HILARY TERM 2017 UPDATE FROM THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

Richard Ovenden, Bodley’s Librarian

INTRODUCTION

As we start Hilary term 2017 the Bodleian Libraries are continuing to deliver innovative services to support our users, collections and library spaces. We continue to make improvements to our digital services as well as our estates, while providing a world-class service.

This newsletter provides what I hope will be an interesting update on some of the many projects that are underway or coming to fruition over Hilary term. With the start of term we welcome new readers to our libraries. Please contact a librarian or visit our website, www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk if you need further information or have queries or comments.

RESOURCES & SERVICES

BODLEIAN’S CENTRE FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Centre for Digital Scholarship is a hub for translating innovative digital technologies into multidisciplinary academic practice and public engagement. Building on the singularity of the University of Oxford’s world-leading researchers, collections, and technologies, the Centre for Digital Scholarship engages academics, students, staff and the public with digital methods.

The Centre works by bringing together people, technologies, and collections at every study and career level, and across departments, faculties, divisions, and institutions to share ideas, approaches, and best practice. It showcases research that makes innovative use of digital technologies from across the University and from leading scholars around the world, hosting Research Uncovered talks and colloquia. We offer both overview and in-depth introductions to methods and technologies.

Every week of term we offer drop-in surgeries, co-hosted with IT Services’ Research Technology Consultation. For informal conversation and to meet others with an interest in digital scholarship, we hold weekly coffee afternoons in the Visiting Scholars’ Centre of the Weston Library. Both drop-ins and coffee afternoons are open to all readers.

We host multidisciplinary research workshops around questions suggested by current research at the University. Previous workshops convened by the Centre have led to peer-reviewed conference and journal papers, hacks, colloquia, an application for a doctoral project, and networks with funding to bring colleagues for further research.

This Hilary term, in addition to the weekly Research Uncovered public talks, the Centre will run workshops on visualization, visual analytics, music encoding, and the Text Encoding Initiative. With colleagues from Bodleian Special Collections, the Faculty of History’s Early Modern Letters Online project, and doctoral students, the Bodleian Student Editions series continues this term. We look forward in particular to events organized by the TORCH Critical Visualization Network, a group we co-convene with colleagues from the Oxford e-Research Centre and the Oxford Internet Institute. We continue to collaborate with colleagues across the University on a range of complementary activities and initiatives including the Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School—the largest such event outside North America; Reproducible Research Oxford, promoting the effective use of computational tools in research; and the Research Software Developers Network, supporting colleagues expert in programming and data development for research. For more details on the Centre for Digital Scholarship, see www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/digitalscholarship
DIGITAL MANUSCRIPTS TOOLKIT

Bodleian Libraries has recently launched the Digital Manuscripts Toolkit (DMT), the culmination of a 2.5 year-long project funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Toolkit makes available a set of tools for high-quality viewing, deployment, and repurposing of digitised manuscript content. Available at http://dmt.bodleian.ox.ac.uk, it allows users to conduct detailed study of manuscript culture across geographical locations and time periods.

DMT is built using the technologies of the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) http://iiif.io, an international initiative to promote and enable the sharing of digital image content related to global cultural heritage. The Bodleian is a founding member of the IIIF Consortium, the body which provides sustainability and steering for the community signed up to IIIF standards.

At the centre of the Toolkit is a browser-based manifest editing tool which allows users to compare, edit, reorganise and save images in a viewer. It is offered together with a software package enabling easy set up and deployment of IIIF images and a tool for the transformation of metadata into an IIIF-compliant format.

DMT launched on 28 November 2016 and there are plans to hold presentations and training sessions over the coming months, some of which will take place in the Centre for Digital Scholarship. Details will be made available via the BDLSS blog at http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/digital.

OPEN ACCESS & ‘ACT ON ACCEPTANCE’

Academics and researchers are encouraged to deposit their papers into ORA (the Oxford University Research Archive). The Bodleian Libraries support this activity and continues to communicate the Act on Acceptance message. Open Access at Oxford is overseen by the University’s central OA Project Group, which includes representatives from the academic divisions, the libraries and research services.

Deposits across Oxford are increasing:

• The deposit rate (deposits vs expected) last term (MT 2016) saw an increase of up to 60% in October and over 80% in November.
• November 2016 deposit stats showed that over 4,000 new journal articles and conference papers which fall under the REF open access policy had, since 1 April 2016, been deposited by over 2000 researchers across the University. (This does not include deposits of other publication types such as older articles, book chapters, etc).

Support is provided in the form of regular training on OA. In addition to the Libraries’ regular iSkills OA sessions and weekly drop-ins. For details see the OA website: http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/2016/11/28/open-access-publishing-event

INTERLIBRARY LOANS

The online form to enable our readers to request interlibrary loans will be piloted at the Bodleian Library site this academic year and, if successful, rolled out as a system-wide project for MT 2017. The form should enable our readers to request, pay, and receive document supply copy requests from their desktop. For more information see: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/using/ill

BODLEIAN STRATEGIC PLANNING

Work continues on activity to develop the Bodleian Libraries’ new Strategic plan. Consultation with a range of stakeholders has taken place alongside plenty of research and analysis on emerging trends for the library profession and building a vision for the Bodleian Libraries that promotes the values and service it provides.

The Bodleian’s Strategic Planning Working Group will now carry out research and analysis, including consultation with staff and unions. Strategic Planning Roadshows took place 19, 25 and 27 January.

The new Strategic Plan is to be drafted in spring, reviewed by the Bodleian’s Round Table and approved by Curators of the University Libraries in June 2017. The new Strategic Plan will be live from 1 August 2017.

BODLEIAN’S LIBRARY RECORDS ONLINE

The first catalogue of the Bodleian’s own organisational archive, ‘Library Records’ was published online in October 2016. The archive is a unique and valuable resource which provides evidence of the activities of the Bodleian throughout its 400 year history, and contains over 5000 shelfmarks of material.

Treasures from the Library Records collection include the earliest known ‘reader’s card’ from 1613/14 and an admission register signed by Iris Murdoch and Philip Larkin, 1940.

A full catalogue has never been available to readers before and the new online catalogue describes over 5,000 shelfmarks of material. The catalogue, based on an earlier hand list, is the result of many years of work by Theo Boorman and Oliver House. Thanks are also due to Lawrence Mielniczuk for his work to convert the spreadsheet version of the catalogue into EAD XML for online publication.

Earliest known ‘reader’s card’ from 1613/14 from the Bodleian’s Library records online
ST CROSS BUILDING REFURBISHMENT
The St Cross Building (home of the Bodleian Law Library and the English Faculty Library) reopened in Michaelmas term 2016 after a major refurbishment. Some work continued on other sections of the building and it now provides new disabled access, a new central lift, a new cafeteria, and new seminar rooms. The Bodleian Law Library and English Faculty Library have new, improved entrances, as well as additional spaces for individual and group study and the interiors have been redecorated.

Due to changes to the building some of the older, and the superseded, law material is now housed in new rolling-stacks onsite on the ground floor rather than on open shelving. The English Faculty Library’s Wilfred Owen collection is now housed in the Weston Library, as part of the Bodleian’s special collections, whilst low-use material is available on request from the Book Storage Facility.

For more information see:
Bodleian Law Library’s project page
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/about/law-library-refurbishment
English Faculty Library’s project page
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/english/about/st-cross-building-project
Law Faculty’s project page
Oxford staff & students access only
www.law.ox.ac.uk/stxbuildingproject.php

FUTURE OF THE RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY (RSL) PROJECT
A proposal has been put forward to refurbish the Radcliffe Science Library, making a number of alterations and improvements to the space to meet the changing needs of the science divisions, the wider University and community. The pre-feasibility study, undertaken by FJMT architects, has now been completed. The Pro-VC for GLAM (Gardens, Libraries and Museums) and Divisional heads have made a recommendation to the Buildings and Estates Sub-Committee (BESC) that the option to take the project forward in collaboration with the Museums which was approved. Further development of this approved option, including the identification of funding is now being pursued.

Also of note, a new external goods lift was proposed to improve access from the parking area to the underground levels of the RSL. The planning application has been submitted to Oxford City Council (outcome due in February 2017) and the University has appointed a main contractor, SDC, who carried out some investigative work in December. Construction work is expected to commence in February and take approximately 6 months. During construction regular activity updates will be issued.

CAIRNS LIBRARY
The Cairns Library at the John Radcliffe Hospital provides services to the clinical students and staff of the University’s Medical Sciences Division and to their NHS colleagues. Thanks to a generous grant from the Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund group study facilities have now been improved with the installation of a new group study pod at the front of the Cairns Library. The pod will be kitted out with a plasma screen and flexible furniture and is available for use by any of our Readers 24/7 (as is the rest of the Cairns Library) and will be open for readers from 24 February 2017.

DUKE HUMFREY’S LIBRARY
Work to sympathetically upgrade the lighting in Duke Humfrey’s Library will take place in the Long Vacation 2017. Parts of the reading room will be closed in turn but disruption will be kept to a minimum.

LEOPOLD MULLER LIBRARY
The Leopold Muller Memorial Library is now fully open after being closed due to a small fire at the end of the Long Vacation 2016.
Our next newsletter will be with you in Trinity 2017. In the meantime, please continue to visit www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk for news and updates, or follow us on Twitter (@bodleianlibs) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/bodleianlibraries).

Please don’t hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or comments on our services.

Best wishes,

Richard Ovenden
Bodleian Librarian