

Construction of new University Library under way

The University of Amsterdam's new, sustainable University Library is to be sited close to the place where the UvA's history began with the founding of the Athenaeum Illustre in 1632. Besides accommodating the extensive collection, there will be ample space for teaching and meeting up. The new University Library is being built in the heart of the University Quarter, the UvA's fourth city campus.

Studying, meeting up and collaborating in new University Library

The layout of the new University Library is a response to the changing information needs of staff and students and provides ample opportunities for studying, meeting up and collaborating. Students and academics will be able to use the lecture rooms or one of the 1,000 study places. In addition to the seven kilometres of books in open stacks there will of course be films, newspapers and digital information too. There will also be space within the new University Library for teaching, debate, lectures and other types of event. For instance, the former dissection room is being made suitable for these purposes. You will also be able to enjoy a decent cup of coffee in the new University Library.

University Library: unique design

The new University Library will be situated in two listed buildings, namely the former Tweede Chirurgische Kliniek and the old Zusterhuis of the former Binnengasthuis. The design by MVSA Architects and Architectenbureau J. van Stigt respects the historic values of both buildings and adds a third building and a covered courtyard with a unique roof. A cellar is being created under the buildings and courtyard, which will house a bicycle parking facility as well as the lending centre. The site for the new University Library was chosen after extensive consultation with staff and students. The costs of construction have been estimated at 66 million euros and have been budgeted for in the UvA Accommodations Plan.

Sustainable University Library

Sustainable development in listed buildings is no mean feat. By preserving the shell and as much of the existing layout of the buildings as possible and developing the energy supply to the new University Library in such a way that it is (nearly) energy-neutral, we have managed to maximise the sustainability of its design. Solar and geothermal energy are to be used for the energy supply. Cold or heat will be extracted from or added to groundwater, depending on the season. This will create a pleasant indoor climate in the summer and comfortably warm rooms in the winter.

The roof-mounted solar panels will generate electricity and contribute to ensuring a pleasant indoor climate in the domed section of the building. The University Library will no longer be connected to the natural gas network.

University Library: building in historic city centre

Construction activities, particularly in the historic city centre, will cause a degree of nuisance to local residents and local businesses until the new University Library is complete. By employing an area manager, introducing a special University Quarter app that will enable locals to follow progress and appointing a site manager and traffic controllers, we will ensure that local residents and local businesses are kept abreast of the construction activities and informed of who they can approach should they have any suggestions or complaints.

The construction is being carried out in a phased approach, with the cellar and new foundations being the first things to be put in (2019/2020). After that, the renovation and new-build work will be done above ground. The new University Library is expected to open in 2022.

THE NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN FIGURES

- 1.3 km of steel profiles and bars to reinforce the current buildings prior to putting in the new foundations
- 15,000 m³ of soil will need to be removed
- 300 m sheet pile wall to be installed
- 1,200 existing wooden piles to be removed once 600 new piles have been driven into the ground
- 3,200 m³ of concrete to be supplied for floors and cellar area
- 14,000 m² of floor space
- 7 km of books in open stacks
- 1,000 study places and five lecture rooms
- 1,250 visitors will be able to visit the new University Library at any given time.
- 925 cyclists will be able to store their bikes under the building.

For more information on the construction of the University Library, please visit: www.campus.uva.nl/nieuwe-ub or download the University Quarter app from the App Store or Google Play Store.