Two new library buildings for Bern University Library

vonRoll on a former industrial site, and the new **Central Library** in its old historic building

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Bern University Library
Facts about higher education in Bern

> Bern University
  9 faculties, full range of subjects (no technical studies)
  17‘000 students (2013; 2000: 10‘000 students)

> College of education (Pädagogische Hochschule)
  Studies for teaching on all levels
  2400 students

> Berner Fachhochschule: Colleges for economics, cultural studies (music, art, theatre, design etc.), architecture and technical studies, social work, health care
  6700 students
vonRoll: new university campus
Von Roll: construction hall in 1920
Planning the new site: Milestones

- 1997 von Roll stops the production in Bern
- 1999 City of Bern: rebuilding plan for the von Roll site
- 2000 Canton of Bern buys 2/3 of the site for a new university campus
- 2003/2004 Architecture competition by the Canton of Bern
  Winner: Giuliani-Hönger Architects Zürich
- 2005 Project starts
- 2007 Parliament approves the project budget (230 mio. CHF)
- 2007-2010 Industrial hall (Weichenbauhalle) is renewed as a lecture hall building
- 2010-2013 Institute and library building
- Costs 2013: 29 mio. CHF for lecture hall building, 156 mio. CHF for institute and library building
Campus for higher education vonRoll

Campus for the University and the College of education

- University: Social sciences
- College of Education
  (4500 students, 850 collaborators – both institutions)
- Library:
  Merging 5 existing libraries into one
  New central stacks (80 shelf kilometers)
- Room programme:
  300 office rooms, spaces for teaching, cantine, parking
  space for 1000 bicycles (1st basement story)
Architecture model 2004

New building

lecture halls
Cross-section of the building

- Offices
- Teaching
- Library

Level -3: Library stacks: 90x65 m
Open access library in construction, August 2012
Storage facility

- Central stacks for the University Library
- 81 km shelves, expandable to 100 km
- Ideal storage conditions (18°C, 45% humidity, under control)
- Quarantine room for new collections
- All books listed in the online catalogue

- Main challenges 2013:
  - efficient storage (according to user demand and formats)
  - configuration the compact storage (formats, density)
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Central Library: old historic site
3D model of the building
Central Library 2016: facts and figures

- Open to students, teachers and the public
- Improved learning facilities for students: 2 reading rooms with 300 seats, lounge, 6 group working rooms
- Enlarged information services: reference desk, courses
- Less print collections than 2013: 350 print journals and periodicals, 5000 volumes for reference
- Historic collections (250,000 items published before 1900)
- Exhibition room, auditorium (90 persons), 2 cafeterias
- Offices for 80 staff members
- Paper restoration atelier
- Lending desk
- Opening times: Mo-Fr 8-22, Sa-Su 8-18
Cross section

- Back offices
- Public rooms
- Stacks
- Burgerbibliothek
First basement story

Exhibition room

Toiletts

Copy, Scanning

Lockers

Treasurer room

Auditorium

General Reading room

Technical room

Group learning rooms

Special collections reading room

Christian Lüthi, Bern University Library
Historic cellar room (level -1)
Exhibition room, access to reading room
Renovation 2014-2015
Open to the public: spring 2016
Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

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