University Library
“I believe that I can rightly claim that teaching in this state has received new impetus from me, and that [...] many signs of my administrative work will remain. Something that affects me personally more directly than anything else is the establishment of a new university here in Berlin.”

Wilhelm von Humboldt (1810)

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – The Modern Classic

Research and teaching are closely intertwined. Developing one’s own personality as well as maintaining the independence of research were the pillars Wilhelm von Humboldt had in mind when he founded the original University of Berlin in 1810. These future-oriented concepts became the epitome of the modern university – thus making Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin into the “Modern Classic”.

The first academic term began in October 1810 with 52 students and 256 academic staff. Today between 3,000 and 5,000 young people start their university education at Humboldt-Universität each year under the tutelage of more than 400 full professors. Since 1994 Humboldt-Universität consists of eleven faculties and numerous interdisciplinary centers in over 300 buildings throughout Berlin and Brandenburg. A broad spectrum of more than 240 different fields of study are offered including all the main academic disciplines in the humanities, the social and cultural sciences, human medicine, and agricultural science as well as mathematics and the natural sciences.

The University of Berlin – thanks to the commitment of scientist Alexander von Humboldt – pioneered the introduction of many natural science disciplines. In 2003 six of Humboldt-Universität’s seven Natural Science departments relocated to its southeast Berlin-Adlershof campus, called the City of Science, Technology and Media. On grounds where the German aviation pioneer Otto Lilienthal once experimented, more than 7,000 students and scientists are now learning, teaching and researching in state-of-the-art facilities.

Today’s students and professors are heirs to a tradition that includes 29 Nobel Prize winners. This tradition makes Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin well known internationally: around 13 percent of all students come from outside Germany and the university has partnerships with over 500 institutions of higher learning worldwide. Many foreign researchers come to Berlin: an average of 800 every year, which gives Humboldt-Universität a prominent place among German universities. Likewise, scholars from Humboldt-Universität are welcome lecturers at universities abroad.
Profile of the University Library

An integral part of the Humboldt-Universitaet, the University Library provides scientific literature to the University. It is open free of charge to anyone who has a valid German residence permit.

In addition to the central library, the University Library comprises nine branch libraries and the University Archives. All locations share a common acquisitions budget and human resources are centrally administered.

The library has total holdings of more than six million items. Media are mainly shelved according to the ‘Regensburger Verbundklassifikation’ (RVK) with most items housed in open stacks.

Users may borrow materials at almost every University Library location. The greater part of the collection is electronically catalogued and thus searchable worldwide.

The introduction of RFID technology allowed an enormous extension of opening hours by automating check-out and return processes. The central library at the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum is open every weekday until midnight.

Additionally, users with a Humboldt-Universitaet account have online access to a vast number of electronic sources, bibliographic data and full text periodicals.
The History of the University Library

The Berlin University, which was founded by Wilhelm von Humboldt in 1810, initially had no library of its own. The Royal Library (today the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) formerly functioned as the university’s library, providing access to scholarly literature. The university opened its University Library in 1831. The state granted a fixed budget for the library in the late 1870s and this allowed the University to pursue a continuous accession policy. As a result, the University Library of the Humboldt-Universitaet became one of the most efficient university libraries in Germany in the beginning of the 20th century.

The University Library developed well despite inflation and the Great Depression. Up until the 1930s, numbers of users and books grew steadily.

In 1922 the library moved into its new rooms at the Prussian State Library (formerly known as the Royal Library) with a trend-setting reading room, 300 workplaces and 40,000 volumes. The greater part of the collection was held in closed stacks in the same building. In addition to the central library, several faculty libraries developed with collections arranged according to unique classification schemes.

Neither Nazi book burning in 1933 nor the Second World War caused massive collection losses to the University Library which is therefore lucky to house titles printed prior to and during the period of National Socialism.

The reading room of the University Library was largely destroyed during World War II bombing raids and several parts of the collection had to be housed far away from the Library in off-site depositories.

The period between 1945 and 1989 was characterized by efforts to centralize and coordinate the Library activities, a policy it has continued to pursue following the Reunification in 1990. As a result, the Library Director is responsible for all of the library’s human resources and the University Library governs the complete accession budget.

Following Germany’s reunification, several gaps in the collection (especially literature from western countries) have been filled with the help of special funds. A state of the art IT system was introduced along with an online catalogue in which all holdings are being entered.

Almost all branch libraries were accommodated in new or newly refurbished facilities and the collections they now contain were given open-stack styled shelving. The development from the original 190 scattered locations to a few central ones resulted in longer opening hours and an extended multimedia collection.

The division of the Humboldt-Universitaet into three regional locations (Campus Berlin-Adlershof, Campus Mitte and Campus Nord) is reflected in the physical layout of the University Library network as well.

Thus in 2003, the Branch Library for Natural Sciences opened its doors in the newly built Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum in Berlin-Adlershof. With the opening of the Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum in autumn 2009, the central library with 12 branch and faculty libraries for the Social Sciences and Humanities, as well as parts of the computer and media service moved into a modern building for the first time. Never before had they all been together in a central place of adequate size in the city centre.

The branch and faculty libraries for the Life Sciences were merged at the temporary site for the central library at Campus Nord.
Locations and Distribution of Subjects at the University Library

Central Library – Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum
- Reference Collection
- Archaeology
- Library and Information Science
- Education Studies
- Ethnology
- Gender Studies
- History
- Higher Education
- Classical Philology
- Culture and Media Studies
- Art and Imaging History
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Rehabilitation Studies
- Sociology
- Economics
- History of Science

Branch Library for Natural Sciences – Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum
- Chemistry
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

Branch Library Campus Nord
- Agriculture
- English and American Studies
- Biology
- Sports Science

Branch Library for Foreign Language Philology
Faculty library for Great Britain Studies at the August-Boeckh-Haus
- General and Comparative Linguistics, Literature and Translation
- British Studies
- Hungarian Studies
- Romance Studies
- Slavonic Studies

Branch Library for German and Scandinavian Language and Literature Studies
with the library for Historical-Comparative Linguistics
- General and Comparative Linguistics and Literature Studies
- German Studies
- Indo-European Studies
- Scandinavian Studies

Branch Library for Law

Branch Library for Theology

Branch Library for Asian and African Studies & the Centre for Japanese Studies

Branch Library for Classical Archaeology

Branch Library for Musicology

University Archives and University Art Collection
Main Locations of the University Library

Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum, central library

The Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum is the new central library for the University Library network. It results from a merger of the former central library with twelve branch and faculty libraries and comprises the subject areas of Humanities, Cultural Studies, Social Sciences, as well as Economics, and a large number of historical titles.

Furthermore, the Grimm-Zentrum is distinguished by its rare books and more recent special collections whose compilation was generously supported by the German Research Foundation. The Grimm-Zentrum houses special subject collections in ethnography and anthropology, higher education, a considerable collection of theses dating from the foundation of the University Library in 1831, the private library of the Grimm Brothers, the portrait collection of former Professors of the Berlin University and Humboldt-Universitaet as well as a large number of scholars’ libraries, like that of the classical philologist Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff.

The Grimm-Zentrum is a lending library with approximately 1.5 million items housed in systematic open stack shelving and vast reference collections (periodicals, fundamental works, manuals, bibliographies, biographies etc.).

With more than 1,000 workplaces for different needs, reading terraces facing each other, peripherally arranged study carrels with or without computers along the glazed façades as well as group workrooms, the Grimm-Zentrum offers an excellent working environment for students and teaching staff at the eastern city centre.

Readers who want to work at the library and bring their children along can use the parent-child work area of ‘Berliner Volksbank Kinderstube’ on the seventh floor. Also on this floor, the media library loans items from its photo and slide archives of the Institute for Art and Visual History as well as videos and microforms of the University Library itself.

- Grand opening in October 2009
- Architect Max Dudler
- Three prizes for architecture in 2010
- Underground and city train station Friedrichstraße in easy reach
- Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 8:00 – 24:00, Sat/Sun: 10:00 – 18:00
- Service hours: Mon – Fri: 9:00 – 22:00, Sat: 10:00 – 18:00
- Space for a total of 2 million volumes in open stacks
- 1,028 workplaces for readers
- Among them 450 PC working stations
- Central reading terraces
- Peripheral workplaces for solitary study
- Research reading room for historical and rare holdings
- 51 study carrels
- 8 group workrooms
- Lounge area with newspaper displays
- Lounge areas for recreation and communication
- ‘Berliner Volksbank Kinderstube’ (separate parent-child work area)
- Self check-out and returns machines (RFID-technology)
- Sorting and transport facility
- Computer and media service (CMS)
- Media library
- Printing and scanning services with state-of-the-art book scanners on every floor
- Auditorium for events
- Cafeteria
Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum
Branch Library for Natural Sciences

The creation of a Branch Library for Natural Sciences was the result of the centralisation of the Humboldt-Universitaet branch libraries for Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics/Computer Science, Physics and Psychology and the library of IGAFA (Joint Initiative of Non-Research Institutions, Ltd.). It is located at the Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum in Berlin-Adlershof.

In addition to the Branch Library for Natural Sciences, the building houses the computer and media service (CMS), lecture halls for mathematics and natural sciences, a conference room and a cafeteria.

It contains a total of about 490,000 volumes and 600 current periodical subscriptions. They are housed in open stacks and systematically shelved according to their subject areas.

The branch library is equipped with a driverless transportation system which includes two transport robots nicknamed ‘the hare’ and ‘the hedgehog’. With the help of the system, the transport of books to and from different circulation points is performed independently from library staff. The hare and the hedgehog can even open doors and operate the lift without human support.

A transportation system of this kind is unique in European libraries thus far and has previously been applied only in industry.

The Branch Library Campus Nord

When the old central library moved its operations to the new Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum in October 2009, the Branch Library Campus Nord opened at the central library’s original location. It contains the holdings of the former branch and faculty libraries for agricultural sciences, economics and sociology of agriculture and forestry, biology, the Arboretum, and sports science. The collection of English and American Studies was added in October 2010.

The total collection of the Branch Library Campus Nord comprises approximately 460,000 volumes and has been given systematic open stack shelving.

The University Library is planning to relocate the following branch and faculty libraries to the Campus Nord location:

- The Branch Library for Foreign Language Philology
- The Branch Library for African and Asian Studies

- Grand opening in 2003
- Opening hours: Mon–Fri: 9:00–20:00, Sat: 11:00–18:00
- Central reading room
- 240 workplaces for readers
- 60 of them as PC working stations
- 4 group workrooms

- 14 study carrels
- Electronically automated check-out and returns machines (RFID-technology)
- Computer and Media Service (CMS)
- Automated transportation system ‘the hare’ and ‘the hedgehog’
User and Information Services

The University Library’s priority user group is its members, i.e. students and staff of the University. In addition, the University Library offers access to information as well as adequate work and study facilities free of charge to students of other universities and anyone with a valid German residence permit.

Due to high reader demand, the Grimm-Zentrum introduced regulations for better utilisation of its workplace capacity. One important step towards this was the introduction of so-called “break disks”. When leaving the workplace, readers must use the disk to mark the time that they left. If a workplace is still unoccupied after 60 minutes, another user may sit there. During peak hours the University Library offers special areas called ‘HU home zones’ only to Humboldt-Universitaet members in order to ensure a workplace for their main target reader group.

The Grimm-Zentrum is one of the first scholarly libraries in Germany to offer a parent child work area. This facility was sponsored by the Berliner Volksbank and is called ‘Berliner Volksbank Kinderstube’. Children are welcomed here explicitly. While they are listening to audio, doing touch screen games, playing in the ball pit, or settling down to read in a cosy lounge area, their parents are researching, reading and studying nearby without worrying that their children are too noisy or disturbing other readers.

In order to be able to offer considerably extended service hours at the Grimm-Zentrum and other locations, the University Library introduced an electronically automated system for the circulation of books and other items (i.e. loan, return, sorting and, transporting) with the help of RFID-Technology. Currently the majority of the circulation is automated at four locations. Within the next two years, all other locations of the University Library will be equipped with RFID technology.

All locations are fitted with printers, copiers and, to some extent, with book scanners by an external service provider. This provider is also responsible for the maintenance of the equipment.

Information Services

The information services at the Grimm-Zentrum as well as the Erwin-Schrödinger-Zentrum are enriched by the computer and media service (CMS), which is staffed at standalone information desks where users can get technology advice and support.

At the beginning of each term, there are library inductions and tutorials about library research and library regulations. In some departments these sessions are part of the curriculum.

The University Library has also developed an online tutorial for information literacy at http://info.ub.hu-berlin.de/onlinekurs/.

The tutorial includes the following units:
1. becoming acquainted with the University Library
2. preparing for research
3. doing research
4. working with data

With the help of this online tutorial, the users of the University Library can learn about using the library at their own convenience, wherever and whenever they want.

Search tutorials for many electronic databases are offered to upper-class students on a regular basis and individual or small group appointments are also available.
Library Collection Development

The department for Collection Development and Cataloguing (in short: the collection department) is the central contact point for all questions about collection growth.

The collection department manages the university funding for new acquisitions. This is done with the help of a budget allocation plan which considers all subjects taught at the University on the basis of a rank order of subject relevance and average media prices.

In addition, the media department negotiates favourable conditions for the acquisition of printed and electronic items with contractors and publishing houses.

This department also purchases books, periodicals and electronic items for the central library. The holdings are compiled in the catalogue and classified according to their content.

Since the year 2000 these media processing activities have been carried out by work teams who specialised in different subjects. The integrated workflow includes acquisition and cataloguing, bindery and the technical processing as well as the final check.

The branch libraries are responsible for their own acquisitions and cataloguing.

- acquisition budget: about 4 million Euros (including also all external funds)
- an average 71,000 volumes were acquired per year over the last five years
- total collection of about 6 million volumes (books and periodicals)

The University Library has set itself the goal of not only cataloguing new acquisitions but also transferring the numerous older items still recorded on cards, microfiche or book catalogues. This is a retrospective cataloguing effort of about two million titles. External organisations support the University Library in this venture.

The Carl Friedrich von Siemens Foundation has generously supported the Humboldt-Universitaet for almost two decades especially in the key area of collection development. Thanks to its donations, the University Library has been able to arrange a unique monograph collection (distinguished with bookplates).

Electronic Services

In addition to its main priorities, namely the acquisition and provision of media, the University Library offers a number of electronic services and projects, which includes the following examples.

The new portal Primus

Primus stands for Primary University Search and is the University Library’s new search portal.

Originally it was released as a beta version in October 2010. With its modern search tools, the user can use one query to search simultaneously for print and electronic books, periodicals and articles. Not only the University Library online catalogue but numerous other data sources are searched at the same time and all items found are displayed immediately and independently from their data format. In addition, the system checks the availability of these items found and not only leads the user straight to the printed copies but also allows direct access to full electronic texts. Queries can be modified according to special facets by one click and, if needed, processed further using reference management software etc. Primus is based on the software product ‘Primo’ which was developed by the Ex Libris Company. The Cooperative Library Network Berlin-Brandenburg (KOBV) provides the server infrastructure and the software.
Application of RFID-Technology

The University Library has implemented the project ‘Profile HU-Project RFID’ for the development of innovative customer services at the HU libraries which is supported by the EU European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). RFID-technology has been introduced at the three main locations and the Branch Library for Law. The four libraries have automated the loan and return of library materials with the help of this technology. Furthermore, an electronic security system has been integrated which has improved the protection of the media. The new technology allows extended opening hours with unchanged human resources.

By the end of 2012, all locations of the University Library will be equipped with RFID-technology. Electronically automated checkout machines, as well as lockers which work with the ‘Mensa Card’ (i.e. Mifare-Chipcard) will be introduced everywhere in the course of the project.

Electronic Publishing Team

The joint team of the University Library and the Computer and Media Service (CMS) has the goal of improving and extending its services for electronic publishing at the Humboldt-Universitaet.

The emphasis is on the following tasks:
- Registering, classifying and editing Humboldt-Universitaet’s digital publications
- Providing worldwide access to digital publications
- Supporting Humboldt-Universitaet’s scientists with the introduction of new publication series and periodicals
- Setting up a digital library
- Editing applied research project topics financed by third-party funds

The document server of the Humboldt-Universitaet is called the ‘edoc server’. The 2010 ‘Ranking Web of World Repositories’ ranked it again among the top German libraries.

http://edoc.hu-berlin.de

Historical and Rare Collections

The Historical Collections department cares for the rare, ancient and special collections of the Humboldt-Universitaet. The department consists of three divisions:

- The Ancient and Special Collections of the Library (including a research reading room with a history of science collection)
- The University Archives
- The University Art Collection is responsible for the conservation, development and presentation of a comprehensive art collection which is closely connected with the university’s own history
Access to old collections via ‘eBooks on Demand’ (EOD)

Using the EOD service, users can order a digital copy of books published more than 100 years ago because these books are designated as public domain materials. They can be paid for and ordered in digital form easily from any internet-connected computer. The desired book is scanned in high-resolution and read by the Optical Character Recognition programme, which also recognizes foreign language characters and Gothic print. This allows a full-text search in the e-book and the text can be copied with the help of a word processing program. The final e-book is made available online for download or can be sent as a DVD/CD-ROM.

The sponsorship action ‘My Grimm ... needs repair’

Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm’s private library is one of the Humboldt-Universitaet’s greatest treasures. The Grimm brothers were linguists, professors and folklorists and they collected one of the most precious private libraries in the field of Humanities in the 19th century.

In order to preserve these fragile books for research, comprehensive efforts are needed to restore damaged items, almost all of which are unique volumes. In the course of their restoration, the books are digitalized and hence made available to the public via the internet.

Donations are sought to sponsor the restoration and digitization of these books.

further information at
http://www.hu-berlin.de/foerdern/was/meingrimm

Complete electronically accessible collections

- about 1,400 19th and early 20th century autographs
- the approximately 6,000 volume private library of Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm
- 252 items from Wilhelm von Humboldt’s linguistic library
- lecture notes of past professors at the Humboldt-Universitaet
- 60 items from the library of Agathe Lasch, the first female Professor of German Language and Literature Studies in Germany
- about 100 volumes from Ernst von Leyden’s library, the Medical Director of the first medical clinic of the Charité Hospital in Berlin
- portraits of Berlin University professors since 1810
- about 1,850 volumes from the library of the folklorist Adolf Spamer
- Lan archive with about 13,200 items from the German Literary Society ‘Tunnel ueber der Spree’, founded 1827
- about 250 volumes of the reference library of the classical philologist Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff.

Collections currently being processed for online access:

- The Häberle-Hirschfeldt-Archive for sexology
- 1,366 letters from the philosopher and psychologist Moritz Lazarus collection
- 1,366 letters from the philosopher and psychologist Moritz Lazarus collection

Registered in print:

- The Historical Faculty of the former Friedrich-Wilhelm-Universitaet’s document collection of 145 items dating from medieval times and the early modern era

Weitere Informationen zu MEIN GRIMM und eine Liste der Bücher erhalten Sie unter:
www.hu-berlin.de/meingrimm

Gerne stellen wir Ihnen Bücher aus der Privatbibliothek Jacob und Wilhelm Grimms vor.

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Special Subject Collections

Since January 1st 1998, the Humboldt-Universitaet Library has been a member of the ‘Special Subject Collections Program’ sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The University Library is responsible for two special subject collections:

• ‘Folklore Studies and Social Anthropology’ and
• ‘higher education, organisation of sciences and their institutions’.

The library purchases all relevant German and international literature for these two special subject collections.

Special Subject Collection Folklore Studies and Social Anthropology

The University Library has taken responsibility for this special subject collection from the University Library of the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. The foundation of the social anthropology/folklore studies collection comes mainly from the old collection of the former GDR Academy of Sciences. Its library had been responsible for this area of collection emphasis. Furthermore, there was the old collection of the central library on this topic and in particular the collection on social anthropology/folklore studies of the former Branch Library for European Ethnology. One current area of collection emphasis is folklore and ethnographic performance in Germany.

EVIFA, the virtual subject library on social anthropology/folklore studies and ethnology also offers additional services for:

• finding subject-specific information with the help of the EVIFA search tools
• searching online sources with the help of the ‘Ethno-Guide’
• searching the bibliography of folklore studies (IVB) – 1985–1998 online
• learning how to search with Ethno-LOTSE
• news and job offers
• new acquisitions
• ethno-blogs
• e-journal content service

The Special Subject Collection Higher Education

The special subject collection of higher education was taken over from the Goettingen State and University Library. Again, the basis for this special field was the existing historical collection. The Humboldt-Universitaet has voluntarily collected all dissertations and habilitation dissertations since its foundation in 1832. It has become the largest collection of its kind in Germany. Today, comprehensive publications are acquired from the areas of the theory, philosophy and history of higher education and students issues, higher education policy and sociology, research, economic issues, administration, didactics, and statistics from Germany, almost all parts of Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

A web portal named Hochschulwesen-Online is being set up for the special subject collection of higher education and it is configured in the style of EVIFA. It collects the various higher education resources and data sources and gives access to them with a single, centralized user interface.

http://www.evifa.de

http://www.hochschulwesen-online.de
Partnerships and international projects

The University Library has multiple contacts of long standing with foreign university libraries in the framework of international higher education contracts. Currently it has partnerships with the following libraries:

- Toronto University Library
- Warsaw University Library
- Vienna University Library

It is the goal of these partnerships to initiate mutual projects and strengthen existing ones. These partnerships also aim to boost the exchange of relevant ideas in libraries. In this spirit, the University Libraries, supported by their departments for International Relations, have organised project-oriented staff exchanges. A number of EU-projects have been implemented on the basis of this cooperation and developing personal contacts.

The main examples are:

2009–2011: ERASMUS-Projekt IPBib
Das Grimm-Zentrum – (k)ein Bibliotheksmärchen
cooperation with the Vienna University Library
http://www.ibi.hu-berlin.de/ipbib

2006–2008: EU-Projekt
eod – ebooks on demand
(digitalization made to order)
and a follow-up project in 2009–2012
cooperation with the Vienna University Library
http://www.books2ebooks.eu/

2002–2004: TEMPUS-Projekt
Building a Cooperative Academic Library Network in Serbia
cooperation with the Vienna University Library and the Belgrade University Library, being a partner library for that project
http://www.lr.mdx.ac.uk/tempus/

Publications

University Library monograph series:
The University Library of the ‘Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin’ publishes its own monograph series. All published issues can be found in digitized form on the edoc-server (document- and publication server) at http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/

Recent editions:

Nr. 65, 2011
Peschke, Elke-Barbara: Rektoren und Präsidenten der Universität Unter den Linden

Nr. 64, 2010
Inspiration durch Raum – Servicevielfalt im Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum
Harbeck, Matthias; Kobold, Sonja: Aus der Bibliothek Agathe Lasch

Publishing house publications:

ISBN 978-3-7212-0718-7

Niggli Verlag, Sulgen 2010.
ISBN 978-3-7212-0718-7
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