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### THE LIBRARIES OF BARCELONA

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### Public Libraries:

\* The basic **cultural** facility of proximity where **information** is transformed into **knowledge** —> **ADDED VALUE**

### The city of Barcelona

- 1,500,000 inhabitants
- 101 km<sup>2</sup>
- 10 districts
- Density: 15,120 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>
- Tier 1: 3,000,000 inhabitants
- Tier 2: 4,500,000 inhabitants

### Background

- 1914 The Library of Catalonia is set up

- 1915 The Popular Libraries Service is created
- 1918 Launch of Catalonia's 1st public libraries
- 1923 "La Caixa" sets up its 1st public library
- 1934 The 1st public library of Barcelona opens following an agreement between the *Generalitat* and the City Council
- 1940 The network changes hands and becomes the responsibility of the city's *Diputaci3n*
- 1974 La Caixa de Catalunya sets up its network
- 1987 Municipal powers are acknowledged

### Library integrated into a sociocultural context



### library + market + nursery + retirement home



**Library in a dense, peripheral neighbourhood**



**Library in a refurbished *modernista* building**



## Children's section. Schoolchildren's activities



## New library in the Olímpico neighbourhood



## District library. Foyer



## Former textile factory converted into a library



**Magazines/journals area with views of the street**



**Unique space. Emblematic building**



## **Change of focus from the 1990s onwards**

- 1993: new Libraries Act
- 1996:
  - change in perspective and firm political commitment
  - increased investment
  - planning process

## **Barcelona Libraries Plan 1998–2010**

Basic elements of the change of scene:

- city of knowledge
- local and global itinerary
- dematerialisation and greater use of different media
- new technologies

### **Libraries Plan. The aims:**

- to clarify information on existing libraries
- to pinpoint deficiencies and design infrastructure planning and coordination, in collaboration with the city's other networks
- to set up a new cultural-facilities model and appropriate management model
- to establish a new duty-delegation model for the general government and private institutions forming part of the network

### **Libraries Plan, 1998-2010. The aims:**

- to renew the library service and adapt its structure to the standards of public libraries
- to define a library model in tune with current needs
- to establish a growth plan for the terms 1995–99, 1999–2003 and 2003–07
- to coordinate the institutions involved in the city's public library system
- to define an inter-institutional management model to guarantee quality of service and operation of the city's public library network

### **Libraries Plan, 1998-2010. Main features:**

- Increase from 18 libraries to 40

- Increase from 11,030 m<sup>2</sup> to 57,626 m<sup>2</sup><sup>99</sup>
- Increase from 408,655 books to 1,500,000 (from 0.46 to 1.29 per resident)
- Increase from 1,750,000 readers to 5,000,000 (from 1.04 visits/resident/year to 5.6)
- Increase from 800,000 book loans to 4,500,000 (from 0.47 loans/resident/year to 2.84)

**Libraries Plan, 1998-2010. Types of library:**

- Central city library (1)
- District libraries (12)
- Neighbourhood libraries (27)

**Libraries Plan, 1998-2010. The standards:**

- Surface area: 500, 550–1900, over 2,000 / 15,000
- Collections: 12,000–60,000 / 600,000
- Opening hours: 30–60, / 84
- Staff: librarians, auxiliary and support staff, travelling library team, specialist support

**Strategic Plan. Six basic functions:**

1. Opens the door to content
2. Spaces for learning
3. Contexts for generating new forms of citizenship, identity and participation
4. Leisure opportunities for citizens and diffusion of culture
5. Vectors of creativity
6. Cultural platforms of proximity and collaboration

**Action Plan 2004. Consolidation:**

1. Development of library infrastructures
2. Management improvements
3. Services and programmes
4. Real and potential users
5. Promotion of the network and the Barcelona library consortium (CBB)

## Types of centre

<i>Types of Library</i>	<i>Metres_</i>	<i>Weekly opening hours</i>	<i>Timetable</i>	<i>Staff</i>
neighbourhood	500-1,000 m_	38	4 mornings & 5 afternoons/week	2 + 5
district	over 2,000 m_	66 * 20	Monday to Sunday	6 + 13
	2,000 m_	55 * 20	Monday to Saturday	5 + 10
	- 500 m_	33	2 mornings & 5 afternoons/week	2

## Budget for the year 2004. Contributions from institutions (euros)

<i>TOTAL</i>		
Operation	12,325,976	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>12,325,976</u>	68%
Investment	5,791,480	32%
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>18,117,456</u>	100%

## Budget for the year 2004. Allocation by items

ITEMS	EUROS	% of total
Staff	7,967,087	64.64%
Documents	1,370,056	11.12%
IT	403,701	3.28%
Maintenance	1,959,493	15.90%
Activities	332,388	2.7%
Advertising & communications	190,230	1.54%
Training	18,360	0.15%
Agreements	84,660	0.69%
TOTAL	12,325,975	100%

## **Staff and job positions, 2004**

- TOTAL: 247 STAFF
- 73 librarians
- 118 auxiliary staff
- 21 junior staff
- 20 travelling library team (5 lib., 10 aux., 4 jun. & 1 IT staff)
- 15 central services (6%)

## **Results of the Plan, 1998-2003. Investment**

- increase from 18 to 28 centres. 26,000 m\_, up 136%
- 896,121 documents, 106% more
- 1,149 hours per week, up 51.2% (945 planned)
- 48,081 hours a year, 36.3% more

## **Results of the Plan. Resident response**

- 3,651,455 users, up 168% (2.6 times more)
- 321,380 library cardholders, up 21.4%
- 2,525,771 library loans, up 232.5% (3.3 times more)
- 315,276 Internet users

## **User profile**

- 54.5% of library cardholders are women
- 57.8% adults, 21.8% young people, 12% children and 8.2% elderly people
- 89% loans to Spaniards, 10% to residents from abroad
- of this 10%, 5.75% are from South-American countries, 1.65% Europeans, 0.33% Moroccans, and 0.11% are from India and Pakistan.

## **Important actions**

- specialist collections
- cultural programming
- agreements with more than 30 institutions in the city

### **What else can we do?**

- Increase the network to 40 centres, a total of 55,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Incorporate Barcelona's central city library (15,000 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Adapt services to new needs
- Turn the library card into a culture card
- 2005, the Year of Books and Reading in Barcelona

### **The challenge**

- To guide the process of expanding and modernising Barcelona's library network over the coming years with the collaboration of all agents involved

### **Contact. Barcelona Library Consortium (CBB)**

[www.bcn.es/biblioteques](http://www.bcn.es/biblioteques)

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