF). This helps ensure that required study materials are accessible to students with disabilities. UL staff took part in training sessions focused on improving the accessibility of e-books, websites, and other educational materials. Subsequently, they passed on this knowledge to their colleagues through internal training sessions.

2.3 Inclusive library collection

The University Library aims to build an inclusive collection that reflects the cultural, gender, and socio-economic diversity of our students and staff. In 2024, staff from various UL departments attended national meetings to discuss and learn more about what is needed to create a more inclusive collection.

There are several ways to make the library collection more inclusive. One important step is to critically review catalogue metadata and replace outdated or offensive search terms with inclusive alternatives. For example: replacing “gypsy” with “Roma and Sinti” or “police actions” with “Dutch Indonesian wars.”

Another issue are geographic biases in academic databases: authors from the Global South are often underrepresented due to challenges such as lack of funding, infrastructure, and research facilities.

The University Library supports Open Access publishers who provide financial assistance to authors from these regions. These OA publishers earmark part of our contribution to cover publication costs for authors from the Global South, allowing them to publish their work without having to

pay these costs themselves. This helps make academic journals and books — and thus the EUR collections — more inclusive.

2.4 Reading lists on diversity, inclusion & social justice

Throughout 2024, the library regularly published reading lists highlighting newly acquired titles on ‘diversity, inclusion & social justice’. These titles are not part of a separate collection but are integrated into our discipline-specific library collections.

2.5 Publication of the book ‘The Living Library’

In 2024, the UL published the book [‘The Living Library: Stories from the Collections of the Erasmus University Library’](#). The chapters ‘Decolonizing the Curriculum’ and ‘The Reading Without Borders Collection’ explain why a diverse collection and diverse learning materials are so important. With this publication, the UL contributes to the broader EUR vision within the [Academic Outreach Programme](#): All students have the right to equal educational opportunities, regardless of their socio-economic or cultural background.



Educational Support for Students

The University Library (UL) aims to provide a pleasant and safe study environment. In 2024, we renovated the building's interior and created additional study spaces. We also developed a virtual tour to help students navigate our building and services. We have expanded our support services for student well-being. While students are generally satisfied with UL services, they also see opportunities for improvement. We will address these together with students in focus groups.

3.1 Users positive about UL facilities

In December 2024, 2,379 users - including EUR students, staff, and other visitors - completed our library survey. The results show that users are satisfied with the facilities at the UL and the library of the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS). They also identified areas for improvement, which we will address. We are especially pleased with the 230 users who have expressed their interest in participating in the focus groups we will be organising in 2025 to help improve our services.

Top 5



General impression –
calming, pleasant



Employees –
helpful,
informative,
good communication skills



Collection –
lots of books and articles



Wellbeing facilities –
mindfulness,
massage chairs,
co-op puzzle at ISS

Experience with
**inter-library
loans**



Tip 5



Toilets aren't clean



Reservation system –
the previous system
had a better user experience



Broken facilities –
such as soap dispensers,
coffee machines and water taps



Noise pollution
within the Library –
due to talking,
slamming doors or eating noises



Collection and website –
need for a broader
selection and more
user-friendly access

Addressing the areas for improvement

We have already taken several steps to address these issues and will keep users informed of our progress.

- We had previously identified that the cleanliness of the toilets could be improved. We are now revisiting this with the cleaning company.
- Feedback on the study space reservation system was mixed. A working group will improve the system based on this feedback, involving students in this process through focus groups.
- We are considering how to ensure quicker repairs of broken equipment such as coffee machines and soap dispensers.
- To reduce noise pollution, front desk staff and stewards are now monitoring the library more strictly.
- We are working on broadening the content of our collection and improving the user-friendliness of the website. These topics will also be discussed with students in the focus groups.

3.2 Improvements in Student Services

Virtual tour for new and returning students

To help students find their way around the UL building and its facilities, we developed [a virtual library tour](#). This tour guides students step by step through the library and its services. It includes tips on:

- searching our extensive digital collections,
- reserving a study space or book, and
- navigating the UL website.

The virtual tour provides useful information for both new and returning students. It was developed using the Articulate Rise platform, which offers a much better user experience and visual presentation than our previous 3D

tour. The tour is available via the UL website and is also part of the onboarding program for new students at the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM).

E-Modules on GenAI for Ethical and Academic Use

Generative AI (GenAI) is having a major impact on society and education. At the start of 2024, there were no accessible resources at EUR to help students learn how to use AI responsibly in their studies. To address this, the Library collaborated with the EUR Community for Learning and Innovation (CLI) to develop two e-modules on GenAI: [one for bachelor's and master's students](#), and [one for PhD candidates](#).

The e-modules cover topics such as:

- the basics of responsible GenAI use,
- potential risks of using GenAI,
- how to write effective prompts,
- when it is appropriate to use GenAI in an academic context.

Like the virtual tour, the modules were developed in Articulate Rise. They are available [via the Library website](#) and have been widely promoted across all faculties and departments of the university.

Both e-modules were also featured in an [article by the Media & Learning Association](#), a Belgian non-profit organization that promotes the use of media to foster innovation and creativity in education. In 2024, the UL was also an active member of the EUR Taskforce on Generative AI & Education and was consulted on various AI-related initiatives, such as AI policy for PhD candidates and the future of AI at EUR.



3.3 The University Library as a hub for personal growth, wellbeing, and development

Literary and Cultural programme & Student Wellbeing

The UL Working Group for the [Literary and Cultural Programme](#) organises various activities for members of the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet (RLK) and other interested parties, such as lectures, author interviews, the podcast 'Bookmarks & Dog Ears', and an English-language book club. In 2024, these existing activities were integrated into a new, broader programme specifically aimed at EUR students. A new addition to this programme is the Creative Writing workshop. With this consolidation, the working group aims to better engage students with the literary and cultural offerings of the University Library. Collection-driven (online) exhibitions are also regularly - or at least partially - directed towards this audience.

Broadening horizons, personal growth, and wellbeing

The working group aims to introduce students to the full breadth of the library collections, which include not only academic materials but also literary fiction, graphic novels, art, philosophy, and much more. We therefore organise events with a clear link to our collections, based on the belief that reading supports personal development and mental health. The core themes of broadening horizons, personal growth, and wellbeing are central to our student programme. By focusing on international authors, fiction from around the world, and guests with diverse cultural backgrounds, we explicitly aim to include our international student community.

Libby app: free access to e-books and audiobooks

As part of our student wellbeing initiatives, the UL launched the [Libby app](#) in December 2024. This app provides students and staff with free access to a wide collection of audiobooks and e-books. The Libby collection ranges from the latest literary fiction and timeless classics to popular academic

works and titles on current themes such as diversity, feminism, and anti-racism. With its extensive offer of audiobooks, the library responds to student needs, providing (international) students with opportunities for enrichment and relaxation through a diverse collection.

Reading Without Borders book clubs

Together with the EUR Living Room, we organized four English-language book clubs in 2024, as we do each year. In these sessions, students discuss literary classics or contemporary novels together. These gatherings offer students from various disciplines the chance to meet, share reading experiences, and exchange personal insights. The books are selected from the ['Reading Without Borders' collection](#), which features literary fiction from the countries of origin of our students. This allows students to learn about each other's cultural backgrounds.

We also host an annual lecture or interview with an international author. In 2024, Chilean writer Alejandro Zambra was our guest, and one of his works was discussed in the book club.

UL Podcast 'Bookmarks & Dog Ears'

In our UL podcast ['Bookmarks & Dog Ears'](#), EUR staff and students discuss their most cherished books with UL colleagues Berrie and Elsbeth. These conversations offer insight into how literature can enrich lives and how reading contributes to personal reflection and meaning-making. We also view this as a form of community building, and a spin-off event featuring podcast guests could be a natural next step.

3.4 More activities for student wellbeing

In 2024, the UL significantly expanded its offer of student wellbeing activities. We collaborated with EUR services such as the EUR Student Wellbeing Programme and Erasmus Sport. Students appreciated these efforts, as shown by the fact that our wellbeing facilities ranked among the top five best-rated library facilities in the annual Library Survey!

In the summer, the UL participated in the Student EUR Wellbeing Week, organised by the EUR Student Wellbeing Programme. Students could engage in creative activities such as building Legos, solving puzzles, or making smoothies using smoothie bikes (bicycles that power blenders). We participated again in the Student Wellbeing Week in November.



Due to the great success of these wellbeing activities, we offered the event 'Unwind Your Study Mind at the Library' during exam weeks. On the skybridge, students could enjoy relaxing activities such as air hockey, pool, Legos, puzzles, colouring pages, and card games. During the December edition, students could also get a healthy and affordable dinner at the Erasmus Sport Café.

3.5 Building improvements

New carpeting and furniture

In the summer, the UL closed for five weeks to replace the carpeting. The furniture was also updated. Students - the library's primary users - were closely involved in selecting the new chairs. For one week, students could test and evaluate various chair options. Based on their feedback, we chose two chairs that will provide comfortable seating for years to come.

More study spaces through book clearance

The carpeting renovation also provided an opportunity to reorganise and create additional study spaces. While clearing the open shelving, we reviewed each book's loan history since 2017. Books that had not been borrowed since then were moved to storage - a total of 60% of the open shelving collection - freeing up space for 48 new study spots.

Extended opening hours

In 2023, students requested longer opening hours. After a trial period in May and June 2023, we officially introduced the new extended hours on April 6, 2024. The UL is now open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 23:00, and on weekends from 09:00 to 23:00.

4 Educational Support for Lecturers



The University Library (UL) supports EUR lecturers with a variety of tools and services, such as the Educational Resource Repository (ERR), workshops, copyright advice, and assistance with using Open Educational Resources (OER). As a strong advocate for open educational materials, the UL actively promoted the use of OER at EUR in 2024, focusing on strategy development, implementation, and awareness.

4.1 Collaborating on Open Education

In collaboration with the Community for Learning & Innovation and other partners, the UL launched several initiatives to encourage the use of OER.

We worked with:

- programme directors,
- the Education Lab,
- Open and Responsible Science coordinators, and
- lecturers already pioneering with open materials.

Key activities in 2024:

- **research: Mapping 'OER @ EUR'**
In autumn, we conducted an exploratory study to gain insight into existing OER initiatives and support needs within faculties. This research has now been completed and contributes to the development of a shared vision and strategy.
- **Integration into EUR Strategy**
Open Science, Open Education, and specifically Open Content have been included in the EUR Strategy 2025–2030.
- **Guidelines for Open Content**
We developed practical guidelines for using open content in education.

- **Exploration and implementation of IT infrastructure for OER**

In 2024, the UL explored the potential of SURF Sharekit and Edusources as technical platforms for sharing open content. SURF Edusources has now been implemented and is available for use at EUR.

- **Collaboration on the ShareStats Project**

Together with the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSB), the UL worked on the ShareStats project led by Prof. Marleen de Moor. This joint initiative between ESSB, Vrije Universiteit, University of Amsterdam, and Utrecht University aims to make statistics exercises openly and digitally accessible for students and lecturers in higher education. The project fosters collaboration between departments and contributes to the quality and accessibility of statistics education. It also aims to build a discipline-specific community to reach departments beyond the consortium, thereby increasing the quality and quantity of available practice materials.

- **Launch of webpage on Open Educational Resources**

The UL launched [an informative webpage](#) with tools and guidance for lecturers interested in working with open educational materials.



5 Research Support

The University Library (UL) supports researchers with a wide range of services and tools. In 2024, we launched a pilot with capability teams, in collaboration with other EUR services, to improve research support. We also invested in research data, expanded our expertise in AI and data science, and promoted the use of ORCID iDs among EUR researchers.

5.1 Data Repository Replacement Project

Since 2019, Erasmus University Rotterdam has used Figshare as its data repository. This is a digital environment for the sustainable storage, sharing, and reuse of research data.

In 2024, we launched the Data Repository Replacement Project to transition to a new platform that better aligns with current privacy regulations and is more cost-effective. After a thorough evaluation of alternatives, [DataverseNL](#), supported by [DANS](#), was selected.

The actual transition to DataverseNL is scheduled for September 2025.

5.2 Pilot with capability teams in our Data Competence Centre (DCC)

Until recently, EUR researchers had to approach multiple departments for support with research data management and infrastructure. To improve this, a pilot was launched in 2024 within our Digital Competence Centre (DCC) with so-called capability teams: multidisciplinary teams combining expertise from the University Library (UL), Erasmus Digitalisation & Information Services (EDIS), and Erasmus Research Support (ERS).

Two capability teams were formed in 2024: *Research Data Management and Research Data Output*. These teams provide researchers with integrated support and advice within a single multidisciplinary team. The pilot contributes to more cohesive and efficient research support at EUR.

5.3 Future Library Lab: integrating AI and data science into research

In 2024, the Future Library Lab (FLL), a young and dynamic team established only a few years ago, continued to advance the university’s strategic goals by integrating AI and data science into research across faculties. Despite being a relatively new team, the FLL has rapidly grown its impact. Besides offering data support, AI guidance, and Python workshops the team also develops its own research software, such as the Summa tool. This combination of services empowers researchers, teachers, and students to leverage emerging technologies effectively.

Looking ahead, the FLL aims to expand its AI and data science support in line with emerging trends, such as the growing importance of large language models in research. By continuously adapting its services and developing its own research software, the FLL is well-positioned to remain a vital part of the university’s research ecosystem.



5.4 ORCID

ORCID is a global system that provides researchers with a unique personal ID, ensuring that publications and research output are always correctly attributed. ORCID is used by universities, publishers, and funding bodies. Erasmus University is a member of the Dutch ORCID Consortium and actively promotes ORCID use among its researchers to increase visibility and reduce administrative burden.

The UL encourages EUR and Erasmus MC researchers to use an ORCID iD and link it to *Pure*, the university’s research information system where publications, projects, and other academic output are recorded and managed. Linking the two allows for automatic synchronization of publications, saving researchers time and keeping their profiles up to date. By the end of 2024, 54% of researchers had linked their ORCID iD to Pure; among senior researchers, this was 81%. In total, 70,000 publications have already been automatically added to ORCID profiles via Pure.

In 2024, ORCID introduced new features to improve profile reliability, such as verification via institutional email addresses. This makes it easier to confirm a researcher’s affiliation with institutions like EUR or Erasmus MC. ORCID also encourages new users to add their current employer based on their email domain, resulting in more accurately linked profiles.

The UL supports researchers in making the most of their ORCID profiles through workshops, a LibGuide, and the Research Support Portal. In 2024, we launched the *ORCID Quick Scan*: a new service offering personalized advice on improving ORCID profiles. Several senior researchers have already made use of this service.

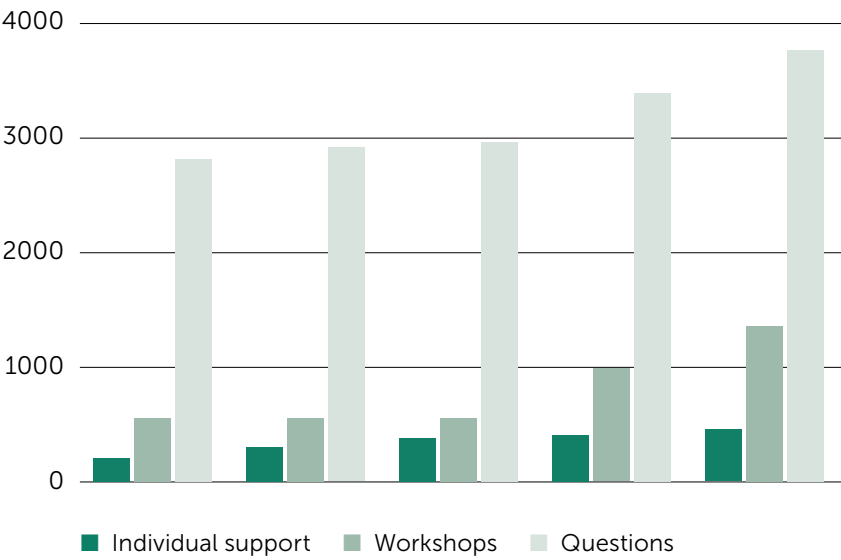


5.5 Erasmus Data Service Centre: Strengthening data access and researcher support

In 2024, the Erasmus Data Service Centre (EDSC) of the University Library once again played a central role in supporting researchers at EUR. While the number of one-on-one guidance sessions remained stable, the number of questions answered and workshops organized increased — a clear sign of the growing demand for expert data support.

In addition to daily support, the University Library invested an extra €100,000 in 2024 for primary research datasets, on top of the regular EDSC budget. This enabled permanent access to the NYSE TAQ files (New York Stock Exchange Trade and Quote), and temporary (one-year) access to Ravenpack, FTSE Russell, S&P Credit Ratings, and Pitchbook¹. The EDSC also manages the necessary infrastructure and access provisions to support the reuse of these datasets.

To help researchers make the most of Pitchbook, the EDSC and the Research Software Engineering & Consulting (RSEC) team organized an information session. It was well attended by staff from various faculties and will be followed up in 2025.



1 The license for Pitchbook was co-funded by the Erasmus Research Institute of Management (ERIM), the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), and the Erasmus School of Economics (ESE).



Collection management and heritage: from preservation to collection development

The collections of the University Library (UL) are at the heart of our services for education, research, and society. Carefully managing, preserving, and making these collections accessible is therefore a core task of the library. In 2024, we worked on this foundation in various ways — from conservation measures to acquiring, cataloguing, and presenting special and historical collections.

6.1 Caring for our collections: preservation, cleaning, and accessibility

The general collections of the UL are an essential resource for students, researchers, and lecturers. These include both digital and physical publications, such as e-books, e-journals, and over 900,000 printed titles in our underground storage. Many of these physical works are rarely borrowed, which poses risks such as mould or insect damage.

To address this, the library launched a large-scale cleaning project in 2024. The goal was to remove dust and prevent damage. Our Physical Collections team developed a detailed cleaning plan and set up a dedicated workspace: our very own *Poetspaleis* ("Cleaning Palace"). Using special vacuum cleaners, books are cleaned without damaging the paper or bindings. Protective equipment and active air extraction ensure safe working conditions.

These efforts are part of a broader commitment to keeping the physical collections accessible and usable for researchers and the public — now and in the future.

6.2 Acquisitions & Donations in 2024

Historical economic sources

The UL expanded its collection of economic sources with a valuable donation from the estate of Prof. Dr. Arnold Heertje and the purchase of several rare early prints. Another major acquisition was a complete set of *Nouvelles de la République des lettres* (1684–1718), the first scientific journal in Europe.

Silver plate and hundreds of medals

The academic heritage collection was enriched with a long-sought silver plate, originally gifted in 1913 by Abraham van Stolk to W.C. Mees, co-founder of the Nederlandsche Handels-Hoogeschool (NHH). The Nederlands Economisch Penning Kabinet (NEPK) — part of the academic heritage managed by the UL — acquired several hundred medals, mostly through donations, including a large donation from the Rotterdam Chamber of Commerce.

Graphic novels

The Special Collections were expanded with a new collection of graphic novels, officially launched on 24 May. To mark the [165th anniversary](#) (on 24 May 2025) of the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet and the start of this new collection, illustrator Marloes de Vries created the graphic novel Haven especially for RLK members and UL partners.



Securing heritage

Due to renovations in the Tinbergen Building on campus, the large statue of the Hindu demigod Jatayu was moved to a secure depot. During the building's clearance, a large 1960s campus model was also rediscovered and preserved.

Making Special Collections findable and usable

The UL and RLK aim to make the Special Collections easily findable and usable for researchers, students, and the general public. We are working on metadata creation and detailed descriptions of the collections. Where necessary, we also clear copyright issues. In 2024, we made significant progress in cataloguing the collection of the Rotterdam Student Corps Museum, which is on loan to the UL.

6.3 Photographic Collection of University History

One of the key responsibilities of the Special Collections department is to preserve the heritage of the university. This includes conserving, cataloguing, and — where possible — making books, photographs, archives, documents, and objects publicly accessible. These materials have been collected throughout the history of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) and its predecessors: the Nederlandsche Handels-Hoogeschool (NHH) and the Nederlandse Economische Hogeschool (NEH).

A major source for university history is the collection of the [Academic Historical Cabinet](#), which has gathered various heritage materials, including a large number of photographs. The heritage photo collection is divided into three sub-collections, corresponding to the three historical periods. Descriptions for the NHH and NEH photo collections have already been created in recent years to make them accessible online to the general public.

In 2024, we made significant progress in cataloguing the third sub-collection: the EUR photo collection. This collection contains over 5,000 photographs, to which we are adding as much information and metadata as possible, with the goal of making them searchable and accessible online for a broad audience.

We also worked extensively on clearing copyright issues. Historical photographs are subject to copyright up to 70 years after the photographer's death. We investigated the copyright holders and, where necessary, requested permission to make the photos available online for educational and research purposes. In 2025, we will complete the cataloguing of the EUR photo collection and publish it online.

6.4 Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet: collection expansion & anniversary year

The Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet (RLK) is an independent humanities library located at the heart of the University Library. Since 1859, the RLK has offered a broad collection ranging from novels and poetry to non-fiction and the [Reading Without Borders collection](#) (international fiction translated into English). The entire RLK collection is not only available to RLK members but also accessible to students and staff of Erasmus University. In the reading room, visitors can read, borrow books, and explore the library in a peaceful setting.

The RLK is a valuable partner of the University Library and actively contributes to collection development. In 2024, for example, the RLK acquired bibliophile editions by Rotterdam-based authors and printers, as well as pulp fiction (cheap, popular literature printed on pulp paper) for an exhibition on the book history of Rotterdam. These acquisitions align with the RLK's mission to preserve literary heritage and keep it relevant for a broad audience.

165 Years of the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet

On May 24, the RLK celebrated its 165th anniversary with a festive gathering centered around a love of reading, featuring speakers such as Abdelkader Benali, Babs Gons, Kees 't Hart, and city poet Elfie Tromp. In addition, the RLK organized nine other public events, including lectures and interviews with authors of new books. These events attracted over a thousand visitors. The biggest crowd magnet was Bart Van Loo, who was interviewed in November about his book 'Stoute schoenen', drawing more than 300 attendees to the Hillegondakerk.



In 2024, we presented four exhibitions, displayed in the showcases in the reading room and, in some cases, also online.

2024

January

February

March

April

May

May

Oktober

November

December

“Erasmus: the man, the myth, the legend, the university” – reading room and online

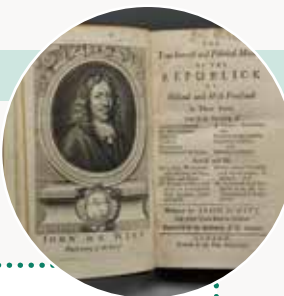
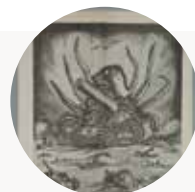
From January to March, we presented *“Erasmus: the man, the myth, the legend, the university”*. The exhibition offered insights into the life of Erasmus and how the university and the city have related to him over the centuries. This collaborative project with the Erasmus School of Philosophy and the Rotterdam Public Library featured objects from the collections of the University Library (UL), the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet (RLK), and the Erasmus Collection of the Rotterdam Public Library.

An online version of the Erasmus exhibition was also created. In the medal showcase of the Nederlands Economisch Penningkabinet (NEPK) in the Erasmus Gallery, the interactive exhibition on the image of Erasmus was continued. [Check out the online exhibition.](#)



“Special Collections Acquisitions” – reading room and online

From March to May, we showcased recent acquisitions from the Special Collections of the UL and RLK. The main focus was on historical sources for the study of economic history, books about Erasmus, and works by and about John Locke. [An online exhibition titled “Special Collections – Acquisitions Economics”](#) was created to accompany the selection of historical economic sources.



“Graphic Novel” – reading room

In May, we opened the *“Graphic Novel”* exhibition to celebrate the launch of our new graphic novel collection. The exhibition provided an overview of the genre and its history, and featured highlights and new works by mostly young artists.



“Rotterdam Book City”

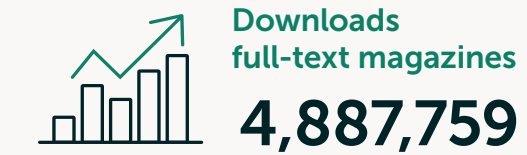
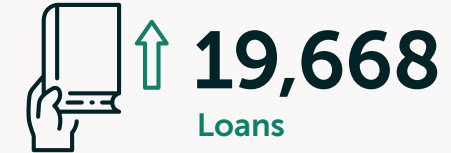
Starting in October, we presented *“Rotterdam Book City”* to coincide with the publication of a themed issue of *De Boekenwereld* on the book history of Rotterdam. The exhibition focused on Rotterdam-based publishers across three periods and themes:

1. The late 17th century, when Rotterdam was a major centre of book production.
2. The rise and flourishing of popular print in the 19th and 20th centuries (religious literature, children’s books, and pulp fiction).
3. Three key 20th-century publishers: Nijgh & Van Ditmar, Brusse, and Ad. Donker.

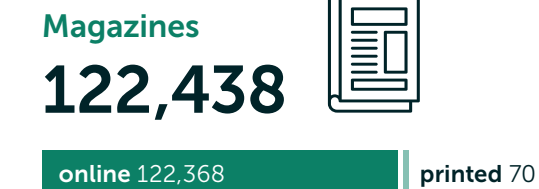


The Library in numbers

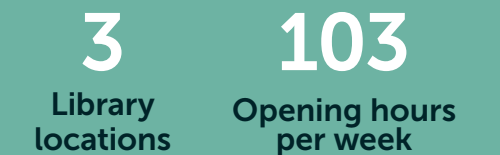
Practical use



Collection



Business



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