

A hub of knowledge and a lively place for learning



The University Library (Universitätsbibliothek, UB), located in the building Philosophikum I, is the central library at Justus Liebig University (JLU) and the core library for the humanities. With over two million volumes, it is the largest library at the university. Together with four departmental libraries and seven subject-specific libraries (some with several smaller locations), the UB staff coordinates provision of literature for the university.



Approximately 1,800 modern study spaces and computer workplaces, generous opening hours (the UB and department libraries are open every day until late evening), comprehensive and easily accessible holdings including current literature and a rapidly growing collection of electronic media offer excellent working conditions for over 28,000 students, for university faculty and staff, and for users in the region.

A new search portal, **JUSTfind**, offers a single entry point for searches for printed and electronic publications.



Modern search engine technology allows users to search local and international catalogues and databases simultaneously and identify holdings in the JLU library system as well as several million other information resources worldwide.

JLU students learn how to conduct professional searches for publications and academic information by attending library workshops or utilizing e-learning modules on the **ILIAS LEARNING PLATFORM**. An **AUDIO GUIDE AVAILABLE IN FOUR LANGUAGES** provides an introductory virtual tour of the library that especially targets first-semester students. The UB's policy

of promoting information literacy also includes various forms of individual assistance such as advice on using the reference management software CITAVI (available to all JLU students, faculty, and staff free of charge).

Among the many other services on hand are support and provision of infrastructure for electronic publishing.



The **GIESSEN ELECTRONIC LIBRARY (GEB)** is the university's central publication and document server. In accordance with Justus Liebig University's open access policy, documents stored there can be accessed via the internet permanently worldwide and free of charge. An open access publication fund further contributes to making free electronic publications an attractive option for researchers.

History



1612 Landgraf Ludwig V buys one thousand books, establishing the foundation of the university library

Expansion of the holdings through significant donations:

1771 Manuscripts and incunables from the Fraterherren in Butzbach

1800 Collection of Renatus Carl von Senckenberg

Transition into a modern academic library:

1904 First library building in Bismarckstrasse

1942 Holdings: 522,543 books and 302,800 dissertations

1944 The library and nearly 90% of its holdings are destroyed in an Allied bomb raid on 11 December

1945-56 Provisional operation in the ruins

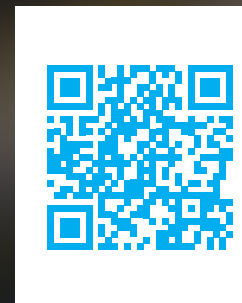
1959 A new university library building opens in Bismarckstrasse

1979-83 Construction of a new university library building in Philosophikum I

Library system – coordinated system for providing literature

2002 Re-organisation as one-track library system

2018 3.7 million books; 36,182 users; An extension to the UB is planned



Imprint

Library System of Justus Liebig University

Otto-Behaghel-Str. 8

35394 Giessen

Images: UB Giessen, Barbara Zimmermann, Franz Möller, Thomas Hillus

Gestaltung: Schätzlein | ultraviolett.de

www.uni-giessen.de/ub

The Library System.

2019/2020



Development plan

SERVICE PROVIDER FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH, EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, AND CULTURAL INSTITUTION – these three elements define a library that has provided published resources to a university steeped in tradition for over four hundred years. Today, all sections of the university library must respond to the changing informational needs of its users and the rapidly growing supply of information in our digital age. No less challenging are the high number of students and the interdisciplinary character of many degree programs.

THE INCREASED SIGNIFICANCE OF LIBRARIES AS SITES OF LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION means that innovative spatial concepts and usage design are now essential. In recognition of these demands, a large extension of the current UB building will be realised as part of the plans to establish a **CULTURAL STUDIES AND HUMANITIES CAMPUS**. In future, the University Library will take on the function of a central library for all subjects in cultural studies and the humanities.



Collections and exhibitions

New media and virtual services now shape everyday life in the libraries. But the preservation and care of historical, unique, and irreplaceable holdings is no less important. Fortunately, book sponsors ensure that the funds needed for this ongoing work are available.

The library also actively contributes to cultural life in the city of Giessen and the region, especially by presenting **EXHIBITIONS** that are often realised in cooperation with university institutions and other partners.

UNIQUE COLLECTIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS, EARLY PRINTS, PYPYRI, OSTRAKA, CUNEIFORM TABLETS, OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, AND MAPS bear witness to the vicissitudes and exciting history of the library's holdings. And rather than merely being preserved in subterranean repositories, they are the focus of research and often available in digital form via the DIGISAM server. This means that special collections can be opened for research and teaching without damaging original documents. The digitisation service utilizes powerful scanners and a so-called *Grazer Buchtisch* for gentle digitisation of sensitive documents such as, for example, the unique **IWEIN MANUSCRIPT** from the thirteenth century. In addition to the manuscript collection, which also includes modern auto-



Hartmann von Aue:
Iwein.
Southern Germany,
second quarter of the
thirteenth century.
UB Giessen, Hs 97.

graphs by Justus Liebig, Conrad Röntgen, and Walter Benjamin, the holdings contain outstanding collections of incunables and postincunables as well as student registers from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century. Also internationally renowned is the **GIESSEN PAPYRUS COLLECTION**, which is with 2,300 fragments, one of the largest collections in Germany.

Its most important piece is the world's only surviving fragmentary copy of the **CONSTITUTIO ANTONINIANA** in the original wording. Issued in 212/3 by the Emperor Caracalla, the **CONSTITUTIO ANTONINIANA** gave the Roman civil rights to all free inhabitants of the Roman Empire. In 2017, the papyrus was included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.



Constitutio Antoniniana.
UB Giessen, P.Giss. 40/
P.Giss.inv. 15.



The library system in numbers as of 2018

Total book holdings	3,756,827
Personnel (full-time equivalent)	112
Acquisitions budget for 2018	3,954,665 €

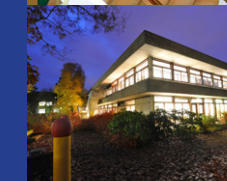
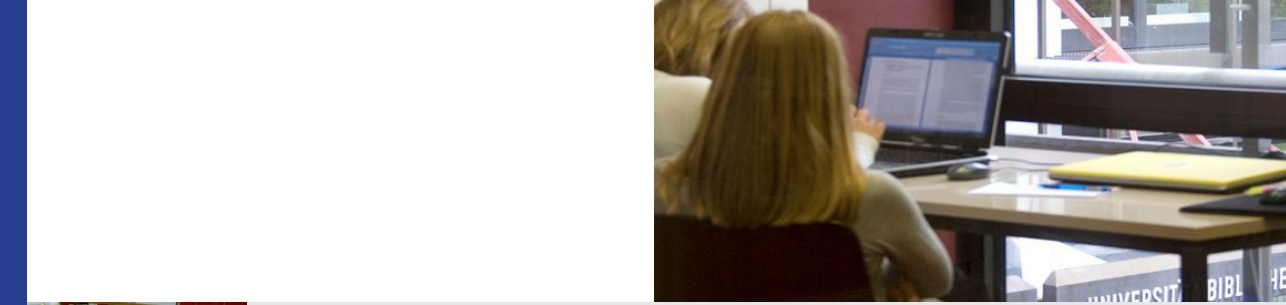
Holdings:

Volumes acquired in 2018	46,947
Current periodicals:	
Print	2,456
Electronic	49,116
Manuscripts and autographs	2,763
Collections of personal papers	112
Giessen Electronic Library/ documents	12,102
E-books	775,735

Use:

Opening hours per week	
University library	109
Number of modern study spaces	1,593
Number of computer workplaces	212
Active users:	
University students, faculty, staff	30,095
External users	6,087
Loans	781,660
E-books / Downloads	4,889,404
Use of e-learning offers	59,475

Opening hours



University Library

2 million books, 659 study spaces
Mon-Sun 7:30 am - 11 pm
Central university library and core library for the humanities

Department Library in Philosophikum II

290,000 books, 113 study spaces
Mon-Sun 8:30 am - 9 pm
Subject library for education, theology, political science, sociology, musicology, art education, didactics of natural and social sciences

Department Library for Law and Economics

248,000 books, 347 study spaces
Mon-Sun 8:30 am - 9 pm
Subject library for law and economics

Department Library for Life Sciences (ZNL)

137,000 books, 202 study spaces
Mon-Sun 8:30 am - 9 pm
Subject library for human medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, chemistry, physics, and nutrition science

Department Library in the Zeughaus

120,000 books, 54 study spaces
Mon-Sun 8:30 am - 8 pm,
Sat 10 am - 6 pm
Subject library for geography, economics and social sciences of agriculture and farming, and home economics

