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LIBRARY OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ABSTRACT: Thesis/objective – The aim of the article is to promote knowledge about the Library of the Court of Justice of the European Union. The mission of the Library, which was established as a closed to public strictly specialized library, determined its development: to carry out its tasks a special indexing system has been created, the mission influenced the collection, methods of storage and the arrangement of the administration department of the Library. Experiences and ideas concerning the organisation of the Library and its catalogue could be of benefit for librarians willing to improve the quality of the library service as well.

Research method – The authors analysed the documents as books and articles on the Library of the CJEU. Some of these publications were internal bulletins of the Court of Justice, some monographs and articles widely available for public. The bibliography includes both memoirs, monographs on strictly legal topics of institutional law and doctrine, library science publications concerning functioning of libraries, creation of catalogues and knowledge organisation systems. Some author’s remarks are their subjective observations made during the work at the Directorate-General for Library, Research and Documentation.

Results and conclusions – The Library of the Court of Justice becomes the only keeper and custodian of the whole legal heritage of united Europe. This implies also the new challenge for the Library. A catalogue of the highest quality, one that is consistent and original, and furnished with a rich notational system, should be the fruit of long-term work executed on the basis of predetermined criteria that anticipate trends of EU law development. To keep in mind a universal rule underlying the activity of every library, namely widespread and free access to knowledge, the Library should adapt its policy to changing world for instance finding a balance between limitations imposed by copyrights and related rights and open access ideas.

A law library of a major supranational institution such as the Court of Justice of the European Union (henceforth, for simplicity’s sake, to be referred to as the EU) faces many challenges today.

On the one hand, it has to carry out its main function, that of being at the service of the members and staff of the institution, offering a multitude of documents concerning the legislation, the doctrine and the jurisprudence in all the official languages of the EU, now 24, in a variety of formats, paper, digital or microfiche.

On the other, thanks to a visibility gained from the online catalogue of the Library, it is exposed to demands made by researchers and citizens, with the difficulty of finding a balance between incoming requests and the services that it can offer.

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU

Following art. 13 and 19 of Treaty on the European Union, The Court of Justice of the European Union (for simplicity CJEU) is one of the institutions of the EU. It is the judicial body of the European Union. It now consists of
three courts: the Court of Justice, the General Court and the Civil Service Tribunal\(^1\). The 2 Courts are composed of one judge for each Member State. The Court of Justice has also 11 Advocates General\(^2\) who assist with each case and deliver their opinions, without being neither judge nor prosecutor. The members of the Court are independent and do not represent the country they came from. The CJEU seats in Luxembourg, in the quarter of the city featuring various EU institutions, the Kirchberg.

The main task of the Court is to examine the legality of European Union law measures and ensure the uniform interpretation and application of the European Union law.

To comply this mission the Court, as an institution, reviews the legality of the acts of the European Union institutions, ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties, and, under certain conditions, interprets EU law at the request of the national judges.

A famous and often quoted article of the early ‘80s affirms “Tucked away in the fairyland Duchy of Luxembourg, with benign neglect by the powers that be and the mass media, the Court of Justice (…) has fashioned a constitutional framework for a federal-type structure in Europe” (Stein, 1981, p. 1). Step by step the case-law of the Court of Justice, putting flesh on the bare bones of the EU law, has founded a coherent legal system (Tizzano, 2012) introducing the principle of direct effect of EU law (then European Community law) in the Member States, that enables citizens to rely directly on EU law before their national courts\(^3\), establishing the primacy of EU (then European Community law) over domestic law\(^4\), creating a community subject to the rule of law and a legal environment for citizen by protecting their rights\(^5\), recognizing the liability of a Member State to individuals for damage inflicted on them by a breach of EU law (then European Community law) by that State\(^6\) and creating a catalogue of fundamental rights (Mancini, 2000) even before the adoption of the Charter of fundamental rights of the EU in 2001.

Because of the continuous deepening of the European integration through the case-law, the CJEU has been compared to a Constitutional

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\(^1\) A reform project of the judicial system of the EU in under discussion in front of the legislative body (European Parliament and Council of the EU).
\(^2\) At the moment there are only 10 Advocates General because the 11th, who should have started his mandate in October 2015, has not been appointed yet.
\(^4\) Case 6/64, Flaminio Costa v. ENEL, Judgment of 15 July 1964.
Court (Gaudin, 2000) and to the Supreme Court of the United States of America (Lenaerts, 1988). Actually, it is a hybrid court acting, depending on the occasions, as a Constitutional Court, as a Supreme Court and as an International Tribunal (Dal Ferro, 2014). Nowadays, its role is recognised by the jurisdictions of the Member States and it interacts with the national judges, through the preliminary ruling procedure (a procedure that in case of doubt allows every national judge to refer to the CJEU a question on the EU law) in order to ensure the interpretation and the application of the EU treaties and the EU law (Gattinara, Pappalardo, 2014 and Gattinara, 2014).

MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU

The present Library of the Court of Justice of the European Union (EU) was established in 1953, a short while after the Court of Justice of the European Coal and Steel Community had been established as a legal body of the new organization, which was established by the Treaty of Paris signed on 18 April 1951.

All the three courts within the Court of Justice of the European Union have a common infrastructure. One of these auxiliary units within the administrative structure is the Directorate-General for Library, Research and Documentation. One of its divisions is the Library, which is divided into two units: A (Fonds de la Bibliothèque) which deals with library resources, consisting of acquisition, indexation, cataloguing, and periodicals. The second one, B, is responsible for client services (services proposés aux utilisateurs), and the introduction and maintenance of electronic applications indispensable for digital resources (bibliothèque numérique). The Library has 23 full-time posts. Because of the staff shortage, employees of other units render support, undertaking some extra tasks. This is especially evident in the case of indexation – five lawyers deal with documents in 8 languages, the indexation in the remaining 16 languages being done by the lawyers from the Research and Documentation Department or of the Translations Department, under the supervision of a law librarian of the Library.

The service role of the Library sets its mission. The primary task of the Library is to provide assistance to its users in their duties: the members of the three institutions which constitute the Court — the Court of Justice, the General Court, and the Civil Service Tribunal — and officials of the Court. For this reason, the Library can be considered as a special library intended to be used by a small group of people. Within the mission there are some additional functions of the Library which are complementary to the main goal – which is to be a depository for all the documents on European integration and the promotion of knowledge of the European legal system, performed by providing an online catalogue, a current bibliography (Bib-
liographie courante), information on recent acquisitions and, once a year, a juridical bibliography on European integration (Bibliographie juridique de l’intégration européenne) (Pappalardo, 2014).

PROFILE OF THE COLLECTION

The profile of the collection is dependent upon the mission of the Library. Even though its vocation is gathering and bequeathing to future generations a complete collection on the European Community and European Union legal system, this kind of publication constitutes only 20% of the collection. The remaining 80% includes the documents on national law of the 28 Member States and non-EU countries, general works on comparative law, the theory of law, international law, the history of the European integration, politics, economy, and tools useful for the Translation Department (mainly monolingual and multilingual dictionaries and grammars). Apart from printed documents, there is also a digital collection available on the internal web site. The development of the Library depends on the development of the Union and in consequence is still in process. Every new accession treaty augments the collection by a new national law compartment and all new competences of the EU law must be reflected in the collection. It is worth mentioning that the original number of six signatories to the Paris and the Rome Treaties increased to 28 in 2013. Subsequent accession treaties were signed and the Communities and/or the Union have gone through 7 enlargements (in 1973, 1981, 1986, 1995, 2004, 2007 and 2013). As a consequence of that policy, the collection now amounts to 220,000 volumes and 2,500 periodicals together with electronic databases (Pappalardo, 2014). It is a considerable number of items, especially since the Library is relatively young. The dynamics of the collection is promoted by financial policies. The Library as a unit of the EU institutions is directly subject to budget regulations provided by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union specified in Article 310 and Financial Regulation No. 1605/2002. The yearly budget for new acquisitions amounts to 900,000 Euros and the Library buys 400-600 documents of various types per month.

As the Library of the Court of Justice of the EU has a similar profile to other legal libraries of international jurisdiction or national constitutional courts, we present as an example a few data on selected collections and we compare them with three of the most important legal collections in the

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8 It is also explicitly expressed in literature on the topic, eg. The history of the Court of Justice of the European Union since its origin by Ditlev Tamm in: The Court of Justice and the Construction of Europe: Analyses and Perspectives on Sixty Years of Case-law, the Hague, 2013, p. 10.
world. The library of the Italian Constitutional Court\(^9\), contemporary to the Court of Justice Library, has a collection of 130,000 volumes and 1,000 periodicals including 430 current issues. The library of the Polish Constitutional Court has 16,300 volumes, subscribes to 110 periodicals and all Polish digital legal databases. Digital resources account for 5-10\% of the whole collection\(^10\). The Library of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN) owns 50,000 volumes and subscribes to around 150 periodicals\(^11\). The law library of the Sorbonne, Cujas, dating back to 1475, counts at the moment more than a million volumes\(^12\). The law collection of the Library of Congress has 2,900,000 volumes and the most complete collection of foreign legal gazettes in the United States\(^13\) making this collection the biggest in the world. Also the library of the European University Institute (EUI) may be compared to the Library of the Court of Justice. The collection policy of this library is in line with the mission of the EUI which aims to contribute to the development of the cultural heritage of Europe “as a whole and in its constituent parts and awareness of “relations with cultures outside of Europe”\(^14\). Even if the EUI library has a collection of 550,000 books, 1700 journals and almost 350 databases\(^15\), the Library of the Court of Justice has a bigger law collection than the EUI, in terms of number of books and journals. Another important difference is that the EUI library has limited its law collection to documents in five languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish\(^16\).

Another peculiarity is the fact that all the documents that belong to its collection are analysed and a bibliographical notice is created for every document that might be of interest for the institution. It means not only non-periodical publication, but single articles in periodicals or Libri amicorum as well, which deal with national, international or comparative law relevant

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9 The Library of Italian Constitutional Court was established on 1 February 1956, Corte costituzionale della Repubblica italiana [online], [accessed: 04.01.2015]. Available on WWW: <http://www.cortecostituzionale.it/ActionPagina_955.do>.

10 The Polish Constitutional Court dates back to 1986 and in consequence has a smaller collection than similar libraries of old democracies. The authors thank Mr Piotr Sobczyk from the Office of Constitutional Court for sharing information and data on this institution.


to the work of the Court of Justice or EU law (Kuerten 2009). In that sense the catalogue containing rich subject description can be compared to a kind of bibliographical database without abstracts, which is updated every day and freely available through the world wide web (http://www.bib-curia.eu) (Fructus, 2014).

SEAT AND SERVICES

Owing to its narrow specialization, the Library of the Court of Justice possesses an almost complete collection of documents on the European legal system and creates the most exhaustive bibliography worldwide on European law and integration processes. Since 2012 the library catalogue can be consulted online. Apart from the information on the documents actually existing in the collection, the catalogue provides information on the documents ordered but not introduced into the collection signed with an annotation (suggestion commande) in field 655 of MARC21 format.

Access to the collection is mainly reserved for employees of the Court of Justice. They also have the right to enter some of the Library repositories. A second group of users are external clients who could benefit from the Court collection. These are lawyers, researchers or students dealing with European law. They need an authorisation, which gives them free access to the Court’s buildings within a time period not exceeding one month per year. This group of users is entitled to consult all the documents on place and order some of those stored in the repositories, where they have no access. Authorisations can be obtained through a contact form on the website.

The Library is located in the main seat of the Court of Justice, a building designed by Dominique Perrault, the architect of the buildings of the National Library of France. During the first period of the Court, the Library occupied rooms at Boulevard Prince Henri 23, in the former Hellinckx House, where the administration of the Court was also placed (Van Houtte, 1987). It then moved to the Cote d’Eich building, from 1959 to 1973 and from then on, it has been located in one of the buildings of the Court of Justice in Kirchberg. For several reasons concerning the increase in the collections, the development of the EU jurisdictions and the development of the EU, the Library, while remaining in the Kirchberg, moved in 1999 from the main building (The Palais) to the C building and in 2008 to the Galerie.

The Library measures 2,200 m² and incorporates rooms on three levels. Part of the collection, containing older periodicals or less popular publications, is stored in 5 depots. The reading room, with free wi-fi access, has about 100 places, some of them with computers, where the catalogue can be consulted. Open access facilities provide current periodicals on EU law, and books concerning other important topics such as international and comparative law and the national law of the member states. During
working hours a help-desk team can assist users. This kind of service was launched relatively late – in 1994, when it appears that the Library started to render quasi-public assistance (Kohler, 1994). It was designed mainly for external users unfamiliar with the structure of the shelving and the catalogue.

A distinctive feature of the Library is multilingualism. There are 24 official languages within the European Union, but as previously mentioned, the collection is not limited to publications of member states. The whole collection therefore covers 60 languages. In the past the biggest problem rose from lack of software which would be able to read non-Latin characters. Now the software managing the catalogue, Symphony by SirsiDynix, deals easily with Greek and Cyrillic characters. Multilingualism could be a problem only for the catalogue, since in the open access facilities publications are located by subject, and in consequence it is easy to find a required document regardless of the language.

CATALOGUE

The library catalogue can be consulted on the website. The interface is simple and intuitive, available in both French and English language versions. The home page offers a simple search field which uses Boolean operators. There is a possibility to choose between options of searching within books and recent documents and then choose searching by author, title, subject, ISBN, and ISSN, which further allows one to refine the results automatically by predefined criteria in the form of facets which suggest the author’s name, publication date, language, format of the document, subject, and shelf location. There is also the possibility of sorting results by relevance, publication date (descending and ascending), title, and author.

The advanced search allows searches by single words or exact phrase and unwanted terms. It is also possible to confine limits to a certain format type where a choice is wider than in a simple search, giving the possibility of choosing article, audio cassette, audio disc, books, computer file, continuing resources, diskette, electronic resources, loose-leaf, microform, video cassette, and video disc. This group of fields also offers inclusion or exclusion of words in the title, author’s name and subject (il. 1). The interface for advanced search also provides for the arrangement of many criteria simultaneously. The catalogue is organized in the format MARC21 on the basis of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules 2 modified according to local needs.

Subject searching can be carried out using classification codes. This kind of subject searching offers the best relevance owing to the special system of indexing that is carried out by lawyers, and the catalogue contains not only the information on books but, as aforementioned, on single articles published in periodicals as well. The Library worked out its own classifi-
cation system which better meets its needs than general classification schemes like Dewey Decimal Classification or Universal Decimal Classification.

The classification scheme comprises 13,335 terms including 1,399 terms relating to EU law. The external users can consult the classification scheme together with the rules online in both the French and English language versions.

CLASSIFICATION

A special classification system has been created to express the subject in the most specific way. It is a form of decimal classification descended from the Universal Decimal Classification, and so secondarily derived from the Dewey Decimal Classification. It is a multirelational monohierarchical classification having simple subdivisions. It covers a specific field of knowledge — law — and some overlapping related fields, like economy or political science. The Library has also got a small collection of general works. They are marked by the classification symbol 000.7* which covers the remaining fields of knowledge.

The classification uses an alphanumeric notation. Latin letters specify only main classes representing European law (institutional law, substantive law, international relationships). All the other symbols identifying both main classes and subclasses are Arabic numerals. The principal characteristics of the classification are that the symbol in the first place shows the branch of law and then the specific subject of the document; it is enumerative, and it has a controlled vocabulary and a type of grammar which demands the fixed order of the symbols in a compound symbol.

The lack of uniformity of the classification results from a fusion of several different systems existing in the past. There were formerly a classification system for national law, another for international law, another for European law and so on. The classification scheme with a relative index includes a list of the main classes and subclasses together with their natural language equivalents. It is available on the catalogue webpage in French and English language versions. The main classes express a general or specific topic depending on the needs of the Library: the class 000. indicates the general theory of law and other non-legal areas, while on the other hand main classes AAA., BBB., CCC., determine the institutional EU law, substantial EU law and EU international relationships. As is obvious, the vastest class in the system is law with specific classes for European law.

The classification symbol does not indicate the shelf localization, which is an important advantage of this classification, making it different from other systems. Each book has a topographic code for the purpose of shelving. The code reflects only the general class of the classification, which serves exclusively to determine the subject and form of the document. In attri-
bution of the code the form is more important than the topic. In order to
gather all documents of the same form like CD-ROMs, microfiches, bro-
chures, leaflets or booklets and to provide their lodging in one place they
are attributed with special topographical codes created for this purpose
(Kuerten, 2009). Of course classification symbols very often correspond
to topographic codes. All the possibilities are described in the indexing
manual.

Such a detailed system unfortunately has not avoided inconsistency and
defects. For example the subclass „general works” – généralités – has four
kinds of numeric symbols, which end in 0, 1, 2 or 3 (Pappalardo, 2014). It is
neither a uniform nor an easy solution for the user. Since 2010 some work
aimed to make the use of the classification scheme more intuitive and user-
friendly has been launched. At the moment, the fundamental purpose for
all work undertaken is the maintenance of the quality of the catalogue. To
avoid damage being caused by those errors, the principles of the main ru-
les for choosing documents for indexing and the level of analysis stay stab-
le for years while simultaneously work on the correction of the previous
rules according to the current standards is underway. Finally, a catalogue
of the highest quality, one that is consistent and original, and furnished
with a rich notational system does not emerge from nothing. It should be
the fruit of long-term work executed on the basis of predetermined criteria
that anticipate trends of EU law development, and in consequence the type
of publications, in order for potential problems to be solved in time before
the system suffers from irreversible damage. In this case the most impor-
tant thing is to check the quality of the catalogue, which allows for the cor-
rection of inevitable errors and opportunity to confront the problems from
the past and find ex ante and not the ex post solutions shared every day by
law librarianship (Pappalardo, 2014).

CONCLUSION

To bring into focus the mission of the Library, it is necessary to collect all
documents reflecting the European integration process both in paper and
digital versions. Plenty of databases created within the framework of com-
mon EU projects provide access to the jurisdictional and official documents.
Such undertakings make the paper documents unnecessary. In this situ-
ation it is the Library of the Court of Justice which becomes the only kee-
per and custodian of the whole legal heritage of united Europe.

This implies also the new challenge for the Library. Digital humanities,
striking roots into the space taken by traditional methods of research, data
processing and the handing down of its results, force changes in past sys-
tems. Widespread electronic databases influence the functioning of the cata-
logue. Its role is not only to show what a library possesses within a collection
but also to indicate databases and collections available online and absent on the shelves. Despite limitations imposed by copyrights and related rights, and tendencies to tighten the conditions of licences by publishers, the Library of the Court of Justice is expected to keep in mind a universal rule underlying the activity of every library, namely widespread and free access to knowledge. In this situation it is worth considering the opening of digital resources (possibly paid for in some cases) as is done by the Peace Palace Library, one of the oldest and most prestigious libraries specialized in international law\textsuperscript{17}, and the National Library of Luxembourg\textsuperscript{18}, which provide remote access to their electronic periodicals and full text databases; in the field of European law only the Library of the Court of Justice possesses such exhaustive and profound resources as would enable this.

\emph{The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Court of Justice of the European Union.}

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\textsuperscript{17} Peace Palace Library [online], [accessed: 24.06.2015]. Available on WWW: <http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2015/06/remote-access/>.

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BIBLIOTEKA TRYBUNAŁU SPRAWIEDLIWOŚCI UNII EUROPEJSKIEJ


na zasady gromadzenia, metody przechowywania oraz organizację działu administracyjnego Biblioteki. Doświadczenia i pomysły związane z prowadzeniem Biblioteki i jej katalogu mogą posłużyć pracownikom bibliotek pragnącym podnieść jakość świadczonych usług. **Metoda badań** – Autorzy dokonali analizy książek i artykułów udostępnianych przez Bibliotekę, zarówno wewnętrznych biuletynów Trybunału Sprawiedliwości, jak i ogólnodostępnych monografii i publikacji w czasopismach. Analizą objęto wspomnienia, monografie prawnicze z zakresu prawa i doktryn instytucjonalnych, a także publikacje bibliotekoznawcze dotyczące działania bibliotek, budowania katalogów i systemów organizacji wiedzy. Część uwag autorów stanowią subiektywne obserwacje poczynione podczas pracy w Dyrekcji Generalnej do spraw Bibliotek, Badań i Dokumentacji. **Wyniki i wnioski** – Biblioteka Trybunału Sprawiedliwości jest jedynym opiekunem całej spuścizny prawniczej zjednoczonej Europy, co stawia ją w obliczu prawdziwego wyzwania. Katalog Biblioteki, wysokiej jakości, spójny, oryginalny i wyposażony w bogaty system adnotacji, powinien stanowić produkt długotrwałej pracy realizowanej według ścisłych określonych kryteriów, antycypujących trendy w rozwoju prawa unijnego. W celu zachowania podstawowej zasady regulującej działanie każdej biblioteki, tj. zasady nieograniczonego dostępu do wiedzy, Biblioteka powinna dostosować swoją politykę do zmieniającego się świata, na przykład równoważąc ograniczenia wynikające z prawa autorskiego i praw pokrewnych z ideami otwartego dostępu.