

TU Delft Library

About us

2024

 **TU Delft** | Library

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TU Delft Library

April 2024

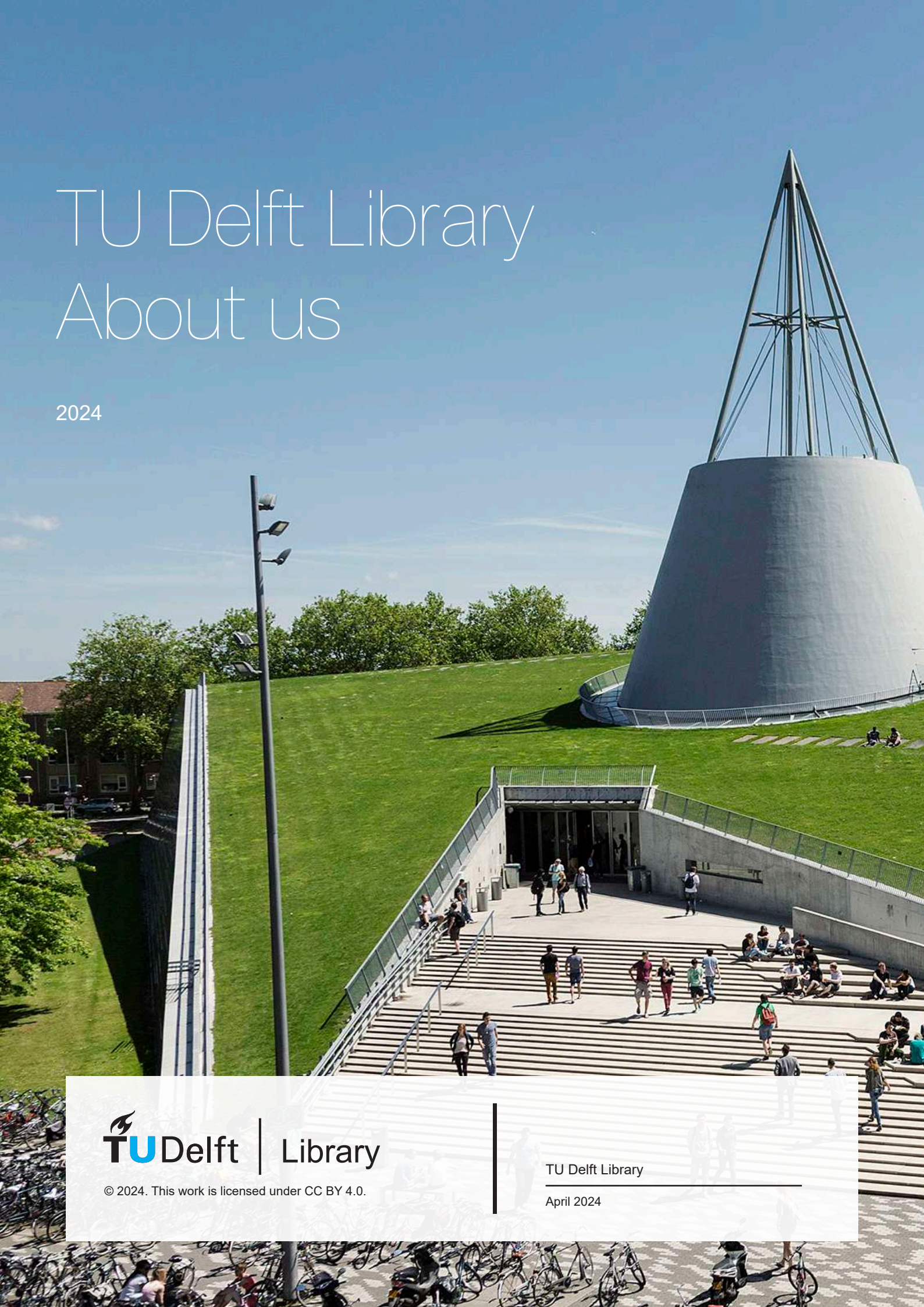


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Editing:

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TU Delft, Mischa Mannot, Robèrt Kroonen, Pilar of Pompeius by Hajor, Dec.2002.

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Mission

We ignite individual growth and societal impact, by providing access to diverse knowledge resources, fostering critical thinking and supporting lifelong learning.

Vision

TU Delft Library strives to be an inclusive, open, and trusted environment that inspires you to find, share and create knowledge. We are committed to providing effortless access to our collections and services. We foster a culture of trust to encourage you to engage in critical thinking, collaboration, and creative problem-solving. Our library will be a hub of knowledge that sparks curiosity and inspires lifelong learning.

Strategic Priorities

Open Science

- Supporting teachers in adopting and adapting teaching and learning methods through open education.
- Developing policies and infrastructure that are crucial to the further expansion of Open Access practices.
- Creating a stronger bridge between the current policy, infrastructure and culture of data stewardship and scientific practice.
- Improving and facilitating various aspects of research software, including policy, infrastructure and organisational culture.
- Advancing Citizen science and reviewing Rewards & Recognition.

Trusted Digital Service

- Embedding service design. The programme aims to continuously improve the user experience of the Library's digital services. This includes user testing, feedback collection, and service design improvements.
- Building flexible and innovative infrastructures to underpin our online services, in particular our institutional repository.
- Developing close collaboration with IT, with well-developed processes and governance for managing critical digital tools.
- Embedding strategic staff development within the library, giving staff the skills to innovate, design, manage and develop new and existing services.

Inspiring Work/Learning Environment

- Developing coherent programming. The Library Learning Centre is the main stage for a well-known and highly recognized coherent programme of lectures, debates, exhibitions and other showcasing or storytelling activities that contribute to the socially responsible and reflective engineer, in other words 'Bildung'.
- Making services more visible. Library services that currently can only be found when searching the Library website, will also be made visible and (partly) accessible in the Library Learning Centre.
- Activating collections. The Library Learning Centre is the place to get an overview of the different digital and physical collections. We invite visitors to actively use these collections in their research and education and to add their own knowledge or share their insights and expertise.
- Updating ongoing and future facilities, resources and innovative services in the main hall. The main hall will continue to add new facilities, resources and innovative services, both based on the needs of our visitors and as experimental set-ups to evaluate and test new Library facilities, resources or service concepts.
- Stimulating curiosity and serendipity. The Library can be viewed as a knowledge hub, where you can discover new things via the collections.

Our values



Open

The TU Delft Library is a welcoming, open and inclusive library. We are clear about the services we offer and about how they are managed. We are committed to providing effortless access to our collections and services, for the TU Delft community and society as a whole.



Trusted

The TU Delft Library is a trusted source of support and guidance for students, lecturers and researchers. We provide reliable and high-level expertise. Our organizational culture is based on trust - an essential value in stimulating the exchange of ideas, innovation, and the ability to fail forward.



Inspiring

The TU Delft Library is an attractive building to work in, and the go-to place for study and inspiration. We embrace a culture that sparks curiosity and a passion for learning. We explore new pathways and aren't afraid to step out of our comfort zone.

TU Delft Library

An indispensable partner for research and education

For centuries, libraries have played an essential role in preserving knowledge and unlocking it to facilitate the emergence of new knowledge. The TU Delft Library has carried on this tradition since its founding in 1842. The library has collected and preserved knowledge for 182 years, making it accessible to all. The digitisation of research and education has led to the significant evolution of library services in recent decades, and the library's playing field has expanded.

Making knowledge accessible to all and sharing it

University libraries have been an indispensable partner for academic research and education since the emergence of universities. One well-known, inspiring example is the library of Alexandria founded by King Ptolemy I in 300 BC. He sent his people out to the far corners of the then-known world to gather all available knowledge and bring it to Alexandria: the internet avant-la-lettre. Scientific knowledge, literature, philosophy and poetry were all brought together in Alexandria. His son, Ptolemy II, expanded the library to include the Mouseion. This 'Temple of the Muses' was a centre of knowledge and research. Ptolemy invited writers, scientists, philosophers and poets from different cultural and religious backgrounds to live and work at the Mouseion. They were tasked with extracting the knowledge hidden in all those papyrus scrolls and then use it to produce new knowledge in dialogue with each other.

New digital information carriers

Over 2,000 years later, the TU Delft Library essentially still does the same – and more. The library brings knowledge and people together and encourages dialogue, which creates new knowledge and accelerates scientific progress. The digitisation of science has led to a great diversity of information carriers today. In addition to printed and digital books and journals, the TU Delft Library now also collects, stores and provides access to research results in the form of datasets, software, algorithms, AI models, objects, and Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) setups. The rise of digitisation and Open Science requires new, digital services. The TU Delft Library now also advises and supports researchers and teachers in managing research data, Open Access publishing, and developing open textbooks (Open Education).

“The Library is a place for study, meeting and inspiration”

Physical library: an inspiring learning environment

But as in ancient times, the physical library still plays a crucial role in serving our users, especially our students. It is a place for study, meeting and inspiration. The Library Learning Centre and Studium Generale organise lectures, debates and exhibitions that contribute to educating students to become reflective, critical thinkers and socially engaged engineers. At the NewMedia Centre XR-Zone teachers and students can experiment with Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and eXtended Reality. Through projects such as the 'Collection Wall', we explore how to make a connection between the physical library and the digital collections. The TU Delft Library also manages and provides access to TU Delft's art collection, special collections of old books and the academic heritage collection. These collections reflect the history of TU Delft.

Increasing social impact

Finally, the TU Delft Library helps the university build a bridge to society. Open Science enhances the quality of research and education results and increases social impact. The library helps teachers create open textbooks so that other teachers can reuse them. TU Delft also encourages and supports citizen science: the participation of citizens in scientific research. For example, citizens can participate in creating and collecting data. This leads to increased support for the implementation of research results in society and enriches the research process with new perspectives.



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