

INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE IN LIBRARIES



TECHNICALLY INDUCED ORIENTATION AND NAVIGATION
FROM A PERSPECTIVE OF SPATIAL SOCIOLOGY

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SYNOPSIS

- „Spaces of Knowledge“ - Introduction
- Theoretical and Empirical Concept
- Empirical Methods
- Results: Macro, Meso and Micro Level of Orientation and Navigation
- Summary from a Perspective of Spatial Sociology

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SPACES OF KNOWLEGE – INTRODUCTION

- Socio-spatial-material Structures in Libraries
- Major Research Question:

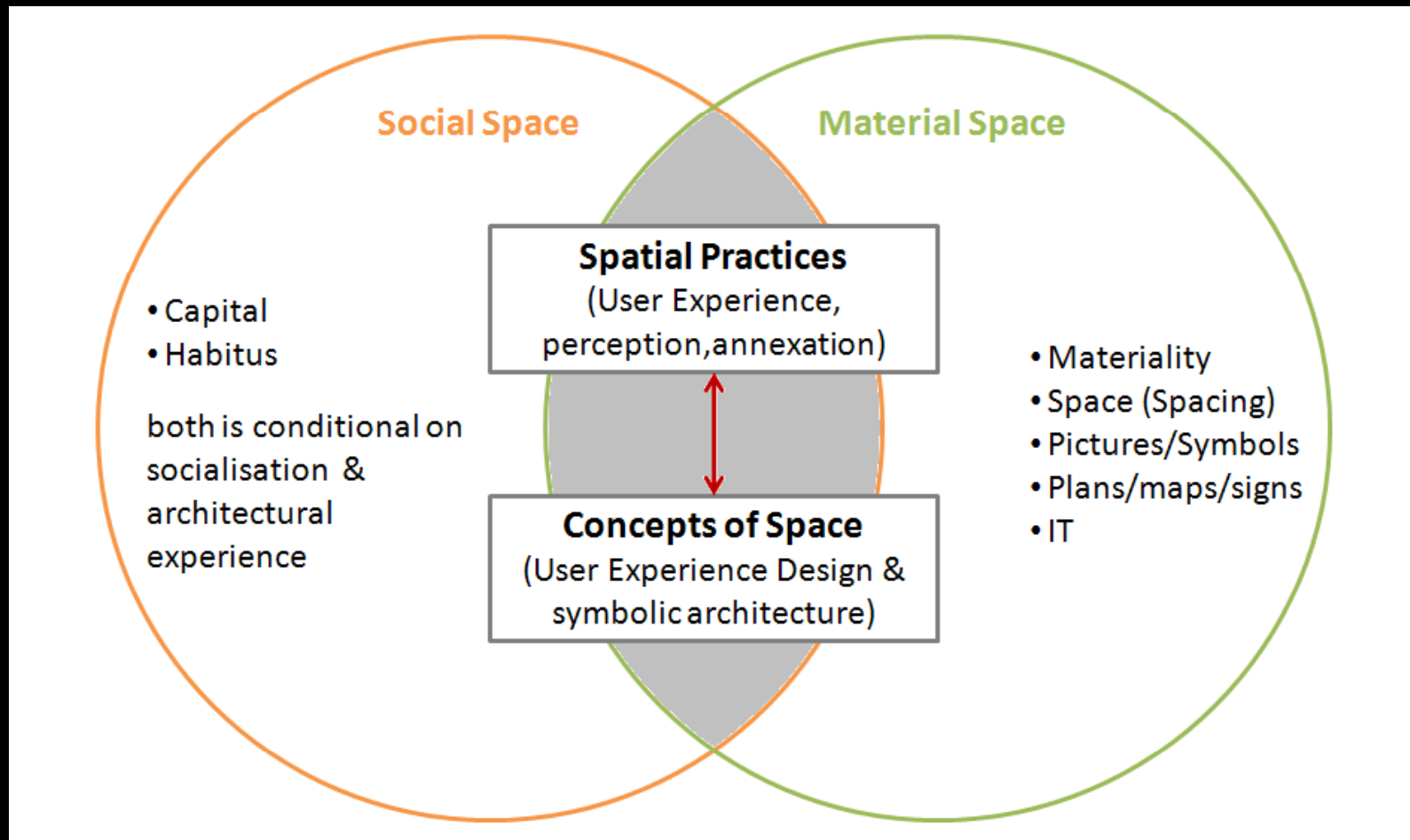
„In which way is knowledge operationalised in libraries through socio-spatial and materio-spatial structures“?

- Relational concept of Space
- Knowledge: Linked information and its contents
- First Results related to Information Architecture

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CONCEPT



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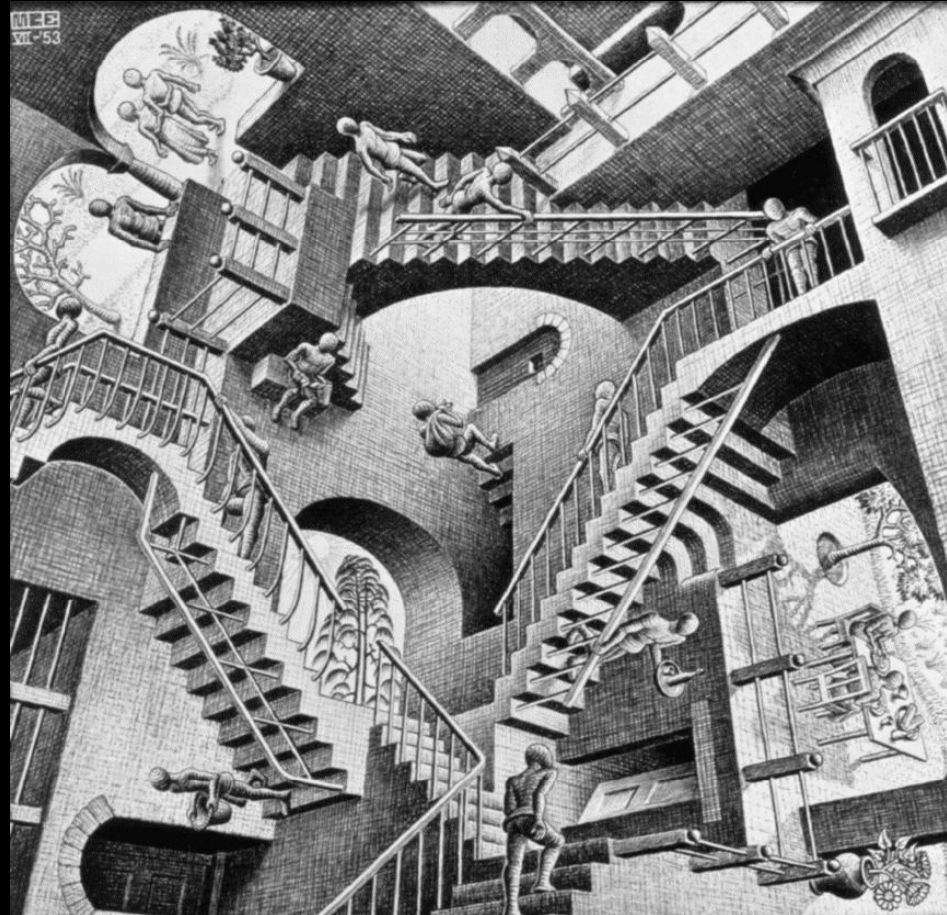
EMPIRICAL METHODS

- Social Space: Target Groups Analysis, Statistics of Users
- Material Space: Participant Observations, Maps, Floor Plans, Aerial Views, Photographs, Festschrifts, Foundation Documents, Expert Interviews
- Concepts of Space: Expert Interviews, Festschrifts, Foundation Documents
- Social Practices: Participant Observations, Manual Interviews with Library Users, Mental Maps

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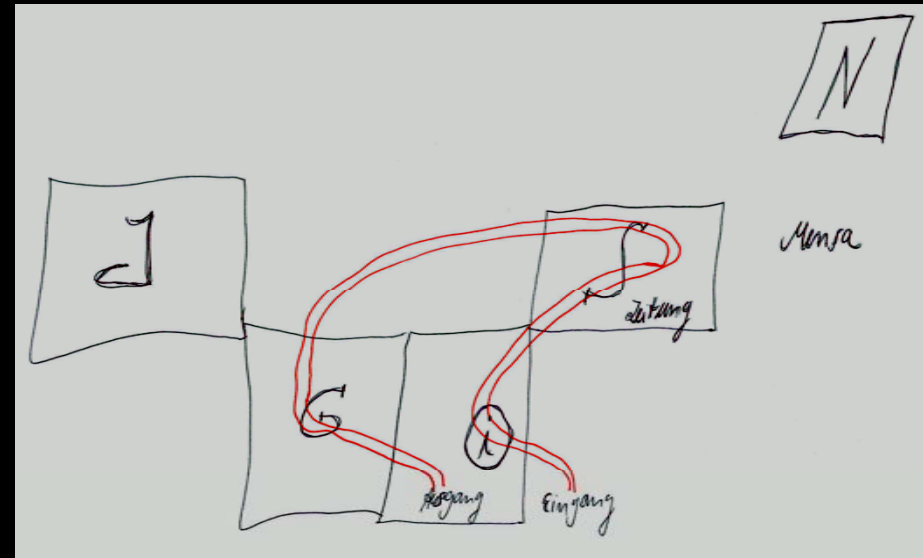
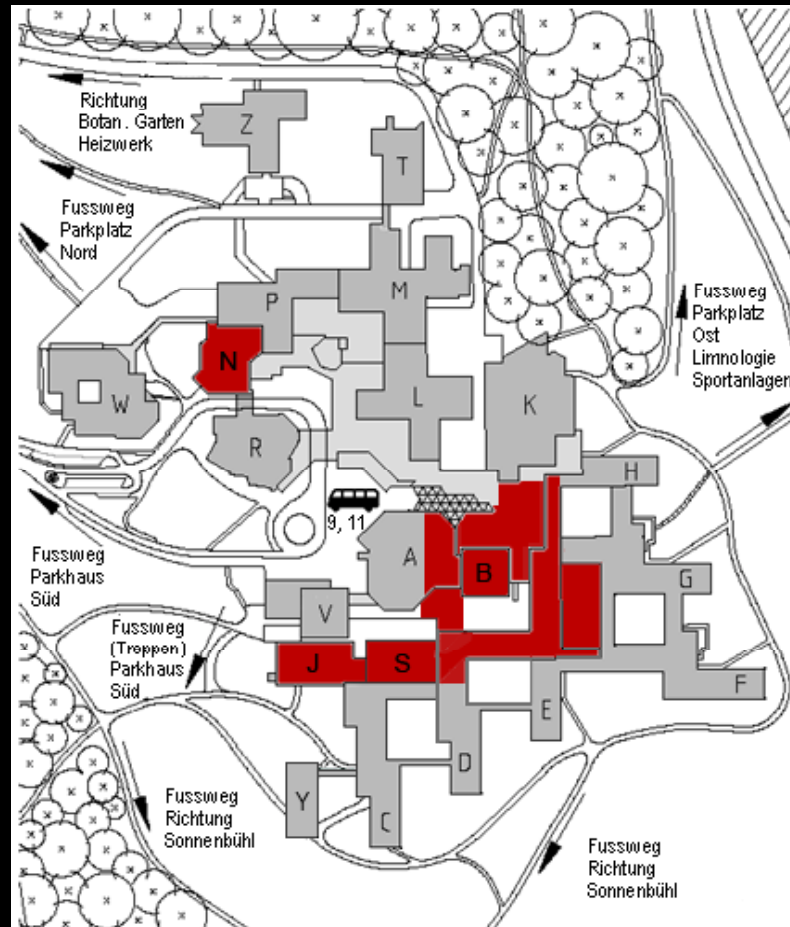
RESULTS: LABYRINTH OR INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE?



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MACRO LEVEL



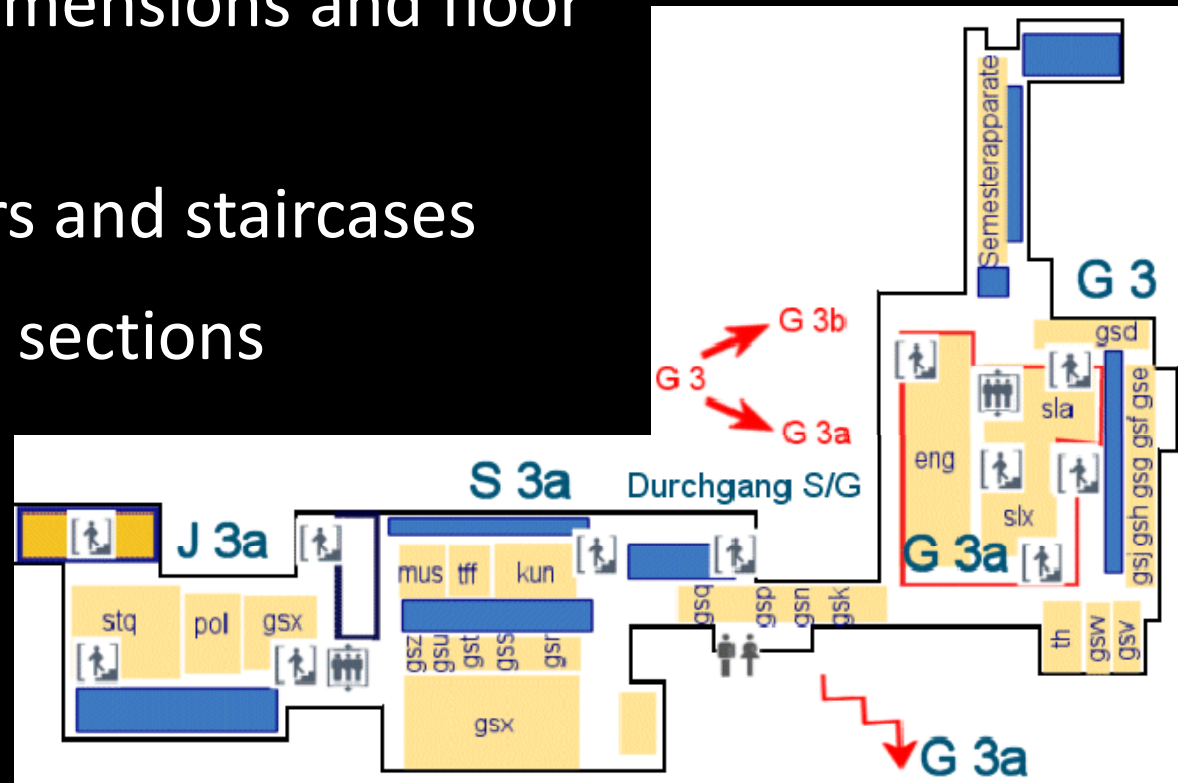
Konstanz: University Map and
Mental Map of a first-time
library user

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MESO LEVEL: LABYRINTH?

- Confusing Dimensions and floor plans
- Shifted Floors and staircases
- Lots of small sections



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MESO LEVEL: INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE?



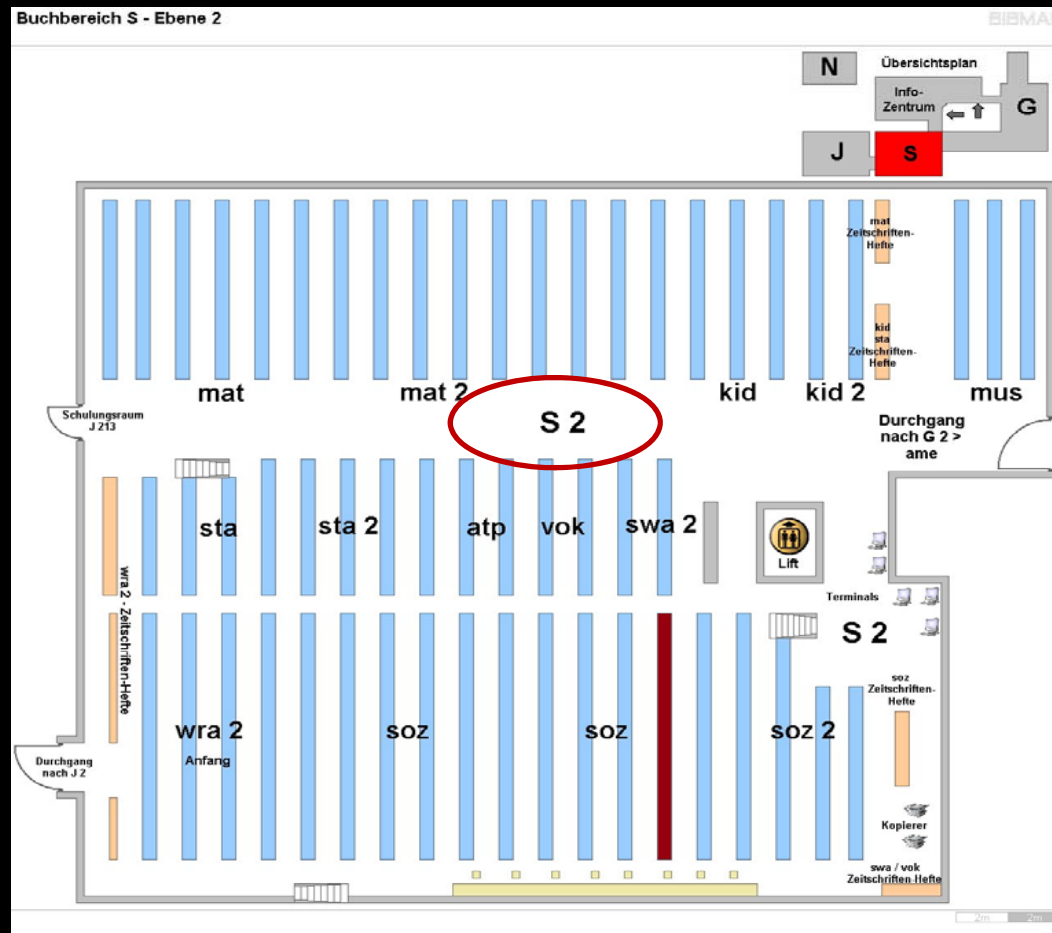
„Can you help me? I don't understand how the journals are organised.“

„The shelf number of the book, which mirrors its theme, is [...] the book's address on the shelves.“



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MICRO LEVEL: „FIND ME“



„Find me“-
function :

Connection
between the
Digital Catalogue
and the Material
Space

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A SOCIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

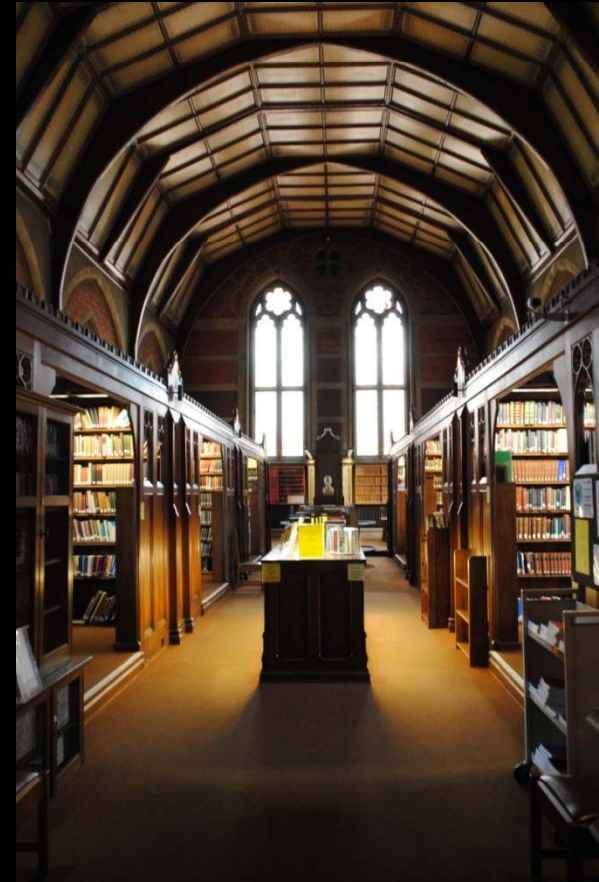
- Labyrinth or Information Architecture?
- Several Working Spaces for Several Faculties
- Material and Social Closing Mechanisms
- Socio-Spatial-Material Hierarchies

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MATERIO-SPATIAL-SOCIAL: WORKING SPACE FOR FACULTIES

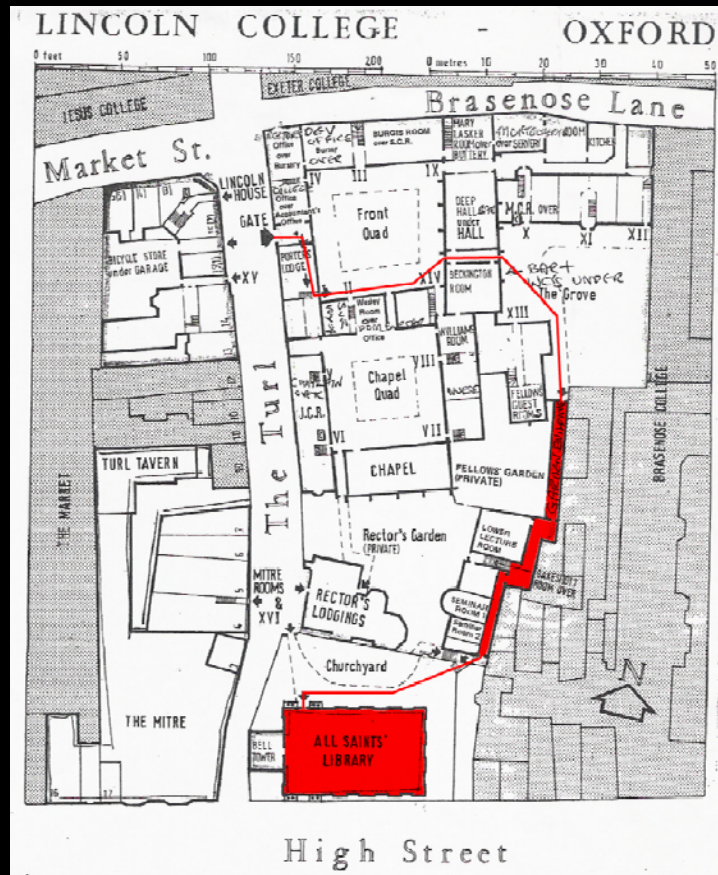
- Materio-Spatial Organisation of Social Groups
- Faculties are Separately Located
- Annexation and Denial of Library Spaces
- Banishment of Special Groups in Special Parts of the Library



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MATERIAL & SOCIAL THRESHOLDS



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SOCIO-SPATIAL-MATERIAL HIERARCHIES

- Closing Mechanisms
- Hierarchical Use of Library Space: Students and Scientists have different Requirements to their Reading and Working Spaces in Libraries
- Symbolic Architecture

„Complicated rituals of inauguration and education, the troubles and inconveniences of learning have to be taken to get closer to the centre of a cultural community.“
(Giesen, 1993: 64)

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THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?



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