Predicting the function of library bookshelves in 2025
Function of open shelves

Librarians

Publishers

Users
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Study Places</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>+56</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>+48</td>
<td>715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>+52</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>+46</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>+82</td>
<td>895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of individual study places in University Library Uithof in 2017:

951

(1346 - total number of individual study places in Utrecht University Library in 2014)
Librarians perspective

Number of paper books acquired by Utrecht University Library (2005-2014)
Number of items in the open shelves of Utrecht University Library, (2005-2014)
Publishers perspective

Publishers and suppliers interviewed
Publishers perspective

What determines whether a book title is available as an e-book?

E-book

Scale
Customor
Publishers perspective

Book titles in 2025?

Book title

- E-book
- Paper book
If you are considering taking away books and making more space for study spots, that’s a brilliant plan!

Don’t even think about creating more study places by removing books. Instead, remind people that books are awesome!
Users perspective

Average number of loans, faculty (2010-2014)

Average number of loans, students (2010-2014)
### Users perspective

**What makes Humanities so different?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Article readings</th>
<th>Book readings</th>
<th>Other publication readings</th>
<th>Total readings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering/technology</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical/health</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you do when you visit the University Library? Answer: Search or read literature from the bookshelves.
Users perspective

Students and the open shelves
Users perspective

Faculty and the open shelves
Users perspective

Paradox
What do the books in the library bookshelves mean to you? Answer: To me, books on the bookshelves create an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment.
Create an inspiring and stimulating study environment, for both students and faculty

Function of open shelves in 2025

Provide access to publications preferred in paper format

Stimulate usage of both paper and electronic publications

Librarians perspective