

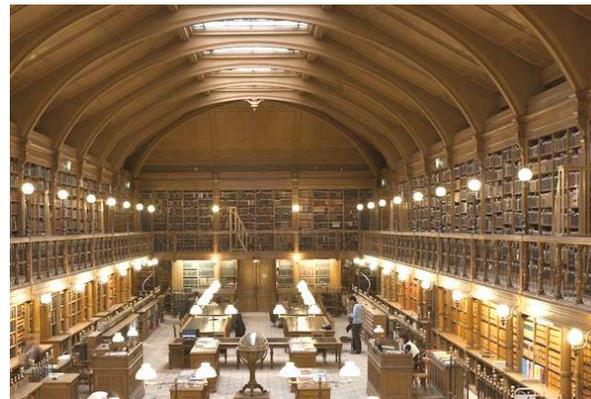
# Bibliothèque de l'Hôtel de Ville

Social sciences  
Law  
History  
Paris



Drawing by Th. Ballu & Éd. Deperthes, circa 1873

The **Bibliothèque de l'Hôtel de Ville** (previously known under the name of Bibliothèque administrative de la Ville de Paris) is the second library of the City Hall (*Hôtel de Ville*) of Paris. It has succeeded the library that disappeared in the fire of the *Commune* on May 24th, 1871. The collections developed since 1872 to meet the needs of the municipal government were placed in the new City Hall in 1890.



The reading room, designed by the architect Édouard Deperthes, offers one of the best examples of library architecture of the end of the 19th century. Its metallic frame is concealed by a décor of oak and trompe-l'œil giving the illusion of a traditional wooden architecture.

The 600 sq. m. of the reading room get natural light through glass panels 9,60 m high. The room and its furniture are listed in the supplementary inventory of Historic Monuments.

## Registration

The library is **freely accessible** to anybody older than 18. The City of Paris specialized libraries card is established on presentation of proof of identity. An ID photo is required. Patrons are kindly asked to present the card at the welcome desk of the library on 4st floor in order to get access to the reading room where **documents are to be consulted on site**.

*Nota bene:* part of the holdings, stored on other sites, cannot be delivered the same day.



## Services

- Accessibility for disabled people.
- Catalogue accessible on line: <http://bibliotheques-specialisees.paris.fr>
- 10 researchers computers workstations
- Electronic resources, digitization, Cdroms, databases ...
- 10 wired Internet accesses.
- Copy: documents can be photographed (directly by the reader or through the Parisienne de photographie), subject to their preservation condition, and respecting copyright legislation.
- BHdV manages and coordinates the online reference service on Paris history and heritage, past and present, <http://www.paris.fr/parhistoire>.

## Access

Through the welcome desk of the Hôtel de Ville (on presentation of proof of identity)

5, rue de Lobau, Paris 4<sup>e</sup>

Lift J

 Hôtel de Ville (lines 1 et 11)

 67, 69, 70, 72, 76, 96

 Vélib' station in front of the entrance



**Opening hours:**  
**Monday-Friday, 9h30-18h**

 33 (0)1 42 76 48 87

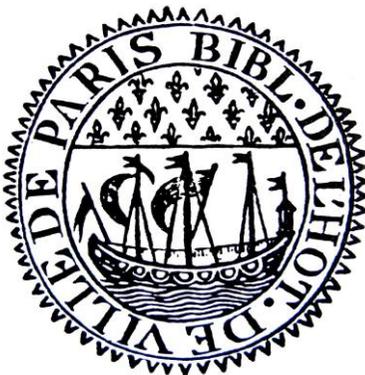
Fax 33 (0)1 42 76 63 78

mail : [bhdv@paris.fr](mailto:bhdv@paris.fr)

Postal address: 75196 Paris cedex 04

The library is on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/bhdv.paris](http://www.facebook.com/bhdv.paris)



PARHISTOIRE

## Collections

**Printed material:** about 600 000 volumes.

**Serials:** 7 000 titles (750 current periodicals).

**Manuscripts:** 2 300 volumes.

**Iconography:** about 10 000 architectural drawings and 40 000 photographs.

For more than a century, the library has been keen on covering all the centres of interest of the local government, and therefore its collections have been enriched on a very large basis in the following fields:

- administrative science and history
- law
- French and European legislation
- official publications, at local and national levels
- economy, public finances, statistics
- politics, international relations
- social studies, employment, demography, public health, housing, culture, education
- urbanism
- biographical documentation, past and present
- political, economical and social history of France (19th, 20th & 21 st centuries)

The Bibliothèque de l'Hôtel de Ville de Paris has always tried to highlight and make the most of the **official publications** of which it has one of the largest collections. Legislative and parliamentary documents, budgets, statistics, local government publications... result in series which, for a large part, date back to the beginning of the 19th century. Among them, a notable set of publications from the former French colonies must be mentioned.

### "Memory" of Parisian administration.

A large amount of the collections of the library, "memory" of the municipal government, is devoted to Paris and its area. The library holds the richest collection of official publications of the city of Paris and its area (the previous *Département de la Seine*). Attesting the great variety of municipal management, this collection is constantly updated.

Fruit of the international exchanges maintained by the city of Paris roughly from 1870 to 1920, the **foreign collection** (about 50 000 volumes, mainly official publications) forms a unique and consistent set of documents. It originates directly from the first system of international exchanges founded under the July monarchy by Alexandre Vattemare (1796-1864). Not only is the library's foreign collection, with its primary sources (and particularly local official publications, provincial and municipal), a trove of documentary information for each political or geographical entity represented, but it also allows the researcher to do comparative historical analysis: United States, United Kingdom and former British Empire, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain and Latin America, etc.

The 19th & 20st centuries **manuscripts** are another treasure for researchers: history of Paris, politicians, administrators, lawyers papers, etc.

The library holds a collection of **drawings**, mainly dated around 1855-1900, for instance from municipal architects (Gabriel Davioud, Théodore Ballu & Édouard Deperthes, Joseph Bouvard...), as well as **photographs** (Charles Marville, construction of the Paris subway and community facilities, portraits...).