

# White Rose University Consortium: College of Arts and Humanities

## Arts and Humanities Research Culture in France

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### Research Institutions

#### *CNRS*

The CNRS, [Centre Nationale pour la Recherche Scientifique](#), is the National Centre for Scientific Research. It is a public organization overseen by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Founded in 1939 by government decree, the CNRS has the following missions:

- To evaluate and carry out all research capable of advancing knowledge and bringing social, cultural, and economic benefits for society.
- To contribute to the application and promotion of research results.
- To develop scientific information.
- To support research training.
- To participate in the analysis of the national and international scientific climate and its potential for development in order to create a national policy.

As the largest research organization in Europe (its annual budget represents a quarter of French public spending on civilian research, its 2013 budget is €3.415 billion, and it employs 25,505 researchers and support staff), the CNRS carries out research in all fields of knowledge through seven institutes, including the INSHS, [Institut pour les Sciences Humaines et Sociales](#), specifically for the social sciences.

Research carried out in the laboratories run by the CNRS Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (INSHS) helps to create the essential theories and analytical tools needed to understand and shed light on the choices made by our societies. Research focuses on humans, considered as the product of their own history, as the creators of speech, language and signs, as the conveyors of knowledge and culture, and as players in complex political, social and economic arenas. The main role of INSHS and its laboratories in the French humanities and social sciences is to ensure the emergence of new experimental and theoretical fields.

INSHS implements CNRS's policies in its own research areas. It plays a fundamental role in research, in partnership with universities and major organizations. It promotes a multidisciplinary approach in the humanities and social sciences, and encourages interdisciplinarity with the other sciences. It coordinates the networks that organize research at the regional and national level, through the *Maisons des Sciences de l'Homme* and the creation of research networks, federations and scientific interest groups (GIS).

#### *Collège de France*

The [Collège de France](#) is a public higher education institution, which is unique in France and has no equivalent abroad. Since the 16th century, the Collège de France has had a two-fold mission: to be a forum for cutting-edge research and teaching. It is committed to fundamental research, in partnership with the CNRS, INSERM and several other major institutions, but what differentiates it is that it teaches "knowledge in the making in every field of literature, science and the arts".

#### *Collège des Bernardins*

The [Collège des Bernardins](#) was originally a 13th century Cistercian theological college but offers courses and lectures on 'Human societies and educational responsibilities', 'Economy, human society', 'Biomedical ethics', 'Society, freedom, peace' and 'Judaism and Christianity'.

#### *Paris Sciences et Lettres – Institut des Civilisations*

The [Paris Sciences et Lettres – Institut des Civilisations](#) has of four main research hubs - Social Anthropology; The Ancient, Medieval and Modern Medieval World; The Ancient Middle East; and East Asia.

#### *Institut des Sources Chrétiennes*

In the [Bibliothèque des Sources Chrétiennes of the Institut des Sources Chrétiennes](#) there are 18,000 documents, works, periodicals and documentary files specialised on the Church Fathers, ancient and mediaeval church history and mediaeval philosophy and theology.

#### *Le Ruche*

[Le Ruche](#), Réseau Universitaire de Chercheurs en Histoire Environnementale, is the network for university researchers in environmental history. Its objective is to promote the development of environmental history and to facilitate intellectual exchanges between researchers in environmental history through seminars, study meetings, colloquia, collective publication and research, and to further the circulation of information and awareness of relevant publications. Le RUCHE is the Francophone branch of the ESEH (European Society for Environmental History).

#### *Centre de Recherche d'Histoire Quantitative*

The [Centre de Recherche d'Histoire Quantitative](#) is the centre for research in quantitative History.

#### *Maison de la Recherche en Sciences Humaines de Caen Basse-Normandie*

The mission of the [Maison de la Recherche en Sciences Humaines de Caen Basse-Normandie](#) is to contribute to the development of the social sciences. It supports 27 research teams in the legal sciences, economics, and the social sciences.

*Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*

The objective of the [Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme](#) is to “promote studies of human societies that focus on current social realities and contexts” by combining all the disciplines related to the humanities and the social sciences.

*Institut de France*

The [Institut de France](#) is a celebrated and learned society with various purposes, including its support of the development of the sciences and arts by research, publishing, and correspondence with other foreign learned societies, and its production of scientific and literary works of general utility. It also distributes prizes for useful inventions and discoveries, distinguished success in the arts, and the cultivation of domestic as well as social virtues. Finally, it also has a role in administering and preserving numerous sites of heritage and historic importance, notably the Château de Chantilly, the Maison de Louis Pasteur, and the Musée Claude Monet among others.

*Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée Jean Pouilloux (La MoM)*

[Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée Jean Pouilloux](#) (La MoM) unites and houses research units which concentrate mainly on the study of civilisations in the Mediterranean, the Near and Middle East, of both antiquity and the modern age.

*Maison Française d'Oxford*

The [Maison Française d'Oxford](#) is a French research centre in the humanities and social sciences hosting events in a wide variety of fields, research in law and judicial anthropology, history during the 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries, literature, and political science and international relations.

*Centre de recherché du château de Versailles*

The goal of the [Research centre for the château de Versailles](#) is to undertake research and organise training sessions on the sites and expressions of power such as those represented at Versailles and in other European courts during the 17th and 18th centuries.

*Other institutes dedicated to the Social Sciences throughout France*

[Institut des Sciences de l'Homme](#)

[Maison des sciences de l'homme et de la société, CNRS-Poitiers](#)

[Maison des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société de Toulouse](#)

[Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Lorraine](#)

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## Libraries

### *Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) - François Mitterrand*

The [Bibliothèque nationale de France](#) is the French national library, its main site is located at Tolbiac-François Mitterrand in eastern Paris. It has two main levels, the Haut-du-jardin and the Research library on the lower level, the Rez-du-jardin. Other BnF sites include:

The [Richelieu-Louvois](#) site is host to specialist collections, such as arts du spectacle, maps and charts, prints and photography, manuscripts, specie, medals and antiques. It is possible to register for a reader's card at this site as well as at the François Mitterrand site.

The [Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal](#) is a specialist library housed in a historic building, its collection is principally composed of works in the following subjects: Arts du spectacle, Art and Art history, Prints, photographs, and bills, history, literature (especially French literature of the 16th-19th centuries), book and library studies, music, the press, religion, and political science.

The holdings of the [Bibliothèque-Musée de l'Opéra](#) consist of archives, a library, and a museum. The department contains material on the heritage of the Opéra de Paris and all materials on lyrical theatre and dance, as well as music, mime, circus, and ballet.

The [Maison Jean-Vilar](#) is located in Avignon, it is associated with the Arts du spectacle department of the BnF and focussed on the Festival d'Avignon and the cultural life of that region.

### *Bibliothèque Centrale Service de Santé de l'Armée (BCSSA)*

The [Bibliothèque centrale au Val-de-Grâce](#) in the BCSSA in Paris is a scientific library specialising in medicine in general and military medicine in particular, it also hosts the Musée de Service de Santé des Armées.

### *Bibliothèque de Documentation Internationale Contemporaine*

The [Bibliothèque de Documentation Internationale Contemporaine](#) is the only institution in France to collect, preserve and disclose any collections on contemporary European history.

### *Musée d'Histoire Contemporaine*

The [Musée d'Histoire Contemporaine](#) holds international collections dealing with political, social and cultural events. It is the only museum to be found in France on twentieth century history.

### *Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne*

The [Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne](#) is currently closed until November 2013 due to a change of location.

### *Paris Bibliothèques*

The [Paris Bibliothèques](#) consist of 69 lending institutions over the [20 districts](#) of the capital and specialising in music, art, history, etc.

## Archives

### *Archives Nationales*

The holdings of the [Archives Nationales](#) (National Archives) consist of various branches and services of the state from the Middle Ages to the present, with the exception of the ministry of Defence, the ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the *services déconcentrés* (regional and local government services).

The Service Historique de la Défense (SHD) is host to the [Archives de la Défense](#) (Archives of the Ministry of Defense) which are located in the Château de Vincennes.

### *Archives Régionales*

[French archives](#) are held at the Regional and Local levels, but organized by the three-tier system of Departemental, Regional, and Local archives. There are 96 Départements in metropolitan France (Corsica counts for two Départements), belonging to 22 Régions (there are 8 Départements d'Outre-Mer for territories such as Guadeloupe and French Polynesia). The French archival system is uniform and standardized throughout the country, so that the classification of archives at the departmental and municipal level is the same everywhere. A complete list of Archives Départementales and the most important municipal (local) archives, labelled [Archives Communales](#).

Archives municipales de la ville d'Angers – The [Archives municipales de la ville d'Angers](#) was created by the City Council of Louis XI in 1475, and contains financial documents, dating back to the fourteenth century.

Archives de Paris – The [Archives de Paris](#) contain the territorial archives of the city and department of Paris, the archives of the decentralized services of the State in Paris and Île-de-France, the archives of public national institutes, and various other holdings.

Archives Diplomatiques – The [Archives Diplomatiques](#) of the French Foreign Ministry are organised in three departments: the department of Archives, the Public department, and the Bibliothèque. It also comprises a geographical section and the Centre des Archives diplomatiques de Nantes.

## Online Resources

[Inathèque](#) - a catalogue that provides access to documentary records of radio and television programs collected by the Ina since 1995 under the legal deposit.

[Radio France](#) - archives of the history of radio in France.

[Musée du Quai Branly](#) - Museum of non-Western civilisation.

[Cairn.info](http://Cairn.info) – provides free access to the public to a growing number of publications in the social sciences and humanities (in French). It also provides previews of a number of different articles & chapters, available to purchase on the site, either as summaries or snippets of the first page.

[Persée.fr](http://Persée.fr) - 137 reviews are present on the portal, 165 876 articles which are fully accessible, 14,007 audible versions of articles.

[Centre pour l'édition électronique ouverte](http://Centre pour l'édition électronique ouverte) (CLEO) - founded and supported by CNRS, EHESS, and the universities of Provence and Avignon. Other partners are the digital scientific library and future investments.

[Alsatica](http://Alsatica) - the Portail des Savoirs en Alsace (the portal of knowledge in Alsace).

[Association de Coopération Régionale pour la Documentation et l'Information en Alsace](http://Association de Coopération Régionale pour la Documentation et l'Information en Alsace) (CORDIAL) -

[Centre National du Livre](http://Centre National du Livre) (CNL) - the CNL is a public institution of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Its mission is to support all the participants in the publishing process – authors, publishers, booksellers, librarians, and those who organize literary events – via various measures and commissions. It thus plays an active role in francophone creativity and dissemination.

[Érudit](http://Érudit) - promotion and dissemination of the results of research and creation. It is the largest platform of francophone journals reviewed by peers in North America. Érudit brings together in a single point nearly 150 Canadian publishers academic and cultural; including the most prestigious Canadian university presses of French language (it also has entire books digitized and available for free).

[Hypotheses](http://Hypotheses) - a publication platform for academic blogs. It enables researchers to provide real-time updates of developments in their own research.

[Open Edition](http://Open Edition) - the umbrella portal for OpenEdition Books, Revues.org, Hypotheses and *Calenda*, four platforms dedicated to electronic resources in the humanities and social sciences.

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## Glossary

**ANR** - (Agence nationale de la recherche), national research council

**BnF** - (Bibliothèque nationale de France), the national library

**BU** - (Bibliothèque Universitaire), university library

**Chercheurs** - researchers

**Erasmus** - European wide student exchange programme

**Numérique** -: Digital thus, anything described as *numérique* is a digital object, i.e. an *objet numérique* is a digital object or material, a *Bibliothèque numérique* is a digital library or library composed of digital material, and a *ressource numérique* is a digital resource

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## Web Links

[Centre Nationale pour la Recherche Scientifique](#) (CNRS), the National Centre for Scientific Research

[Institut pour les Sciences Humaines et Sociales](#) (INSHS), specifically for research in the social sciences

[Bibliothèque nationale de France](#), the French national library

[Bibliothèque centrale au Val-de-Grâce](#) a scientific library specialising in medicine

[Bibliothèque de Documentation Internationale Contemporaine](#), collects, preserves and discloses collections on contemporary European history

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