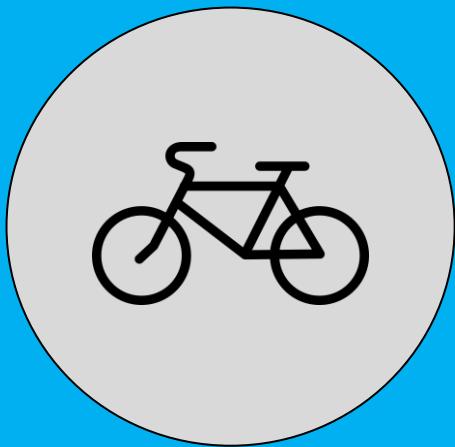


Roadbook

Cycling for Libraries Belgium 2017



Work in
Progress



coordination team

Mariël Geens
Dirk Bogaerts

participants

Alireza, AllynAnn, Anja, Catherine, Chris, Colette, Cory, Delphine, Diane, Dirk, Edward, Els, Emmanuel, Frédéric, Geert G., Geert L., Jean-Hugues, Jean-Marie, Kari, Kerstin, Klaar, Lauri, Liesbeth, Luc, Marianne, Mariel, Marina, Marthe, Matthieu, Maya, Mikko, Nathalie, Pascale, Pauline, Rasmus, Sabine, Stine, Susann, Vesa

support team

Annemie, Kim, Hilde

in collaboration with



United we bike



CREDITS

This report is based upon the contributions of
Dirk, Dominique, Edward, Els, Geert G., Marthe,

It is illustrated with pictures from

Edward, Mikko, ...

Sat 9-9-2017 | Trois-Ponts



Rental bikes



The first arrivals on the parking lot at Trois-Ponts: the van, with Mariël and Kim, Emmanuel, Edward and Dirk. Quit some heavy rains in the afternoon, but by the time we arrived everything was dry. And there they were, right on time, straight from Valkenburg: our rented bikes. All of them tagged, neatly on a row. It looked as if we were organizing, well yes, a cycling tour...



Registration

We could use a room in the cultural centre of Trois-Ponts to do the registrations of the first arrivals. They immediately had something to do: folding and cutting the programme, transforming it into a handy A7-booklet. Not as easy as it looked. Some colleagues had to acquire new skills...



Meal

Many participants arrived on Saturday, which gave us the opportunity to start with a meal and to taste the first Belgian beers. Also a nice introduction to a number of fellow travellers. The ice was broken instantly!

Château de Wanne

A first nocturnal challenge: the rather steep climb by bike to the Château de Wanne! Sharing the room with people you didn't know a few hours before, but who already feeled familiar. This was a good start!

Sun 10-9-2017 | Trois-Ponts - Eupen



Registration



Briefing & departure



Public library Trois-Ponts



Trois-Ponts-Malmédy



Public library Malmédy



“MUSIC AND DANCING, WHAT
A WELCOME TO START OUR
JOURNEY”

Edward

know each other!

Like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, the musicians lured us into the Malmundarium and guided us to the library. That gave us a quick impression of the collection. Work of Magritte and of some local surrealist painters and an impression of the carnival of Malmédy. Masks, carnival and surrealism: this must be Belgium!

It was an interesting combination of a cultural centre, an exhibition space and a library. Lots of things going on here – the visit was too short to see and hear it all!

Our colleagues from Malmédy were waiting for us at the entrance of the Malmundarium. We were welcomed by the warm sound of a violin and an accordion, playing some catchy folk music tunes. After the welcoming speeches the music took over again and we were invited to join the circle and dance together. Cycling librarians becoming dancing librarians! A nice and very spontaneous way of getting to

Good ideas

- A musical act is an excellent way to welcome a group. It immediately creates a positive feeling among the participants. And yes: why not let them dance!
- A musical guide is a very efficient way to bring a group of people from one point to another. No need to explain too much: everyone has the chance to look around. No danger to get lost: just follow the sound...



Malmédy-Waimes



Waimes

Our colleagues from Waimes and Malmédy had prepared us a picnic with delicious regional dishes and local specialties. What a treat! It was served in an old railway station along the ravel.

Every stop gave us the opportunity to check our bikes. Tire problems, saddle problems, gear problems, but also quite a lot of 'sound problems': Like this one:

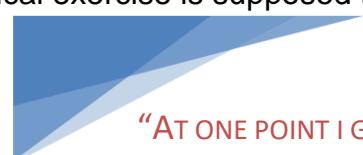
"I discovered a noise coming from my bike just before we arrived. I spent most of my time after lunch trying to pinpoint it, I never did and eventually it went away, never to return."



Waimes – Eupen

Beautiful landscapes on this part of the RAVeL!

Cycling is physical exercise, and physical exercise is supposed to warm you up. Unfortunately, it doesn't always work like this...



"AT ONE POINT I GOT CHILLED,
AND NEVER DID WARM UP FOR
THE REST OF THE DAY"

Edward



Eupen

The evening meal was free, so most of us went into town in little groups. As Eupen is not that big, quite a lot of us ended up in the Rathaus. Realizing that we had two birthdays to celebrate the next day, we (= Pauline, Colette, Sabine et co.) invented an instant birthday canon on the melody of 'Frère Jacques'. We tried it out on the way back to the hostel. It sounded quite nice

in the quiet streets of Eupen.

Emmanuel, Mikko, and Edward were waiting at the hostel. They took showers before going out to eat, so they missed the crowd and ended up at an Asian restaurant where they purchased takeaway meals. It was a nice walk, so they said. They almost lost Emmanuel. He had forgotten to order a beer, missed out and was a bit put out on the walk back.

We finished with a late night briefing, rehearsing the programme for the next day.

All night long there was a quite heavy wind and lots of rain. Anyway, that's what we had more or less expected (and feared), as the weather forecast for the next three days was rather bad.

Mon 11-9-2017 | Eupen - Liège



Briefing and departure

No need to ask for it! Everyone pitched in to bring the bikes up from the basement, Cycling for Libraries is about teamwork!

Rasmus had some work to do: a flat and some technical problems!

Nathalie gave us some rather original warm-up exercises, Mariël briefed us about the programme – and then we sang our birthday canon for Vesa and Liesbeth, on the tune of Frère Jacques, accompanied by our bicycle bells.



VESA, LIESBETH, VESA, LIESBETH,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
DINGE LINGE DING DONG,
DINGE LINGE DING DONG
DING DING DONG

Some of the participants thought it was a local birthday song. Anyway: a nice moment to start the day!
And yes: the sky was almost blue, no rain at all!



Medienzentrum Eupen

We saw some good examples of how a public library attracts new visitors: the lending of board games, working with children on animations, etc.



Eupen – Thimister-Clermont



Thimister-Clermont

Een kleine bibliotheek die, zoals Chris opmerkte, meer aan een tweedehandsboekenwinkeltje deed denken, met een zeer charmante tentoonstelling met het humoristische werk van de Luikse illustrator José Parrondo.

A small library which, as Chris remarked, looked a bit like a second-hand bookshop. There was a very charming exhibition featuring the humorous work of the Liège illustrator José Parrondo.

Thimister-Clermont – Visé



Visé

Visé – Liège



Tue 12-9-2017 | Liège - Tongeren

Bibliothèque Chiroux

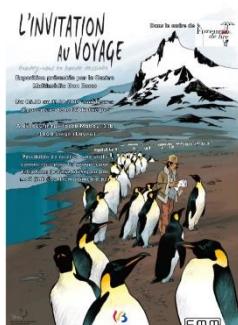
The introduction gave us an interesting look at the future. The plans for the new library were proudly presented. It will be much more than a library. Sounds very promising! We'll surely return to take a look!

In the 'Artothèque', two-dimensional works (photographs, engravings, etc.) by artists from Liège or with a bond with Liège are lent to readers for free. The library buys the works, so that the artists are paid for them.

The Artothèque is still somewhat hidden in the building, so the outreach range is less than the librarians would like. The plan is to give this collection more visibility in the new building.

Centre multimédia Don Bosco

After the tour



'Anrage / encrage': a nice project in the Centre multimédia Don Bosco!

Patrons of the library came together to compile their travel memories into one book, that will be integrated in the library after publication.

Itin...errances (Fureur de lire 2017)

Dans le cadre de la 'Fureur de lire' 2017, le Centre Multimédia Don Bosco vous invite à embarquer pour un voyage autour de la lecture, au cours duquel vous serez amenés à voguer d'activité en activité ...

Anrage/encrage : le carnet de voyage prend le large ...

Quoi ? Durant six semaines, des usagers du Centre Multimédia se sont réunis afin de mettre en mots leurs souvenirs de voyage qu'ils ont compilés pour réaliser un ouvrage qui intégrera les collections de la bibliothèque.

Ils vous présenteront le fruit de leur travail et partageront avec vous leurs ressentis quant au processus de création.

Où ? Au 1^{er} étage, dans la salle de l'EPN 2

Quand ? Le mercredi 11 octobre, de 15 à 16 heures

The full programme : <http://fibbc.net/cmm/spip.php?article939>



Bibliothèques Alpha

Interesting to hear how they deal with open access and to get information about their digitisation projects.

As soon as something is digitised, the physical piece is only retrieved for research into its material aspects.

Els, who has "a great heart for old prints", had a question about that. "Is it really necessary to protect documents that are in good condition and that are not frequently requested from users so strictly after digitisation? Do we not run the risk of a heritage library becoming a mere preservation library in the long term, whose existence is called into question by financiers? Because: 'everything' that she possesses is digitized and can be consulted online (which of course also has advantages)."

After the tour

ULiège Library kindly invited us to an event about **Open Science and Open Access** in Bruxelles, co-organized by ULiège with all the other Belgian universities, on the 23 & 24 octobre.

Program and more informations at <https://openaccess.be/>
Registration and lunch are free, both days will be in English.
Contact – Questions: Dominique Chalono: d.chalono@ulg.ac.be

Bibliothèque d'architecture

A special library! Six years ago, the collections of the ULG and a university college were brought together in one room. They each kept their own catalogue and lending system, among other things. They buy books with their own budgets. The barcodes are used by readers to find out at which desk they have to lend out a book.

A complex situation, which according to the staff present did not lead to problems or confusion.

It proved to be an interesting case study for one of the participants. Her university too is planning a Learning and Innovation Centre in collaboration with another university, working with a different library system and using a different access system.



Territoires de la mémoire

Remarkable place with an impressive architecture.

This center is all about remembering the atrocities of World War II and the prosecution of Jews and other minorities. La bibliothèque George Orwell has a collection about the hazards of fascism, the resistance and more contemporary topics. Using their historic archive they organize workshops, debates and exhibitions to raise the awareness and advocate democratic citizenship.

The building itself was a transformed public swimming pool. It also houses local media offices. The former basin on the top floor is now a platform for exhibitions and events. The new architecture respected the old bathing structures and created a sun lit grand space with a spectacular view of the city. A real discovery.



Point culture

In the middle of a shopping area with popular brandstores you'll find this welcoming space for youngsters. It combines a medialibrary, a stage, a makerspace, workposts and a coffee bar.



Centre de littérature de jeunesse



Bibliothèque Saint-Léonard



Picnic Mont de Buren – Brasserie C

One of the few showers of the tour, at a rather inconvenient time. Luckily we found a little hiding place, offering us a beautiful view of Liège.



Liège – Tongeren



Tongeren: last evening

Belgian fries!

And this too was very 'Belgian': a large dustbin at the foot of the proud statue of Ambiorix, one of our national heroes.



Wed 13-9-2017 | Tongeren - Genk



Tongeren – Bilzen

Blown off branches, leaves and pears made it clear that there had been a heavy wind overnight. It still hadn't dropped completely when we took odd. When I told Rasmus that I'd rather ride uphill than in the wind, his answer was: "I prefer the wind. This feels so like home. Except that at home, it blows constantly, and here you have squalls".



Bilzen: De Kimpel

Beautiful library, nominated for being the ' Best Library of Flanders and Brussels'. Well thought-out architectural project, even in the smaller details – like the toilets 😊

As in Liège, they have an 'artoteek', but here the works are not purchased by the library.

At the media table patrons can explore old postcards of Bilzen. A collaboration with the 'Heemkundige kring' of Bilzen (organization that focuses on local history. It proved to be an interesting combination of old artefacts and new technology. Very well done!

By the way: the very next day, they actually did win the prize! Congratulations!



Bilzen – Diepenbeek



Diepenbeek

Another story about merging and adapting the collection to a new system. After the integration of the collection of the university college with the university collection, they had to switch to UDC, a system with a different logic. The old system allowed them to place books by subject. They solve this by adding keywords from the specific arts and architecture thesaurus to

the bibliographical descriptions, but it's still more complex to search for a stack of books on chairs, for example, than in the past.



Diepenbeek – Genk



Bibliotheek Genk

The staff rooms! Often forgotten during library visits – but not in Genk! We had the opportunity to visit the workplaces of the library staff. Very basic, but efficient, and with a very nice natural light: it looked like a nice place to work. The lack of luxury proved to be a deliberate choice: the ‘cheaper’ the staff rooms, the more investment was possible in the public part of the library. A good example of knowing your priorities!



Last meal

Back home

Thu 14-9-2017 | Oostende: Informatie aan Zee

Promotion stand ‘Cycling for Libraries’



‘Informatie aan Zee’ is a biennial Flemish library congres that takes place in Oostende. We had a C4L-stand in the congress hall. We invited participants to take a ride on our two exercise bikes, telling them all they wanted to know about the tour.

Fri 15-9-2017 | Oostende: Informatie aan Zee

Promotion stand ‘Cycling for Libraries’

Book sharing: What happened to your book?

Five meditations on beauty by François Cheng.

This book is now the property of a sympathetic librarian in Trois-Ponts.

François Cheng
de l'Académie française
Cinq
méditations
sur la beauté



■ Albin Michel



Quotation; “ Une seule règle me guide: ne rien négliger de ce que la vie comporte, ne jamais se dispenser d’écouter les autres et de penser par soi-même.

Well... I forgot my backpack (with my book, my camera and other things) in the hostel at Eupen. In the meantime I could retrieve it, so the book is back where it came from: in Ghent. It found a new home in 'De Frietketel' ('best Belgian Fries of Flanders!'), on a bookshelf in the dining room... Books and fries: a Belgian combination!

Impressions & reflections



ONE OF THE THINGS THAT STRUCK ME
MOST: THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.

Els



IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW PUBLIC
LIBRARIES ARE BROADENING THEIR
ACTIVITIES.

Els