



BODLEIAN
LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

BDLSS *Inside*

MICHAELMAS TERM NEWSLETTER 2020



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Introduction to the newsletter

Welcome to our first-ever newsletter - *BDLSS Inside* (Christmas Edition)!

You will be receiving these by email on a termly basis. This is a place where you can read our latest work updates, get to know a little more about the colleagues you work with, welcome new starters and say farewell to those leaving us, receive first-hand departmental announcements, and more.

Stay tuned with us, don't miss out on any important news. We hope you enjoy reading! If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email us on bdlss-admin@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

In the meantime, we wish you happy reading and seasons' greetings!

The Inside Editors

Introduction to SMT

The Senior Management Team probably don't need a formal introduction: we all know what teams they head up, the challenges they face and what MS Teams background they have – but is this enough? How well do we actually know them?

Inside had an exclusive look behind the scenes of those at the top. They also gave us their festive recommendation for book, film and music. Inspired?

Andrew Bonnie

Background

I did my joint honours degree in Chemistry and Computer Science at Keele University, before joining IBM as an Application Developer⁷. Initially this involved writing lots of JCL* for a PL/I IMS DB/DC batch ordering application, before I moved on and dabbled with DB2 Database Administration and Application Development using CSP.

After 4 years I moved to Logica, where I spent a year working on an aviation fuel solution for Shell in London, before I joined Southern Electric (now Scottish & Southern Energy) developing client/server solutions using Smalltalk running on OS/2.

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I returned to IBM and moved into project management managing the Vauxhall Motors website during their early foray into online car sales. At the time I was working out of IBM's "Innovation Centre" complete with pool table, basketball hoop, Lego and "light experience" rooms!

I worked for various clients during my time at IBM including General Motors, The Environment Agency, Somerset County Council, Avon & Somerset Police and Eircom. I joined the Bodleian Libraries in 2008 in the role of Programme Manager, initially tasked with delivering the implementations of Aleph and the BSFIS. I moved into my current role of Chief of Digital Operations 7(!) years ago.

Festive recommendations

What is your favourite Christmas film? It's a Wonderful Life (Remember: "Every time a bell rings, an Angel gets his wings!")

What music do you listen to at Christmas? Normally, I prefer to be playing rather than (just) listening – there is nothing more Christmassy than a brass band playing carols.

What book would you recommend for festive reading? A festive offering (of sorts!) from one of my favourite authors, Terry Pratchett's Hogfather.

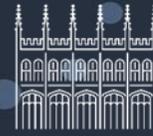
James Dodd

Background

After completing an Art Foundation course, and applying for Fine Art courses at University, I decided instead to follow my passion for music and spent the next 6 years as a professional musician. Realising that unfortunately a 'proper' job might be necessary I went back to University as a mature(-ish) student, studying Information Systems at Leeds.

My career since then has been very varied including working for a start-up in the social care sector, on the merger of two leading travel companies, for a big business process outsourcing consultancy and, prior to joining the Bodleian in 2016, as Head of Operations for a division of a global advertising agency.

All of these roles have involved developing and working with partners and suppliers in the ever-evolving world of digital tools and services, alongside a healthy and undiminished optimism for 'harmonising' them with the most important part of any systems equation...people!



Festive recommendations

What is your favourite Christmas film? The Muppet Christmas Carol.

What music do you listen to at Christmas? So many options but I'm going for John Popper and B.B. King – Back Door Santa.

What book would you recommend for festive reading? Tales of Tuscan by Anthony Randall – not festive I'm afraid but features the adventures in the late 80's of my very good friend and fellow musician Shane Lamont, so looking forward to a good laugh.

Judith Siefring

Background

I did my undergraduate degree in English Language & Literature at the University of Glasgow, followed by a postgraduate masters in Medieval Literature at Oxford. I worked as a dictionary editor for Oxford University Press before joining the Bodleian in 2002 as a digital editor on the Early English Books Online text encoding project.

Festive recommendations

What is your favourite Christmas film? Elf.

What music do you listen to at Christmas? The soundtrack to A Charlie Brown Christmas by the Vince Guaraldi Trio.

What book would you recommend for festive reading? Cathy Rentzenbrink's Dear Reader: The Comfort and Joy of Books. It is soothing, easy to dip into, and has recommendations for lots of other books – what more could you want?



Work Updates

Digital Bodleian 2.0:

What is the aim of the project?

To entirely replace the Digital Bodleian user interface. The previous software, "Inquire", was proprietary and we were very limited in what changes we could make. We have full control over the source code of the new front end, and the replacement is launching with many quality-of-life improvements to the Digital Bodleian search interface, object viewer and homepage.

What is the biggest progress/update in the project?

As of Tuesday, 24th November, we have formally launched the new interface, completing the main goal of the project. It is live at <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. We have a small amount of post-project snagging work to do, and further improvements will form part of "continuous improvement" for the service.

What is the New Year's Resolution for the project?

With the project finishing, the team will now be turning attention to other work which has had to be on the backburner for much of this year.

FAMOUS (Finding Archives and Manuscripts Across Oxford's Unique Special Collections)

What is the aim of the project?

The project aims to provide a connected, user-friendly, robust and, adaptable digital environment for the University of Oxford's manuscripts and archives.

Deliverables:

- Improved and integrated technical systems (TEI, ArchiveSpace, Digital Bodleian).
- Implementation of industry best data / system standards (IIIF, Metadata, Linked Data etc.).
- New discovery interface.

What is the biggest progress/update in the project?

- The 1st draft paper illustrating how the library can implement Persistent Identifiers across its collections. The Persistent Identifiers are foundational to the project, providing the common vocabulary that will enable the efficient co-ordination of data between library systems.
- Special Collections have undertaken a mini project (Exemplar Project). This mini project is being used to compliment the new framework by identifying new content and mechanisms to funnel different types of content into the appropriate parts of the system. As part of early activities, the team have started converting selected Oriental Archives and Early Modern Manuscripts and Archives - Quarto Catalogues.
- The development team have started research options as part of build for the discovery /data pipeline layer. The aim is to build a lite version of the FAMOUS system ('proof of concept' system).
- We have started to engage with colleges to identify collaboration opportunities.

What is the New Year's Resolution for the project?

- Solicit feedback from stakeholders to refine the Persistent Identifiers proposal – spring 2021
- Ongoing conversion work from the Exemplar projects (Special Collections) – October 2021
- Complete build of the 'proof of concept' system – May 2021



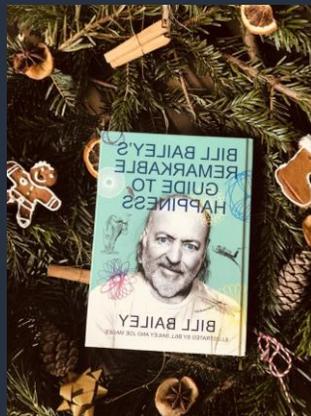
Caring & Sharing

The BDLSS Discovery and Digital Projects teams' meetings have been frankly quite fun lately...



Picture by Edith Halvarsson Background: The Vintage Beauty Of Soviet Control Rooms.

What to read during the upcoming cold winter days?



Picture by Niki Sulekova

Niki Sulekova, Project Portfolio Administrator, recommends the book, Bill Bailey's Remarkable Guide To Happiness. And if this book does not give you the key to happiness then as the author says, this book "might just make you smile." Happy reading!



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How many of you already have a Christmas tree set up? The Dodds family know how to bring on a little Christmas spirit.



Picture by James Dodd

Welcome, Farewell, and Congratulations.

Please join us in welcoming new colleagues to BDLSS and saying farewell to those who are leaving or have left us during the year of 2020.

Welcome to BDLSS.

Mark Rogerson, Technical lead for Electronic Enlightenment, joined us in October 2020.

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Joanna Bek,
Digitization
Assistant, joined
us in March
2020.



Alexander Hitchman, Digital
Metadata Analyst, joined us in
April 2020.



Lily Killaspy,
Digital Change
Manager, joined us
in January 2020.



Niki Sulekova, Project
Portfolio
Administrator, joined
us in January 2020.



Ruth Turvey, Project
Manager, joined us in April
2020.

We are pleased to have you join us.

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A farewell and thank you

- Vitalija Alishauskaite, Software Engineer.
- Andrew Hankinson, Senior Software Engineer.
- Doug Irvine, Systems Administrator.
- Toby Pitts
- Michael Popham, Head of Digital Collections & Preservation.
- Emma Stanford, Digital Curator.

We wish you well for the future.

Next Issue

The next issue of BDLSS Inside is scheduled to be published in March 2021, at the end of Hilary Term.

We will look at project updates, introduce more of our colleagues and share news updates. We'll also share the best pet pictures – so send in the pics of your pet pooch, feline friend or your fabulous fish and we'll include the best next time!

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email us on bdlss-admin@bodleian.ox.ac.uk