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 unified vision, mission, and values 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.

Our vision, to accelerate the societal impact of the EUR through open resources, is 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: Culture & Leadership, Engagement & Impact, and Sustainability.

Culture & Leadership

The University Library is committed to fostering a culture of collaboration, learning, and empowerment, both within the EUR community and among the Library staff. 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.

For the EUR community, the library enhances the academic experience by providing an inclusive and welcoming study environment, comprehensive support for academic skills development, and responsive services tailored to the evolving needs of students and faculty members. By maintaining state-of-the-art facilities, offering workshops, and ensuring open access to high-quality resources, the library cultivates an atmosphere of intellectual growth and leadership. National and international partnerships with organizations such as UKB, NPULS, SURF, DOAJ, LIBER, EBLIDA and IFLA further enable the library to contribute to broader academic and professional networks.

Internally, the library empowers its staff by prioritizing transparent communication, efficiency, and continuous professional development. With streamlined processes, clear expectations, and ongoing training opportunities, staff are equipped to provide innovative and responsive services. Initiatives such as an annual activity calendar and frequent updates to digital platforms like the library website and libguides 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.

Engagement & Impact

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. 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. Through services in Open Access publishing, research data management, and scholarly communication, the library equips researchers with the tools they need to share their findings widely and responsibly.

The Library also engages directly with the EUR community by providing workshops, academic support services, and guidance to students, educators, and researchers. Locally, outreach efforts such as support for faculty liaisons and accessibility improvements ensure that the library remains a trusted partner in advancing education and research excellence towards faculties as well.

Beyond the campus, the Library is committed to fostering broader societal engagement. By digitizing our heritage collections, being an active partner with Stichting Academisch Erfgoed (SAE), Stichting Universitair Historisch Kabinet (SUHK) and bringing culture and literature through Rotterdamsch LeesKabinet (RLK) to a broader public we are able to strengthen EUR's presence as a driver of knowledge and impact. These efforts ensure that the library serves as both a knowledge hub for the EUR community and a bridge to the broader academic and societal landscape.

Sustainability

The University Library is dedicated to integrating sustainability into every aspect of its operations, ensuring that its practices reflect EUR's commitment to a sustainable future. By prioritizing digital-first solutions and streamlining access to resources, the library minimizes its environmental footprint while maintaining equitable access to essential academic materials.

Educationally, the library encourages responsible learning practices by promoting the use of Open Educational Resources (OER), ensuring that students and educators have free and sustainable access to high-quality materials. By embedding these principles into its services and collaborations, the library not only supports EUR's academic mission but also contributes to shaping a more sustainable academic ecosystem.

Sustainable employability of our employees is a challenge that we shall embrace during this strategic period. 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 opens the way for diversification of our workforce so that we make use of senior, medior and junior fulfillment of the various tasks (and ensure flexibility in our engagement within and outside the EUR without losing focus on our Business as Usual).

Strategic Priorities

The Library's main priorities for the coming five years are:

Fostering a Culture of Learning and Collaboration

- **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.

- **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

- **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.

Driving Societal Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

- **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).

Enhancing Operational Excellence and Adaptability

- **Modernize Collections and Access**: Continuously review and adapt the library's physical and digital collections to meet the changing needs of the EUR community.

- **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.

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.