Legal rare books @ Graulich Library

Digitisation, enhancement and promotion of our library’s legal rare book collection: an ongoing project

Edinburgh, KEW, June 2017
From where to where?
1. Where do we come from?

- Card catalog for all books dating before 1985
  - “Retro” cataloguing of all books except rare books (2016)
  - RFID (2016)

- Books in poor condition
  - Necessity to stop further and worse deterioration
  - Necessity to stabilise condition

- Very limited target audience
  - “Physical” (local) users / advanced researchers
  - No visibility
2. Where are we going?

- Specialized cataloguing

- “Repackaging” with conservation materials (external grant: *Fonds David-Constant*)
  - no cost
  - except technical and human resources of our lib. network

- Digitization of a large number of books
What for? What’s next?
1. Preventive conservation

- Purchase of supplies of a quality appropriate to the preservation of ancient and rare documents

Tyvek, micro-fluted cardboard, custom boxes, “shirts”, “sleeves”, preservation portfolio, …
Storage by format

- At the end of the project
2. Part of a larger heritage: University of Liège libraries network

- Patrimonial collection: among others 565 incunabula and 6500 manuscripts
- Vision: 3 essential roles
  - Warranting heritage
  - Making access to information easier
  - Support the production and the diffusion of scientific knowledge
Easily found on catalogs: primo @ ULg

Easily found on catalogs: uncat

unicat.be | union catalogue of Belgian Libraries

DONum (Dépôt d’objets numérisés)

- Within the context of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (French speaking part of Belgium)
- University of Liège portal + BICfB portal (Interuniversity Library of the French speaking Community of Belgium)
- A way to highlight any part of our heritage that can be digitalized (manuscripts, bird songs, maps, etc.)
Full online accessibility

- Full Open Access to the digitized books on Dépôt d’objets numérisés: DONum.ulg.ac.be

http://hdl.handle.net/2268.1/3477
3. Communication

- Specificity of the “law of Liège” (in French: droit liégeois)

- Communication to researchers
  - Increased visibility within the university community (Liège, Belgium and international)
  - Student master thesis, dissertation (with the Faculty)
  - Proposals for short-term research (post-doc, residency of researchers, etc.) with the Faculty (Prof. Wim Decock)

- Communication to the public (Liège)
  - Virtual exhibition for a wider audience (with Prof. Wim Decock and Benoît Lagasse)
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