

EUR Library Strategic Priorities 2025 – 2030



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Introduction to the University Library

The University Library (UB) plays a pivotal role in supporting the academic and research mission of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). As an integral resource hub, we aim to provide essential services, tools, and expertise that contribute to a productive, innovative, and inclusive academic environment.

This document sets our course for the next five years, providing a mission and vision that reflect our commitment to excellence in academia and societal impact. The library's mission of "Opening resources to make minds matter" guides our work, aligning with the EUR's vision of creating positive societal impact.

Mission

The University Library is a reliable partner and inspiring space for the EUR community and the city of Rotterdam. We facilitate connection and development by actively collecting, safeguarding and sharing knowledge.

Vision

The Library is the dynamic hub of the campus and Rotterdam: a place where reliable knowledge comes together and democratic values are protected. We act as the catalyst that enables students and researchers to shape the world of tomorrow with knowledge and expertise.

Our mission and vision are rooted in our core values:

- **Open:** We are transparent, accessible, inclusive, and welcoming.
- **Proactive:** We prioritize flexibility, ownership, a can-do mentality, and user-centric solutions.
- **Collaborative:** We foster partnerships within the Library, across the EUR, and beyond to create an environment of engaged cooperation.
- **Trustworthy:** We deliver consistent, reliable services and expertise, ensuring safe, secure, and permanently accessible resources.

Through this strategic plan, the EUR Library reaffirms its position as a trusted partner for academic and societal engagement. Together, we will leverage our strengths, address our challenges, and seize emerging opportunities to continue supporting the success of the EUR community.

University Library's Contribution to EUR

As a central hub for education and research, the library's services and resources are fully aligned with EUR's strategic themes for 2025-2030: 'Leading academic education and research', 'Collaboration in networks & with society', and 'One connected EUR'.

Leading academic education and research

The University Library is committed to fostering a culture of collaboration, learning, and empowerment, both within the EUR community and within society as a whole. As a welcoming space for all on the campus, the Library actively promotes academic success and professional development through an approach that emphasizes service excellence, communication, and employee engagement. By 2030, the Library will continue to develop as an inclusive learning environment for students, researchers, alumni, and professionals. We are committed to contributing to EUR-wide initiatives on Lifelong Learning and want to position the Library as a space that promotes civic participation and meaningful public discussion.

Through advancing our expertise in open education and open learning resources, we will help establish them as a cornerstone of innovative and inclusive education at EUR. For teachers, this includes supporting the production, adaptation, and co-creation of open learning resources, embedded in EUR's educational practice. All open materials will comply with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and be developed using open standards, enabling platform-independent editing and sharing.

In parallel with education, we also strengthen research practices through promoting Open Science and responsible research practices. We support all forms of Open Access, including new models such as diamond open access, and we coordinate nationally in building infrastructure for these models. For researchers, we provide tools, infrastructure, legal advice on copyright, and training to help them navigate the changing publishing landscape.

Additionally, we continuously improve the quality of metadata and digital platforms to ensure EUR research outputs are visible and accessible to a global audience. Together with faculties and ERS, we develop methods for measuring and reporting the academic and societal impact of research. Specialized training and advice enable researchers to acquire skills in publishing, data curation, and innovative research methods. To support this, we advocate for dedicated scholarly communication stewards, comparable to data stewards, to guide faculties in publishing-related matters.

Collaboration in networks & with society

The University Library plays a pivotal role in advancing EUR's mission to create positive societal impact by ensuring that knowledge flows seamlessly within and beyond the academic community. As mentioned above, by supporting open and responsible science, the library amplifies the reach and

visibility of EUR's research outputs, fostering connections between the university and the wider world.

The Library expands public access to knowledge and heritage by digitizing collections and through cultural and literary programs such as the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet. Collaborations with Stichting Academisch Erfgoed (SAE) and Stichting Universitair Historisch Kabinet (SUHK) strengthen the preservation and presentation of academic heritage.

By 2030, we will work with partners in Rotterdam to connect heritage collections, safeguard the city's academic memory, and ensure broader public engagement with higher education in Rotterdam. This includes exploring participation in cultural heritage networks in collaboration with the municipality, aligned with Rotterdam's heritage agenda.

In addition, the Library aims to support "Science for Everyone" initiatives, such as making summaries of academic publications accessible to wider audiences through the use of AI, and curating non-traditional research outputs (newspaper articles, lectures, blogs) to ensure their long-term accessibility.

To strengthen our engagement activities, we will explore opportunities in third- and fourth-stream funding, working with foundations, the Port of Rotterdam, the municipality, and other Rotterdam-based institutions.

One connected EUR

For the coming years the Library foresees two developments for our personnel: limited availability of skills and capabilities that are strongly needed and changing skills for our support and services that are more IT focused and based on partnerships. By encouraging personnel to grow in their position we ensure flexibility in our engagement within and outside the EUR without losing focus on our core services.

Internally, the library empowers its staff by prioritizing transparent communication, efficiency, and continuous professional development. We are continuously experimenting with agile work methods and establishing feedback mechanisms and performance indicators, we ensure that our services remain relevant and future-oriented. Data-driven decision-making enables us to continuously improve based on evidence and user experience. Initiatives such as an annual activity calendar and our own internal newsletter ensure both staff and users remain informed and engaged.

By nurturing a culture that values leadership, collaboration, and learning, the library not only supports the EUR community but also strengthens its role as a trusted and integral part of the university's academic mission.

Strategic Priorities

To translate these ambitions into action, the Library has identified four strategic priorities that guide our development over the next five years. Each priority outlines our strategic goals and the key initiatives that will help us strengthen EUR's position as a leading, connected, and socially engaged university.

Fostering a Culture of Learning and Collaboration

Strategic Goal: Position the Library as a dynamic learning ecosystem that promotes continuous professional development, fosters lifelong learning for both the EUR community and external audiences, and stimulates collaboration across disciplines and sectors.

- **Promote Educational Support:** maintain and grow our knowledge of the library's role in education (for example, related to Open Educational Resources), so that we can also show the importance toward all of our stakeholders.
- **Empower Library Staff:** Invest in continuous professional development, transparent communication, and efficient workflows to ensure staff are equipped to deliver innovative, user-centric services.
- **Create Inclusive Spaces:** Maintain state-of-the-art, accessible study environments that foster collaboration, creativity, and intellectual growth, and further position the Library as an inclusive learning environment that contributes to EUR's Lifelong Learning initiatives, civic participation, and public discussion.
- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Collaborate with EUR faculties, student organizations, and external partners like UKB and LIBER to share expertise and strengthen networks.

Amplifying Research Impact through Open Science

Strategic Goal: Lead EUR's transition toward an open, inclusive, and responsible research culture that maximizes both academic and societal impact.

- **Support Open Science Practices:** Promote Open Access publishing, research data management, and responsible science practices, ensuring EUR researchers have the tools and guidance to maximize their impact.
- **Enhance Discoverability:** Improve metadata quality and digital platforms to ensure EUR's research outputs are accessible to global audiences.
- **Build Researcher Capabilities:** Provide specialized training and consultation to equip researchers with skills in publishing, data curation, and innovative methodologies.

- **Strengthen Research Support:** Advocate for the introduction of scholarly communication stewards, comparable to data stewards, to guide faculties in publishing-related matters and ensure consistent support for changing publishing practices.
- **Impact Measurement:** Develop frameworks to evaluate and communicate both academic and societal research impact in collaboration with faculties and central services.

Driving Societal Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

Strategic Goal: Position the Library as a bridge between university and society, enabling open access to knowledge, heritage, and public discourse.

- **Expand Public Access:** Develop curated digital collections and cultural programming, including leveraging the Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet, to connect with broader societal audiences.
- **Promote Knowledge Equity:** Ensure resources and services are accessible to diverse audiences, including through the promotion of Open Educational Resources (OER).
- **Support “Science for Everyone” Initiatives:** Make academic research more understandable for wider audiences (e.g., summaries via AI), and curate non-traditional research outputs such as newspaper articles, lectures, and blogs to ensure their long-term accessibility.
- **Connect Rotterdam’s Heritage:** Collaborate with heritage institutions and the municipality to link collections, safeguard the city’s academic memory, and engage citizens more directly with higher education.
- **Diversify Funding:** Explore third- and fourth-stream funding opportunities (e.g., with foundations, the Port of Rotterdam, and the municipality) to strengthen and expand engagement activities.

Enhancing Operational Excellence and Adaptability

Strategic Goal: Create an innovative, data-driven, and inclusive organization that continuously improves its services, empowers its people, and aligns with the broader ambitions of EUR.

- **Modernize Collections and Access:** Continuously review and adapt the Library’s physical and digital collections to meet the evolving needs of the EUR community. This includes expanding digital access, improving metadata quality, and adopting interoperable standards that strengthen Open Science and Open Education. By aligning collection development with user needs and institutional priorities, the Library

ensures its resources remain relevant, discoverable, and future-oriented. **Leverage Technology:** Invest in innovative technologies and digital platforms to streamline workflows, improve service delivery, and enhance user experiences.

- **Evaluate and Innovate:** Establish robust feedback mechanisms and performance metrics to ensure services remain responsive and forward-looking.
- **Adopt Data-Driven Decision Making:** Use data insights and feedback to guide continuous improvement and ensure services are evidence-based and future-oriented.

Our Departments & Services

The Library Education Support Department

The LES department provides a comprehensive range of services to support the academic needs of EUR students, lecturers, and staff. With facilities at both the Woudestein campus in Rotterdam and the ISS in The Hague, LES plays a key role in enhancing the educational experience by ensuring access to resources, academic support, and a conducive study environment.

Core Services

- **Library Building & Facilities:** Including study spaces, 1st-line question handling, lending services, and maintaining a welcoming study environment.
- **Educational & Academic Skills Support:** Workshops, resources, and consultation for students and lecturers on topics such as literature review, generative AI, and academic skills.
- **Collaboration & Outreach:** Active involvement in interdepartmental and external projects and providing support for faculty liaison and educational material accessibility.

The Library Research Support Department

The LRS department focuses on assisting researchers with the management, publication, and sharing of research outputs. This includes providing specialized services in Open Access publishing, research data management, and scholarly communication. LRS also supports the implementation of open science practices and contributes to the library's role in fostering high-impact, innovative research.

Core Services

- **Publication Support (PS):** Consultation and training around Open Access and research publishing.
- **Data Support (DS):** Offering services related to data curation, management, preservation, and publication, with specialized support in fields like economics and data science.

The Staff Department

The Staff department is dedicated to empowering and supporting the library's workforce by optimizing internal processes and ensuring transparent, open communication. It plays a crucial role in fostering a productive and engaged library community, ensuring that staff have the necessary resources and support to excel in their roles.

Core Services

- Operational Support: Streamlining internal processes and supporting staff across all departments.
- Staff Development: Fostering professional growth through training, support, and clear communication.

The Collection Management & Access Department

The CM&A department is responsible for managing the library's collections, both digital and physical, ensuring access to essential resources for the EUR community. This includes overseeing acquisitions, collection management, metadata services, and providing access to physical and digital materials across various subjects.

Core Services

- Digital & Physical Collections Management: Acquiring, licensing, and maintaining library collections.
- Metadata Services: Ensuring the quality and accessibility of metadata for all collections, improving the discoverability of resources.
- Rotterdamsch Leeskabinet (RLK): Managing this unique collection and facilitating its cultural programming and membership services.