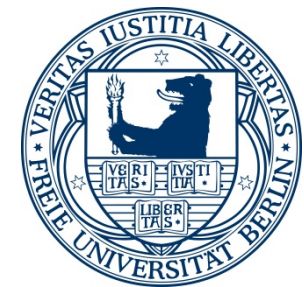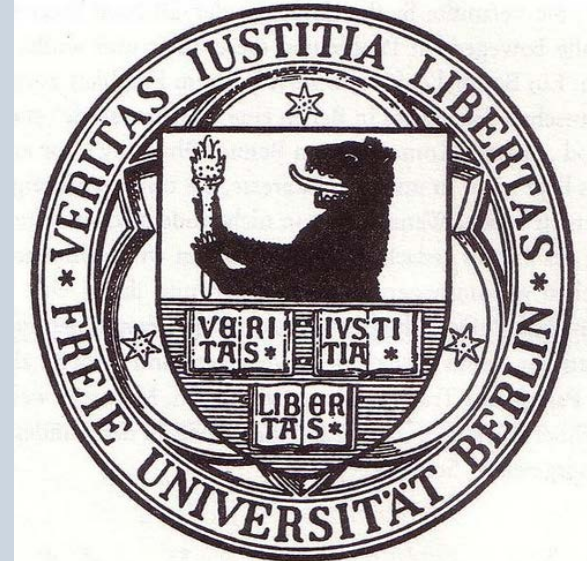# The Consolidation of the Library System
at the Freie Universität Berlin
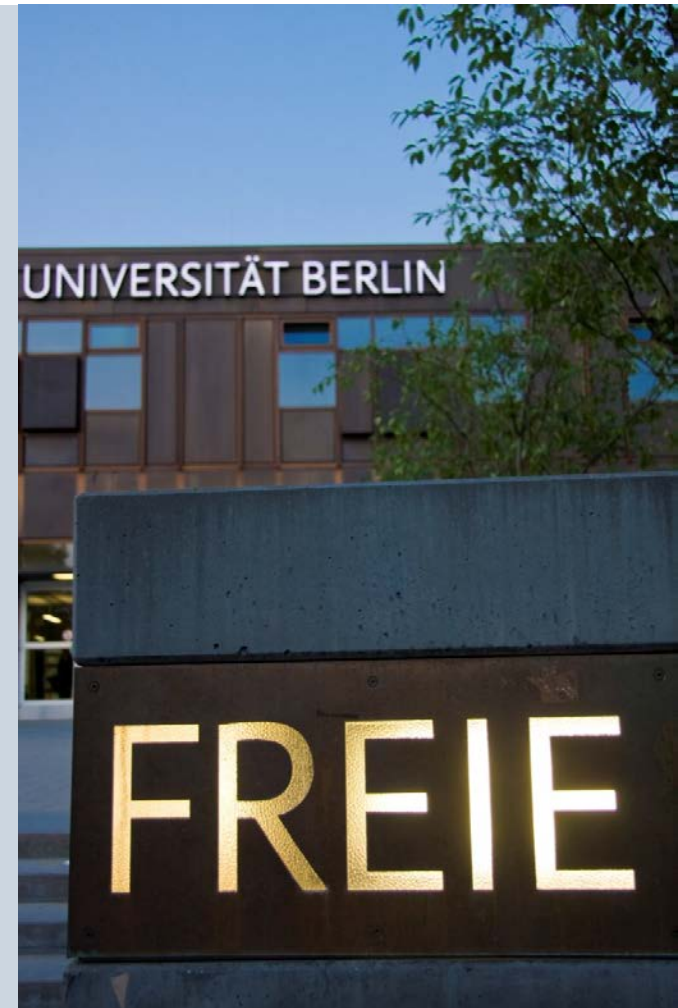
What does the signet mean?

- Designed by Edwin Redslob, founding father of Freie Universität

- Truth – Justice - Freedom

- Berlin bear (originally defensive with tongue and claws) holds „torch of spirit"

- Humanistic traditions from „Berlin University" should be saved and brought to another place (western part of Berlin)

- Stars: originally faculties (philosphical, law and economic, medicinal)
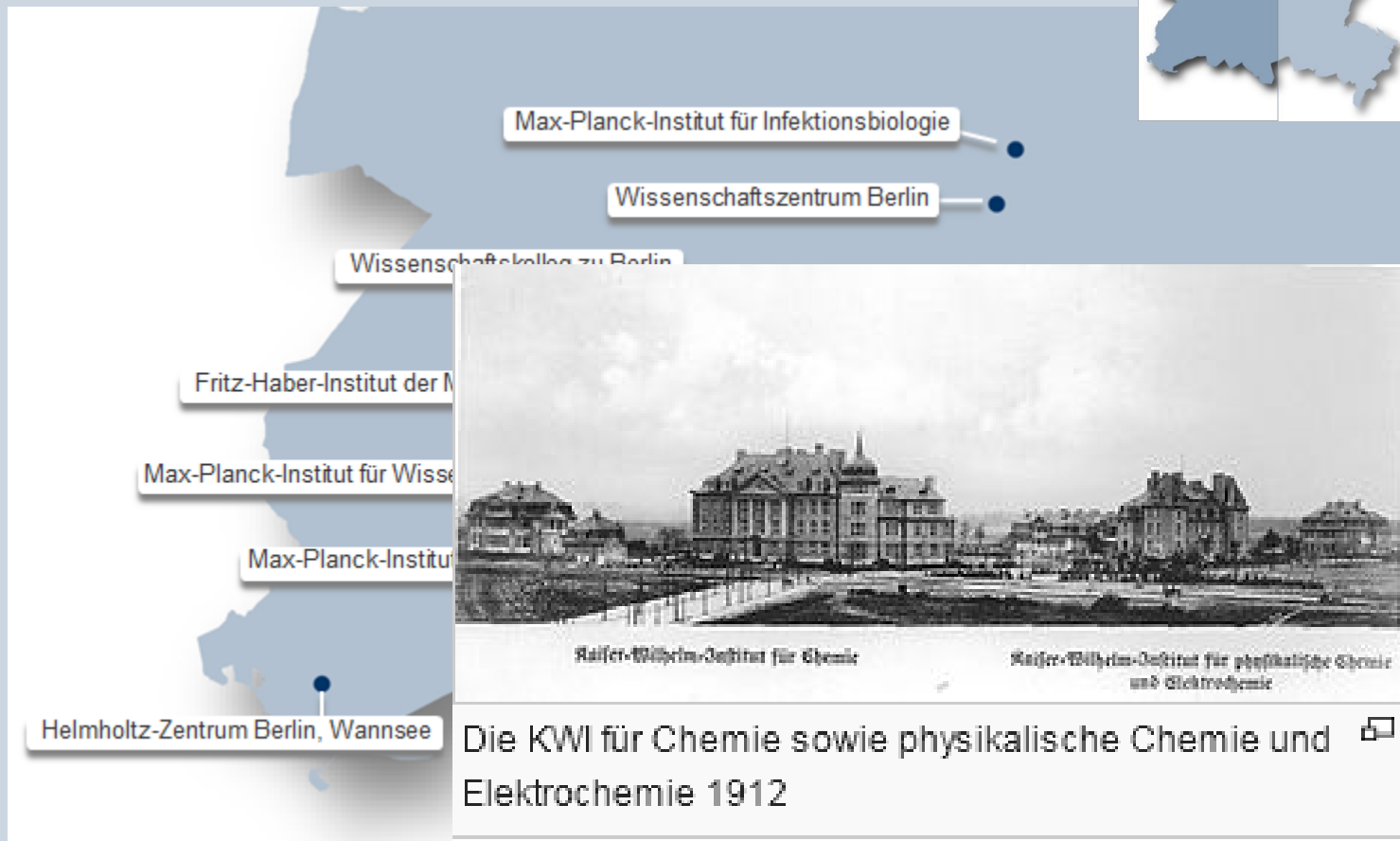
-

Consolidation of the library system

- Integration of independent libraries and holdings in separate locations

- Unification of classification

- Standardization of library workflows

- Standardization of library services

- Consolidation of personnel administration

…. in one of the biggest library systems in Germany

Historical Background

- Dahlem: research location since about 1900

Max-Planck-Institut für Infektionsbiologie

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

Fritz-Haber-Institut der M

Max-Planck-Institut für Wisse

Max-Planck-Institut

Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, Wannsee

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Chemie

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für physikalische Chemie und Elektrochemie

Die KWI für Chemie sowie physikalische Chemie und Elektrochemie 1912
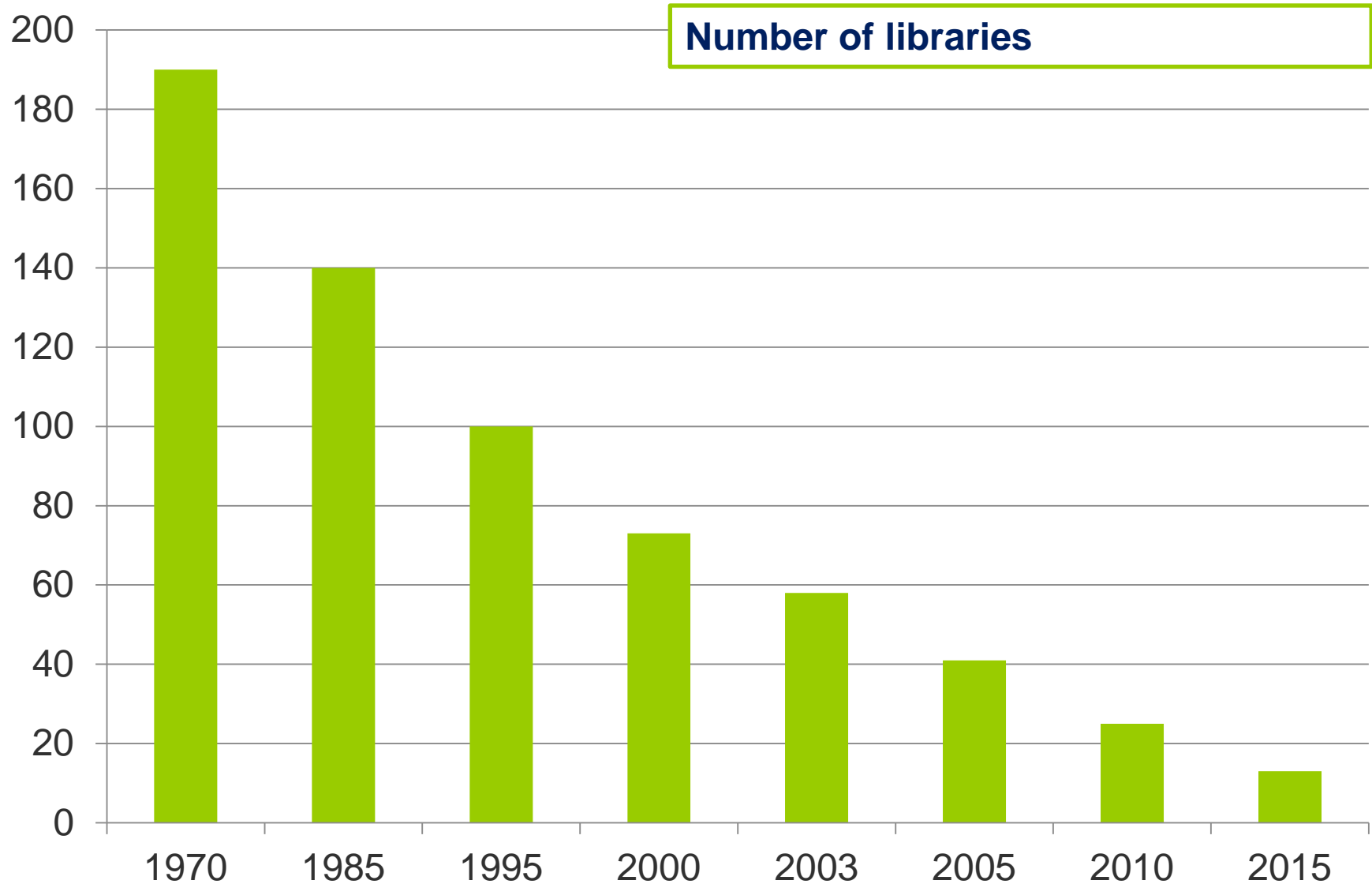
Historical Milestones of Consolidation

1948 Foundation of Freie Universität department libraries + "Bibliotheksleitstelle" (coordination office)

Traditional two-tier system

1954 University Library moves into own building

1990 start of computer-based cataloguing

1991 Library system with 25 divisions

1999 Integrated Library System ALEPH 500
Re-structuring of the library system:
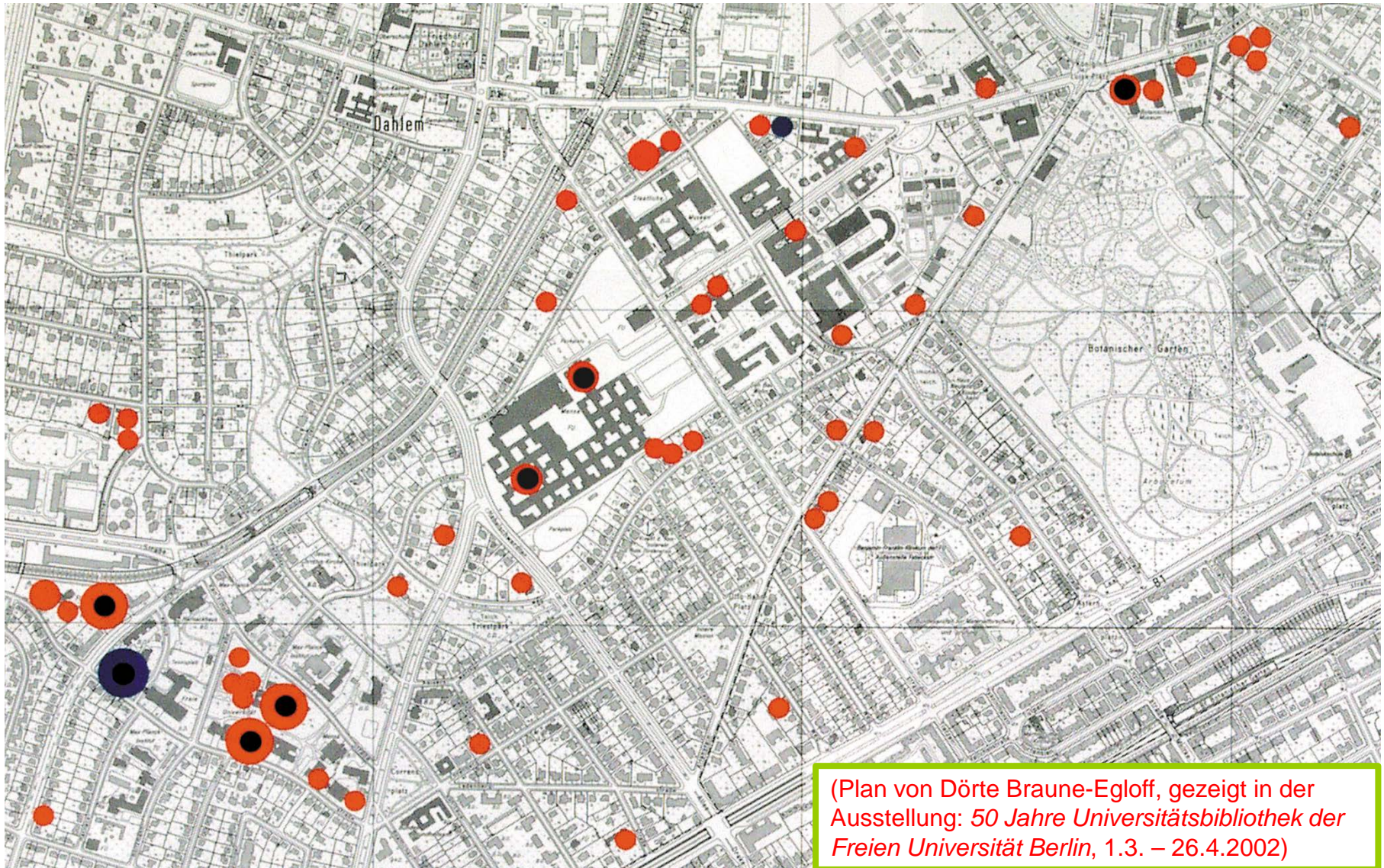UB + 10 divisions
aspiring to one-tier system
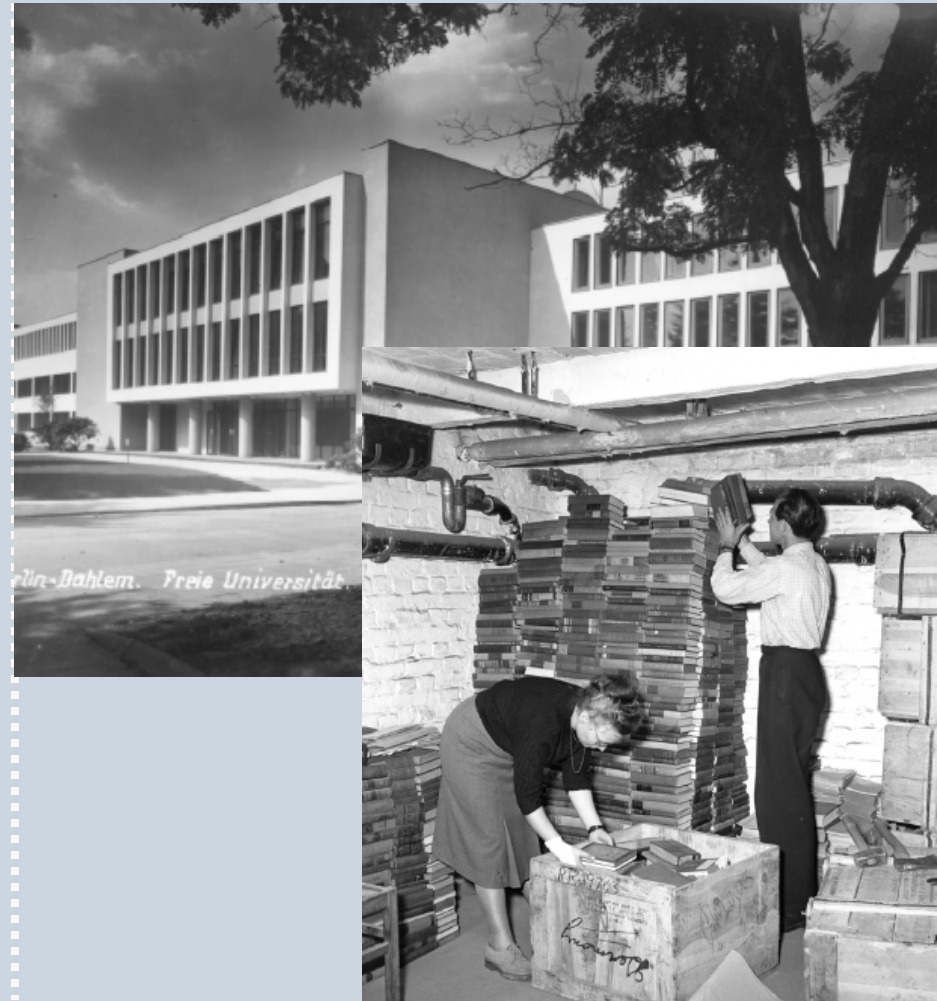
Historical Milestones of Consolidation

2001 Integration of 8 Biology Institute Libraries into one library at the Botanic Garden

2003 Charité Universitätsmedizin separated

2005 Philological Library: integration of 11 departmental libraries

2008 5 Libraries integrated into Social Sciences and East European Studies Library

2007-11 Conversion of catalog records

2007 Library portal Primo

2015 Campus Library for Sciences, Cultural Studies, Education, Mathematics, Computer Science and Psychology

2015 Concentration of the personnel administration

2017 Implementation of cloud based library system Alma

Fusion of libraries and holdings

Number of libraries

Year	Number of libraries
1970	190
1985	140
1995	100
2000	73
2003	58
2005	41
2010	25
2015	13

Libraries on Dahlem Campus 2002

(Plan von Dörte Braune-Egloff, gezeigt in der Ausstellung: *50 Jahre Universitätsbibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin*, 1.3. – 26.4.2002)

Libraries on Dahlem Campus 2015

(Plan von Dörte Braune-Egloff, gezeigt in der Ausstellung: *50 Jahre Universitätsbibliothek der Freien Universität Berlin*, 1.3. – 26.4.2002)
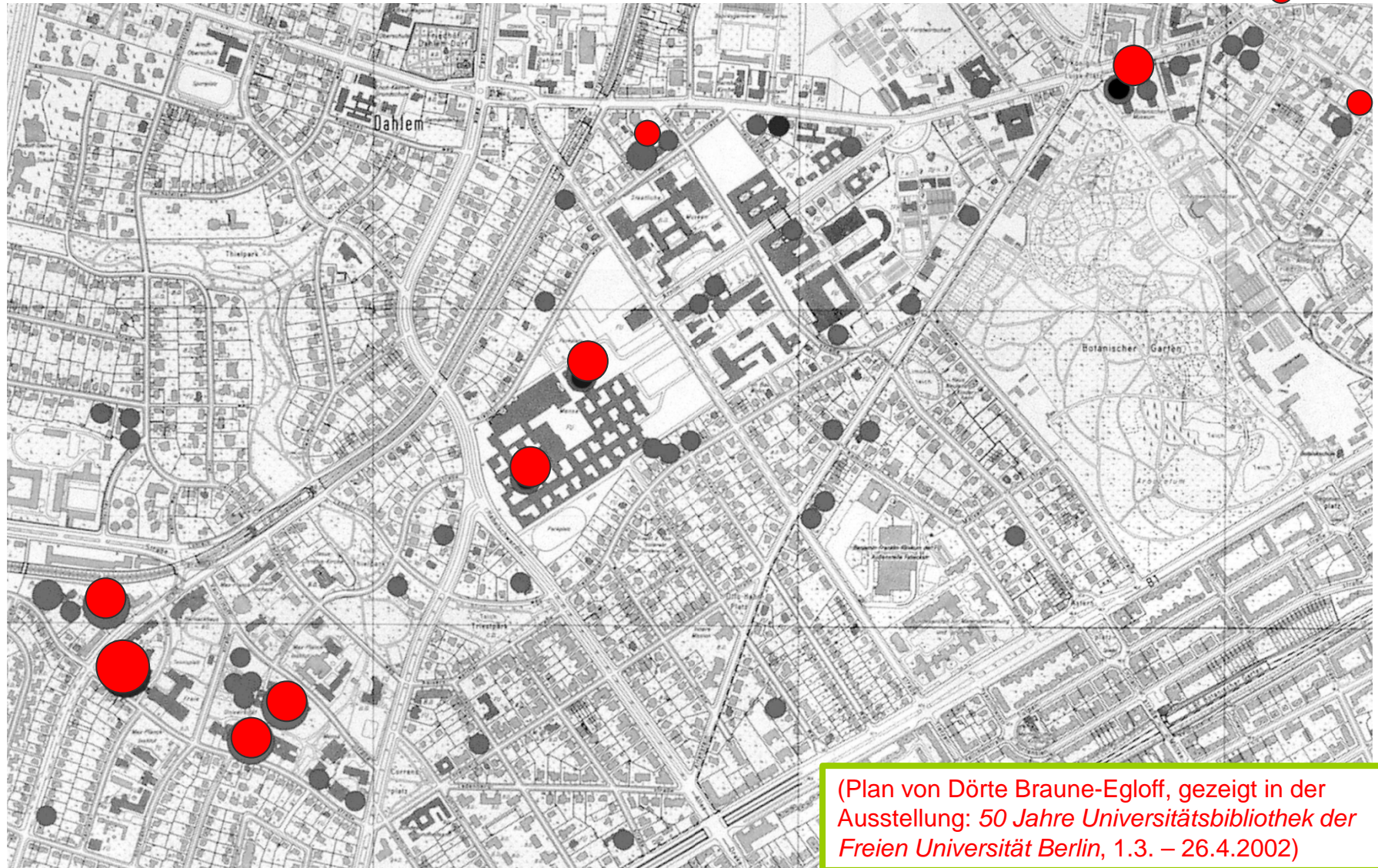
Simplification of classification scemes

- Regensburg Classification RVK

- Universal classification for academic libraries introduced in Bavaria 1964

- Useful for open display-shelving (similar to DDC etc.)

- Facilitates orientation and cross-disciplinary research

- Applied in: University Library (reading room), Philological Library, Campus Library, Law (partly), Social Sciences (reading room, Journals), Art History (Art of Africa)

MPI
Stuttgart
Bibliothek

AH

10500
B927 E5
(3)
+2
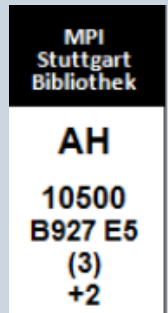
Standardization of library-oriented workflows

- Implementation of the library-management system Aleph (ExLibris) and OPAC in 1999

- Data transfer from other electronic catalogues (Physics Library, Education Library)

- Retro-cataloguing of printed catalogs (2016 the last million of titles)

- Joint cataloguing of journal holdings

- University Library responsible for central editing and for providing data to national journal database (ZDB)

- Introduction of computer-based (Aleph) circulation in department libraries (without harmonization of loan conditions!)

Standardization of library services

- Joint student training (citation rules, general professional skills courses)

- Biblio Blog

- Chat (in progress)

- Delivery service for returned items

- Harmonization of lending conditions (realized by implementation of Alma)

- Harmonization of opening hours

Unification of personal administration

- About 300 employees in 9 different administrative units at FU
  - ➤ Insufficient control of recruitment
  - ➤ No staff development
  - ➤ Consistent administration impossible

- Since 2015 personnel administration under response of the UB
  - ➤ Implementation personnel-demands formula (2009-2016) target 235 FTEs
  - ➤ Human-resources development -> retaining qualified staff and staff trained at FU
  - ➤ All recruitment processes managed by UB

- Improved relationship between University Library and other library units
  - ➤ Joint staff training
  - ➤ Regular meetings

The Library System today
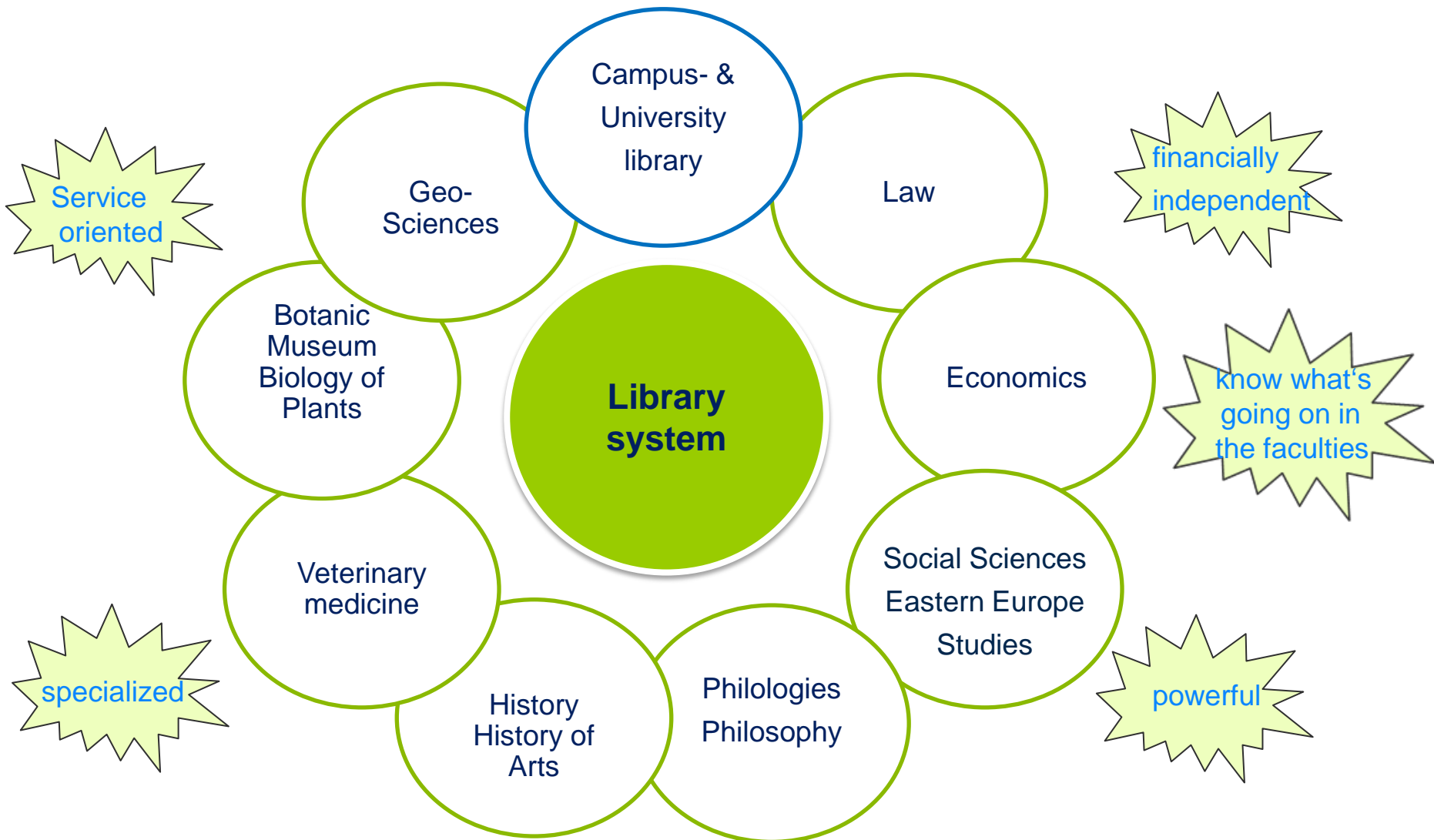
End

Thank you for your attention

….and thanks to Anna Kaiser and Sean Nowak