

**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)

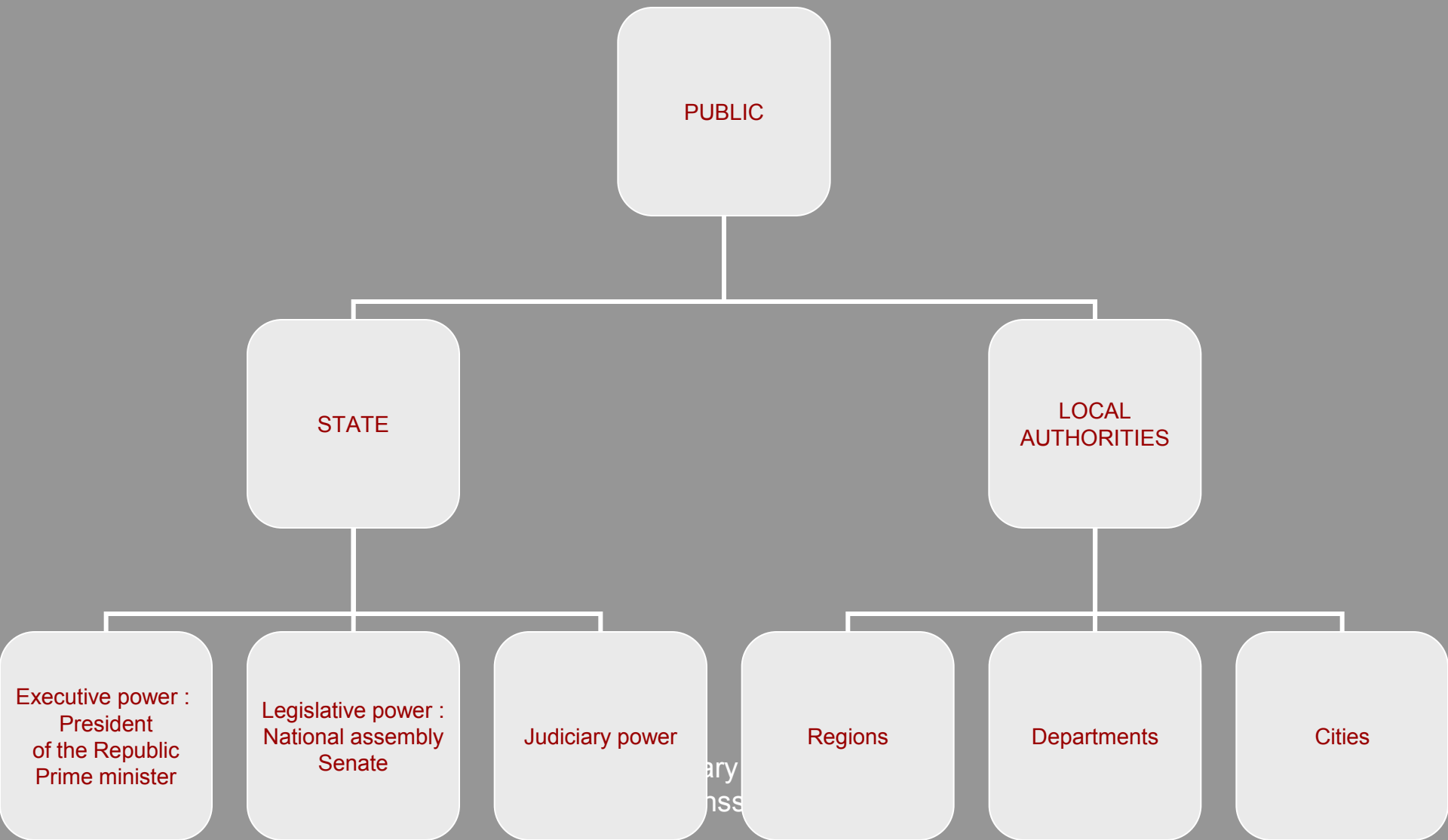
- *Political and administrative organisation of France.*
- *General information on libraries in France.*
- *Public libraries.*
- *University libraries.*
- *National libraries.*

The French library landscape (Y.
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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.*

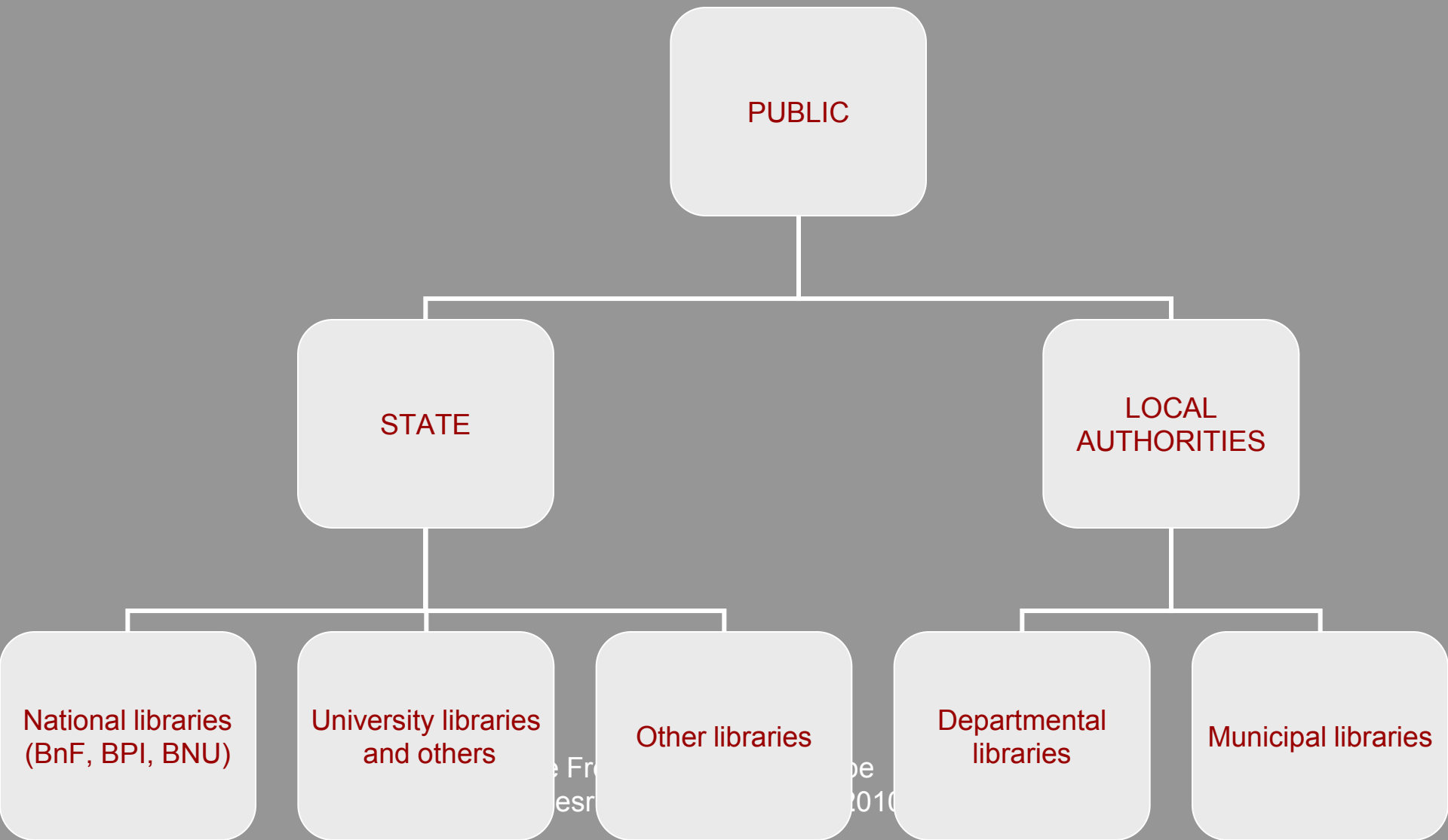
France : Local authorities : the basics

- *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)*
- *The SUDOC (www.sudoc.abes.fr)*
- *The CTLes (www.ctles.fr)*

University Libraries : other agencies

- *INIST (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)
- *ADBS* (www.adbs.fr)
- *ADBGV* (www.adbgv.asso.fr)
- *ADBU* (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).*
- *Indexing (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 ?

Questions ?

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