Arab World Institute Library

modernisation project for a new life

Laurence MAZAUD – MELCOM 2018, June 21

INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE
معهد العالم العربي

AWI, a unique cultural institution

- The library in its context

The modernisation project 2013-2017

- Document Management System
  from isolation to openness
- Collections, *keeping the basics, diversifying material types*
- Spaces, *distinct uses, modular, welcoming*
- Services : *users first*

Library today

- assessment and after…

The Arab World Institute (AWI) a unique cultural institution in France & Europe

Created when ?

- Oil crisis 1973,1979
- 1980 : foundation created
- 1987 : opening to the public
- 2017 : 30th anniversary

With whom ?

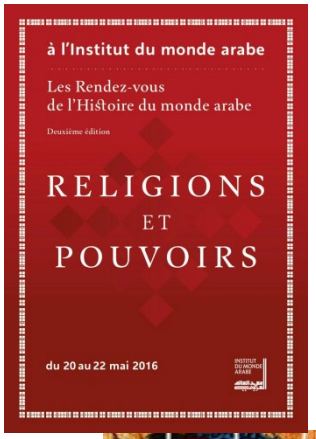
- France & 22 Arab countries
- Dual governance
- Ministry of Foreign affairs
- Operating budget > France
  & own resources
- Special projects > Arab funds

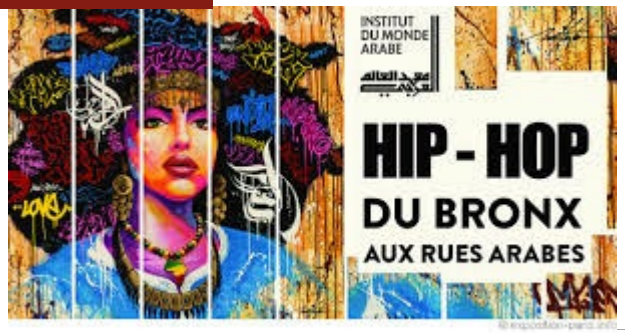
For what purposes ?

- Develop & enhance knowledge, study and comprehension of the Arab world, specially its languages, history, cultural and spiritual values

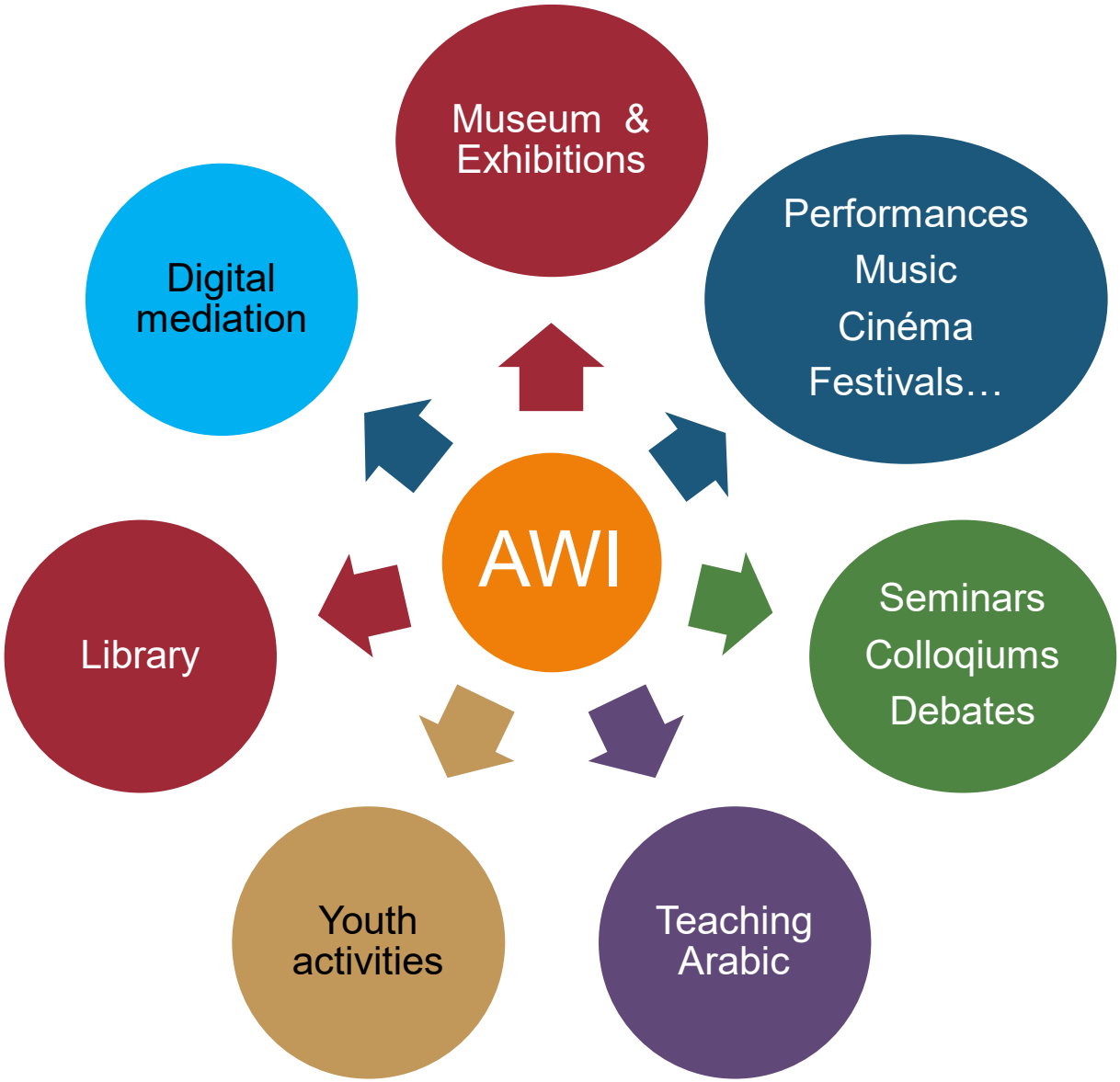
- Facilitate thought and dialogue between French and Arabs

- Contribute to the improvement of the relations between France, Europe & the Arab world





Cultural activities



The library in its context

At the opening, 1987

- Main AWI's department
- A reference library dedicated to the Arab world
- all subjects ; wide range of Arabic books (20% to 50%)
- Free access to all
- bi-alphabetical ILS - Search in Arabic

In the 2000s…

- New documentary context
- Document Management System outdated
- Decreased users' entries
- New services requested by users

Library's modernisation project : main aspects 2013-2017

To renew the Document Management System

To diversify the documentary resources

To redefine spaces for specific uses

To propose new services

a new Document Management System : *from isolation to openness*

Re-computerisation > new ILS (Virtua / Innovative)

Implementing Marc21 format

To join a shared cataloguing system

SUDOC network

To make the collections visible

Multilingual OPAC

Sudoc Online Catalog
WorldCat

Document processing in Sudoc Network (2014-2018)

12 500 titles

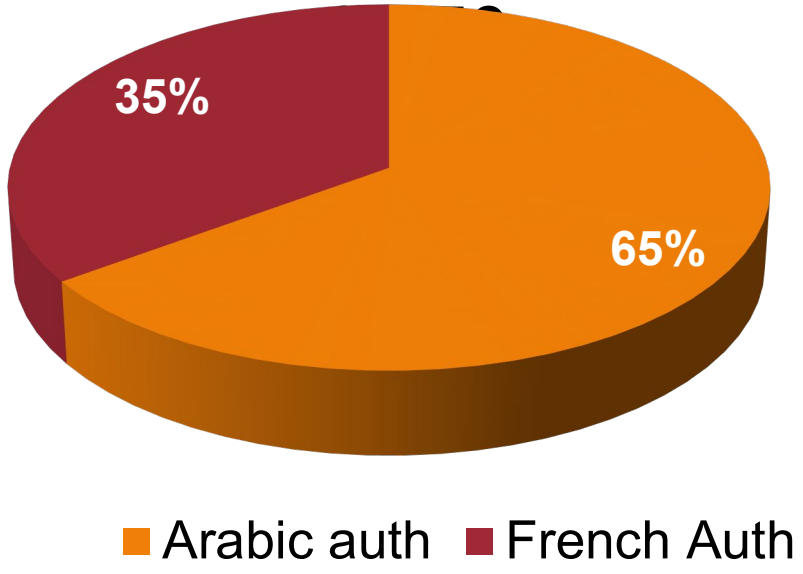
44% « unica » document *created by and located* at the AWI's library ONLY

32% in Arabic

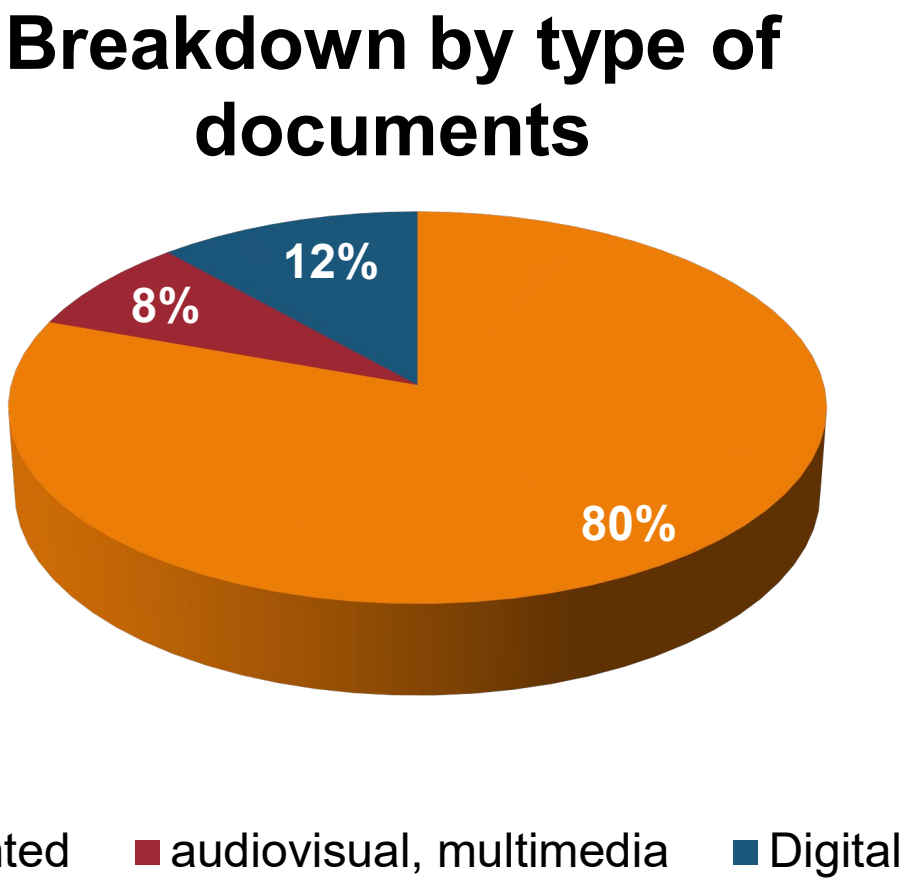
12% Digitized documents

1050 Periodicals of which

2 250 Authority records created



Document processing in Sudoc Network (2014-2018)



Documentary policy : *keeping the fundamentals*

Collections

Encyclopaedism

and strong points

Contemporary Arab world

(and resources of Arab classical culture)

Printed documents > Books, periodicals

Special collections

Audiences

French

Arab

International

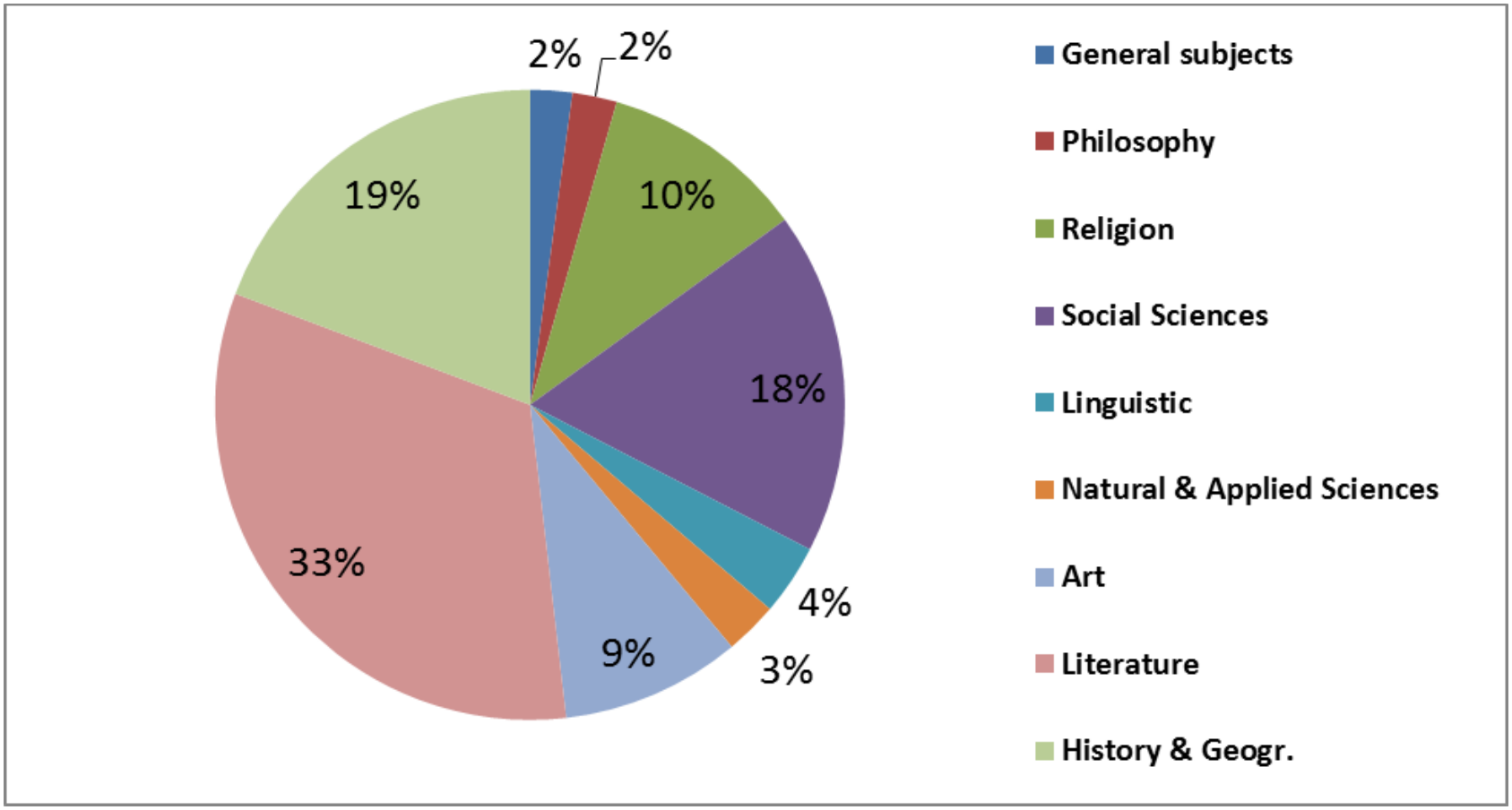
Students

Researchers - Teachers

Professionals

General public

Collections : breakdown by disciplines



Documentary policy : *keeping the basics*

Material languages

- Arabic **46%**
- French **41%**
- Other languages 3%
- **English 10%**

Places of publication

- **56%** of the documents published in Arab countries
- 19 / 22 Arab countries represented
- Maghreb **31%**
- Machrek **69%** (Egypt & Lebanon)

The Digital Library : *the heritage collections*

- AWI / Bibalex Partnership
- Heritage collections

(mostly published before 1914)

- 1172 Books / 2030 volumes
- 70 Abstracts/offprints
- 19 Periodicals / 442 volumes
- 45% in Arabic
- 55% in Western languages
- 96% free access

http://ima.bibalex.org/IMA/presentation/home/list.jsf

New Collections : *toward a multi-media library*

Reduce the share of printed publications in open access

New distribution of collections

Weeding and renewing the collections on contemporary Arab world

Increase acquisitions to refresh the collections

Introduce Multimedia & Digital Documents

E-books, electronic periodicals, DVD, CD, audio books

More attractive presentation

Special area for the general public

New Collections : *toward a multi-media library*

72 500 documents

almost 100 000 volumes

68 000 printed Books

20th-21th century

1 100 printed Periodicals

1 300 Abstracts

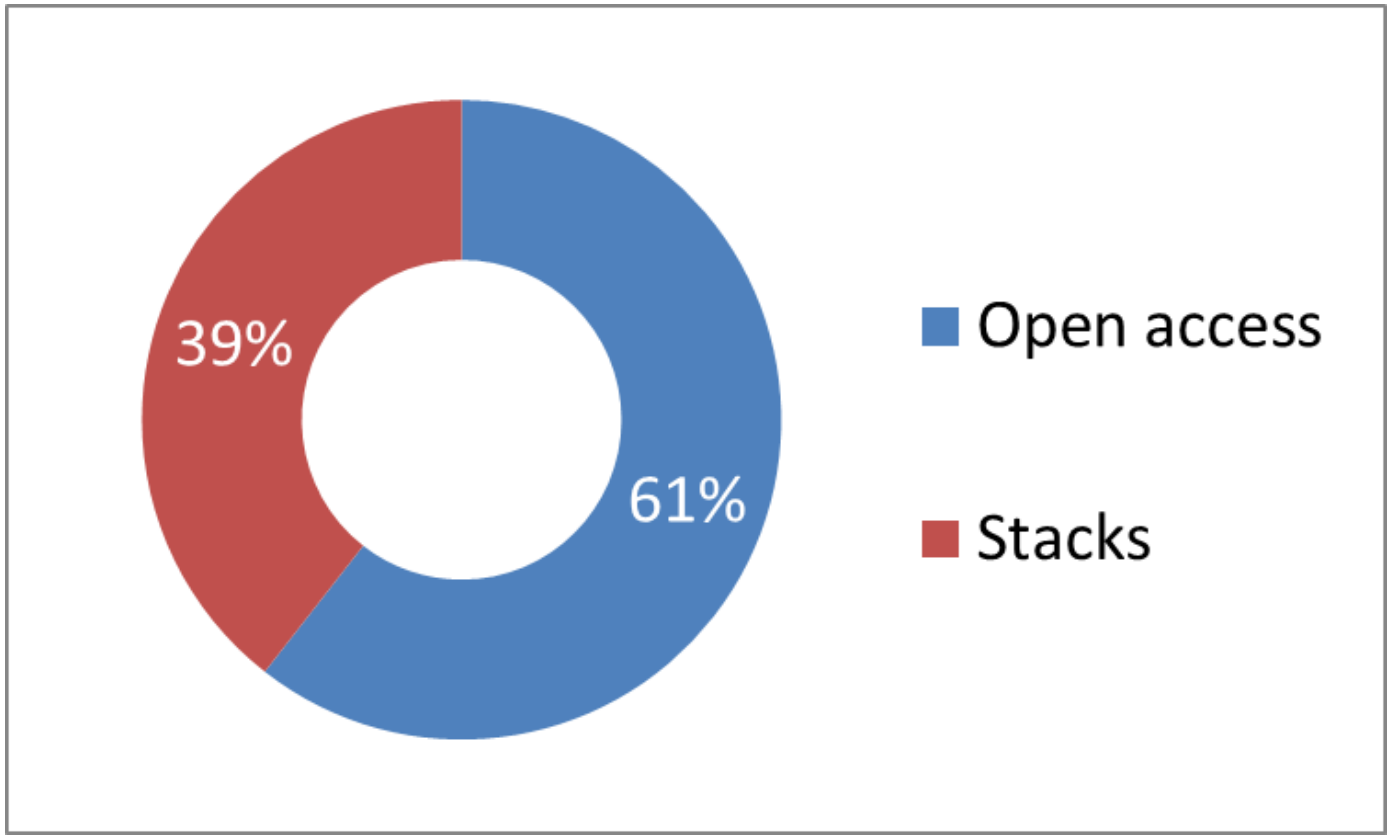
1 000 Digital documents

(ebooks, digitized, periodicals and DB online)

1 100

Multimedia

Collections : breakdown by location



To create spaces for distinct uses

Level 1

« Discovery area » ***General audience***

« Unsderstand, Discover, Relax »

Level 3 & 5
+ Book Tower

« Study and Reseach areas » ***specialized***

« Work, Deepen, Self-training »

A new space to « *Discover, Understand, Relax* » (1 level)

Selected collections for a wide audience

> 5 themes / 3500 to 5000 documents

AWI Collections / History and Civilization,

Contemporary issues / Arts, Cinéma, Music / Literature

Recent publications

Regular turnover

A special classification

Attractive presentation

\+

Multimedia

Cinéma

Music

Comics….

News and journals

print and online

Viewing space for vidéos and DVD

Cultural activities

Perspective R+1 (visuel DVVD)

Study and reseach areas to « *Work, Deepen, Self-training* » (2 levels)

Specialized collections

divided by major disciplines

- Publication date range in open access
  From 1995 to now
- Journals and books
- Group work space
- Language learning space (Arabic and others)

Perspective R+3 & R+5 (visuel DVVD)

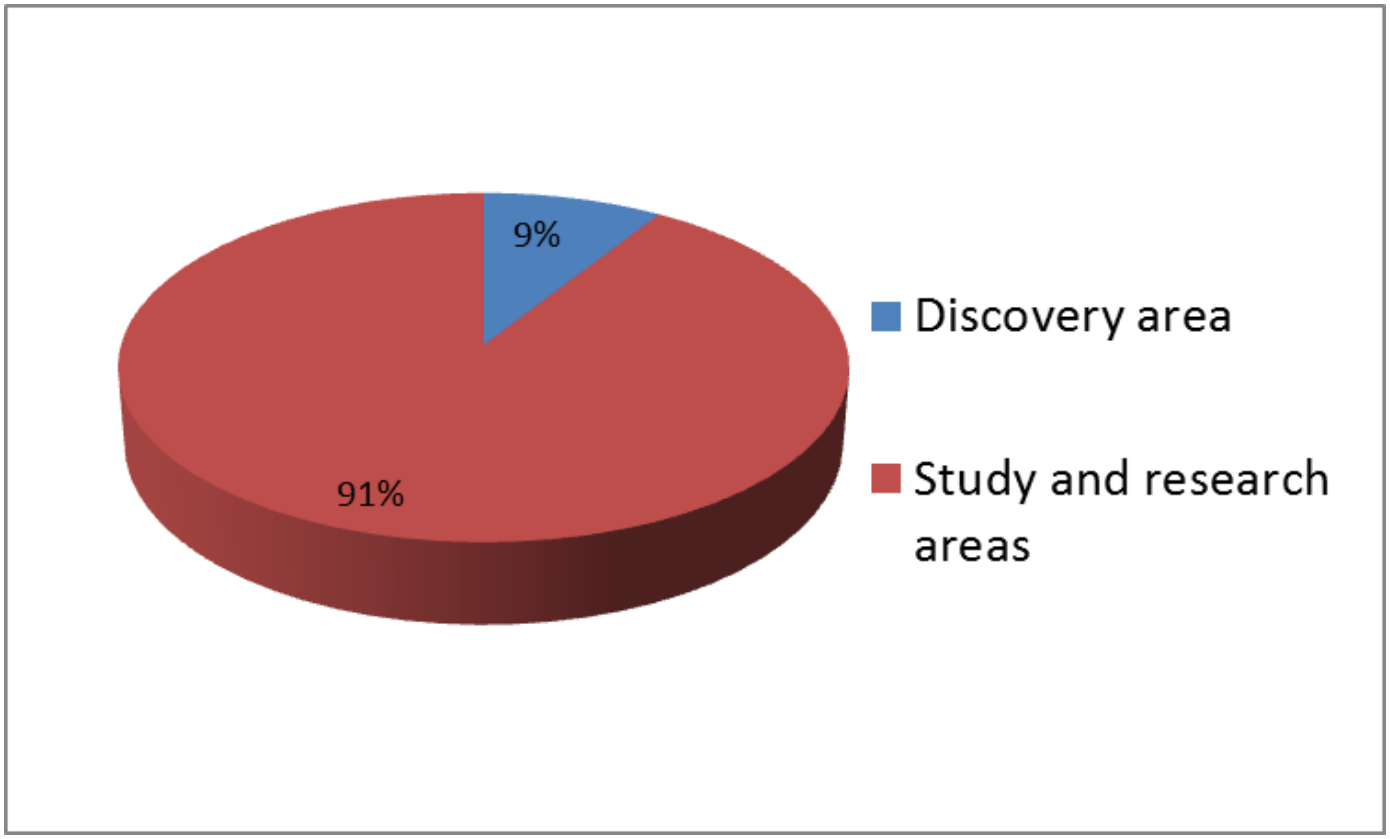
The « Books' Tower » : *an architectural originality*

Literature Collections

Inner side
> Texts

Outer side
> Studies and journals

Collections : breakdown by areas



New Services : *Users First*

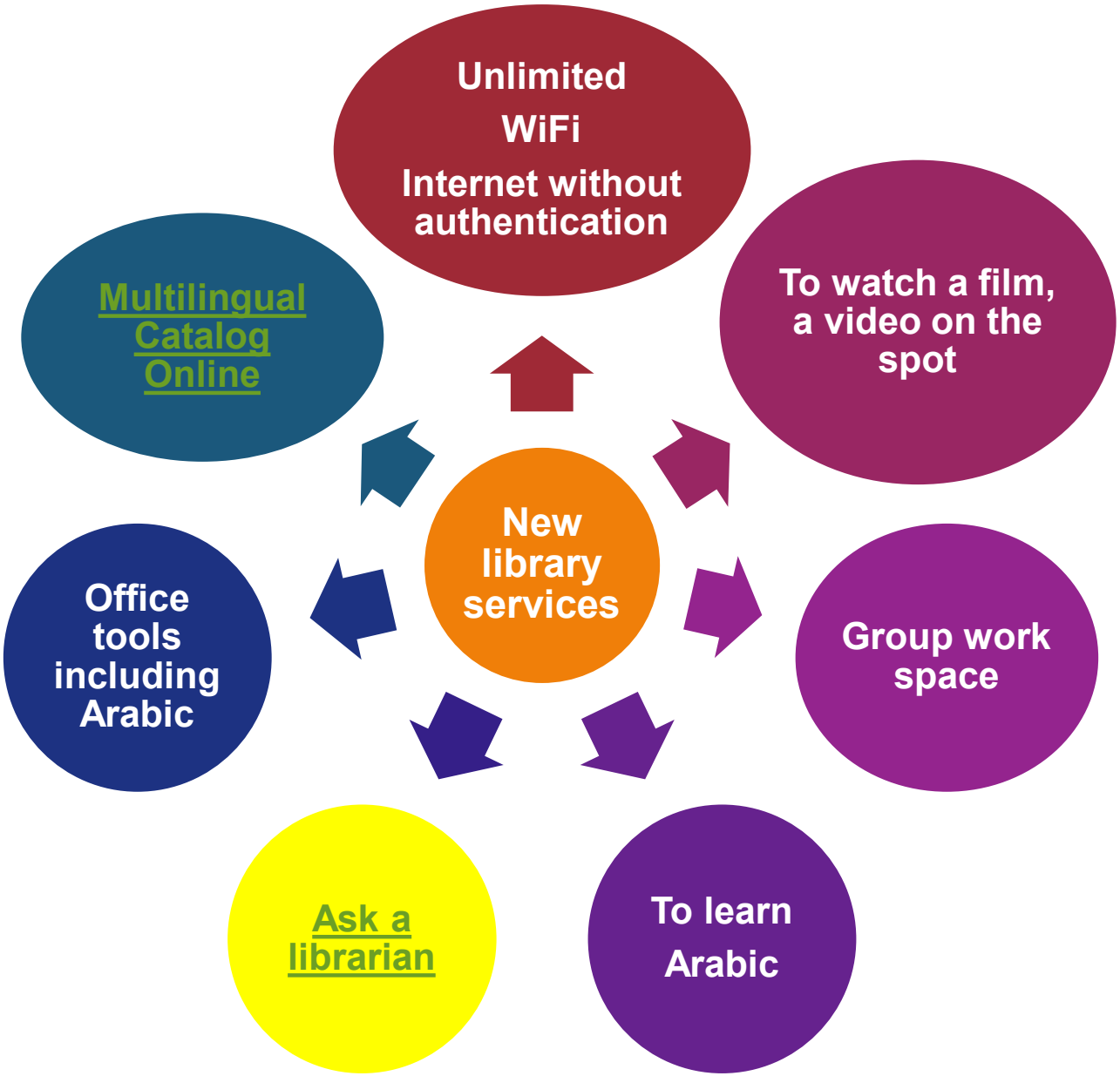
Free Access
for all

Opening more

36 hours a week, on Sunday and public holidays
All summer

OPAC
Loan service
Almost all collections and type of documents

New services : *and also*



Assessment

Library attendance on Sundays

Loan Service / Discovery space offer

Cultural activities

To develop the digital offer

To increase multimedia materials for loan

To ask to the users their opinion and ideas

And Next ?

- To make visible all the library collections in Sudoc Network
- To launch our own Digital Library with new material digitized
- Launch AWI Resource Portal

The Library at a glance

3 floors +
Book Tower

1072 m^2

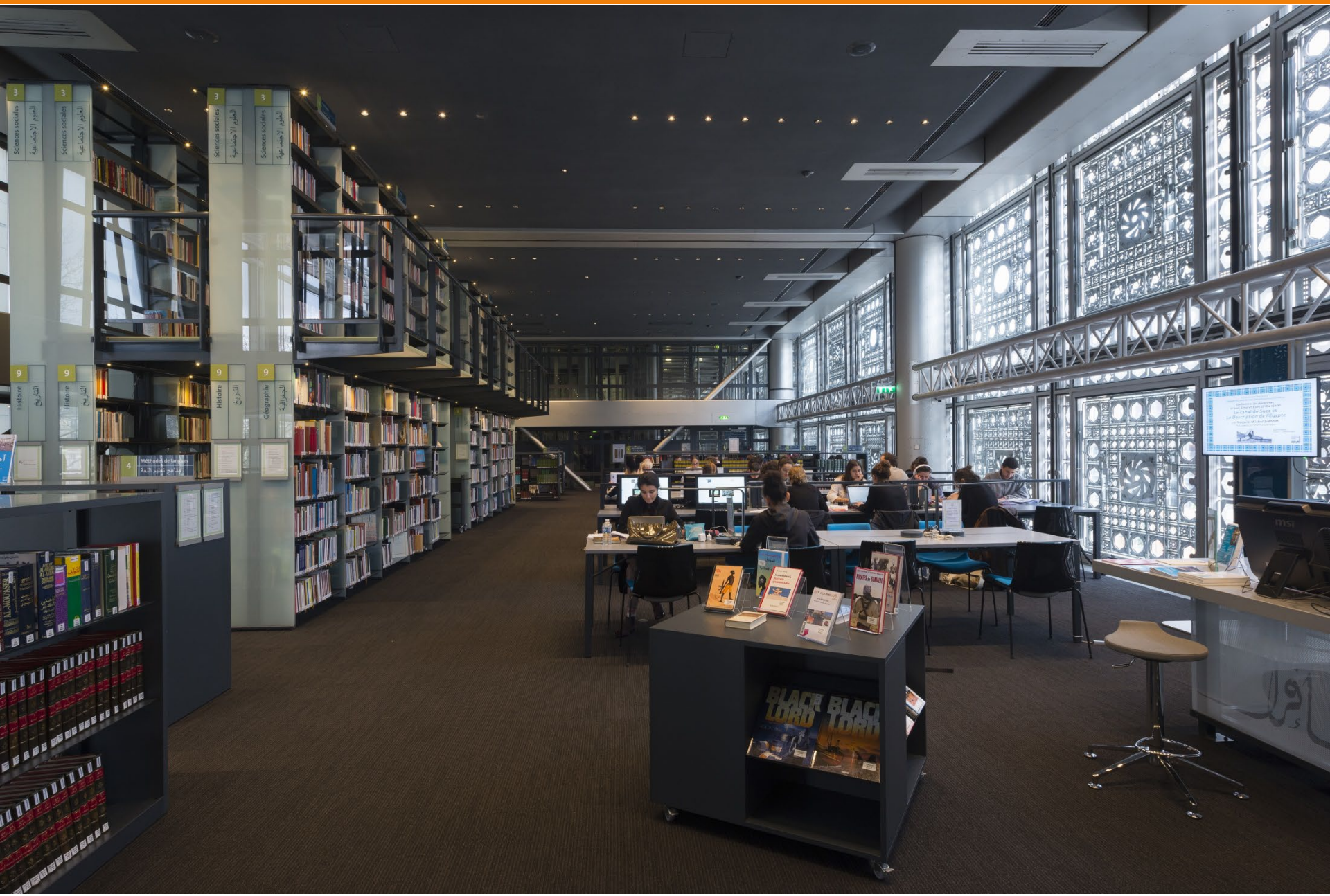
2000 lm in
public areas

150
seats

32 computer
stations

**Free access to
57% of the
collections**

Staff
19 employees


Sciences sociales
Histoire
Géographie
Méthodes de langues
BLACK LORD
PIRATES de SOMALIE

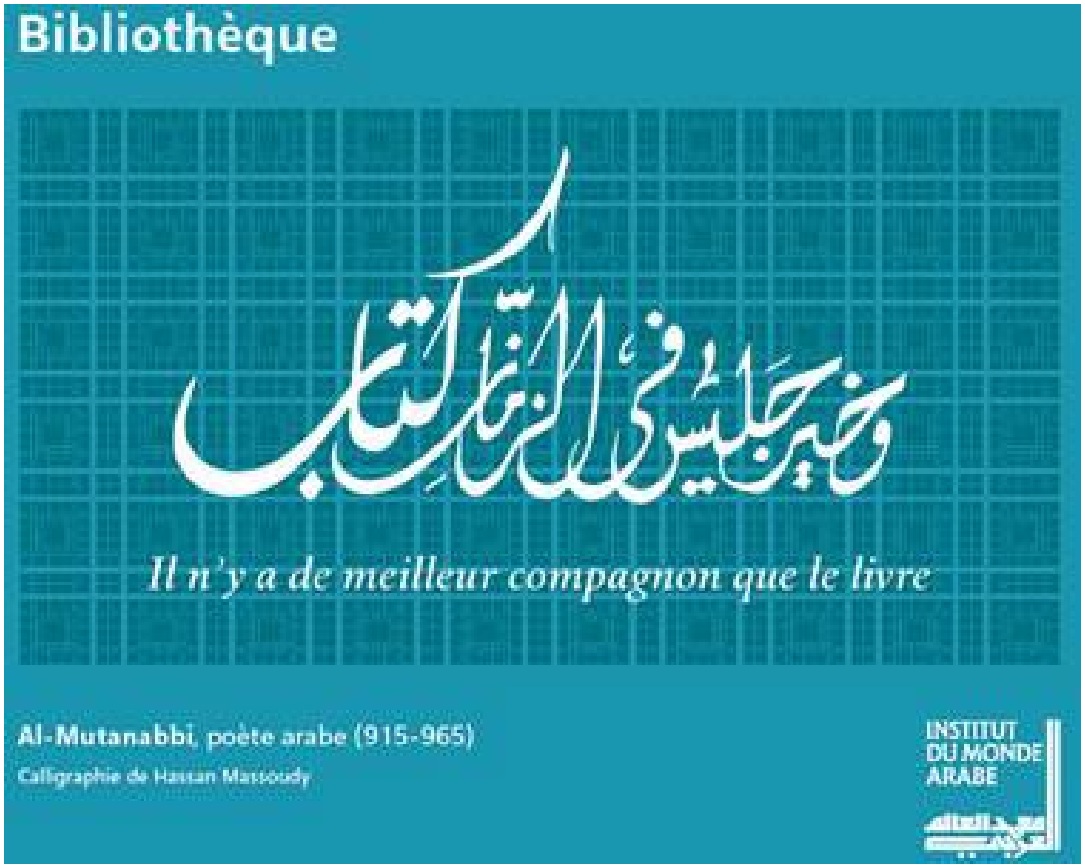
TERRE SAINTE

9
Histoire
التاريخ
9
Histoire
التاريخ
9
Histoire
التاريخ
9
Géographie
الجغرافية

908
Monographies régionales
الدراسات الإقليمية

76
Arts graphiques
الفنون الغرافيكية

Religion
Religion
Religion
Philosophie

8
Littérature - Œuvres
الأدب - النصوص

Many thanks for your attention !