

Which Way www.jesuitica.be?

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Intro

Jan: the **technical side** of the site: front-end & back-end

Bernard: the **contents** of the site.

- Site
- developed organically
 - part of a wider project, of which the core business is the **cataloguing** of the jesuitica holdings in the MSL.
 - in depth **catalography** of Jesuitica holdings of North-Belgian Province (document and holding level)
 - create a **point of contact** among researchers, via website
 - organize a **conference**, with **publication**

Fast growth over the past years. But its success could become problematic, given the limited resources we have.

Start of an evaluation

1. meaning of 'jesuitica' and the complexity of the site

1.1 "jesuitica" in the **narrow** sense refers to books, articles related to the **history** of the Jesuits (corporate or individual histories of SJ) in line with Sommervogel vol. XI, and the Polgár and Begheyn bibliographies

- ▶ "research" section

1.2 "jesuitica" in primary, **broader** sense
all books, articles authored by Jesuits (cf. Sommervogel vol. I-IX, X, XII)

- ▶ "catalogue" section (also via "search") ← fed by Libis because all items entered in Libis database, **and** held in this Maurits Sabbe Library get tagged "jesuitica", whether authored BY Jesuit, or ABOUT Jesuits or particular Jesuit, whatever its content (spirituality, theology or mathematics).

1.3 third, still broader meaning of the term: "anything Jesuit ... is a jesuitica item"

- ▶ "links"

Conclusion: at least three different meanings of jesuitica operational

2. Difference Libis db – Catalogue on "http://www.jesuitica.be"

Libis > Louvain University libraries > catalogue items on site

Restriction: jesuitica items (broad sense) on Libis do not appear on jesuitica.be site, when not held in the Maurits Sabbe Library. So, Louvain University is broader than MSL; and Libis is broader than Louvain University.

3. Where are the full text books on jesuitica.be

3.1 linked to a Libis-record (if book from our own holdings)

3.2 accessible on site via "Links" (in appropriate subcategory), not in our holdings

3.3 accessible via "full text" on site

JESUITICA.BE is a site primordially meant to publish our OWN holdings,
not an on-line bibliography, not a biographic jesuit database

4. evaluation (the past)

4.1 the site in figures

	Early printed books entered	Items cat. jesuitica	Links	Research mail subscriptions	Visitors p/month
090505	2,886	7,259	486	136	1,333
080630	2,685	6,224	360	106	1,100
070111	1,573	3,860	199	43	500
060501	1,340	3,436	158	33	
050923	1,058	2,684	87		
041004	283				

EXPANSION

- items (early printed books / all books by S.J)
- links provided
- subscriptions
- visitors on site

4.2 the site thematically

So far, no restrictions

Obvious limitations: other scripts, diacritical marks

yet slight preference for the Jesuits of the Low Countries (integrating the data from the PIBA: *Prosopographia Iesuitica Belgica Antiqua*)

4.3 an **evaluation procedure** is needed

Our questions: maybe we've taken on too much? Maybe we're too scattered? Maybe we will not be able to keep pace with the service requests?

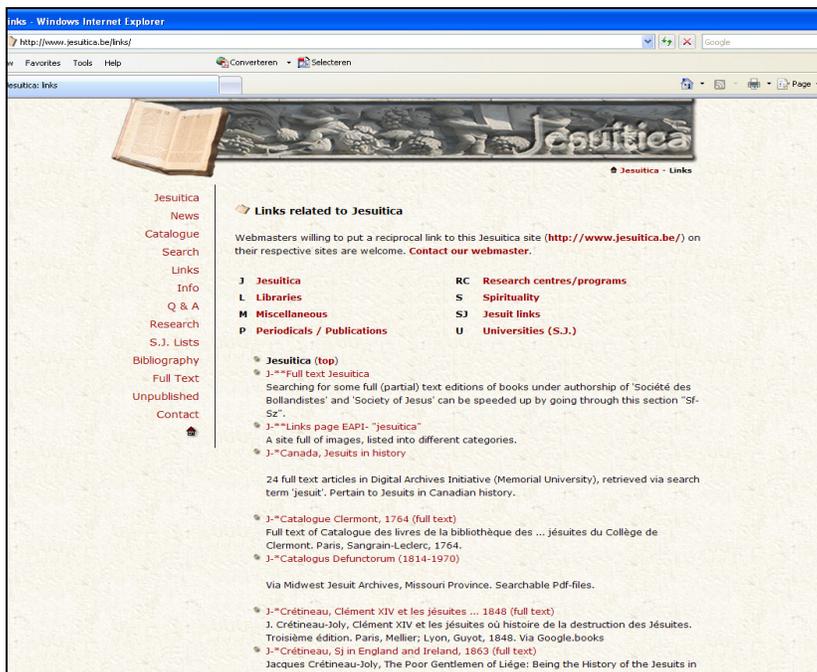
4.3.1 Should we **focus** more (geographically, contentwise; language)?

4.3.2 **Content** of site's features

4.3.2.1 **How useful** are the features of the site? Are there any sections that are less useful?

4.3.2.2 Is information on site **manageable**?

Sometimes, features became 'complex', and needed to be made manageable...
e.g. **"links"** needed a system to have them 'grouped' in a sensible way



From the viewpoint of the researcher: **“do they find what they’re looking for?”**

4.3.3 Is the site a **meeting-point** for researchers?

5. Future developments (2010-2014)

5.1 real **growth** to be expected

- planned growth
- plausible growth
- unexpected growth

5.2 **steady maintenance** of present service-level needed

“**Research**” entries: origins?

Regular “**Newsletter**” seems to be appreciated.

5.3 **decrease; trimming** needed? Where? In which sections?

5.3.1 Basic criterion:

Keep what should be done in Louvain, and do away with what could be done elsewhere (if it's done elsewhere in the future)

Holdings are **intrinsically** linked to K.U.Leuven. Making these holdings available and known is core business of jesuitica.be

**provenance research needs to be enhanced (problem Libis)

**old journals are waiting to be taken up in db, (maybe analytic catalography)

5.3.2 need to trim the "**links**"-list?

5.3.3 Is "**Research**" section important? Not intrinsically linked to K.U.Leuven; yet important for promoting the site.

5.4 **Unsure** future developments:

5.5 In order to meet the expected growth, should we **increase** number of **collaborators**?

► **attract** (foreign) collaborators for **this** website (centralize)
This is technically possible for some sections of the site.

► stimulate other SJ provinces, institutes, centres to **emulate/copy** this initiative, and then organize the collaboration between the different initiatives (decentralize).

Please, help us make decisions about the future of the site by filling out the evaluation form provided in conference pack.