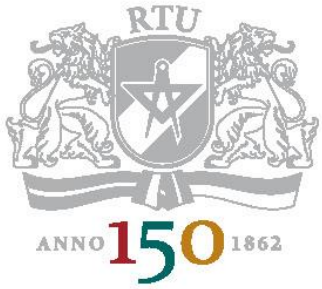# ORTUS – Gateway to University IS

Peteris Rudzajs

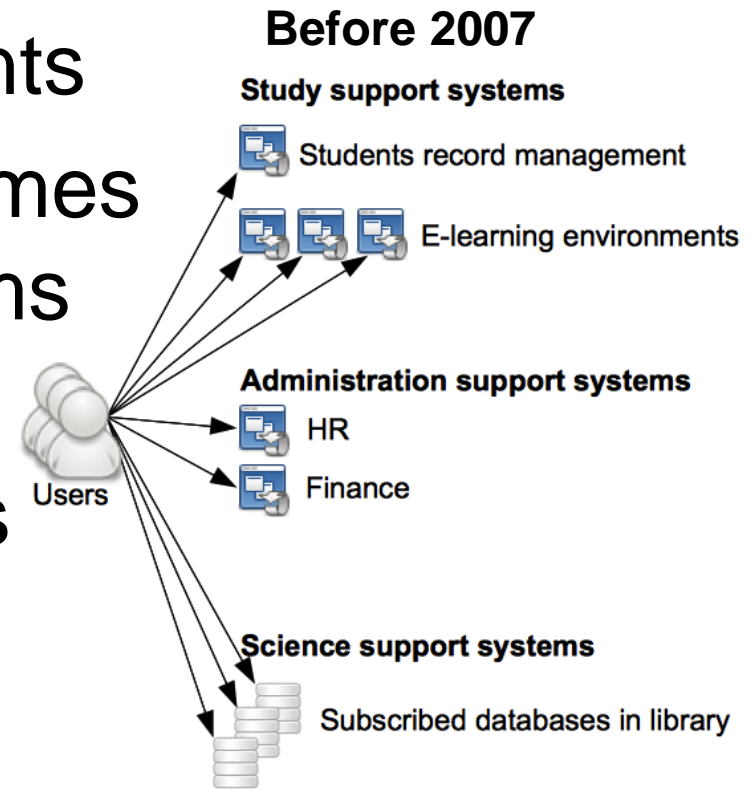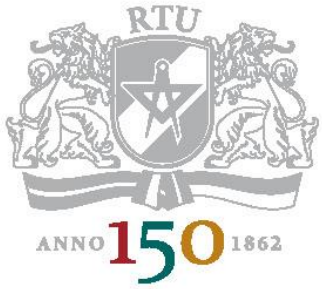## Riga Technical University, LATVIA

Outline

- University IS integration
- Rise of IS usage and acceptance
  - E-learning & Library examples
- Audience based approach
- Conclusions

Common challenges

- Systems distributed across departments
- Different login names in different systems
- Weak or no integration across systems

Before 2007

Study support systems

Students record management

E-learning environments

Users

Administration support systems

HR

Finance

Science support systems
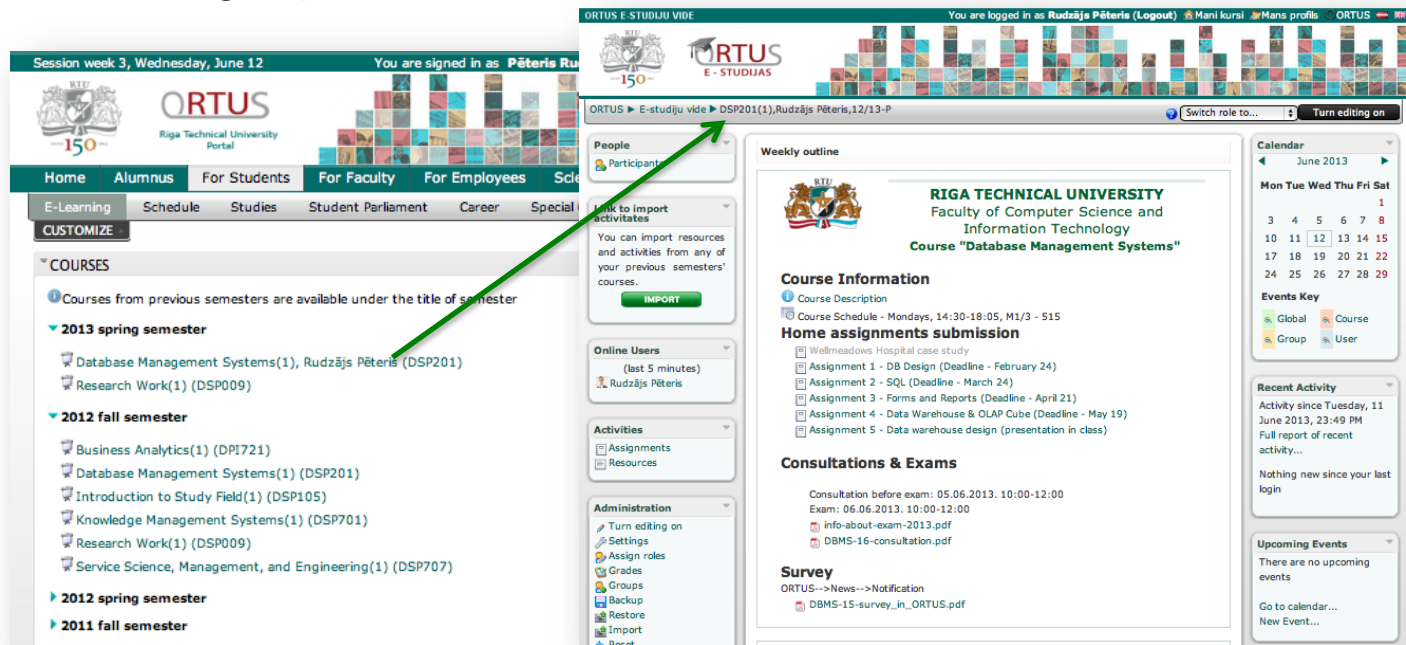
Subscribed databases in library

ORTUS

- University portal ORTUS (*source, rising - in Latin*) introduced in 2007
- ORTUS – the facilitator of access and use of different IS
  - → Ease of access, single point of entry, gateway to university IS
  - → Services provided through ORTUS have evolved and are still evolving to adjust changing requirements

Overview

Before 2007 — A → B — **From 2007**
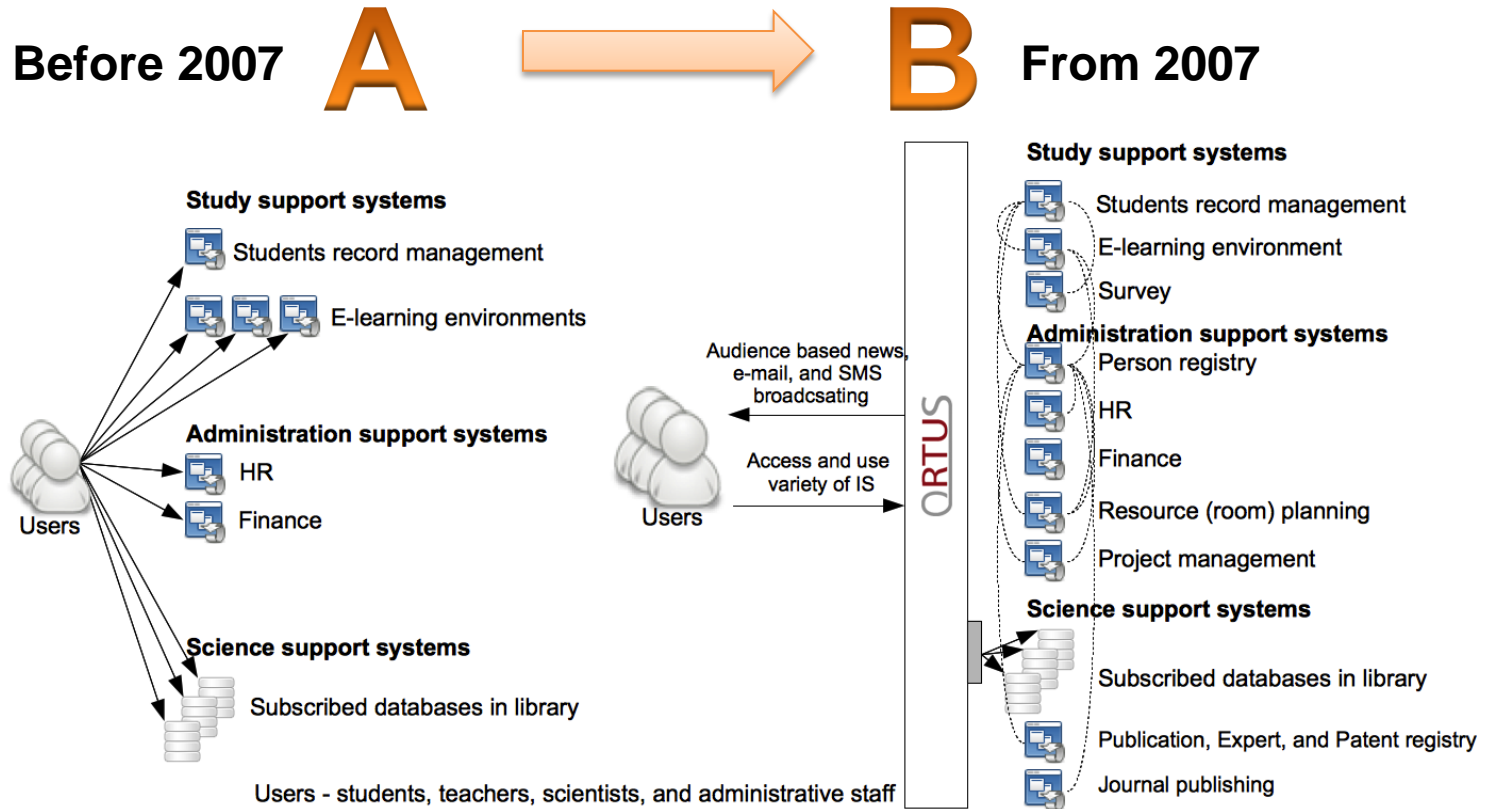
The rise of IS usage and acceptance– examples (1)

- **Centralized e-learning solution**
  - No distributed e-learning environments across departments
  - Single point of access

- Centralized synchronization to populate user and course data
  - Courses, teachers, and students **each** semester are already there – teachers don't have to worry about student assignment to e-learning courses
- User support and training
- Activity (thousand hits per month)
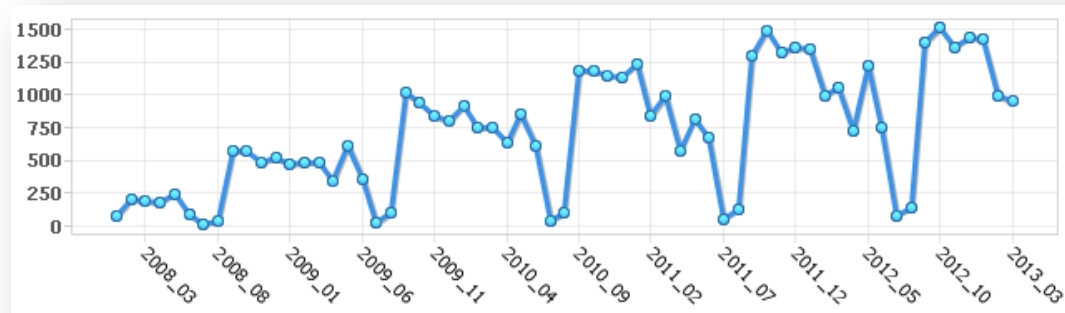
The rise of IS usage and acceptance– examples (2)

- **Unified access to databases subscribed by the library** (Scopus, ScienceDirect, Ebsco, SpringerLink, etc.)

- User just signs in ORTUS and can freely access any subscribed database
  - there is no need to use different login names for each database
  - no need to be physically present in the library

- Activitity (user sessions per year)
  - Science Direct: from 9,200 in 2007 to 16,000 in 2012
  - SpringerLink: from 960 in 2007 to 2,600 in 2012

Audience based approach

- Users visit portal with their own goals (studies, research, administrative, etc.),
  - For each of them we can ensure the customized information acquired from different integrated systems
- Audience based solutions
  - ORTUS itself
  - News
  - Surveys
  - Notifications from different IS
  - E-mail, SMS

Audience examples

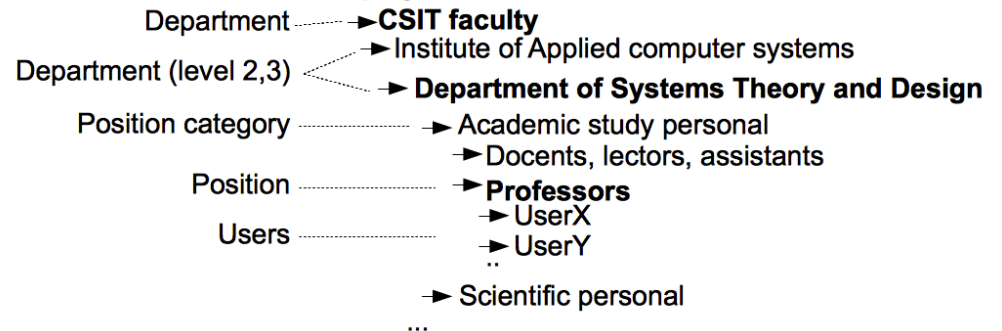- From generic to specific audiences

All students

All employees

**CSIT faculty,
Department of Systems Theory and Design
professors**

Employees
Department ----→ **CSIT faculty**
Department (level 2,3) ----→ Institute of Applied computer systems
----→ **Department of Systems Theory and Design**
Position category ----→ Academic study personal
----→ Docents, lectors, assistants
Position ----→ **Professors**
----→ UserX
Users ----→ UserY
..
----→ Scientific personal
...

ORTUS itself

- Different information units and features available for students, employees, foreign students, guests

News

Centralized surveys

- Audiences: study course students of particular semester, curricula graduates, doctoral students

Integrated data from:

Students record management

Resource (room) planning

Person registry

Curriculum registry

Notifications from different IS

- Single users as audience
- Example sources:
  - Students rec. management - about study depts (unpaid payments)
  - E-learning – about unread messages
  - Survey – about unfilled surveys
  - Scientific library – overdue the date for returning books to library

NOTIFICATIONS

Moodle
Unread messages [1]
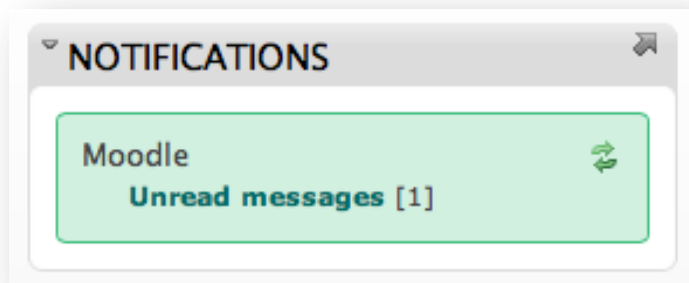
Data from:

Students record management

E-learning environment

Survey

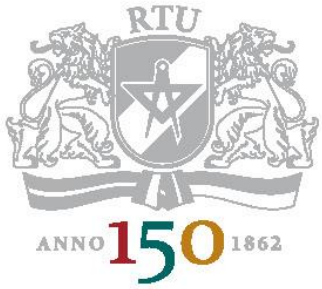Scientific library

Other audience based solutions

- E-mail, SMS
  - As means to quickly communicate information to specific audiences

  - Example cases:
    - Unplanned guest lecturer speech about a specific topic
    - Teacher's unexpected absence one hour before the class

Conclusions

- University portal ORTUS as a facilitator to system integration
- Integration of different IS is facilitating new and evolving solutions and services
- ORTUS as a gateway
  - Single point of entry to different IS
  - Audience based solutions
    - Serving information to user (news, notifications, etc.)
    - Gathering information from user (feedback, surveys, etc.)