



Bodleian Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Update from the Bodleian Libraries

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Dear Colleagues,

As we enter November and pass the half way mark in Michaelmas Term I want to update you in the first of what I intend to be many informal bulletins about some of the new services and changes taking place across the Bodleian Libraries. I plan to send one of these emails each term, but I'd welcome your feedback on whether or not you find them useful as well as what the frequency should be.

2012/13 is proving to be a busy year. With the construction of the Book Storage Facility completed and over 7 million books, journals, maps, and other archival materials moved, you might think we would have settled down into a routine. However, we are operating our services amidst a sea of change, and this past year we've experienced some turbulence. It's hardly business as usual as our special collections have been camped out in the Lankester Room of the Radcliffe Science Library, and readers consulting Bodley's maps and music collections are working in Duke Humfrey's. Well over a hundred staff are dispersed temporarily in rooms in the Old Bodleian, the Clarendon Building, and Osney. Meanwhile, the refurbishment of the New Bodleian is proceeding apace. At the same time we have been undertaking these massive changes, there have been several initiatives on a smaller scale which have been controversial. This newsletter will update you on what's been happening. I hope that you'll welcome the information and that you will let me know if you have questions about these or other Bodleian Libraries activities.

Library Buildings and capital projects

New Bodleian (Weston) Library Refurbishment

Development on the New Bodleian (Weston) Library is brisk; with the centre of the building now deconstructed, you can now glimpse the void that will become the Blackwell Hall, the entrance to both the exhibition galleries and the Readers' floors above, where the PPE Reading Room, with its patterned wood ceiling, will become the principal area for the consultation of rare books and manuscripts, and where a new reading room for Oriental and other language material will occupy the top floor. Over 1 million rare books and archives will be securely housed below ground. The £80.4 m project (approximately £70 million has been raised so far) will be completed in summer 2014, and staff and collections will return in Michaelmas 2014, less than two years from now.

Humanities Library on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

There are two strands of activity relating to the Humanities Building/Library on the ROQ. First, there is a small group facilitating consultation within the Humanities Division, where the future of the Humanities on the ROQ is being discussed through various channels in the Division. Secondly, the Bodleian Libraries are evaluating the needs of all divisions with regard to provision of library services.

Ideas and recommendations are being gathered through a variety of means, including formal and informal discussions with members of Congregation and students, survey, and the use of library committees. In Hilary Term we will develop draft recommendations for an iterative round of discussions. Proposals will be driven by academic need and will be aligned with University and Divisional goals and will also be assessed for economic viability.

Because the University opted not to move forward immediately with the construction of the Humanities Building, Divisions and some of their Faculties have taken interim measures which have had an impact on library services. Decisions have been taken following thorough consultation with affected Faculties and parties.

Philosophy and Theology Library

The new Philosophy & Theology Faculties Library (PTFL) – a consolidation of the Philosophy Faculty Library (from 10 Merton Street) and the Theology Faculty Library (from 41 St Giles) – opened its doors to readers on Tuesday, 11 September. The library occupies the north end of ‘Radcliffe Humanities’, the newly-restored Radcliffe Infirmary. The building has been brought back to its 18th-century glory with some additional modern conveniences such as WiFi and a lift. As well as maintaining a lending service (combining loans from both libraries should result in over 100,000 loans p.a.), the new Library is now on the delivery route from the BSF, so library users will be able to enjoy access to books and journals now stored in Swindon.

China Centre Library

In 2011, following a review of possible options, including locating library provision for Chinese Studies on the ROQ, and following extensive consultation with affected parties, the decision to open a China Centre Library in the China Centre to be constructed at St Hugh’s was approved by the Curators of the University Libraries, the Institute for Chinese Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, the Humanities Divisional Board, the Committee of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Interdivisional Area Studies Committee. Fellows at St Hugh’s and St Antony’s were also consulted. Groundbreaking for the China Centre took place in October 2012 and the building is expected to open in 2014.

History Faculty Library

The History Faculty Library had been slated to move to the ROQ to join the first phase of Faculty Libraries (English, History, Philosophy, and Theology), but with the Humanities Building on indefinite pause and the Philosophy and Theology libraries merging into renovated space in the Radcliffe Humanities Building, the Bodleian proposed the relocation of History into the Radcliffe Camera, a decision taken after thorough, if sometimes very passionate debate and consultation in the History Faculty. Bodleian staff – especially those in History and in the Radcliffe Camera – have worked flat out this year to transfer collections. HFL collections have now been reclassified.

As we enter Week Five, we are hearing both praise and criticism about the move. Some people find the distribution of the History collection over three floors (Upper Camera, Upper and Lower Gladstone Link) and the intermingling of the teaching and research collections inconvenient and confusing. Yet others are positive about the benefits of the relocation. Savings have resulted in an annual uplift of 25% to the purchasing budget of History, and there have also been one-time purchases of backfiles such as State Papers (Tudor and Stuart). Hours of access have increased by 13 hours over the previous year for history, and all users of the Old Bodleian, Radcliffe Camera, and Gladstone Link now have Sunday access in term from 11 to 5. Over 30 seats have been added throughout the Radcliffe Camera and the Old Bodleian to accommodate increased use. There is a

sense that use *is* higher; we are gathering information on collection use and gate counts to compare against previous years. Of course, high use of the libraries is a sign of a successful university, but if the congestion makes it difficult to concentrate, we'll have to make adjustments. That's another reason we are eagerly anticipating the opening of the Weston Library as it will add hundreds of seats and quiet reading rooms back into our system and it will take off some of the pressure we are now experiencing.

Radcliffe Camera

Other changes to the Radcliffe Camera are currently being considered as part of an extended public consultation. The plans address four separate initiatives: modifications that are necessary to permit access to the Lower Camera for those with mobility impairments; management of the circulation of readers to improve security; creation of a consolidated desk service at the proposed South entrance to the Camera to improve reader services and security; and creation of a consolidated service desk in the Old Bodleian. The present North entrance would become an emergency exit. Planning permission for these changes was obtained in August, but because the relocation of the entrance is a once in a century event, we want to ensure that readers have an opportunity to learn about the plans and to provide comments. The consultation period closes 1 December 2012. You can see the plans and provide comment through this link (http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/106078/Proposals--Architectural-Drawings.pdf) and you can send feedback on the plans via email to: communications@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

Health Care Libraries

Over the summer work to create an office space for the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, a new book collection and improved study and IT spaces in the Cairns Library was completed.

New projects and services

Scan and Deliver service

Libraries have recently introduced a service called 'Scan and Deliver' which allows readers to request materials in Bodleian's collections to be retrieved and scanned by Libraries staff, who then email the scans to the reader. It's the ideal service for researchers who don't have time to scan/photocopy materials or who are working away from Oxford. By law the Bodleian must charge for this service, which has been priced at cost: a flat rate of £4.75 per request. The service is available by clicking on the Scan and Deliver button on SOLO, the online catalogue. For more information about the service visit: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/services/scan-and-deliver>

Web redevelopment

We are currently in the process of re-developing our Libraries websites to improve usability and functionality and update the design. The new websites will be launched in Spring/Summer 2013 and more information will be provided as we get closer to launch.

Google Books

Libraries have completed a project with Google to digitize out-of-copyright books in the Bodleian's collections. These books are available through Google Books, but we have now linked 330,000 of them to records in our catalogue. By making the Bodleian copy of the digitized books available online, the material becomes fully available to all users in PDF format. Details of how to access the digitized copy via SOLO can be found at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks. Already users have downloaded

these books over 60,000 times, with the top title in June being Cobet, C. G. (Carel Gabriel), 1813-1889 - *Variae lectiones quibus continentur observationes criticae in scriptores Graecos* 1873

Digital resources

The Bodleian continues to enlarge its selection of digital resources through purchase and through reformatting of materials held in our collections or held by other institutions with whom we collaborate. Some of the digital collections recently launched and currently available to access are:

- Maimonides' Code of Jewish Law (<http://maimonides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>)
- Electronic Enlightenment (www.e-enlightenment.com);
- The John Johnson Collection: An Archive of Printed Ephemera (<http://johnjohnson.chadwyck.co.uk/home.do>);
- Queen Victoria's Journals online (www.queenvictoriasjournals.org.uk)
- Shakespeare Quartos Archive (www.quartos.org);
- Digital Shikshapatri (www.shikshapatri.org.uk);
- Bodleian Broadside Ballads (<http://ballads.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>);
- Bodleian Collection of Genizah Fragments (<http://genizah.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>);
- Use of Purchased Electronic Resources – The table below illustrates the use of medical titles and the growth over recent years.

	2007-8	2009-10	2011-12
Elsevier	1,050,321	1,381,760	1,528,447
Nature	362,518	538,675	714,679
Springer	147,016	238,380	258,591
Blackwell	246,867	251,722	629,929
British Med Journal	43,320	85,928	91,507
New England Journal Medicine	27,995	30,931	56,652
<u>Am Phys Soc</u>	<u>42,196</u>	<u>40,498</u>	<u>47,976</u>
TOTALS	1,920,233	2,567,894	3,327,781

Finch Report and Open Access

The Bodleian Libraries have contributed to the development of a plan for informing the University about the impact of the Finch Report, the RCUK Mandate and the move toward Gold Open Access through APCs (Article Processing Charges). The University has bid for one-off funds to prepare for the changes to be implemented next year, and will work on improving the digital infrastructure for supporting open access through ORA (Oxford Research Archive, the Oxford institutional repository). An uplift to the block grant will support APCs in the future, but it is unlikely to be sufficient to support all Oxford academics publishing work from RCUK-funded projects. Discussions about Open Access will be continuing throughout the year.

Research Data

The Bodleian is developing infrastructure and staff skills to support the management, storage and discovery of research data created through research projects and activities by Oxford researchers. In part this is in collaboration with a large externally-funded project we are running in collaboration with OUCS (<http://damaro.oucs.ox.ac.uk/>) through using digital infrastructure developed in the Bodleian (DataBank and Datafinder). A mature service offering will be rolled out in the coming year.

RSL – The Hive

We are continuing to work to improve spaces. An example of this is the opening of The Hive in the RSL, a new flexible and collaborative space for research staff and students.

Serving readers with Special Needs

We continue to ensure we are providing adequate support to all readers. There are a number of initiatives underway at the Social Sciences Library to support disabled readers. This year 35 students were individually contacted upon receipt of their details from the Disability Office or the Bodleian Libraries Disability Librarian, with around a third taking up the offer of a meeting to discuss best use of Social Science Library facilities and services. A Social Sciences Library staff training day was held during the 2011 summer vacation to increase staff awareness and understanding of disability issues. To enable independent library access to readers with impaired mobility, automated sliding front doors were installed in the SSL at the end of Trinity Term.

Strategic planning

Draft Strategic Plan 2013-17

Libraries have drafted a Strategic Plan for 2013-17 outlining our broad goals for the next five years. We recently sought feedback on the plan from readers at three open meetings held in October. Attendance was modest, but we received useful feedback which will be considered alongside input from Committees on Library Provision, Faculty Boards, sessions with Divisional representatives, Libraries staff, surveys, and focus groups. A more detailed version of the Strategic Plan will be circulated for review in Hilary Term, with the final version prepared for approval by the Curators of the University Libraries in Trinity Term.

Readers Survey 2012

The Bodleian Libraries have recently launched a survey of users using the LibQual+ online survey tool. This survey has been used by over 1200 academic libraries around the world and allows us to understand how our users perceive our service as well as to benchmark against other research libraries. One of the most valuable aspects are the comments (all anonymous) which will help us identify priorities and which will provide evidence to support other qualitative means of deciding which services to improve in the coming months. The survey is open from 29 Oct to 16 November and can be accessed at: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/survey

We are buoyed when we learn that in the National Student Survey, the libraries at Oxford were at the top of the league table, coming in second across all participating UK Universities. Over the last several months, many of you have let me know that you think the libraries are improving in their service and their provision. Much as this is heartening encouragement, we know we can still do better. As we think about the Bodleian and its future, I hope you will let me know what you need from us to achieve excellence in your own work, and that we can collaborate in creating environments that inspire the best research and learning, whether they are our traditional libraries or our cutting edge digital services.

Kind regards,

Sarah Thomas