



Bodleian Libraries  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

**Michaelmas Term 2013 Update from the Bodleian Libraries**  
**Richard Ovenden**  
**Interim Bodley's Librarian**

Dear Colleagues,

This Newsletter is sent as an informal bulletin to keep you up to date on news and developments in the Bodleian Libraries. It aims to give information on topics that I hope will be of interest to you. I welcome feedback on this newsletter. You can email me at [Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

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

**NSS student survey ranks Oxford libraries in first place**

Students have once again rated Oxford's libraries as some of the best in the UK. The results of the 2013 National Student Survey (NSS) show that 98% of students at the University of Oxford felt the libraries met their needs. Oxford's libraries have consistently been at or near the top of the poll over the past six years. The average across all participating universities is 80%.

The NSS is an independent national initiative, conducted annually since 2005, that aims to capture the educational experience of students. The survey runs across all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as participating HEIs in Scotland and, since 2008, Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England with directly funded higher education students. The survey asks final year undergraduates to provide feedback on their courses in a nationally recognised format. It covers seven areas, including teaching, assessment, support, management and resources.

**New Bodleian (Weston) Library refurbishment**

Work on the New Bodleian (Weston) Library refurbishment has now moved into the final fit-out phase. As many of you will have noticed, 'Bodzilla', the Weston Library crane, was removed in August. The level of activity inside the structure has risen considerably, as a complex phase of work involving many different trades and specialism moves ahead, with over 250 workers on site every day. Skylights, office partitioning and building services (electrical, water pipes, etc) are all being carefully put in place, and the installation of over 40km of new shelving is well advanced. The barcoding of the archival collections at Rhodes House Library, part of the preparatory collection moves work for Weston, is well underway.

A chair designed by Edward Barber OBE and Jay Osgerby OBE with manufacturer Isokon Plus was announced as the winner of a fiercely competitive competition to design a new reading room chair for the Weston Library. Over the next year, the chair will be developed to production standards for installation in time for the scheduled opening to readers in October 2014.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/our-work/estates-projects/weston>

### **Bodleian Library and Radcliffe Camera**

Following a summer of building work in the Old Bodleian and Radcliffe Camera, the Lower Camera reopened to readers on 1 October. Works here have included the replacement of the former Upper Camera reserve with a glazed office for History Faculty Library staff and a consultation space for readers positioned discreetly behind one of the room's main pillars. A great deal of Library material was moved too, with lesser used material weeded if duplicate or, if unique, moved to the Book Storage Facility to be available by request. Initial feedback suggests that readers studying History found the collocation of all their open-shelf resources and the book delivery service to be very effective.

The major change to the Lower Camera reading room is the new entrance on the south side of the building, which means that disabled readers now have direct access. A glass entrance lobby makes the most of an arch that provided one of the original entrances to the building in the 19th century. In addition, previously disparate services in the Lower Camera have now been gathered at one point, bringing together a new enquiry desk and book collection area (including self-collect for reserved material), the access gate and security such as book detectors.

### **The Fox Talbot Archive appeal**

In July the Bodleian Libraries secured a further significant gift towards the acquisition of the Personal Archive of William Henry Fox Talbot. The latest major donation comes from the Art Fund and we have also had donations of important related archival material as a result of the public appeal.

### **Window on Korea**

The Window on Korea 2013 project has created, with the support of the National Library of Korea (NLK), a new Korean Studies Library in the Oriental Institute Library together with a fully-equipped seminar room. We are also grateful to the NLK for a gift of 3,000 books to add to our existing collection of 33,000 Korean-language titles, 700 Japanese-language titles and 12,000 other titles in Korean Studies – the largest collection in the UK.

The Window on Korea project brings together books on Korea from disparate parts of the Bodleian system and augments these with substantial numbers of recent publications given by the NLK. Having historical, literary, and reference works together with contemporary commentary and all in one location will change the way we teach and research.

### **2. Open Access Support at Oxford**

In the wake of the Finch Report, 2013 has seen Open Access become a hot topic for Universities, Research Councils and publishers alike. From 1 April this year, researchers funded by Research Councils UK have been required to make their peer reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings, freely available to the public on an Open Access basis and many other funders are following suit. Navigating the new requirements without infringing publishers' terms and conditions is a complex and time consuming business. However, the Bodleian Libraries have been supporting researchers with this through our regular "WISER: Open Access Oxford" workshops (<http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TZW7>) and through our dedicated Open Access Support line (<http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/contact-us>), both of which have been highly praised across the University.

In addition, we have recently launched our Open Access Programme of talks for the 2013-14 academic year, featuring talks on Open Science by Sophie Kay; Open Access and Drug Discovery by Chas Bountra; Chris Ponting on *eLife* – an OA journal for scientists by scientists; Melissa Highton on MOOCs and Mike Taylor on OA and altmetrics. For more details see <http://tinyurl.com/la9rslg>.

### **3. Digital Bodleian**

#### **Successful upgrades of Aleph and Primo**

The software underpinning the library stock management systems (Aleph) and SOLO (Primo) was upgraded in 2013 Long Vacation to deliver functional enhancements and improvements to the underlying IT environment. This project was delivered with minimal disruption to readers or staff and has delivered significant service improvements. Feedback so far has been universally positive. The upgrade to Aleph placed us on the latest supported version of the software and delivered a number of functional enhancements to the staff interface.

The Aleph/Primo upgrade also enabled us to add an operating environment. Running these applications in three separate environments (development, quality assurance and production) allows future upgrades to be built and tested without impact on the existing service.

This term the Curators of the University Libraries are considering the development of a new Digital Strategy being developed by the Bodleian, to enable the Bodleian to better support a wide range of scholarly practices, new research methods and to share our collections with wider audiences. We will be consulting readers more broadly on this strategy during Hilary Term.

### **4. Strategic planning and reporting**

#### **Update on Bodleian Libraries Budget**

The 2012-2013 financial year proved to be challenging and resulted in a small deficit of £85k, a variance of just 0.2% on a £42.6m income budget. This was an important achievement as it represented the successful conclusion of a difficult three-year 10% reduction of University funding to the Libraries amounting to £1.78m.

The 2013-2014 financial year continues to present challenges, as still further funding reductions have to be absorbed by the Libraries. Special funding allocations from HEFCE to the Bodleian are being reduced, and on 6 April 2013 regulations came into force that will enable the Bodleian Libraries to collect, preserve and provide long-term access to the increasing proportion of the nation's cultural and intellectual output that appears in digital form. Whilst this marks the beginning of what will over the years become a valuable, comprehensive and extensive collection, e-legal deposit subscriptions costs will increase this financial year.

We aim to balance our budget by raising additional income through philanthropy, absorbing in-year pressures and making savings where possible without compromising our high service standards. Figures are being carefully monitored and reviewed throughout the fiscal year to ensure that we achieve our targets. Savings are being made through delaying replacing positions where front line service will not be impaired.

#### **Bodleian Libraries Implementation plan**

Work on the Implementation Plan to support our 2013-2016 Strategic Plan has reached the point

where Bodleian Libraries staff responsible for the actions the draft contains are being asked to review it and provide the feedback necessary to take the document into its next version.

### **Communications Strategy**

In response to both feedback from a Bodleian Libraries staff survey and a need to support our Strategic Plan, we are also in the early stages of developing a documented Communications Strategy. This will initially define high-level areas of communications activity and outline the priority objectives in each of these areas. Over the course of 2014, a more detailed Communications Plan will be developed, describing key activities that are being or will be undertaken to achieve these objectives.

### **5. Exhibitions, events and publications**

October saw the close of the *Magical Books* exhibition which was hugely successful and almost doubled previous visitor records. The final visitor count came in at 104,000. The exhibition showed the work of some of the foremost modern exponents of children's fantasy literature, members of the group of writers informally known as the 'Oxford School': C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Susan Cooper, Alan Garner and Philip Pullman. The display included a selection of Tolkien's original artwork for *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*; C.S. Lewis's 'Lefay notebook' and his map of Narnia, and manuscripts of novels and poems by Alan Garner, Philip Pullman and Susan Cooper. Also featured in the exhibition were some of the books and manuscripts that contain the myths and legends on which these Oxford-educated authors freely drew for inspiration.

Our current exhibition: *Great Medical Discoveries: 800 years of Oxford innovation* explores aspects of the development of Oxford's strengths in medical science, uncovering new archival materials which shed light on this compelling aspect of Oxford's history and contribution to the world.

This term has also seen some exciting new titles from Bodleian Library Publishing, including *Volume the First*, the entire manuscript of Jane Austen's work of the same name in a printed facsimile, *112 Gripes about the French* and *Great Medical Discoveries: An Oxford Story*, companion to the latest Bodleian Libraries exhibition. More information on the Bodleian Libraries events program 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 March 2014. Until then please continue to visit [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) for news and updates or follow us on Twitter (@bodleianlibs). And, of course, please don't hesitate to contact me at [Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Bodleys.Librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions or comments on our services.

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday.

Kind regards,



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