

**The French library  
landscape:  
a short presentation of how  
French libraries work  
with examples, illustrations and  
figures**

*(Y. Desrichard, 2010)*

# *Who is speaking ?*

The French library landscape (Y.  
Desrichard, enssib, July 2010)

# *Aims of talk*

- *Understanding.*
- *Structure.*
- *Current situation.*

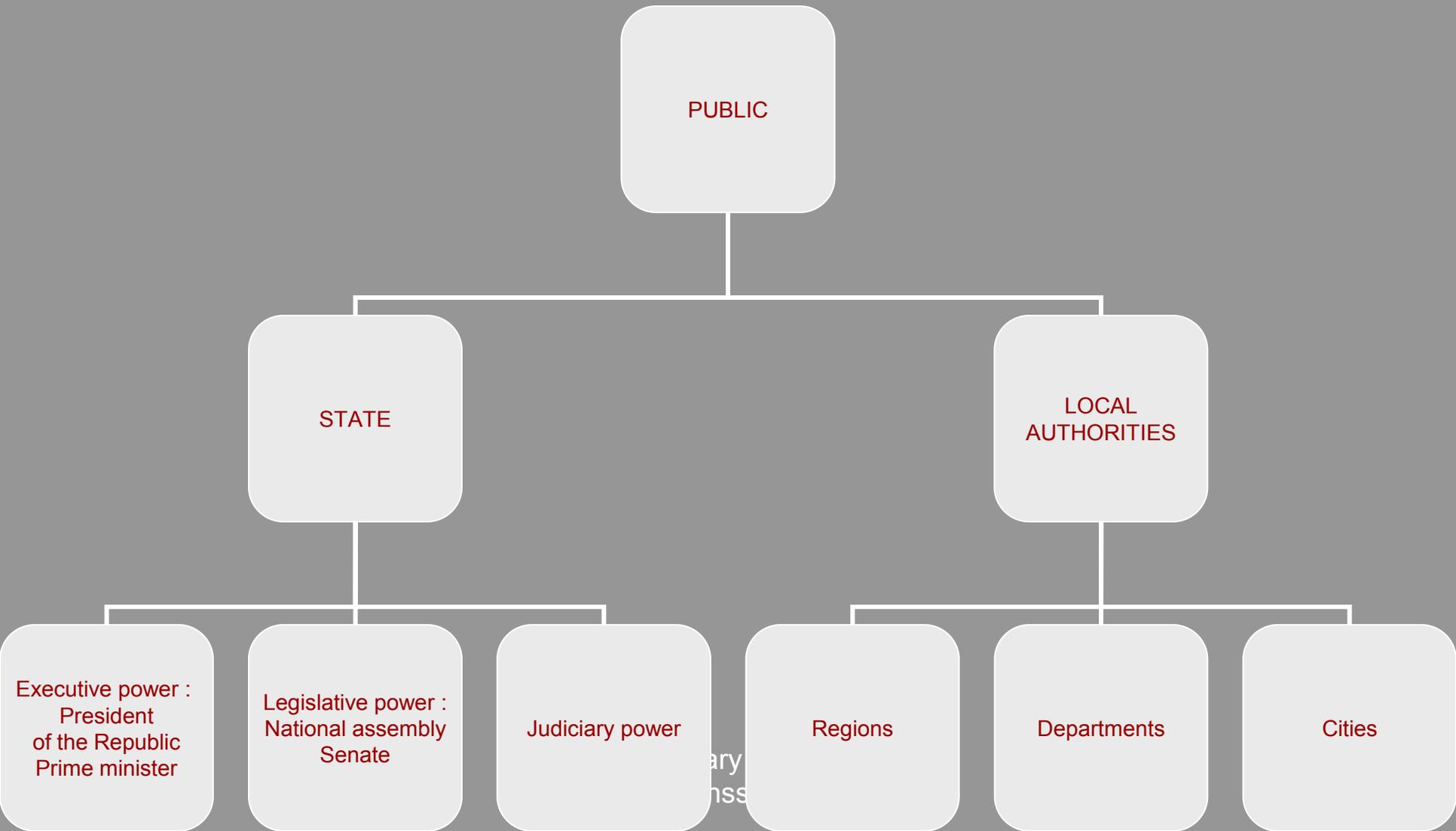
# *Presentation of the talk (1)*

- *Political and administrative organisation of France.*
- *General information on libraries in France.*
- *Public libraries.*
- *University libraries.*
- *National libraries.*

# *Presentation of the talk (2)*

- *Other libraries.*
- *The environment of libraries in France.*
- *The library professionals.*
- *Evolution of the French Library.*
- *Conclusion.*

# *French political organisation*



# *France : The State : the basics*

- *The three powers.*
- *The State.*
- *A tradition of centralization.*

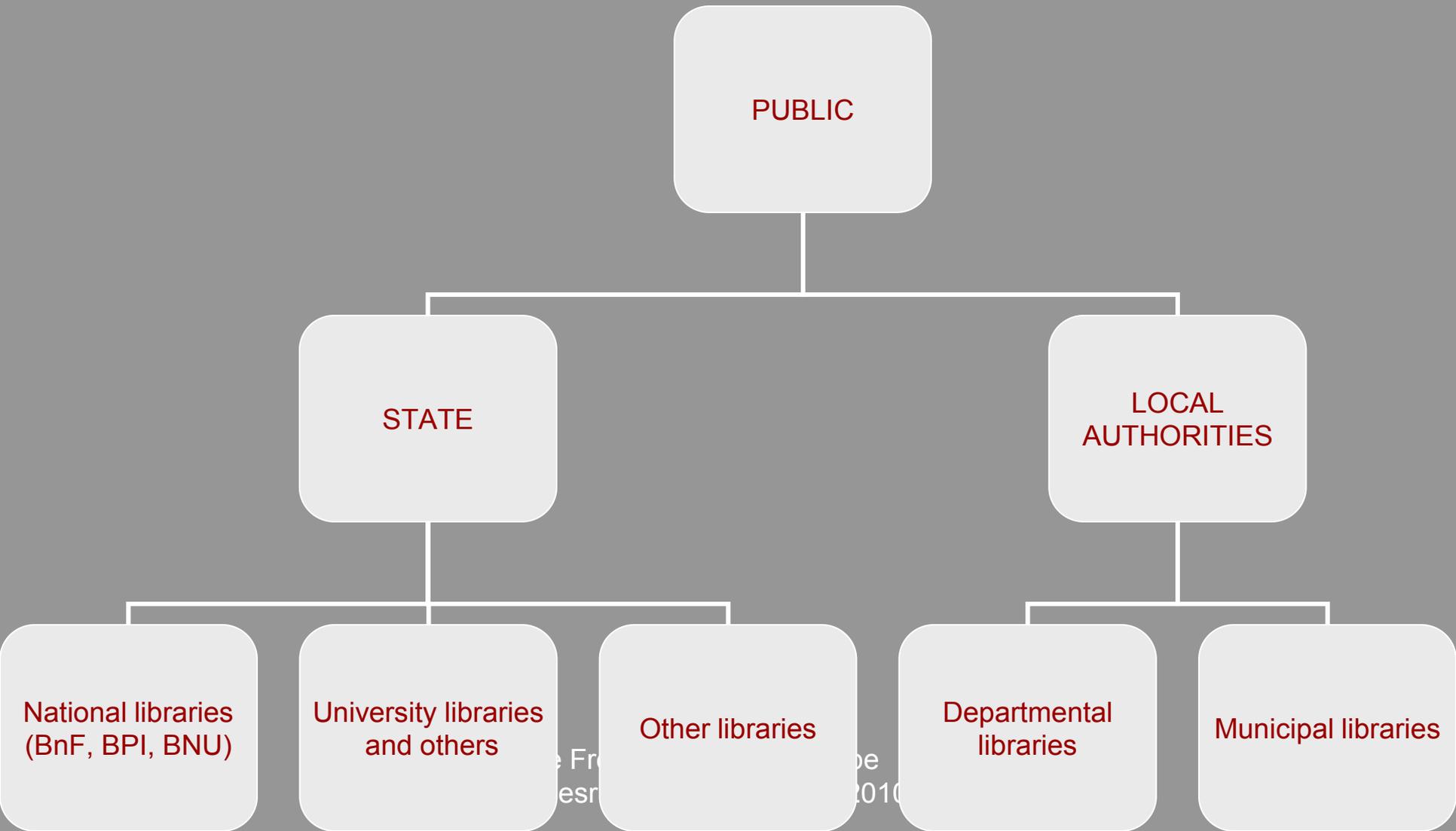
# *France : Local authorities : the basics*

- *Main local authorities.*
- *An example of complexity.*
- *How it works.*

# *French Laws and Libraries*

- *No law on libraries.*
- *Laws favorable to libraries.*
- *Laws unfavorable to libraries.*
- *A highly constrained legal framework.*

# *The French library landscape*



# *Public Libraries :* *How does it work ?*

- *Local authorities and libraries.*
- *Departmental Libraries.*
- *Municipal Libraries.*
- *The role of the state.*

# *Departmental Libraries :* *The Department*

- *A heritage from the French Revolution.*
- *Specific missions.*
- *A large heterogeneity.*

# *Departmental Libraries : how does it work ?*

- *Modern and ancient history ....*
- *An original organisation.*
- *A role in evolution.*

# *Departmental Libraries : types and evolution*

- *A traditional way of operating ...*
- *... less and less common.*
- *Why ?*

# *Departmental Libraries :*

## *Facts and figures*

- *25 million books stored, about 10 million books for children.*
- *Approximately 2,200 people work in BDP.*
- *More than 16 000 municipalities are served, or about 24 million people.*

# *Municipal and intermunicipal Libraries : the municipality*

- *A French specificity ?*
- *France has ...*
- *Difficulties of management.*

# *Municipal and intermunicipal Libraries : how does it work ?*

- *A municipal service, but ...*
- *Different kinds of organization.*
- *French specificities.*

# *Municipal and intermunicipal Libraries : types and evolution*

- *All municipal libraries are municipal,  
but ...*
- *The real revolution.*
- *Contrasting developments.*

# *Municipal and intermunicipal Libraries : a remarkable program, the BMVR*

- *An original method of financing.*
- *An undeniable success.*
- *12 libraries.*

# *Municipal and intermunicipal Libraries : Facts and figures*

- *4200 public libraries.*
- *15.5 % registered readers.*
- *105 million books, including 12 million ancient books.*

# *University Libraries: Higher education and research in France: how does it work ?*

- *Higher education : Two worlds.*
- *Research : two worlds.*

# *University Libraries : How does it work ?*

- *The “Service commun de la documentation”.*
- *An uncertain future ... or not.*
- *Other developments.*

# *University Libraries : Facts and figures*

- 127 university libraries and others.*
- 56 Euros average expenditure per student for 58 weekly opening hours.*
- Collections : 40 million books and 600 000 periodical titles, 700,000 electronic periodical titles.*

# *University libraries : cooperation between university libraries*

- *The CADIST*
- *Couperin ([www.couperin.org](http://www.couperin.org))*
- *The SUDOC ([www.sudoc.abes.fr](http://www.sudoc.abes.fr))*
- *The CTLes ([www.ctles.fr](http://www.ctles.fr))*

# *University Libraries : other agencies*

- *INIST ([www.inist.fr](http://www.inist.fr)).*
- *Other libraries.*

# *National libraries : the Bibliothèque nationale de France : how does it work (1)?*

- A long and distinguished history.*
- The legal deposit system.*
- A lot of different sites.*

# *National libraries : the Bibliothèque nationale de France : how does it work (2)?*

- *The general catalogue.*
- *The “Catalogue collectif de France”.*
- *Gallica.*
- *The cultural offer.*

# *National libraries : the Bibliothèque nationale de France : Facts and figures*

- *14 million books, 250,000 manuscripts, 12 million graphic material.*
- *2650 people, with a budget of 255 million euros per year.*

*National Libraries :*  
*The “Bibliothèque publique*  
*d’information” :*  
*how does it work ?*

- *An original project.*
- *A library of “origins”.*
- *A library victim of its success.*

*National Libraries :*  
*The “Bibliothèque publique*  
*d’information” :*  
*Facts and figures*

- *380,000 documents ; no loans.*
- *2200 seats, 400 workstations.*
- *5000 entries per day.*

# *Other libraries*

- *Libraries of the City of Paris.*
- *Educational libraries.*

# *Ministers for management ?*

- *The importance of centralization.*
- *The withdrawal of the state.*
- *The former “Direction du livre et de la lecture”.*
- *The MISTRD.*
- *The General Inspectorate of libraries.*

# *The main professional associations*

- *ABF ([www.abf.asso.fr](http://www.abf.asso.fr))*
- *ADBS ([www.adbs.fr](http://www.adbs.fr))*
- *ADBGV ([www.adbgv.asso.fr](http://www.adbgv.asso.fr))*
- *ADBU ([www.adbu.fr](http://www.adbu.fr))*
- *Others...*

# *Some French journals on libraries and documentation*

- *Bulletin des bibliothèques de France.*
- *Archimag.*
- *Documentaliste.*
- *Livres-Hebdo.*
- *Bibliothèque(s).*

# *Professional librarians : Basics*

- *Frontiers.*
- *Private / Public.*
- *Public : the rule of competition.*
- *“Status” very heterogeneous.*

# *French Libraries : Standards and practices*

- *Acquisitions (Bibliothèque nationale de France and Electre).*
- *Cataloguing ([www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr)).*
- *Indexing ([www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr)).*
- *Classification.*

# *French Libraries :* *Libraries and computers*

- *Library systems / Web portals / Digital information.*
- *A large number of suppliers.*
- *UNIMARC.*

# *What is the concern for French libraries today ?*

The French library landscape (Y.  
Desrichard, enssib, July 2010)

# *Questions ?*

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