



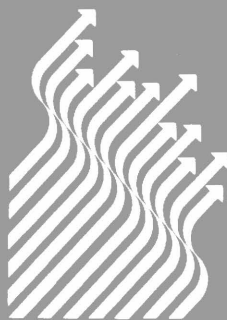
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Commission of the European Communities

# information management

## STATE OF THE ART OF THE APPLICATION OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON LIBRARY FUNCTIONS: A REASSESSMENT

*Luxembourg*



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**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

information management

**Libraries programme**



**State of the art of the application  
of new information technologies in libraries  
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a reassessment**

**LUXEMBOURG**

Centre de Recherche public  
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## Contents

1.	Methodology .....	3
2.	Introduction .....	4
3.	Machine-Readable Record Sources .....	5
4.	Network Access to Machine-Readable Record Sources .....	8
5.	Integrated Library Houskeeping Systems .....	9
6.	IT Based User Systems .....	10
7.	Conclusion .....	11
8.	Sources .....	12
9.	Appendices	
	I Hardware/software .....	13
	II Questionnaires .....	14
	III List of Luxembourg Libraries .....	16



## 1. Methodology

Our study started with an interview with the representatives of the National Library, the 'Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg' (BNL), in order to get a global overview of the present situation with regard to the library scene in Luxembourg and a better understanding of both the functioning of the network services between libraries and of the utilities of the library system SIBIL.

The National Library kindly provided us with a listing of all the libraries in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg (GDL), on the basis of which contacts were established with the respective library managers. In order to gather a maximum of accurate information within the time limit given, contacts were initially established by telephone. In case we couldn't get in touch with the competent people, an appropriate questionnaire was sent out via fax or, if not available, by mail. The main point of our enquiry was to ascertain whether and how the library operations in Luxembourg have been computerized since 1986 and what the consequences were.

The present report and its annexed summary tables are thus the result of extensive desk research and careful examinations of the replies and reactions collected from all major libraries in Luxembourg. In case of divergences between the information obtained directly from the libraries and the listings from the BNL, we decided to prefer the first (for being more up-to-date) to the latter.

## 2. Introduction

Since the original survey made during the eighties, some improvements can be observed in the Luxembourg library scene, especially at the National Library where substantial progress has been made in using the Sibil system and database. On the initiative of both the National Library and the National Computing Centre, the manifestations of interest in joining automated library systems and on-line databases have perceptibly increased.

The major companies seem nevertheless still disinclined to adopt modern library methods or to make use of available inland and international resources. Some belated efforts are now under consideration and in some instances simple computer systems using standard database packages have been installed.

### 3. Machine-Readable Record Sources

In Luxembourg two different library systems are used, SIBIL and VUBIS (cf. chapter 5).

#### *In SIBIL Encoded Records*

SIBIL stands for "Système Informatisé pour les Bibliothèques, développé par la bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire de Lausanne" and was established in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg on 1.12.1984.

It is used by libraries in Switzerland, France and Luxembourg. The entries for SIBIL-LU are extracted from both SIBIL-CH (contains over 1,500,000 records) and SIBIL-FR (about 250,000 records). The data retrieval in the opposite direction is not possible, i.e. SIBIL-CH cannot retrieve data from Luxembourg. In this sense the participation of Luxembourg is void and should be rather considered as a simple financial contribution, where the BNL plays an important part: in fact it is the BNL which pays the annual SIBIL subscription fees (about Flux 800,000) for all the libraries using this system.

The Luxembourg generated part of the Sibil database comprises currently 110,000 records. Some 22,000 are added annually, and of these some 85% are downloaded from the full SIBIL databases; local shelfmarks, etc. are being added. The subject cataloguing is not included during the downloading. The implication of these figures is that less than 3,500 records originate from acquisitions which are unique to the Luxembourg partners of the system. Since the total of new acquisitions is less than 10,000 of which some 40% represent copies received free of charge (gifts and statutory deposits, exchanges, etc.), a start has been made in retrospective cataloguing of existing holdings. Here the approach has been to select certain topics which have formed the subject of special exhibitions and/or arose from requests for information.

The catalographic rules in SIBIL obey the ISBD (International Standard Book Description). In case of discrepancies, the ISBD version corresponding to ABS (Association des Bibliothécaires Suisses) prevails.

Entries are made by the National Library, where all cataloguing staff members have access to the full SIBIL databases, in collaboration with the six local partners:

- \* Centre Universitaire
- \* Grand Séminaire de Luxembourg
- \* Musée d'Histoire et d'Art
- \* Conservatoire de Luxembourg
- \* Conservatoire d'Esch sur Alzette
- \* Athénée de Luxembourg



The respective contributions to the records on the database by these partners are :

Centre Universitaire	6,7 %
Grand Séminaire de Luxembourg	7.3 %
Musée d'Histoire et d'Art	0.2 %
Conservatoire de Luxembourg	0.04 %
Conservatoire d'Esch sur Alzette	0.4 %
Athénée de Luxembourg	**

\*\* Figures for the Athénée de Luxembourg are not yet available owing to its very recent adhesion.

The records prepared by the participating libraries are loaded on the system by the National Library, who assume responsibilities for validation etc.

Following types of materials exist:

monographies and periodicals	:	80,000
collections	:	7,500
authorities	:	4,200
partitions	:	2,500
records and tapes	:	300
microfiches	:	...

Efforts are currently in hand to improve the user-friendliness of the on-line system by providing adequate help screens. A print-out of the catalogue is also available for use and plans are being acted on to improve the layout and availability of this.

The extended activities in this area reflect the increase in budgetary resources: of the current budget of Flux 77 million, Flux 16 million are expended on acquisitions and cataloguing costs, excluding salaries.

During several visits to the Library, the four terminals always were in use: as far as could be seen, response times appeared to be reasonable and staff was available to help users. Currently, any located record has to be noted by the user: no print-out facilities are available.

It is impossible to determine from the available data, what percentage of the 33,000 annual loans are the result of on-line catalogue usage, or how many of the registered users (new users in 1990 were about 2,200) availed themselves of the terminals.

### ***In VUBIS Encoded Records***

This chapter wouldn't be complete if we passed over the library of the Abbey of Saint Maurice (Clervaux) in silence. The collections of the Abbey of Saint Maurice comprises currently some 100,000 monographs with an annual growth rate of 1,000 volumes (out of which approximately 800 proceed from donations), 180 current religious periodical subscriptions, 194 manuscripts (a few from the Middle Age, many from the 17th and 18th centuries), 25 incunabula, and a microfiche set of the Corpus christianorum. The subject fields range from theology and monastic history to patristics and liturgy. Furthermore the library possesses, as a gift from the Coetlosquet family of Metz, an important stock of acquisitions dealing with the history of the French Lorraine.

The computerisation of the library started on 5.11.1990 with the adaptation of VUBIS (Vrije Universiteit Brussel Information Systeem), an integrated system for information processing functioning in real time mode. Now it comprises 2000 records in machine-readable form. These records describe monographies and some periodicals, which mainly consist of recent acquisitions.

In spite of being an effective, compatible and reasonably low-priced system, VUBIS is, to the knowledge of the abbey's librarian, not installed in any other site in Luxembourg.

As used for SIBIL, the catalographic rules in VUBIS follow the ISBD.

#### 4. Network Access to Machine-readable Record Sources

All libraries (in Luxembourg, Switzerland and France) using SIBIL are members of the user group REBUS (**R**eseau des **B**ibliothèques Utilisant **S**ibil). REBUS principally aims at establishing a network of interconnected libraries, maintaining a cooperative working and development agency, promoting the collaboration between members and financing a structure capable of realizing and supporting these activities. Two conditions are required to adhere to REBUS: the library must use SIBIL on its own initiative and be a research library.

As far as the SIBIL information services are concerned, it should however be mentioned that the database can be accessed by any 'non-REBUS library' via PC. In fact the network is open to everybody possessing a terminal connected to the National Computing Centre; network connections are directly established between the libraries and the National Computing Centre; the infrastructure of the BNL is thus circumvented.

There are some commercial information brokers offering such services, but no data could be obtained on number, nature and frequency of usage.

Mention should also be made here of RESTENA (**R**ésau des **S**ervices **T**élématiques de l'**E**ducation **N**ationale), a network being installed between libraries of different educational establishments in Luxembourg. For the time being two documentation centres, SIRP/MEN (**S**ervice d'**I**nnovation et de **R**echerche **P**édagogique / **M**inistère de l'**E**ducation **N**ationale) and ISERP (**I**nstitut **S**upérieur d'**E**tudes et de **R**echerches **P**édagogiques), both belonging to the Ministry of National Education, have joined this project. RESTENA is presently being tested at the ISERP.

## 5. Integrated Library Housekeeping Systems

### *SIBIL*

For the time being SIBIL is used in Switzerland, France and Luxembourg by about sixty libraries.

The first tasks of SIBIL were cataloguing and indexing. But since 1986 they have been extended to the acquisition of records and to information retrieval. A loans control module is installed at the National Librarys' but not yet used. It is expected to come into operation at the Grand Séminaire library at the beginning of 1992.

For the access of SIBIL by all the libraries in Luxembourg via REBUS the hardware is installed at the National Computing Centre. The libraries themselves are all equipped with special terminals and keyboards with 128 keys (manufactured by Ericsson-Nokia). Out of a total number of 28 terminals, 21 are located at the National Library and 4 of those allow an On-line Public Access to the Catalog (=OPAC).

### *VUBIS*

VUBIS consists of 6 modules which can all be run at the same time: a cataloguing module, a – very user friendly – search module for the public, 3 modules for respectively managing loans, periodicals and new acquisitions and finally the recently added 'system manager' module.

The system can support several hundred on-line users at a time. It allows for multilingual searches, which can be performed in either Dutch, French, English or Spanish. The other modules are operational in French and Dutch.

VUBIS is an open system: a special interface to VUBIS has been developed to retrieve typewritten catalogue files, using a scanner. In principle communication facilities are foreseen to exchange data with other library management systems, but it is not installed at the library of the Abbey of Saint Maurice.

## 6. IT Based User Systems

Considerations are on-going regarding CD-Roms, and the National Library has plans for audio-visual facilities.

The SIBIL system is expected to be adopted by other libraries in order to allow for their rich collections to be made accessible to the general public; but this will probably still require much more time and effort.

There are also plans to include access by grammar schools and similar educational institutions, and also to provide electronic mail facilities for intercommunication between such bodies. One of the restricting features is the fear that extending access to the database held on the National mainframe facilities could pose a security or data privacy problem: this is the reason why access from outside Luxembourg libraries is not available. Discussions are ongoing to find a solution to this problem.

It is sad to note that in spite of several initiatives no provision exists for public access to international databases through libraries in Luxembourg. Not even the National Library provides this service to users, though the library staff has such facilities at their disposal.

## 7. Conclusions

Overall it can be noted that some positive results have been achieved since 1986: computerisation is vigorously pursued and promoted and progress is being made both as far as the expansion of machine-readable record sources (SIBIL) and the development of new networks are concerned.

It is though regrettable that such improvements are not always brought to the general public's notice with sufficient emphasis, as, for example, appropriate demonstrations and introductory courses on modern library methods and facilities in higher educational institutions. Where any attention is given to database technologies, this is directed to local and personal use, certainly not conventional library usage.

## 8. Sources

### *Bibliographical References*

- \* Bibliothèque Nationale: rapport d'activité 1990
- \* La Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg: son histoire, ses collections, ses services. - Luxembourg: BNL, 1986
- \* Dokumentation in Luxembourg/ Jul Christophory. - Frankfurt, 1988
- \* Research Guide to Libraries and Archives in the Low Countries/ compiled by Martha L. Brogan. - (Bibliographies and Indexes in Library and Information Sciences; 5)

### *Contact Persons*

- \* Jul CHRISTOPHORY (BNL)
- \* Claude LOUTSCH (BNL)
- \* Jean-Claude MORIS (BNL)
- \* Père Henri DELHOUGNE (Clervaux)
- \* Librarians of GDL

### *Institutions*

- \* Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg
- \* Centre Informatique de l'Etat
- \* Ministère de l'Education Nationale
- \* Bibliothèque de l'Abbaye de Clervaux

## 9. Appendices

### *I) Hardware /Software Installations in Major Libraries*

LIBRARY	HARDWARE / SOFTWARE
Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg	21 Terminals connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre
<i>Municipal Libraries</i>	
Bibliothèque Municipale de Luxembourg	none
Bibliothèque Municipale d'Esch	none
Bibliothèque Municipale de Differdange	1 microcomputer
Bibliothèque Populaire de Dudelange	none
<i>Special Libraries</i>	
Centre Universitaire	1 Terminal connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre
Centre Culturel Français	TDF1; Minitel
Centre Culturel Pouchkine	none
Thomas-Mann-Bibliothek (Goethe-Institut)	none
Miami University	none
Conservatoire de Luxembourg	1 Terminal connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre
Conservatoire d'Esch	1 Terminal connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre; 1 PC
Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art	1 Terminal connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre; 1 PC
Grand Séminaire de Luxembourg	2 Terminals connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre; 2 PCs
Athénée de Luxembourg	1 Terminal connected to IBM3090 at the National Computing Centre ; 1PC; Word5; CIE; CD-Rom
Abbey St. Maurice	2 Terminals connected to BORSU/386SX

N.B. A lot of libraries dispose of a telefax for their own internal services; few of them really use this facility for interlending purposes.



## II. Sample Questionnaires

### a) Questionnaire sent out in request of complementary information

1. Pouvez-vous quantifier votre bibliothèque? (Statistiques de l'année 1990)

- nombre de volumes: \_\_\_\_\_
- nombre d'abonnements à des périodiques: \_\_\_\_\_
- nombre de lecteurs: \_\_\_\_\_
- nombre de prêts: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Quelles sont vos installations hardware/software?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Votre bibliothèque s'inscrit-elle dans un réseau: oui - non

Si oui, lequel et expliquez en quelques mots

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A quelle catégorie de bibliothèques appartient la vôtre?

- publique \_\_\_\_\_
- spéciale \_\_\_\_\_
- scientifique \_\_\_\_\_
- autre \_\_\_\_\_

Retourner à CRP-CU/CRETA 13, rue de Bragance L-1255 Luxembourg.

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## b) Full questionnaire sent out to the library of the Abbey S.M. in Clervaux

1. Pouvez-vous quantifier votre bibliothèque? (Statistiques de l'année 1990)

- nombre de volumes: \_\_\_\_\_
- nombre d'abonnements à des périodiques: \_\_\_\_\_
- nombre de lecteurs: \_\_\_\_\_
- nombre de prêts: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Quelles sont vos installations hardware/software?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Disposez-vous d'un télécopieur: oui - non  
 - Si oui, l'utilisez-vous pour le prêt inter-bibliothèques: oui - non

4. Le système VUBIS est-il installé à l'abbaye? oui - non  
 - VUBIS est-il installé dans d'autres sites de Luxembourg? oui - non  
 - Si oui, lesquels: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Pouvez-vous détailler ce système (origine, développement, principes, but(s), étendue,...) ou joindre toute documentation explicative.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Retourner à CRP-CU/CRETA 13, rue de Bragance L-1255 Luxembourg.

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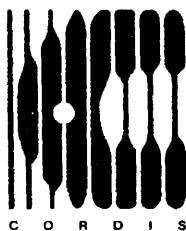
### III) List Of Luxembourg Libraries

- \* Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg Bd F.D. Roosevelt, 37 L-2450 Luxembourg
- \* Bibliothèque Municipale de Luxembourg Bd Royal, 51 L-2449 Luxembourg
- \* Bibliothèque Municipale d'Esch Rue Emile Mayrisch, 26 L-4240 Esch-sur-Alzette
- \* Bibliothèque Municipale de Differdange Avenue Charlotte, L-4530 Differdange
- \* Bibliothèque Populaire de Dudelange B.P. 73 L-3401 Dudelange
- \* Centre Culturel Français Rue Philippe II, 34A L-2340 Luxembourg
- \* Centre Culturel Pouchkine Rue Goethe, 32 L-1637 Luxembourg
- \* Thomas-Mann-Bibliothek Goethe-Institut Place de la Gare, 26 L-1616 Luxembourg
- \* Miami University Avenue Monetry, 45a L-2163 Luxembourg
- \* Centre Universitaire Avenue de la Faïencerie, 162A L-1511 Luxembourg
- \* Archives Nationales B.P. 6 L-2010 Luxembourg
- \* Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Rue Notre Dame L-2240 Luxembourg
- \* Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art Marché-aux-Poissons, L-2929 Luxembourg
- \* Section Historique de l'Institut Grand-Ducal Maison de Cassal, Rue Large, 5 L-1917 Luxembourg
- \* Chambre des Députés Rue du Marché-aux-Herbes, 19 L-1728 Luxembourg
- \* Cour Supérieure de Justice Côte d'Eich, 12 L-1450 Luxembourg
- \* Conseil d'Etat du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg Rue Sigefroid, 5 L-2536 Luxembourg
- \* Institut d'Hygiène et de Santé Publique Rue du Laboratoire, 42 L-1911 Luxembourg
- \* Barreau de Luxembourg Rue du Palais de Justice L-1841 Luxembourg
- \* STATEC Bd. Royal, 19-21 B.P.304 L-2013 Luxembourg
- \* Centre National de l'Audiovisuel Rue de Zoufftgen, 5 L-3598 Dudelange
- \* Centre de Documentation Pédagogique SIRP/MEN Rue Aldringen L-2926 Luxembourg
- \* Centre de Documentation Pédagogique ISERP B.P. 2 L-7201 Walferdange
- \* Conservatoire de Luxembourg Rue Charles Martel, 33 L-2134 Luxembourg
- \* Conservatoire d'Esch Rue de l'Eglise, 10 L-4106 Esch-sur-Alzette
- \* Abbaye Saint-Maurice L-9737 Clervaux
- \* Grand Séminaire de Luxembourg Centre Jean XXIII Rue Jules Wilhelm, 52 L-2728 Luxembourg
- \* Couvent des Pères Rédemptoristes de Luxembourg Rue des Capucins, 32 L-1313 Luxembourg

- \* Athénée de Luxembourg Bd Pierre Dupong, 24 L-1430 Luxembourg
- \* Lycée Michel Rodange - CDI - Bd Pierre Dupong L-1430 Luxembourg
- \* Lycée Michel Rodange - Professeurs - Bd Pierre Dupong L-1430 Luxembourg
- \* Lycée Hubert Clement Rue Général Patton, 2 L-4277 Esch-sur-Alzette
- \* Lycée Classique Ancienne Abbaye L-6401 Echternach
- \* Lycée Robert Schumann Bd Emmanuel Servais L-2535 Luxembourg
- \* Lycée Technique Mathias Adam Rue Batty Weber L-4784 Pétange
- \* Lycée de garçons Rue du Fossé, 71 L-4123 Esch-sur-Alzette
- \* Ecole Européenne Bd Konrad Adenauer, 23 L-1115 Luxembourg
- \* Lycée Classique Avenue de La Gare L-9233 Diekirch

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