



Bodleian Libraries  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

**Hilary Term 2014 Update from the Bodleian Libraries**  
**Richard Ovenden**  
**Bodley's Librarian**

Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter is an informal bulletin sent out at the end of every term to keep you up to date on news and developments in the Bodleian Libraries. It aims to provide information on topics that I hope will be of interest to you. I welcome feedback and ideas for future issues. If you would like contact me with suggestions, please email [Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

**Richard Ovenden appointed as new Bodley's Librarian**

It was a profound honour and privilege to be appointed by the University of Oxford as the 25<sup>th</sup> Bodley's Librarian. Over the past ten years I have loved every minute of working with the Libraries' outstanding collections and its dedicated and talented staff. I am looking forward to leading our team as we continue to develop our services and build our collections over the coming years. I am keen to learn about your views on the Libraries and on ways of improving our support for students and scholars. You can reach me on the email address above.

**1. Library spaces, capital projects and news**

**Progress on the New Bodleian (Weston) Library**

Good progress is being made on the Weston Library project. After the completion of major structural works, efforts are now focussing on the internal fit-out. The shelving system in the centre of the basement stacks is now complete and shelving is extending into the other storage areas. Interior finishes are being applied in Blackwell Hall and work has also begun on the finishes in offices and workshops. Prototypes for service counters, reader tables and exhibition display cabinets have been reviewed and approved. The project remains within budget and, although the final handover of the building is now being phased, plans for the reopening of the building have not been affected.

Away from the site, staff are planning intensively for the reoccupation of the building, with a steering group meeting monthly and separate sub-teams planning every aspect of the building's day to day operations. Reading Rooms and other scholarly services will reopen from late September, and the building will be formally opened to the public in March next year.

The relocation of collections to the Weston Library will begin in late August and will continue until 2016. Full details of these moves will be put on our website shortly; please see <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/our-work/estates-projects/weston> for more information.

**Consultation on the Leopold Muller Memorial Library**

Following the announcement of the intention to move the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (OCHJS) to the Clarendon Institute, a consultation exercise is underway on a linked proposal to integrate the Leopold Muller Memorial Library (LMML) into the Bodleian Libraries and transfer parts of it to the library space about to be vacated by the Chinese Studies Library.

The important and extensive special collections of the LMML represent a considerable enhancement to the collections held in the Bodleian Libraries. Combining the LMML's collections with Hebraica and Judaica collections already held by the Bodleian Libraries will greatly improve access for readers, and build on many years of cooperation between the two organisations.

A detailed proposal has been discussed and approved by the OCHJS and the Faculty of Oriental Studies, which was endorsed by the Curators of the University Libraries at their 8th Week meeting. The proposal details plans for the open-shelf collections and service to be based in the Clarendon Institute, and feature selected materials transferred from the Oriental Institute Library and the Special Collections. Further information can be found online at <http://www.ochjs.ac.uk/about/announcement>. Please send any comments on these plans to [Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

### **Relocation of the China Centre**

Preparations continue for the relocation of the Chinese Studies Library from the Institute for Chinese Studies to the University of Oxford China Centre at St Hugh's College in July. The Dickson Poon Building, which will house the China Centre, is on schedule for completion in early April. The collections in the existing Library are being refreshed prior to the move with low-use material relocating to the Book Storage Facility (BSF). High-use material has been selected from the BSF for the open shelves and the Social Science Library. The Library will have six shared study carrels and shelving set aside for temporary collections of research material to support particular projects based in the China Centre. A quiet reading room and a small seminar/meeting/reading room will be provided along with an open reading area adjacent to book stacks and other facilities.

## **2. Research and learning support**

### **Disability support and engagement**

Improving access for disabled readers to library services and facilities continues to be a priority for the Bodleian Libraries this term. Recent developments include the opening of the new accessible entrance to the Radcliffe Camera, while ongoing services for students with disabilities include special loan periods and proxy borrowing, plus access to a range of specialist equipment and ergonomic furniture on demand. The Libraries' Accessible Resources Acquisition and Creation Unit (ARACU) provide highly tailored support to disabled students, including the provision of materials in electronic format and advice and training on equipment and software applications. A new working group is being convened this term to bring disability liaison librarians from across the Libraries together with student representatives to further improve access, information and support.

### **Open Access**

Through Open Access (OA) the Bodleian Libraries offer a range of services to support researchers in their work. Our OA Helpline, launched in March 2013 continues to grow in popularity, with staff quickly answering enquiries via live chat or email. Over 350 researchers have attended our 'Open Access Oxford' workshops, and further discipline-specific information and events are being organised by the subject librarians. Attendance continues to rise for the Libraries' monthly 'Open Access Talks' programme. In recognition of their Open Access support, a group of our librarians were presented with a Teaching and Learning award from the University.

The Libraries' Collections and Resource Description Acquisitions team now operate a new service for managing payments for Article Processing Charges (APCs) for Research Council UK (RCUK) funded research publications. This service is working smoothly and applications for funding are increasing.

The systems underpinning the Oxford University Research Archive (ORA) have also been upgraded to provide greater security for the storage of University of Oxford research publications and bibliographic records. The connection with Symplectic has been improved too and a further 30,000 records were added to ORA in late autumn. We are noticing a steady increase in the numbers of full text items deposited in ORA and made freely available ('green' OA). A button allowing authors to notify ORA staff of updates to records has been added to each item record. ORA staff also helped academic departments to get publications in the public domain to support eligibility for REF2014.

### **Research Data Management**

The Libraries have launched a new website in collaboration with IT Services and Research Services, which gives guidance to researchers on the management of research data and the ability to preserve, reuse and share it. Please see <http://www.researchdata.ox.ac.uk>.

### **3. Budget and planning**

#### **Budget**

Careful monitoring of the 2013/14 budget continues with the expectation that the Libraries will achieve their break-even target for the year.

In respect of the 2014/15 budget, a proposed 2% increase in Service Funding has been applied to each Department in ASUC and extensive activity on building the budget is underway with a deadline of the end of April being worked to. The Libraries were fortunate in receiving an additional allocation of £200k in its 2014/15 budget allocation from Budget Sub-Committee to help with 'The Digital Shift', which is building on a strong and already existing collaboration with Divisions, IT Services and the Oxford eResearch Centre on eScience and Digital Humanities projects and services.

The Planning and Resource Allocation Section (PRAS) continues to work with Divisions on proposals for revising the 123 infrastructure charging model. As part of this exercise, the Libraries are providing PRAS with supporting information where needed. In conjunction with the other Departments within ASUC, we are also looking at ways of potential cross-divisional activity with the aim of reducing costs through shared service activities.

#### **Implementation plan**

Our recently published 2013-16 Strategy lays out our main priorities for the next three years. It provides direction and helps to set priorities for work across the Libraries. It also shows how we will support the University of Oxford in their strategic aims. It was developed after extensive discussion and consultation to ensure that it represents the needs of both the Libraries and our users. It is available online at <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about-us/policies>.

This term we also launched our Implementation Plan to show exactly how the aims in our Strategy can be met. Progress on all the tasks listed in the Implementation Plan will be carefully monitored to ensure that we make clear steps towards delivering what we have said we intend to. The Implementation Plan is a 'living' document so it will be reviewed every year and updated if necessary to make sure that it still reflects the needs of our users. You can find the Implementation Plan in full

at [http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/164170/PUBLICImplementation-Plan.pdf](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/164170/PUBLICImplementation-Plan.pdf).

#### **4. Digital Bodleian** **‘The Digital Shift’**

As the world of scholarship becomes increasingly digital, we are experiencing a period of considerable change in information provision, libraries, research and learning. The Libraries are adapting to this change and are leaders in areas such as open linked data and digital preservation. In order to embrace these changes further, we are undertaking a major review of our digital activity and working to produce a robust digital strategy that will support us in responding to the needs of contemporary and future scholarship in all disciplines. We are calling this work ‘The Digital Shift’.

The development of The Digital Shift will continue over the coming months and years, and will form the basis of discussion with scholars in the University in order to best align our work to foster collaboration with, and support of, academic initiatives of all kinds.

#### **Queen Victoria’s Journals named Outstanding Academic Title**

Our Queen Victoria’s Journals project was selected for *Choice* magazine’s annual, highly acclaimed *Outstanding Academic Titles* list. Developed in collaboration with the Royal Archives, the resource provides access to the private journals of Queen Victoria. The list is chosen by the editorial staff of *Choice*, critical reviews resource relied upon by academic libraries for collection decisions. Less than 3% of more than 25,000 titles submitted to *Choice* for review in 2013 are included in the list. The resource is available at <http://www.queenvictoriasjournals.org>.

#### **5. Exhibitions and events**

Our current exhibition: *Great Medical Discoveries: 800 years of Oxford innovation* continues until May 2014, with complementary lectures providing visitors with a more in-depth view of Oxford’s contribution to world medical history. Over 8,000 visitors attended the first month and the catalogue has already been reprinted.

In anticipation for the 2014 Oxford Literary Festival at the end of March, we have been busy planning and advertising the Bodleian’s role as host to a range of special lectures on individuals and aspects of life during the First World War. Upcoming lectures include *Wilfred Owen: An Illustrated Life*, and the intriguing *Secrets in a Dead Fish: The Spying Game in the First World War*. More information on our events programme, including details of how to book, is available from our *What’s on?* web pages: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whats-on>.

Our next newsletter will be with you in June 2014. In the meantime, please continue to visit <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk> for news and updates, or follow us on Twitter (@bodleianlibs) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/bodleianlibraries>). And please do contact me if you have any questions or comments on our services.

Kind regards,



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Bodleian Librarian