

TRINITY TERM 2017 UPDATE FROM THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian



INTRODUCTION

At the Bodleian Libraries we are constantly seeking to improve access to our collections and services, both online and physically. This newsletter provides an update on some of this work, including plans to redevelop the Radcliffe Science Library as well as planned work in Duke Humfrey's Library, the Bodleian's oldest reading room. Work to standardize eight online databases of our manuscript collections is also underway, as well as expansions to the Bodleian Data Library.

This update also gives me the opportunity to highlight the Libraries' public programme with exhibitions and events running in the Weston Library and the Bodleian Library. This term sees the close of the popular *Volcanoes* exhibition, curated by Professor David Pyle of the Department of Earth

Sciences and the opening of a new exhibition, *Which Jane Austen?* to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of one of England's most celebrated authors, which has been curated by Professor Kathryn Sutherland of the English Faculty.

Finally, the Libraries are putting the final touches on our new Strategic Plan (2017-2022) which will be published at the end of Michaelmas term and take effect from 1 August. The plan will build a vision for the Libraries that promotes the values and service it provides.

I hope this update provides an interesting summary of recent activity across the Libraries.

Please contact a librarian or visit our website, www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk if you need further information or have queries or comments.

LIBRARIES

MOVE OF THE ALEXANDER LIBRARY OF ORNITHOLOGY TO THE RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY

The closure of the Tinbergen building earlier this year meant alternative accommodation had to be found for the Alexander Library of Ornithology. The Alexander Library is one of the foremost ornithological reference libraries in the world. It holds extensive collections of 19th, 20th and 21st century books, pamphlets and periodicals, and an archive of ornithological notebooks and diaries.

A review of spaces in which to rehouse the Alexander Library was made by the Bodleian Libraries and the most convenient and appropriate space was deemed to be the Radcliffe Science Library (RSL). Plans have been underway to temporarily relocate the library for the time being in the Lankester room on Level 2 of the RSL. The space will house the same collections, the same resources and will be supported by the same members of staff as previously. The room is larger and there is more desk space available for readers.

The move of all library materials from the Tinbergen building is now complete and we're pleased to announce that the Alexander Library is now open in the RSL.

Open shelf material from the Alexander (including most

of the book, journal and reprint collections) is available for consultation during the normal opening hours of the RSL while access to archive and rare book material is only possible at the following times: Monday-Wednesday: 9.30am-2.10pm during school terms and Monday-Tuesday: 9.30am-5.00pm during school vacations. Requests to view this material should be made in advance to the Librarian by emailing sophie.wilcox@bodleian.ox.ac.uk or by emailing: enquiries.rsl@bodleian.ox.ac.uk



LIBRARIES

RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY (RSL)– EXTERNAL LIFT

The basement of the RSL is a large two-storey space, which extends underneath the courtyard of the Museum of Natural History. Following the re-opening of the Weston Library, a large proportion of the RSL basement book stacks have been freed up, enabling the sub-basement to be reallocated to the museums as a shared storage area. The allocation of this space to the museums, which has been approved by the University's Planning and Resource Allocation Committee, provides a valuable opportunity to consolidate a large part of artefact storage in a single central location.

A new external lift at the RSL was proposed to improve access from the parking area to the underground levels of the RSL with the basement of the RSL, now reallocated to the museums as a shared storage area. Given the listed status of the adjacent buildings, the lift has been designed to incorporate as much light as possible and minimise obstruction of the view of the courtyard main façade, with the external housing making extensive use of glass.



In late 2016 the planning application was submitted to Oxford City Council and was granted in March 2017. The University appointed a main contractor (SDC) and work on the lift began w/c 10 April; readers and staff may already see the hoardings that are now up in the space between the RSL and the Museum of Natural History, just outside of the 'Abbot's kitchen' training room. Construction is expected to take approximately six months into October 2017. During construction the RSL will work with the contractors to provide regular updates to staff and readers, in particular keeping them abreast of potential noise issues. For enquiries please contact Kay Kelly, Subject Area Administrator at the RSL at: kay.kelly@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

FUTURE OF THE RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY (RSL) PROJECT

The development of the external lift at the Radcliffe Science Library is the first stage in a wider project to refurbish the library. The proposal put forward is to make a number of alterations and improvements to the space to meet the changing needs of the science divisions, the wider University and the community. A pre-feasibility study, undertaken by FJMT architects, has now been completed and three options were presented. The Pro-VC for Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) and Heads of Division agreed a preferred option (which dedicates a portion of the basement space to the museums) and in Hilary Term 2017 this was approved by the Buildings and Estates Sub-Committee (BESC) as well as the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC). The next step is to plan for a full feasibility study of the site.



DUKE HUMFREY'S LIBRARY

A reminder that 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. Please visit the Duke Humfrey's Library website at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley for up-to-date information for readers.

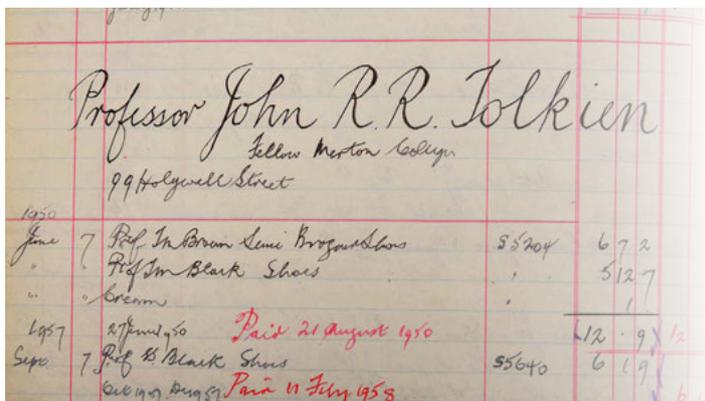


KEY PROJECTS, ACQUISITIONS & RESOURCES

DUCKER & SON LEDGERS

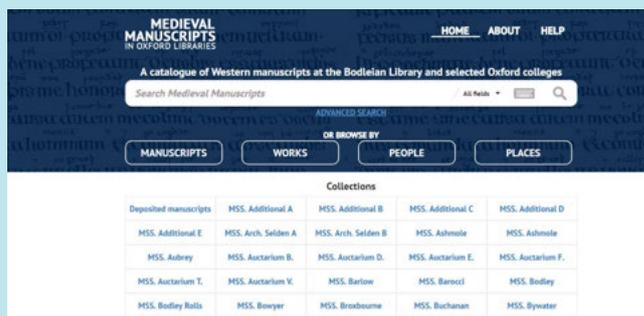
The Bodleian Libraries recently purchased the historic customer ledgers of venerable Oxford shoemaker, Ducker & Son, a unique piece of history which provides a glimpse into the lives of the shop's famous clients such as *Lord of the Rings* author JRR Tolkien and *Brideshead Revisited* novelist Evelyn Waugh. For over a hundred years, from 1898 until it closed in late 2016, "Duckers" traded from its well-known shop on Oxford's Turl Street. The contents of the 11 leather-bound volumes detail the purchases of the shop's illustrious clients over the last century and provide insights into the social and commercial history of the early 20th century. Over the years, customers have included members of European aristocracy, several Maharajahs as well as generations of Oxford academics and students. The purchase has generated significant press interest with articles in *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times*.

The ledgers have been catalogued and are now available for scholars to consult at the Bodleian. The catalogue can be found online at: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/modern/ducker-son/ducker-son.html. In addition to acquiring the ledgers, the Bodleian has also archived the Duckers website in its Web Archive, ensuring that the shop's website is available for scholars to view in perpetuity.



BODLEIAN DATA LIBRARY

The Bodleian Data Library was set up to help readers locate and access research datasets and also to begin considering the place of research management in their work. Recent developments to the site have included an expansion of thematic search options that widens geographical regions. This is a response to an increasing number of queries received regarding datasets specifically for China, India and South America. Other datasets have also been added, including a few where the data library was able to assist in licensing negotiations and advise on how to disseminate the data. In addition other new sections have been added on emerging practices in data citation. This alerts readers to the tools and conventions for effective dataset citation, the benefits this presents for their work and how the Bodleian assists by providing advice and training.



TEXT ENCODING INITIATIVE – CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

The Bodleian's TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) project will standardize the catalogue format of eight manuscript collections, each of which will have a new responsive website with advanced search options. We will launch eight new websites that provide access to our collections, with Medieval Manuscripts launched in June 2017 and the remaining over the following months:

- Fihrist (union catalogue)
- Senmai (union catalogue)
- Hebrew catalogue and Genizah fragments catalogue
- Karchak (Tibetan)
- Sanskrit catalogue
- Armenian catalogue
- Georgian catalogue



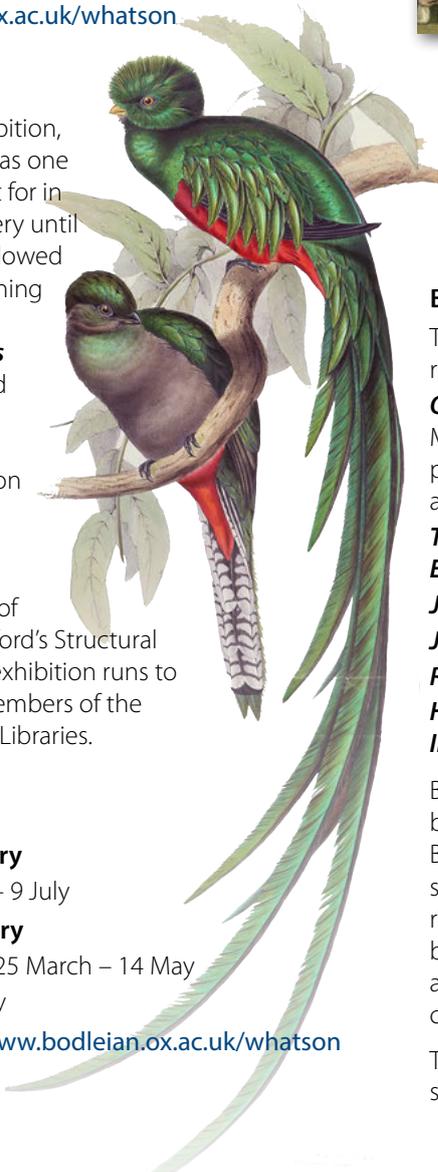
EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

WHAT'S ON AT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

The Libraries run a programme of exhibitions, displays and events. These are primarily held in the Weston Library and in the Old Schools Quad of the Old Library. Admission to exhibitions and events is free but pre-booking for events is advised at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson

EXHIBITIONS

The popular **Volcanoes** exhibition, marked out by *The Guardian* as one of the exhibitions to look out for in 2017, runs in the ST Lee Gallery until 27 May (10 Feb – 27 May) followed by **Which Jane Austen?** opening on 23 June. In the Treasury **Bodleian Treasures: 21 pairs and a tropical forest** opened on 18 March and runs until 11 February 2018. The RSL is currently hosting an exhibition **INSIGHT**, presenting work arising from an ongoing collaborative partnership between the Arts University of Bournemouth (AUB) and Oxford's Structural Genomics Consortium. The exhibition runs to 16 June and is open to all members of the University of Oxford and the Libraries.



DISPLAYS

Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

Painting by numbers 29 April – 9 July

Proscholium, Bodleian Library

Writing the History of the Raj 25 March – 14 May

The Book Index 20 May – 9 July

For more information visit: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson

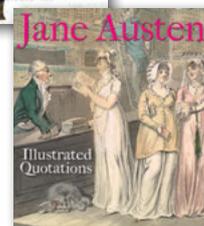
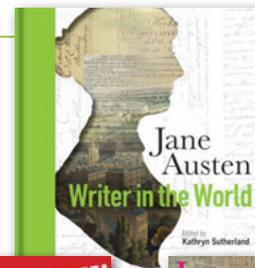
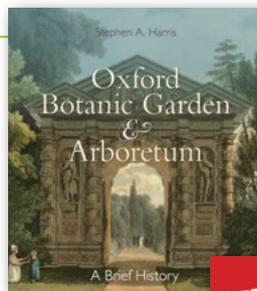
OTHER ACTIVITY



The Bodleian Libraries has just launched a new app, in collaboration with Experience Oxfordshire. The England's Heritage Cities app gives visitors to the Bodleian Library a chance to learn more about the history of the library from various spots outside the building. The app 'England's Historic Cities' is available to download for free in google play and on the app store or at www.historic-cities.com/stories

The Bodleian Library was also recently shortlisted for the best coach friendly attraction at the 2017 Coach Tourism Awards.

At the RSL staff organized a competition to create an innovative, short 360 degree virtual reality video or interactive virtual reality demonstration in three categories. The competition was opened to any member of Oxford University at any level. Four proposals were submitted and are currently in production. The winner will be announced on 9 June.



BODLEIAN LIBRARY PUBLISHING

The following publications are just recently released or will be released in Trinity term 2017:

Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum: A Brief History

March 2017. This is the first in a series of collaborative publications with GLAM, with other titles currently in planning and production.

The Ormesby Psalter: Patrons and Artists in Medieval East Anglia

April 2017

Jane Austen: Writer in the World

June 2017

Jane Austen: Illustrated Quotations

June 2017

Revolution! Sayings of Vladimir Lenin

June 2017

Heroic Works: Catalogue for Designer Bookbinders

International Competition 2017 July 2017

Bodleian Library Publishing has published seven children's books to date and these were presented at the Bologna Book Fair in April (dedicated to children's books), generating significant interest. Publishing control foreign language rights in three of these titles, which have been snapped up by publishers in Japan, China, and Spain and are developing a reputation as a leading publisher of forgotten children's classics.

Titles are available to order instore at the Bodleian Libraries shop or online at www.bodleianshop.co.uk

Our next newsletter will be with you in Michaelmas 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

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