



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN HUNGARY



THE LIBRARY NETWORK OF THE EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY

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The History of the University

The Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) is the oldest continuously operating higher educational institute in Hungary. It was founded in 1635 by Péter Pázmány, the Archbishop of Esztergom, in the city of Nagyszombat (now in Slovakia). The university began with only two faculties, theology and philosophy, and was consigned to the Jesuit order. In 1667, a law faculty was added, followed by a medical faculty in 1769. The university moved to Buda in 1777, then to Pest in 1784, where it remained the only university in Hungary until 1872.

The institution was named after its founder, Péter Pázmány, in 1921. After the suppression of the Jesuit order in the 20th century, the university was taken over by the Hungarian State. As a result of political changes occurring after 1948, first the Catholic Theology Faculty and then the Medical Faculty were separated from the university. In 1949, the Faculty of Natural Science was formed. The university got its current name, the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in 1950, in honor of the world-famous Hungarian physicist, Loránd Eötvös.

Following political changes yet again in 1990, and, in accord with various ideas for integration, ELTE was united with both the Teacher Training College of Budapest, which had been founded in 1869, and the Gusztáv Bárczi College for Teachers of Special Education, originally founded in 1900. In 2003, the faculty structure of ELTE was changed and updated. Currently, with its eight faculties and 30,000 students, ELTE is the largest and oldest university in Hungary.

The History of the Library

Due to its unique history, the University Library has one of Hungary's oldest book collections. In fact, the library is older than the university itself. When the Jesuit order founded a college in 1561 in the city of Nagyszombat, they were required to start a library as well. Although the college was closed soon thereafter, the order continued its activity in various locations and in 1615 returned back to Hungary's western borders to Nagyszombat. The collection has been systematically expanded since the middle of the 16th century. It reflects the development of the Hungarian library system. When it became the uni-





versity's library in 1632, the collection held 1,489 volumes. With Jesuits from all around Europe sending the newest books to the library, the collection, even in this remote city, quickly became on par with libraries in the rest of Europe. The library moved with the university to Buda, and later to Pest, at the end of the 18th century.

When the Jesuit order was suppressed in 1773, the library had only 11,500 volumes. The library took over several other collections of the Jesuit order after its suppression. As a result, the number of volumes increased even more following the closing of several other religious monasteries during the reign of Emperor Joseph II. Several codices, incunabula, and donations were added during that time. The growth of the collection was further enhanced by the introduction of the copyright system in 1780, although at the beginning of the 19th century the national printing houses barely made their required donations to the library. For some time, the library functioned as the national library and held the only collection accessible to the public. By 1819, the library held over 45,000 volumes. However, its location was no longer fitting in relation to the value of its collection.

Some of the library's outstanding leaders were György Pray, György Fejér, and, at the end of the reform era, Ferenc Toldy. Toldy started to work on plans for constructing a modern library building. The neo-renaissance hall that still houses the library was opened in 1876. At that time the collection of 200,000 volumes was reorganized into a new classification system. While serving the growing number of students, the collection and the use of the library grew spectacularly under the direction of Sándor Szilágyi

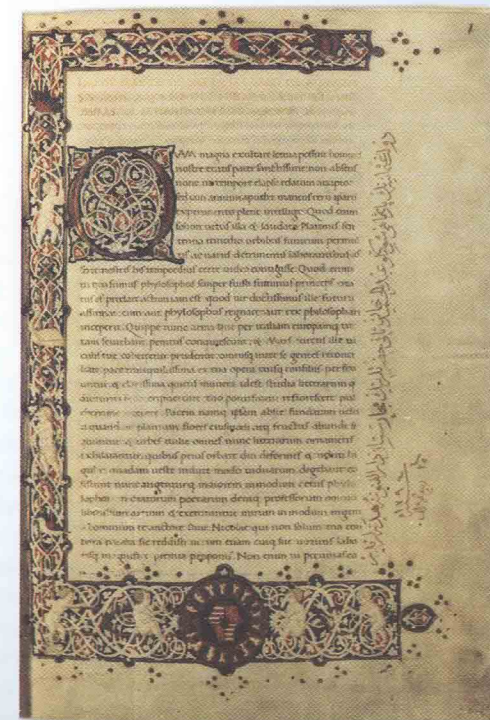
Following political changes in 1948, several religious institutions were closed down. The ELTE Library, among others, received part of their collections. The modernization of book processing aided in further growth for the library. In the 1970s, however, a few setbacks occurred. The construction of the Budapest subway caused serious damage in the library's building. Reconstruction lasting almost 25 years and a decrease in the acquisitions budget also considerably slowed down the pace of development.

At the time of the change of regime in 1990, the University Library had fallen behind other major Hungarian libraries. The University Library only started to catch up in the middle of the 1990s. An integrated library system was established in 1995, with various library modules being gradually introduced.

Services of the University Library

By the end of 2002, the library's collection had totaled 1,500,000 volumes. One of the exceptional duties of the library is the regular showing of its protected collection, a vital part of Hungary's national heritage, at various exhibitions. International scientific conferences are organized for the exhibition of this valuable collection. There are plans to open a museum in the near future in cooperation with the ELTE University Archives, which now holds approximately 1,200 linear meters of valuable documents.

The ELTE Library offers use of its collection in the reading halls. The general reading hall seats 140 people, the history reading hall seats 28 people, and the reading hall for periodicals seats 15 people. Being one of the assigned lending libraries of the National Document Delivery System (ODR), the primary duties of the University Library include the lending of its documents to other libraries through the ODR network. Besides lending documents and using both national and international interlibrary loan, other services include use of the protected collections, photocopying, printing of digital documents, information research upon individual request, organization of exhibitions, and tours of the library building both in Hungarian and in several foreign languages.



Digital services at the library include the use of the 20 available CD-ROMs, access to 78 databases through the Internet and through the library's network, access to information resources available via the Hungarian network of researchers and higher education, the use of online catalogues of other libraries, and access to the virtual library. These services are available in the computer lab of the Electronic Information Services (EIS) as well as in both the general reading hall and in the periodicals reading hall. Upon request, the library provides Internet monitoring and the compilation of Internet bibliographies. At the EIS lab, database training, printing services of previously prepared research materials, and online reference services are provided. The library's homepage was revised and extended in 2003. Now it is also available in English and in German.

The ELTE libraries use an integrated library system called Horizon. It was issued by Dynix. The same system is used by the University of Miskolc and by the Semmelweis Medical University in Hungary. In 2003, the shared electronic catalogue of the ELTE libraries held more than 175,000 bibliographic and 200,000 item records.

Each year 1,707 foreign periodical titles are subscribed to by the ELTE libraries, 584 of those titles being available at the University Library itself. Besides its current subscriptions, the University Library has an invaluable collection of periodicals from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Special Collections, Historical Values

THE COLLECTION OF MANUSCRIPTS AND RARITIES

The library houses one of the oldest and richest resource collections of history, cultural studies, and literature. The scientific and national interest aims to guarantee and improve the conditions of this collection for research purposes. The primary goal of this department is to save this valuable collection, to restore damaged documents, and guarantee access to these resources now and in the future.

The need to both separate this complex collection from the library's main stock and to analytically explore it began in the middle of the 19th century. Lajos Csapodi had introduced the first classification catalog for separating the manuscripts in 1774. The catalog of the historical collection has a rather short history, spanning only the last 100 to 150 years. The first attendant of the collection, János Garay, started the first alphabetical index card filing system in 1849. This system, however, did not include detailed information, so the introduction of a printed catalog was needed that required additional preparation. The high number of new acquisitions at that time further highlighted the importance of cataloging.

Some of the most valuable additions to this collection include the legacy of Sándor Szilágyi, containing historical materials, mainly from the time of the Turkish occupation and from Transylvania; manuscripts concerning national and county assemblies that were from a legacy given by Tivadar Pauler; manuscripts by János Arany and the translation of Aristophanes' works by the poet, all of which were donated by Arany's widow.

The Manuscript Collection has 183 codices in various languages, including 137 Latin, 13 Arabic, Turkish, Ethiopic and Persian, 11 Slavic, 8 Hungarian, 6 German,

4 Greek, and 4 Italian. The majority of this collection originates from the libraries of suppressed monastic orders. The remaining 35 codexes were donated in 1877 to the students of Budapest by the Turkish sultan, Abdul Hamid II. Twelve of those items proved to be from the Corvina Library, the famous library of King Matthias from the 15th century. Other outstanding codexes from the Turkish donation are the Chirurgy of Albucasis Alsaragus, of which the Latin translation was done by Gerardus Cremonensis around 1280, and the manuscript of Dante's *Divina Comedia*, dating from around 1345 and decorated with more than 90 miniatures. The Manuscript Collection also holds approximately 300 codex fragments in Latin.

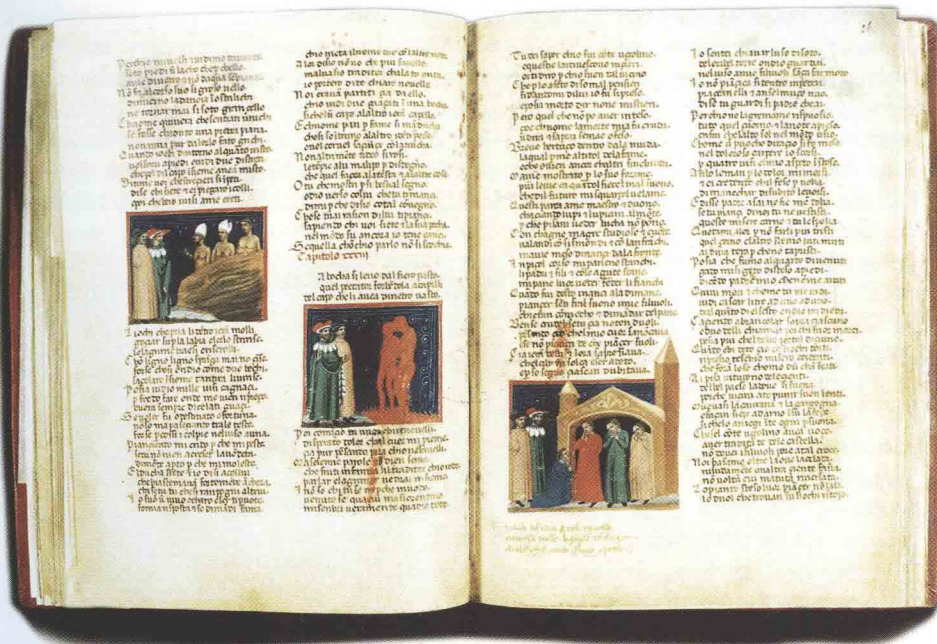
During reorganization in 1954, László Mezey found part of the *Vita Rhytmica Cuthberti* by Beda Venerabilis, dating from the 8th or 9th century. This is the oldest manuscript at the library. Apart from the codices, there are three main parts to the Manuscript Collection: the *Diplomata* autographa; the *Litterae et epistolae* originales, which include several documents dating from before the Turkish occupation of Hungary in the 16th century; and the so called *Classified Manuscripts*.

Many of the collections of various Jesuit historians, such as Gábor Hevenesi (1656-1715), István Kaprinai (1714-1786), and György Pray (1723-1801), include original and copied documents. These resources arrived in the li-

brary at the turn of the 19th century. Hetvenesi organized his collection at the request of Archbishop Lipót Kollonich. This collection was transferred from Nagyszombat to the Hungarian Chambers in Pozsony. This is where the collection of Kaprinai was also moved following his death. Later these collections became the basis for the *Litterae et epistolae* originales collection. Pray sold his collection to the library in 1784.

These collections include several historical documents measuring approximately 15 linear meters. The documents are invaluable in the research of Hungary's general and cultural history. The collections of Hetvenesi and Kaprinai concern mainly modern history. Moreover, some of these materials have never appeared in print. György Fejér, however, published the documents of older times in the serial *Codex Diplomaticus*.





The Collection of Charters of Incorporation, Litterale Coehales, is important in the research of Hungarian economic history. Before 1848, when planning the reformation of the Hungarian guild system, the government offices collected the charters, both originals and copies. The collected documents were sent to the Chancellery in Vienna and returned to Hungary in 1887. They were placed partly in the archives of the Hungarian National Museum and partly in the University Library. The charters kept in the museum later were transferred to the Hungarian National Archives, where they were destroyed by fire in 1945. Thus the collection of charters held in the University Library became the country's single major historical collection of charters, consisting of around 850 documents.

The Collection of Rarities holds various collections of national significance. The main part of this is the Collection of Incunabula that consists of over 1,040 units in 1,150 volumes. This collection has been growing continuously since the foundation of the library. There are 26 incunabula dating from before the founding of the university. Six of these were already in the library's possession according to its catalog in 1632. After the suppression of the Jesuit order, the library in Nagyszombat received 223 volumes from various monasteries. By 1780 the library owned approximately 350 incunabula. In the following decade, a further 300 incunabula were added. The most valuable ones are: Decretalis by Pope Georgius IX, a richly illustrated volume published in 1479 in Venice; Opuscula by Augustinus, published in Venice in 1483, bound in the Carthusian monastery of Lövöld in 1486, and representing the style of late Hungarian gothic binding; the volumes of the Missale

Strigoniense published in Venice in 1493 and 1503, representing the different styles of the bindery of Buda; unique in the country is the Biography of St. Jerome, written by Laudivius in the 15th century and printed in Hungary in 1478-79.

The University Library has 1,900 items belonging to and listed by the Old Hungarian Library (Régi Magyar Könyvtár or RMK I-III.), the catalog of Hungarian printed materials dating up to 1711. Items belonging to RMK I-III amount to 63 meters of shelves in the stacks.

The Rariora Hungarica Collection was established after 1945. It houses especially valuable Hungarian printed materials published after 1711, such as first editions and unique copies.

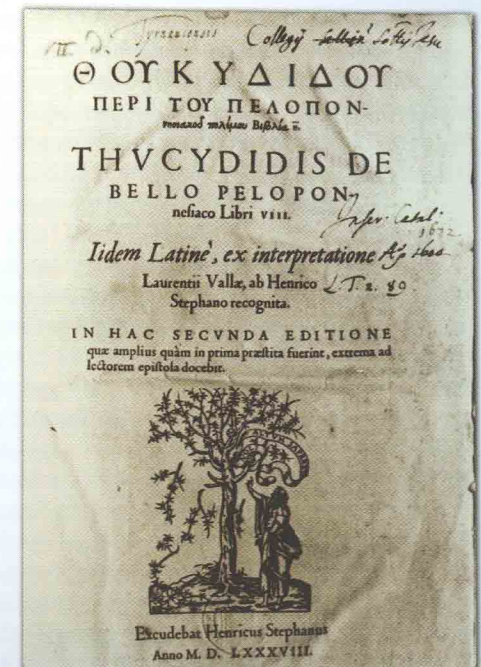
The Collection of Cuts, Maps and Landscapes holds around 15,000 bibliographical units. This collection was established at the beginning of the 20th century and holds richly illustrated and engraved books. It also has books of extreme value and items that need extra protection. About fifteen to twenty percent of this collection is from Germany.

The Pamphlet Collection houses pamphlets, obituaries and speeches, as well as the Miscellaneous Collection. The Miscellaneous Collection is rich in Catholic sermons from the 18th century, printed both in Hungary and abroad. Altogether both collections equal about 35,000 bibliographical units. These are organized in a printed catalog.

THE DEPARTMENT OF OLD PRINTS

This department holds books printed abroad between 1501 and 1800 and written in any language—except Hungarian—by foreign authors. Interest in European and national materials from the 16th century grew considerably over the past twenty years within the country as well as abroad. Due to considerable progress in the bibliographical exploration of the incunabula, a new task was given to explore the collection of printed materials originating from the 16th century. Since most libraries did not separate the stock of the so-called Antiqua Collection of 16th century books from that of the manuscripts and incunabula, the primary task was to sort out these volumes.

The introduction of the numerus kurrens system at the library in the 1950's played an important role in



establishing this new Antiqua Collection. With the help of the new library order, the volumes published in the first half of the century have been separated from the ones published later. Unfortunately, due to a lack of space, sorting of the latter was delayed by half a century. The University Library joined the National Antiqua Program in 1990 and later began the exploration of its old inventory with traditional as well as new methods.

To support this goal, the Department of Old Prints was established in 2000. Its main task is to sort and process the entire Antiqua Collection both traditionally and electronically. This job included the collection of volumes from various storage units. During this procedure these museum pieces were gone through volume by volume. This coincided with the revision of the library's collection and during this process antique volumes were found not only in the 16th century collection, but in the current storerooms, too.

Due to favorable historical circumstances, the library holds one of the most valuable book collections in the country. Many of these extraordinarily rich and internationally important volumes from the 16th century belong to the Antiquissima Collection. This collection of uniquely preserved documents dates back four centuries the foundation of the university. The books reflect the history of the curriculum of the Jesuit college and, later, of the university. The Antiquissima Collection, created in 1962, currently holds 300 volumes. Those books that were printed in the first third of the 17th century have been placed in the recently opened Baroque Collection. Electronic processing of the Antiqua Collection was finished in 2003. With its 9,300 bibliographical units in 7,000 volumes, the Antiqua Collection of the University Library is the country's second largest collection from the 16th century.

Between 2002 and 2003, the library began to separate materials printed in the 17th century and created the Baroque Collection. The next objective will be to electronically process this collection of 13,000 items. After that, it will be necessary to identify documents from the 18th century, which will result in another collection of over 10,000 volumes.

The ELTE Library Network System

To serve the goals laid down in the laws of higher education, the university is maintaining a moderately centralized library network with the ELTE University Library at its center. The network's primary task is to provide a reference library for its employees, its students, and other library patrons.

Participating libraries perform this task together, cooperating with public and private libraries. There is a library in each teaching facility at ELTE. Six faculty libraries support the work of the eight departments; two others are under development. Furthermore, there are over 50 institutional libraries. The network owns approximately 2.1 million documents. Together with the inventory of the University Library, this totals 3.6 million bibliographical units. The policies of the University Library and the concepts of the library network development are laid down by the University Library Board (ULB), which is a committee of the University Council.



The duties and authority of ULB include giving preliminary reports on propositions regarding the library; making decisions in areas appointed by the University Council; fixing short- and long-term concepts for network development; ordering international periodicals and electronic databases; reporting on the rules of conduct in the network; reporting on applications for the posts of leading positions in the network; supervising standard network rules; supervising the central budget of the libraries; distributing grant applications and annual promotions; synchronizing the work of different faculty library boards; continuously supervising the library network's activities; and representing the professional interest of the library network in front of the University Council and its boards.

In the last decade, partly due to relocation, the ELTE Library Network underwent major expansions. Nearly all departments built new, modern libraries. The Legal Department and the Faculty of Teachers of Special Education each gained new library buildings. The Department of Education rebuilt and modernized its library which now serves the Pedagogy and Psychology Departments.

The previously separate libraries of the Natural Science Faculty were moved to a modern location in Lágymányos. These libraries hold, among others, the collection of the Information Technology Department. The Departments of Sociology and of Education have their own faculty libraries. In addition, at the location of the Philosophy Department on Múzeum Boulevard, a new reading hall was built. The History Collection and other institutional libraries have also been relocated there, but the professional placement of the entire inventory will take more time. The building on Ajtósi Dürer Avenue that used to house the College of Politics today serves as a library for the Institute of English-American Studies and Germanics.

Major Libraries of the Network

THE LIBRARY OF THE FACULTY OF LAW

This library is a public, academic faculty library. Its primary concerns are to collect handbooks needed for the scientific and educational work of the faculty, reference materials necessary for research in political science and legal studies, and Hungarian and international periodicals in the major subject areas. The library holds faculty publications, works by professors and students, and student theses. Current holdings equal 132,000 items. Since 2000, the library has cataloged its new acquisitions using the Horizon integrated library system.

THE LIBRARY OF THE BÁRCZI GUSZTÁV FACULTY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Founded in 1958, this is the only library in the country in its field. It collects all Hungarian reference materials regarding special education and social work. The special collections of the library include theses, translations, microfiche, audiovisual materials, archive documents, and periodicals. The library currently subscribes to 130 Hungarian and 67 international periodicals, as well as to 25 scientific reviews. The library's holdings now total 80,000 items. Until 1991, the collection was processed in the traditional manner, but since then new acquisitions have been processed electronically using the Corvina integrated library system.

THE CENTRAL READING HALL OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES (CRH)

This library collects Hungarian materials reflecting a curriculum in the humanities and the social studies, as well as Hungarian fiction and literature. The faculty libraries collect foreign language reference materials, while basic handbooks and general works are purchased by the CRH. Holdings total 135,000 items. The CRH joined the common library catalog, Horizon, in 1999. Documents received before 1999 are being catalogued retrospectively, but current details regarding periodical subscriptions from 2003 are accessible online. The retrospective cataloging of major reference collections in the Horizon system has also begun.

THE LIBRARY OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGLISH-AMERICAN STUDIES

The current holdings for this library amount to 67,000 items.

THE LIBRARY OF THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORY

The current holdings for this library amount to 133,000 items.

THE LIBRARY OF HUNGARIAN LINGUISTICS

The current holdings for this library amount to 62,000 items.

THE LIBRARY OF THE FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The library of this department is part of the Library of Natural Sciences.

THE LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF PEDAGOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

The combining of documents from the libraries of different faculties of education is currently under development following the mergers of several faculties.

THE LIBRARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

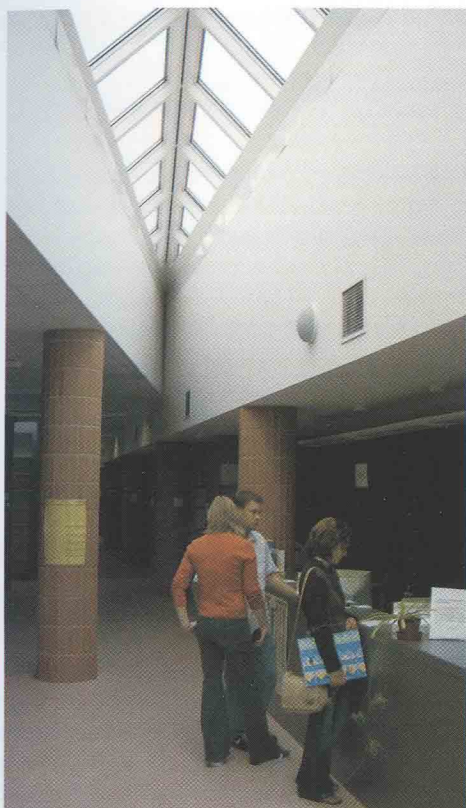
The library's primary concern is to collect reference and teaching materials in the field of education, especially in pedagogy and psychology. The collection also houses selected documents on applied psychology, special education, communications, and other related subjects. Current holdings total 125,000 items. The library organizes its collection in the integrated library system, ALEPH

THE LIBRARY OF THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY

This library collects materials in Hungarian that support the faculty's curriculum. Its collection focuses on the areas of philosophy, psychology, sociology, political science, anthropology, demography, statistics, social studies, and related fields. The primary goal is to have available multiple copies of selected documents and textbooks for use. The library also purchases selected works in economics, law, information technology, pedagogy, and materials related to the European Union. Current holdings amount to 40,000 items.

THE LIBRARY OF THE FSA OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Founded on January 1, 2002, when several faculty libraries were combined, this library's collection has materials in the areas of biology, physics, geology, chemistry,



environmental sciences, mathematics, information technology, and related disciplines. Materials in the library are available in Hungarian as well as other languages and in different formats, including monographs, reference materials, readers, supporting materials, dictionaries, atlases, working papers, scientific reviews, maps, and Ph.D. theses. Current holdings amount to 255,000 items. The library also has documents available electronically. This includes CD-ROMs, electronic databases, and online databases. The library uses the Horizon integrated system.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Website: <http://www.caesar.elte.hu/ajk/thml/tudo/konyvtar.html>

Library of the Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Education • 1097 Budapest, Ecseri u. 3.
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Website: <http://www.barczy.hu/html/uj/konyvtar/index.html>

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Library of the School of English-American Studies • 1146 Budapest, Ajtósi Dürer sor 19-21.
Phone: (36-1) 460-4400/4335, E-mail: seaslib@ludens.elte.hu
Website: <http://seas2.elte.hu/library/homepage/top.html>

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Library of Hungarian Linguistics •
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