



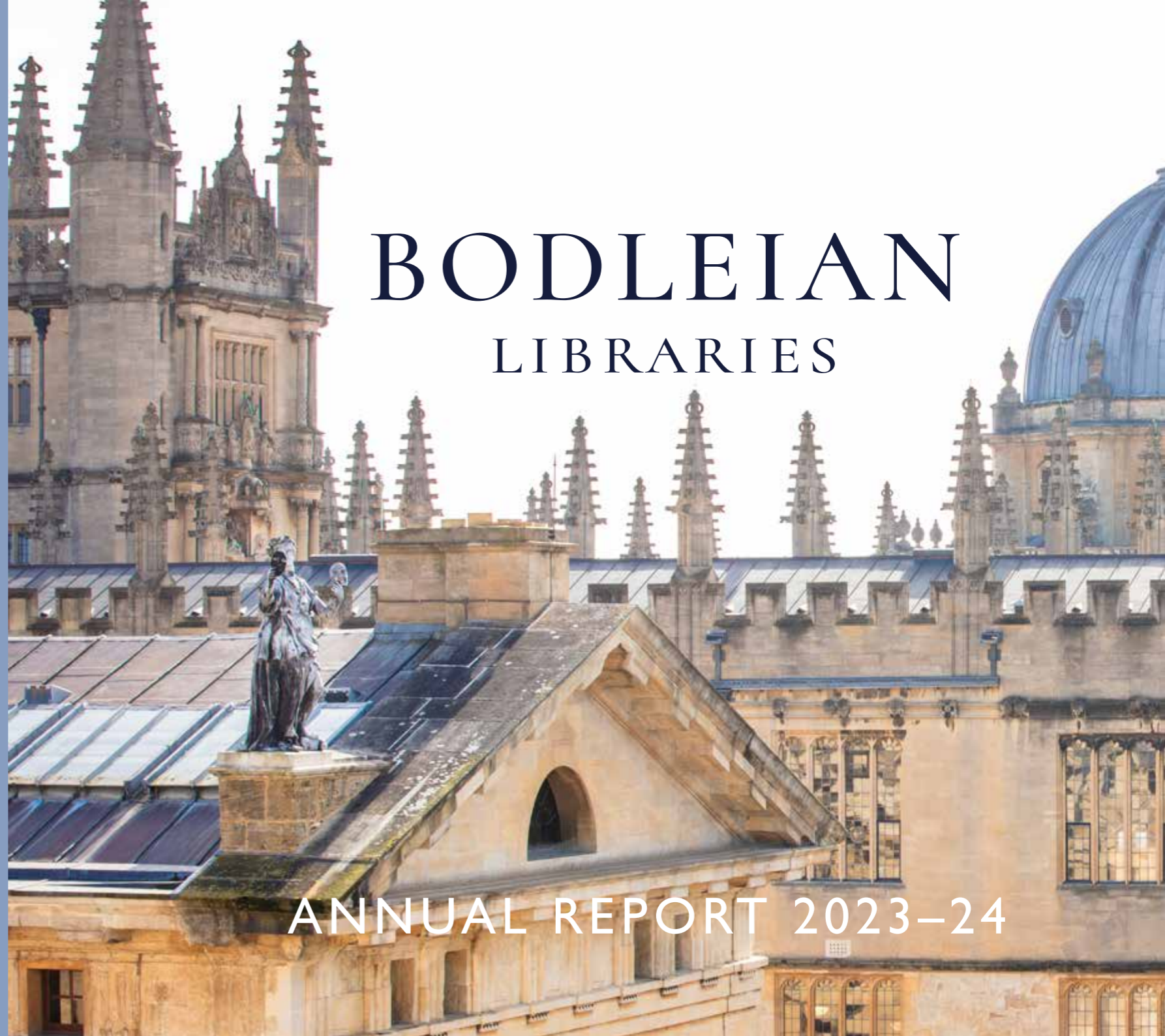
BODLEIAN
LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DARRIN ROLES

BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2023–24





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Introduction

What is a library? It's a question that might conjure a row of shelves, heaving with curated collections; a welcoming room, occupied by people peacefully reading; or a digital site offering access to endless electronic resources. Perhaps something else came to mind for you?

Writer Ali Smith offered this stirring definition when she received a Bodley Medal this year:

Libraries are the ultimate source of sources – of thought; of knowledge; of history; of art; of language's own history and process and power; of the relationship between imagination, truth and fiction; themselves they're the prime and communal source of every book.

Most people would agree, yet countless different perspectives are equally as true.

Narrowing the scope to academic libraries doesn't make the question any less complex. And as the stories in our latest Annual Report show, we are continually reshaping and reimagining what the Bodleian Libraries can be.

Alongside our world-famous physical spaces, we offer digital and technological innovations, like our new online tool to aid manuscript and archive search.

Our collections support personal academic pursuits. They also inform responses to global issues like climate change and artificial intelligence, such as through the Oxford Research Archive (ORA).

Far from being static repositories of fact, our archives are living records, continually interrogated and reinterpreted, as seen in the award-winning 'We Are Our History' project.

Our services extend beyond Oxford. We have responded to overseas conflict and crises, making online tools and resources available to displaced students and scholars.

We support our readers to grow their minds. We also help to care for them, curating spaces for reflection and wellbeing.

And as our vibrant public programme demonstrates – through dancing, storytelling and mischief – we are emphatically not quiet.

There's no single way to define a library, because a library serves many readers and communities for many reasons.

So why does the question matter?

It matters because we need to advocate for libraries. In a world of eight billion perspectives, conflicting opinions and blurred lines between fact and fiction, we need to protect these dependable institutions – where data is preserved and shared; where intellectual exchange and civil debate is fostered; where people work towards common goals; where committed librarians guide you to the tools you need to flourish.

A library is a movement; a place for transformation; a necessity for a healthy society.

Thank you to our generous donors, benefactors, colleagues, partners, peers, readers, visitors and online followers. By supporting our work, you are helping us to keep redefining what a library is – and enabling us to expand the horizons of what we can accomplish together.

Richard Ovenden



RICHARD OVENDEN; BODLEY'S
LIBRARIAN AND HEAD OF
GARDENS, LIBRARIES AND
MUSEUMS

About the Bodleian Libraries

The Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford forms the largest university library system in the UK. It provides a world-class resource for students and scholars from all over the world and heritage for all to enjoy.

The Bodleian Libraries group includes major research libraries; libraries attached to faculties, departments and other institutions of the University; and, of course, the principal University library – the Bodleian Library, which first opened its doors in 1602.

Our collections include books, journals, manuscripts, maps, music, digital data and much more. We work increasingly collaboratively with other parts of the University: with college libraries and archives, and especially with our colleagues in the University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM).



THERE ARE 27 LIBRARIES ACROSS THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

- Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library
- Bodleian Health Care Libraries: Cairns Library at John Radcliffe Hospital, Girdlestone Memorial Library at Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Horton Hospital Library, Knowledge Centre at Old Road Campus
- Bodleian Old Library
- Education Library
- English Faculty Library
- History of Medicine Library
- Japanese Library
- KB Chen China Centre Library
- Latin American Centre Library
- Law Library
- Leopold Muller Memorial Library
- Music Faculty Library
- Nizami Ganjavi Library
- Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library
- Radcliffe Camera
- Radcliffe Science Library*
- Rewley House Continuing Education Library
- Sainsbury Library at the Said Business School
- Sainsbury Library at Egrove Park
- Sherardian Library of Plant Taxonomy
- Social Science Library
- Taylor Institution Library
- Vere Harmsworth Library at the Rothermere American Institute
- Weston Library

* Re-opened in Oct 2023



OUR STRATEGY

The Bodleian Libraries continues our leading role as a library of the 21st century through our five-year strategic plan.

We created the plan to enable the Bodleian to achieve three key aims during the period 2022–2027:

1. To help ensure that the University of Oxford remains at the forefront of academic teaching and research worldwide;
2. To contribute leadership to the broader development of the world of information and libraries for society; and
3. To provide a sustainable operation of the Libraries.

In the Academic Year 2023–2024, we reached the halfway point of our strategy, and channelled everything learnt so far into three galvanising actions: Sustain, Enhance, and Transform.

We ran a series of staff workshops to gain insight about how we can empower our colleagues across the Libraries to actively participate in and feel engaged by the future of the strategy.

We held the first workshop of our new Tech Council, bringing together some of Oxford's finest minds, spanning the Centre for AI Ethics, the Oxford Internet Institute, IT Services, Computer Science, and Medical Sciences.

Our workshop delved into our aspirations for digitisation, social media and web archiving, digital scholarship, and preservation. Key takeaways and insights from the Council offered visions of the Bodleian's future in the digital age and practical advice that we can put into practice.

We also reflected on the impressive strides we have

made so far and announced the successful completion of 10 pivotal projects, highlighting a year rich in progress and strategic delivery.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Improving spaces for readers

After many years of refurbishment, we re-opened the Radcliffe Science Library at the heart of Reuben College. We also upgraded the Centre for Digital Scholarship space in our Weston Library and improved WiFi provision and room booking ability across library sites.

State-of-the-art catalogues

We launched Manuscripts and Archives at Oxford University and a South Asian Manuscripts catalogue, both of which have made it easier for people to discover and access our collections online. We also upgraded the library management system that supports SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online), and expanded the material that was available to search on the catalogue.

Innovations in digitisation:

Through the ARCHiOx (Analysing and Recording Cultural Heritage in Oxford) project, in partnership with the Factum Foundation, we have been able to bring to life the relief surfaces of some of the Bodleian's most celebrated artefacts using a prototype photographic system and 3D scanning. Phase 1 of this innovative research and development project garnered national press attention, paving the way for successfully securing funding for Phase 2. We also reviewed our digitisation operations and are excited to build on the findings so that we can digitise at a greater scale in future years.

Championing Open Access Online

We rolled out a new Open Access Oxford website, which provides systems, tools and guidance for researchers, administrators, staff and students at Oxford. We also made upgrades to our research repository, ORA (Oxford Research Archive), to make it easier for people to publish open research.

Measuring our environmental impact

For the first time, we measured the carbon impact of our activities, buildings and people at the Bodleian. This baseline is helping us to focus our efforts so that we can reduce our carbon usage.

Wellbeing and belonging

Whether staff, students or visitors, we are committed to making the Bodleian a welcoming, inclusive place. The newly refurbished Radcliffe Science Library also has a dedicated wellbeing room, and we have crafted a programme of wellbeing events for students, including nature walks, yoga, and craft events.

We Are Our History

We concluded this award-winning project, which helped us to take a close look at our collections, audiences and staffing, through the lens of race and the legacies of the British Empire, to advance racial equality. We are now integrating the project's recommendations into our existing policies and ways of working.

Commercial excellence

We exceeded our commercial goals, achieving an 8% surplus this year, with the Retail, Venue Hire, and Tours teams all achieving their highest profit figures to date.

Operational efficiency

The newly established Office of Strategy and Delivery, funded by our generous benefactors, has introduced new approaches to strategic operations and planning to help us to achieve our goals.

Philanthropic achievement

The University of Oxford's Development Office helped to raise a significant XX for the Bodleian in 2023–24. Thanks to philanthropy, we have established a Strategy Fund and an Innovation Fund which we invite staff to bid for in order to deliver strategic projects in the libraries.

Looking ahead, with over 50 strategic projects in motion and more in the pipeline, we look forward to sharing further updates in future Annual Reports.

OUR SERVICES

We are making it easier to use the Bodleian Libraries and innovating at our historic sites. We're equipping readers with information skills, helping them to become better researchers and digital citizens. We continue to collaboratively design our services and redefine what a library can be.

IN NUMBERS

25,231 readers held a Bodleian Reader Card – a 5% increase on the previous year.

We saw a continued return to physical use of libraries. Visits numbered 1,933,041 – a 14% increase on last year. The most visited libraries were the Old Library and the Radcliffe Camera, with 681,398 visits, the highest figures since records began eleven years ago.

The newly-reopened Radcliffe Science Library had over 106,000 visits by 12,420 visitors – its highest number of visits in ten years. Daily occupancy figures often outstripped previous annual peaks.

We ran a total of 1,105 information skills and other training sessions, reaching 23,928 attendees. 757 Information Skills sessions provided 11,969 attendees with in-depth training and skills development in information discovery and scholarly communications.

348 Induction sessions introduced 11,899 attendees to SOLO and the services and facilities of the Bodleian Libraries.

While the number of enquiry threads to the reader services email address halved to 4,155, we saw a 12% increase in the number of LiveChat conversations, numbering 5,201.

The number of students receiving library disability support increased from 2,442 last year to 3,267.

The automated alternative format conversion service, SensusAccess, processed 1,665 requests – an increase of 27% on the previous year.

Helping to make our new Library System a success, the Alma project team comprised 150 staff from across the libraries, and 389 staff members were offered 230 hours of training. The change affected 99 libraries and included more than 300 fulfilment (circulation) policies. For comparison, Harvard University works with 28.



SOLO saw 13.5 million user sessions and 19.5 million searches.

Usage of information resources was very high, with 22.5m accesses recorded: loans of print (not including renewals); full-text downloads of e-journals (including Open Access); chapter views of e-books; special collections usage; and views of scans in ORLO.

Borrowing demand is shifting towards e-access, a trend which is seen in the 6% reduction in borrowings of print books from the libraries (131,737).

We saw 15 million downloads of our e-journal articles, an 8% increase on the previous academic year and the highest figure ever.

When moving ORLO to the new Leganto system, we migrated all the reading lists saved at the time, including over 2,500 published lists, 235,488 bookmarked items, 159,364 online links and 9,246 digitised extracts. More than 2,000 ORLO roles were assigned to library and academic staff.

Scan & Deliver remains a hugely popular service, with 24,502 requests delivered and 662,000 pages scanned.

We fulfilled 1,492 requests for scans of Special Collections items, comprising 51,927 pages.

We fulfilled 110 3D printing requests. This amounted to 631 hours of production.

Our healthcare outreach librarians completed 893 in-depth literature searches and other in depth enquiries to support Medical Sciences Division research activity and NHS activity, including systematic reviews.

In the first year of using our LibCal room booking system, 8,478 confirmed bookings were placed by 468 different individuals, representing 21,849 hours of collaborative study time.

In the National Student Survey 2024, the University of Oxford's libraries earned a score of 97% positive responses to the question, *How well have the library resources (e.g., books, online services and learning spaces) supported your learning?* This is the highest score in the UK.

ALMA: A TRANSFORMATIONAL NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM

We launched a new library system in August 2023. Known as Alma, it has brought significant improvements to the staff and reader experience.

Alma has enabled a replacement of site-specific lending policies with a unified policy across Bodleian Libraries; automatic renewals for loan periods; and intuitive improvements to services for readers, such as SOLO. It has also helped to future-proof our software.

The project to implement Alma was large and complex. If you can imagine upgrading all the libraries in Norway, this was even bigger! But thanks to extensive preparation, we changed our systems over to Alma during a 'quiet' summer week, enabling study to continue without a hitch.

Gotta say, love SOLO more now than I did in the past. Thank you for everything you do in keeping the library, its resources and website to such high standards.

A USER OF OUR ONLINE SEARCH TOOL, SOLO

A NEW READER CARD

We introduced a new 'bridging' reader card to support Oxford students and researchers to continue to have borrowing privileges while they are between courses/ research.

SCAN & DELIVER

To help meet demand, we extended the ability to request our Scan & Deliver service to all day, every day (aside from a Christmas period closure), instead of weekdays only. We successfully maintained turnaround times with no significant breaks in service.

IMPROVING READING LIST SERVICES

In Trinity term 2024, we launched a new platform for ORLO (Oxford Reading Lists Online), an essential service for the University's Digital Education Strategy.

The new platform, Leganto, enables more accurate and timely access to library resources; easier bookmarking from Oxford's vast collections; new exporting options; greater flexibility for online content; and opportunities for even better customer service.

SIGNPOSTING GROUP STUDY ROOMS

It's now easier to find collaborative spaces at the Bodleian Libraries, thanks to a new page on our reader website listing details of all group study rooms available across the service.

We created the new resource as a response to a call for improved provision of physical spaces for collaborative work and study, which emerged as a high priority in a recent Reader Survey.

The booking process is easy too, thanks to the rapid roll-out of our LibCal room booking tool. Users have the option to filter by features and equipment offered in each group study space, such as whiteboards and audio-visual equipment for online and hybrid meetings.

Three libraries took part in an initial pilot of the booking tool for one term and – following excellent feedback – it is now in use across eight different libraries, comprising 22 bookable spaces.

RAPID INTERLIBRARY LOANS

In February 2024, we launched Rapid Interlibrary Loans (ILL). Items that readers request using Rapid are now emailed to them directly, without the need to involve our ILL team.

Libraries at other institutions commit to supplying items within 24 hours where possible, meaning that readers can expect to receive their requested items quickly and efficiently.

This represents a time saving for the ILL team who no longer have to locate individual suppliers for the majority of scan requests. It saves on borrowing costs for the library, too.

SUPPORTING READERS WITH DISABILITIES

This year brought some of the biggest changes in Bodleian Libraries' disability provision in recent history.

Thanks to processes offered by our new library system, Alma, we were able to automatically grant library loan period extensions for all students registering with the Disability Advisory Service (DAS) automatically, rather than upon request.

This provision now encompasses extended loans from all Bodleian Libraries – not just the libraries associated with the student's specific degree.

Our work to enable student inclusion through creation of accessible resources saw the team shortlisted for the Vice-Chancellor's 'Support for Students' Award in 2024.

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY: A NEW READING LIST

In October 2023, a team of colleagues from across our libraries launched a new 'Understanding Disability' reading list, complementing existing lists on anti-racist educational resources and LGBT+ resources. The resources are designed to give readers across the collegiate University a starting point for understanding the lived experience of these groups.

Meanwhile, we launched a 'Disability History Resources' LibGuide in November 2023, in time for UK Disability History Month. Created by History Faculty Library Graduate trainee Alice Shephard, the guide contains details of over 200 research resources, crowdsourced by 24 volunteers during a 'Hackathon' in December 2022.

ACCESS FOR DISPLACED SCHOLARS

In response to escalating conflict in Israel, Gaza and the Middle East, the University has been developing a portfolio of educational services.

The Bodleian Libraries was in the vanguard of developments with a portal (in both English and Arabic) for displaced scholars to access our services, including Open Access resources, Digital Bodleian assets and Scan & Deliver.

TAKE A SEAT AT THE RAD CAM

In January 2024, users of the Upper Radcliffe Camera were delighted to settle into new, comfortable chairs!

We upgraded the seating in response to Reader Survey feedback and thanks to a generous philanthropic donation. The chairs have padded backrests and many have armrests, significantly improving reader comfort for long hours of study.

All historic chairs and the majority of the remaining chairs have been retained in situ or re-homed in the Bodleian Library.

3D PRINTING

The Bodleian Libraries provides a low-cost 3D printing service, available to any member of the University for research purposes. Items printed this year include GPS collars for deployment on dogs in Ethiopia; a model of the Adeno Associated Virus vector containing DNA; a Peruvian flute; and a replica mid-Century art school 'Antique Room'!



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POSITIVE STUDENT FEEDBACK



THE NEW RADCLIFFE SCIENCE LIBRARY

After an extensive refurbishment project, we reopened the Radcliffe Science Library to readers in October 2023.

We have transformed the library into a modern, accessible and flexible space to meet the needs of our users at all levels of study and research.

The space provides ready access to print collections (more than 20,000 items – most of which are borrowable), while the latest technology allows access to digital resources.

Two main reading rooms support sociable and individual working, as well as quiet study. There are bookable group study rooms and a 25-seat seminar room, while a new Wellbeing Space offers a popular programme of activities.

We have refreshed the RSL's portraiture too (alongside the returning portrait of Dr John Radcliffe – it is his library after all), reflecting the diversity of Oxford's historic and current scientific community.

Library uptake and feedback to date has exceeded our expectations, including comments on whiteboards that we might just be too old to fully understand.

OUR COLLECTIONS

Our physical collection continues to grow, thanks to important acquisitions, kind donations and valuable feedback from readers that helps us to meet their research needs. We are prioritising how we can make our extraordinary collections increasingly accessible for a society that increasingly lives online, and preserve digital collections for the long term.

We added 125,024 items to our print collections, including 37,423 print Legal Deposit books and 41,342 print serial parts.

Information collections now comprise over 13.7 million printed items, over 203,000 electronic journal titles and over 2.4 million e-books.

We added 384 linear metres of manuscripts and archives to our collection, which now runs to 29.6km.

There were 117,934 item deliveries (not including maps) from the Collections Storage Facility.

We catalogued 177 linear metres of archives and manuscript materials for the first time. A further 140 linear metres of catalogued items, previous available offline, were made available online.

There were 56,418 Special Collection item consultations in the Weston Library.

The Special Collections team answered 7,056 in-depth research enquiries about collection items.

Members of the University deposited 15,756 full-text files, 171 datasets and 1,522 theses into ORA. There were 1.2 million visits to ORA, which translated into 2.9 million downloads of ORA items.

Since launching in October 2022, the Climate Research Collection on ORA has been viewed over 132,000 times with around 10,000 unique records accessed.

Thanks to MARCO, our new manuscript and archive search tool, readers can now search over 200,000 items from 11 online catalogues including archives, early modern and medieval manuscripts, Hebrew manuscripts, and manuscripts from Western, Central and Southern Asia, from 400 BC to the present day.

ORLO provided access to 2,334 reading lists for 38 departments/faculties, accessed 527,465 times – an 11% increase on the previous year.

Despite many researchers having the option of using departmental secure rooms or safe settings to access specialist datasets, use of the Libraries' service was still high, with 124 Safepod bookings.

There were 4,325 requests from our readers to obtain content from other libraries. We also supplied 3,669 items to other libraries: 96% as scans with 134 books being loaned to other libraries.

As of the end of the year, there were 1,342,575 images of 20,716 objects in Digital Bodleian. The site received 384,893 visits over the year, a 6% increase on the previous year. 80% of users came from outside the UK.

We lent 42 items to 12 exhibitions across the UK, Europe and the USA. With three exhibitions still to close, the current number of exhibition visitors viewing these Bodleian items is over 350,000.



MARCO FOR MANUSCRIPTS AND ARCHIVES

In October 2023, we launched a brand new website enabling readers to search across all Bodleian-maintained online manuscript and archive catalogues.

Manuscripts and Archives at Oxford University (known affectionately as MARCO) covers more than 200,000 items from 11 online catalogues, making it easier to find material from across the University's unique and diverse special collections and internal collection boundaries.

Generously funded by The Mellon Foundation, the search tool includes archives held in a number of Oxford colleges, early modern and medieval manuscripts, Hebrew manuscripts, and manuscripts from Western, Central and Southern Asia, from 400 BC to the present day.

NEW BOOKS TO AID RESEARCH INTO SOPHIA KYIVSKA, UKRAINE

In October 2023, we were delighted to receive 77 books that will enhance research into the monuments of the National Reserve 'Sophia Kyivska' in Kyiv, Ukraine.

A historical and architectural reserve of national importance, Sophia Kyivska includes a complex of museums with around 60 monuments. The reserve's Director, Nelia Kukovalska, sent the books to President of the Oxford University Ukrainian Society, Yaroslava Bukhta, with the help of the Embassy of Ukraine to the UK.



E-RESOURCES: A SWIFT RESPONSE TO A CYBER-ATTACK

Due to a major cyber-attack on the British Library infrastructure that underpins our Non-Print Legal Deposit (NPLD) e-resources service, access to the service has not been possible since the end of October 2023.

Due to legislative reasons, NPLD collections (which include e-books and e-journals) can only be accessed from a library computer in a library reading room.

To mitigate the loss of access, the Bodleian was swift in our response to support readers. We highlighted support on our website and through SOLO, including promoting inter-library loans and proactive approaches to buying in individual titles to meet the needs of our readers.

ORA: FROM AI TO CLIMATE RESEARCH

In October 2023, the ORA (Oxford University Research Archive) team unveiled a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Collection.

To launch the collection, Bodleian colleagues hosted a special event, bringing together knowledgeable University researchers in the field of AI and Machine Learning to enjoy talks and networking opportunities.

Meanwhile, in November 2023, the ORA Climate Research Collection project was a finalist in the 'Research with Impact' category of the UK & Ireland 2023 Green Gown Awards (in association with UKRI).

The Climate Research Collection – a Bodleian staff-led collaborative project – is a specialised online portal within ORA, providing free and open access to cutting-edge climate research. The Green Gown awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the world.

This project is exactly what needs to happen to ensure research is translated into policy and practice rather than 'sit on a shelf'.

GREEN GOWN AWARDS JUDGING PANEL FEEDBACK ON THE ORA CLIMATE RESEARCH COLLECTION PROJECT.

BACH AT THE BODLEIAN

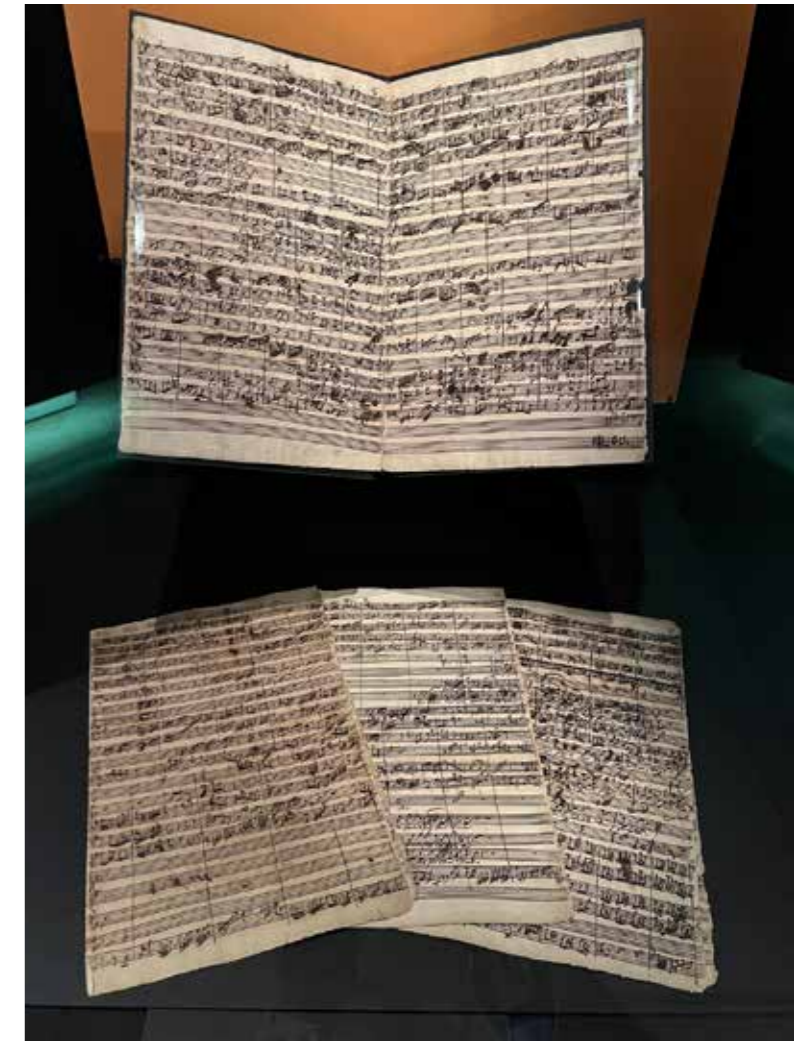
In April 2024, we announced a spectacular, new acquisition: the autograph manuscript of German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's cantata 'Auf Christi, Himmelfahrt allein!'

Bach wrote the piece for performance in Leipzig on the feast of Ascension Day, 10 May 1725. The item came to us thanks to the generosity of the family of the Leipzig-born scientist and collector Sir Ralph Kohn, through the 'Acceptance in Lieu' scheme. Out of love for his adopted home, he wanted the manuscript to go to a UK institution.

We digitised the manuscript and made it available to everyone online at Digital Bodleian. We look forward to sharing this sublime treasure with scholars, engaging with music students, and inspiring composers long into the future.

It must be every music librarian's dream to be given custody of a Bach autograph and the library is honoured to have been entrusted with this magnificent manuscript.

ALFRED BRENDEL, CURATOR OF MUSIC, BODLEIAN LIBRARIES



DONATIONS ENHANCE OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

In April 2024, the Wilson Centre for Photography in London entrusted its outstanding collection of photographic albums and photographically illustrated books to the Bodleian Libraries, thanks to the generosity of Michael and Jane Wilson.

The renowned collection, consisting of over 1,000 items from the 19th and early 20th centuries, includes rare salt prints from the dawn of photography made by some of the earliest photographic practitioners.

In early July 2024, a private individual kindly donated two photographic portraits of Alice Liddell by the writer Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (better known as Lewis Carroll) to the library's growing photography collection.

RECLASSIFYING CLASSICS

The project to reclassify the Classics Lending Library collection of just over 8,000 items began in December 2023, with completion scheduled for August 2024.

Now housed in the Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library, the collection was originally kept in the Classics faculty office.

When the collection moved in 2001, it brought along its own basic classification scheme. But as the collection grew over the years, the scheme was no longer suitable. So, in 2022, the Committee on Library Provision and Strategy in Classics agreed that the collection should use the Library of Congress classification scheme.

CLASSIFYING PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES WITH AI

British metal-detectorists discover thousands of fascinating artefacts every year, adding to the British Museum's immense Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database, which now records over 1.7 million objects. This huge resource makes a vital contribution to British archaeology, so it's important to ensure that data entry is accurate, consistent and efficient.

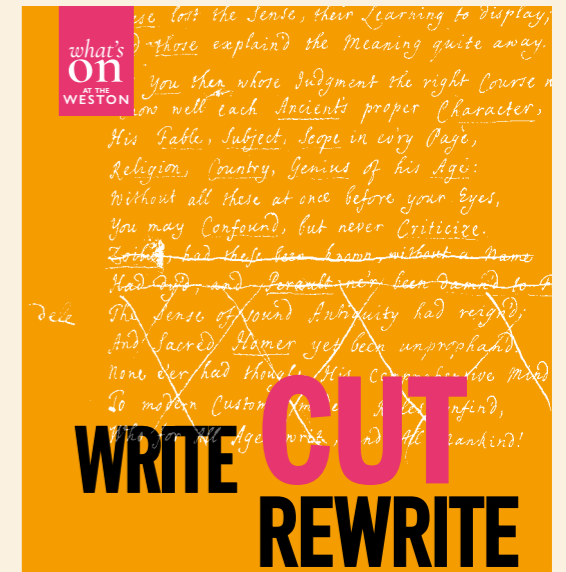
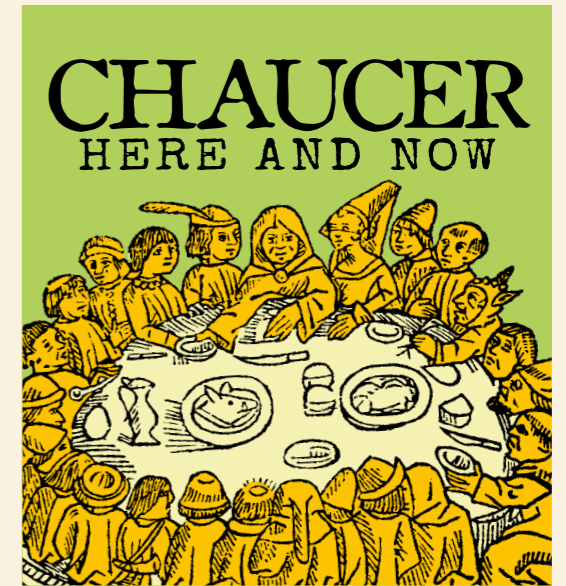
The Bodleian's Centre for Digital Scholarship is collaborating with the Visual Geometry Group (VGG) (Department of Engineering Science) and the PAS in an exciting pilot project, AntiquAI, exploring how the VGG's cutting-edge image recognition software can help to classify artefacts from photographs.

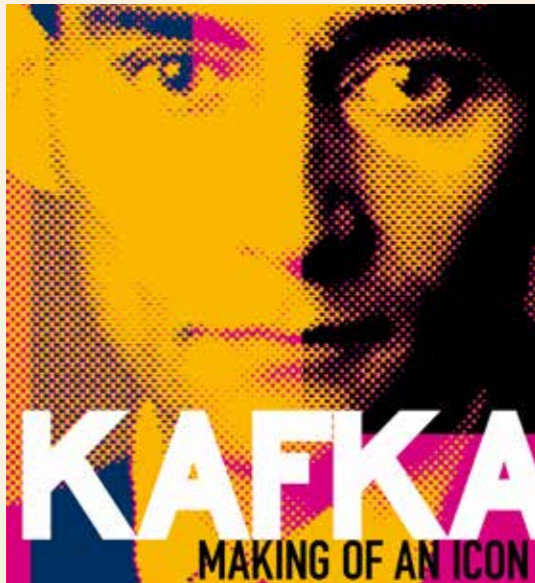
LATEST EXHIBITIONS

We celebrated a 'Season of Great Writers' through three special public exhibitions showcasing fascinating items from our collections – alongside inter-library loans – at Weston Library.

Chaucer Here and Now (December 2023–April 2024) presented the 14th-century English poet and writer Geoffrey Chaucer as a dynamic, global author, whose works have been reworked and reinterpreted over time and around the world. Curated by Professor Marion Turner (University of Oxford), this exhibition drew on material ranging from the earliest known manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales* to contemporary adaptations in theatre and film.

Write Cut Rewrite (February 2024–January 2025) explored the creative importance of editing in literature. The exhibition featured abandoned works, such as Jane Austen's *The Watsons*, and cases of censorship, such as with Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, as well as revisions, discarded fragments and rewritings of famous books from Mary Shelley, John le Carré, James Joyce and more. It was curated by Professor Dirk Van Hulle (University of Oxford) and Professor Mark Nixon (University of Reading).

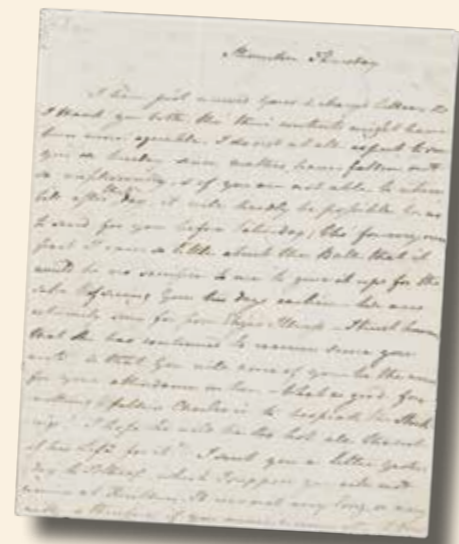




Kafka: Making of an Icon (May–October 2024) marked the 100th anniversary of Franz Kafka's death, celebrating not only the author's achievements and creativity but also how he continues to inspire new literary, theatrical and cinematic creations around the world. The Bodleian Library holds the largest archive on Kafka, with his papers having been placed in our care in 1961 on permanent revocable loan, thanks to Sir Malcolm Pasley, Fellow in German at Magdalen College Oxford.

You're going to see Jane Austen pinning pages over pages; Tolkien writing in pencil; Franz Kafka when he realises he cannot sustain a first person narrative and replaces 'I' with 'K' – and it's very moving.

STEPHEN PAGE (CHAIR, FABER & FABER) AT THE *WRITE, CUT, REWRITE* LAUNCH EVENT



Peter's journey of family history shows how diving into the archives can unexpectedly intertwine past and present, reminding us that within dusty records lie real people awaiting rediscovery.

JASDEEP SINGH, 'WE ARE OUR HISTORY' PROJECT LEAD, BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

MISCHIEF IN THE ARCHIVES

In Hilary term 2024, an intimate display at Weston Library explored musician and artist Peter Brathwaite's journey to uncover his family history, spanning continents and centuries.

While tracing his roots back to the British-owned Codrington plantations in Barbados, Peter discovered the stories of three 18th-century ancestors whose lives intersected amid the grim reality of slavery.

In the historical archives, enslaved individuals were often labelled 'mischievous' for trying to assert their humanity and personhood. In what he calls 'counter-archives', Peter challenged the colonial records narrative and – in an act of creative 'mischief' – surfaced hidden voices buried within them.





PLATES, PRINTS & PIXELS

The *Plates, Prints & Pixels* display in Weston Library (May–August 2024) unearthed the hidden stories behind printing plates held at the Bodleian, dating back to the 17th- and 18th-centuries.

It reveals remarkable discoveries made possible through the collaboration between the Department of Engineering Science and the ARCHiOx project, a partnership between the Bodleian Libraries and the Factum Foundation, funded by The Helen Hamlyn Trust, focusing on the recording of marks on selected items from our unique Special Collections.

Featuring plates entrusted to the Bodleian in 1755 by Richard Rawlinson, and showcasing the discovery of the earliest surviving copper music plate in the Libraries' collections, the display highlights the importance of merging the sciences and humanities to fully understand the items' cultural impact and heritage.

'APRIL FAKES DAY': ARTEFACTS OF A FABRICATED PAST

Over the 2024 Easter weekend and April Fool's Day, the Bodleian joined Oxford University researcher Professor Patricia Kingori for a celebration of hoaxes, forgeries and fakes.

Joining in with other Oxford and London museums, a temporary display in Weston Library included a forged Shakespeare signature; miniatures (17th- or 18th-century) added to make a 13th-century book seem more impressive; and forged anti-apartheid petitions from South Africa, 1977.

Kingori's research reflects on how fakes can prompt important questions such as: 'in a world where it's increasingly hard to tell what's real, who gets to say that something is real or fake?'

EXHIBITION LOANS: PROMOTING GLOBAL ACCESS

Supporting national and international exhibitions through loans continues to promote global access to our collections and support income generation and fundraising opportunities.

Over the reporting year, the Bodleian lent 42 items to 12 exhibitions across the UK, Europe and the USA. Highlights included:

- MS. Ashmole 1511, the 'Ashmole Bestiary', for the newly refurbished Perth Museum & Art Gallery's inaugural exhibition *Unicorn*:



- MS. Huntington 187 and MS. Elliott 189, which travelled to Los Angeles County Museum of Art for *Dining with the Sultans*, which was visited by over 139,000 people:
- Four key items from the archives of authors C.S. Lewis and Alan Garner, which were seen by more than 56,000 people visiting the British Library's *Fantasy* exhibition.

For our exhibition *Chaucer: Here and Now*, the Bodleian borrowed the 'Hengwrt Chaucer', the oldest known manuscript of *The Canterbury Tales*, from the National Library of Wales. For *Write, Cut, Rewrite*, we were pleased to show materials from the archive of Samuel Beckett held at the University of Reading. For *Kafka: Making of an Icon*, notable loans included materials from the National Library of Israel, the Science Museum group, and a portrait of Kafka by Andy Warhol. This exhibition also showed many of the Kafka items jointly-owned with the DLA, Marbach.

OUR COMMUNITIES

What is a library without its people? This year, we developed our wellbeing offers for readers, celebrated award-winning colleagues and continued work to provide a more sustainable operation of our libraries. We welcomed tens of thousands of people to activities and events, improved inclusivity and accessibility and even turned one of our spaces into a ballroom.

IN NUMBERS

Our strong exhibition programme brought more than 50,000 visitors to *Alphabets Alive* and more than 36,000 to *Gifts & Books*. By the end of the academic year, *Kafka: Making of an Icon* had attracted more than 50,000 visitors.

Our Public Engagement programme attracted strong numbers, with 32,340 participants – an increase of 70% on previous year. This included 5,566 family members (an increase of 177% on the previous year) and 10,936 adult visitors (an increase of 134%).

Our Space for Reading in Blackwell Hall welcomed 10,103 visitors, an increase of 46% on the previous year.

Volunteers generously gave 1,281 hours of work to support our Public Engagement programme.

Our reader website saw 1,603,810 sessions – an increase of 16% on the previous year. The Visit website received 1,083,670 visits – an increase of 44%.

We posted on social media 2,090 times, receiving 600,000 engagements across our channels.

More than 50 couples tied the knot in our beautiful spaces!



OXFORD KAFKA 24

Spring 2024 saw the launch of 'Oxford Kafka 24', a University-wide campaign to encourage awareness of the literary works and enduring global legacy of Czech-born writer Franz Kafka. The campaign marked the centenary of his death.

Alongside the major Bodleian exhibition, *Kafka: Making of an Icon*, the campaign delivered exciting cultural activities across the city, such as dance performances and family events.

A particular highlight was the ambitious initiative 'Oxford reads Kafka', for which the Bodleian Libraries gifted a copy of *The Metamorphosis* to every Oxford University student and Bodleian staff member, and saw a public reading of the work at the Sheldonian and a programme of talks from the four University of Oxford divisions.

The campaign was a great opportunity for the Bodleian to work with the Humanities Cultural programme, the German Sub-faculty and the wider University.



CONNECTING STAFF, STRATEGY AND SUCCESS

In September 2023, colleagues gathered at the beautiful St Hugh's College for the annual Staff Conference. Keynote talks looked at our strategy and the connection between our staff, our goals and the success of the organisation. A number of our colleagues generously offered their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to facilitate workshops.

We also welcomed Nick Poole (CILIP), and Stephanie Tierney (Centre for Evidence Based Medicine). Tierney's talk examined how libraries can be important for 'social prescribing': a holistic approach to healthcare that connects patients to a non-clinical services in the community to help improve health and wellbeing.

ATTENDEES DESCRIBED CONFERENCE TALKS

'Interesting, informative, funny and engaging' and 'both relevant to the libraries and an opening of perspective on the role of libraries!'

WE ARE OUR HISTORY

'We Are Our History: Towards Racial Equity' (WAOH) is a project that helps the Bodleian Libraries to take a close look at its collections, its work with audiences, and its staffing through the lens of race and the legacies of the British Empire. It supports our commitment to actively foster inclusion and diversity in everything we do.

The project's 2023–2024 activities included the following:

- We hosted a visit from Target Oxbridge, a residential programme for Black British students organised by the Oxford Undergraduate Admissions team, which included two engaging sessions exploring science and history at the Bodleian.
- Our sold-out 'WAOH Conversations' lecture series engaged more than 200 attendees. It included talks from book artist Tia Blassingame on uplifting marginalised voices in printmaking, and from Professor Sadiya Qureshi (Professor of Modern British History, University of Manchester) who examined the concept of extinction and its political implications within the context of European imperialism.
- We engaged shoppers at Oxford's Westgate shopping centre with collections related to overlooked Black histories.

- Kenvi Phillips, EDI Director at Brown University Library, gave a workshop on inclusive descriptions, providing guidance on adapting language to better serve diverse researchers without erasing history.
- An online workshop with colleagues at Berlin's Staatsbibliothek sparked productive exchanges about collaborative approaches to digitising and presenting colonial-era collections sensitively.

I enjoyed Tinashe's talk – I am a fan of his work already so I enjoyed hearing him speak. I love the honesty with which he engages with archives, and it inspires my own work in the archives.

AN ATTENDEE OF DR. TINASHE MUSHAKAVANHU'S
'WAOH CONVERSATIONS' TALK

TIA BLASSINGAME: PRINTER IN RESIDENCE

In October 2023 we welcomed Tia Blassingame as printer in residence at the Bodleian Bibliographical Press. Tia is a book artist, printer, publisher (Primrose Press), curator and educator. She uses book arts and printmaking to create racially-charged images that seduce the reader into nuanced discussions on issues of race and racism.

Over one month, she developed existing work (*Black: A Handbook*), created new work, carried out research with Bodleian Special Collections, shared her practice with Bodleian staff and met local groups, students and the public. Her book *Mourning/Warning* featured in our *Alphabets Alive!* exhibition (July 2023–January 2024).



CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

Four outstanding Bodleian-led and collaborative projects were shortlisted for the Vice-Chancellor's Awards 2024, with our WAOH project named among the winners.

Taking place in May 2024 at a special ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre, the annual awards recognise achievements and celebrate success across the collegiate University.

Bodleian teams were proud finalists and winners for four awards:

- 'We Are Our History': Winner, Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award;
- Inclusive programming for adults with learning disabilities in the University of Oxford's Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) – a collaboration with other GLAM sites: Winner, Community Partnership Award;
- Supporting disabled student inclusion through creation of accessible resources: Finalist, Support for Students Award;
- Collecting COVID: Public and community engagement with research – a collaboration with the History of Science Museum: Finalist, Research Engagement Award.

I think it's a wonderful thing... a place not only to hear more about the history of zines [but also] the more grassroots conversations that you have, and unexpected connections.

A ZINE FAIR ATTENDEE



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: FROM A TO ZINES

Our Public Engagement programme saw 14 exciting events including concerts, practical workshops and webinars. All events were free and funding came from the Cultural Programme, Henry and Jacqui Morgenstein and the Helen Hamlyn Trust.

Highlights included:

- The September 2023 Oxford Open Doors event, which we themed around our *Alphabets Alive!* exhibition to create an A-Z of the Bodleian. The project encouraged visitors to visit areas of the Library beyond the Weston and the Old Library.
- The annual Zine Fair in February 2024, which more than 600 visitors joined for discussion, making, selling and sharing. Over 15 zines and small publishers were represented, and almost all began or are based in Oxford.
- The 2024 Spring Festival celebration, which involved almost 700 visitors with lantern making, calligraphy, family-friendly 'Show and Tells' with the Chinese collections and performances from student groups Oxford Chinese Orchestra and PhoenOx Chinese Dance Society.

Public Engagement partnerships continue as a priority through ongoing projects with MIND, Asylum Welcome and Oxford Flash Fiction, alongside new partnerships including a prison reading group project with HMP Grendon and a Parkinson's Disease support group.



THE DANCING MASTER

Our Regency-dance-themed project 'The Dancing Master' produced one of our best received programmes ever for adult audiences.

It began in October 2023, with a display in Weston Library's Blackwell Hall celebrating the 400th anniversary of the birth of John Playford, who first published his collection of English country dances and their tunes in 1651. Eighteen editions were published over 80 years, teaching steps and choreographing new dances for court and assemblies at the time. Its music continues to be loved today through film and television such as *Bridgerton*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Poldark*.

The project culminated in a grand costume ball in the library in January 2024. Attendees donned stunning costumes from the 1651–1728 time period, and danced to original steps and music.

It gave me such a buzz to be in the Weston Library with people in costume and live music. It gave me a sense of community and belonging – dancing AND craft in a library – YES!

A DANCING MASTER'S BALL PARTICIPANT

SPACE FOR READING

The Space for Reading, funded by the Guy and Elinor Meynell Charitable Trust, continues to support a wide range of co-curated events such as reading groups, author talks and other activities, while providing a generous and welcome space for all visitors to relax and read.

I think this space is a brilliant idea and provides the chance to stop, reflect and be inspired.

A SPACE FOR READING USER

CREATING AN 'EASY READ' GUIDE

To help visitors with accessibility needs, we produced an Easy Read Guide in partnership with sixth form students from Iffley Academy Special School. Easy Read is a nationally-recognised format for accessible guidance for adults with a range of needs. Twelve students visited the library in November 2023 to trial the draft guide, and a PDF version is now available on the accessibility pages of the Bodleian website.



WOOL AND WELLBEING

We held 11 centrally-organised events to support student and staff wellbeing, including a DPhil welcome evening, eight tours of the Botanic Garden, and – a continuing favourite – the return of a herd of alpacas (and a llama).

The cute camelids visited us for the third year running in May 2024, outside the Radcliffe Camera. Helping to boost wellbeing and decrease stress, the animals brought joy and calm for the 600 staff and students who came to meet and pet them.

Meanwhile, our new Radcliffe Science Library (RSL) Wellbeing Room – unveiled when we reopened the library in October 2023 – has been a hit with readers.

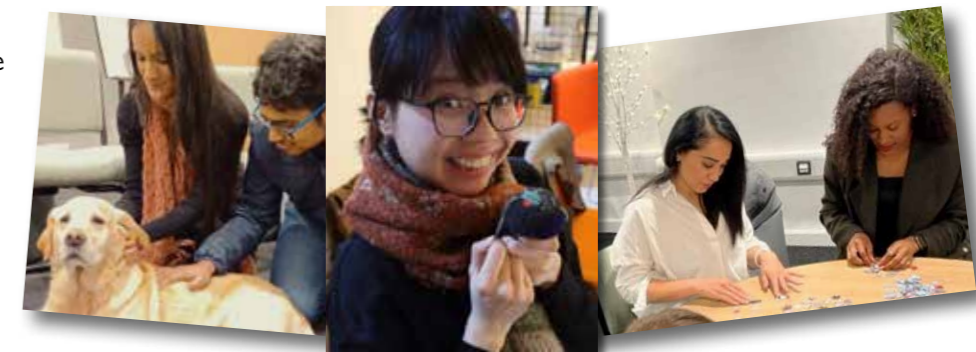
Users are encouraged to try out a new hobby from the equipment in the room, such as knitting, origami, modelling clay and board games. The space also offers books covering everything from mental health to gender, sexuality, race and neurodiversity, to poetry and comics.

The RSL also launched a programme of wellbeing events for Oxford students and staff, such as Lego lunches, nature walks, coffee mornings and our very popular visits from therapy dogs!



This room makes my days much easier and more comfortable since I live far away and don't have another place to relax until I go back in the evening. Thank you.

RSL WELLBEING ROOM USER



THE BODLEY MEDAL: SIR PHILIP PULLMAN AND ALI SMITH

This year, we awarded two prestigious Bodley Medals, recognising writers Sir Philip Pullman and Ali Smith for their outstanding contributions to the worlds of books, literature and libraries.

Pullman received his medal in November 2023 at a special ceremony at the Sheldonian Theatre, which included a fascinating panel discussion chaired by Erica Wagner, with Cressida Cowell, Dr Philip Goff, Dr Margaret Kean and Dr Rowan Williams.

The Bodleian Library is an institution I've revered since I first swore not to start a fire inside it back in 1965... I've never kindled any flame inside these majestic buildings, nor been tempted to; and to find myself the recipient of this magnificent award is a great honour.

SIR PHILIP PULLMAN



Prior to the ceremony, our Communications team interviewed Pullman within his home to learn about his relationship with Oxford and the Bodleian, and to discover what's on his writing desk! The film is available on our YouTube channel.

Author, playwright, academic and journalist Ali Smith received the medal in March 2024, as part of the Oxford Literature Festival.



RECORD-BREAKING ENTERPRISES

Bodleian Enterprises continues to go from strength to strength. Visitor numbers have returned to pre-Covid levels and we had record-breaking attendance on our tours and sales in the shops.

Responding to demand, our Tours team introduced evening tours throughout the summer and exclusive VIP tours twice a year. We also extended the opening hours of our shops.

Similarly, our wonderful spaces saw a large increase in corporate dinners and events, and the Venue Hire team hosted over fifty weddings during the year – another record!

HAVE YOU HERD ABOUT OXTRAIL?

For summer 2024, a sculpture trail of 30 bold and beautiful oxen took over Oxfordshire in support of Sobell House Hospice. To make the herd unique, each sculpture was designed by an artist, school or youth group.

The Bodleian sponsored one sculpture, which was painted by none 'udder' than the Bodleian's Front of House Supervisor, Sian Tezell! Sian designed our bovine beauty with a stunning illuminated manuscript design.

DECOLONISATION IN MOTION

In Michaelmas term 2023, the 'Decolonisation in Motion' film season explored how African decolonisation in the period from the late 1950s to the early 1970s has been represented on screen by filmmakers from the continent and beyond.

Organised by University College in collaboration with the Bodleian, the season presented six screenings of eight films, ranging from propaganda shorts to documentary to fiction.



ONE MILLION VISITORS TO THE ST LEE GALLERY

In August 2023, Weston Library's ST Lee Gallery received its one millionth visitor!

Bodleian colleagues surprised a family, one of whom was the millionth visitor, as they dropped into the *Gifts & Books* exhibition (June–October 2023). The family, who were visiting the UK from Mexico, enjoyed a special welcome from curator Dr Nick Perkins and a goody bag of gifts and books from the Bodleian shop.



THE TAYLORIAN MARKS TWO YEARS OF INVASION

In February 2024, The Taylor Institution Library marked two years of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The Library hosted a screening of Mstyslav Chernov's Oscar-nominated film documentary *20 Days in Mariupol* in collaboration with the Oxford University Ukrainian Society. This coincided with an evening-long exhibition, also at the Taylorian, of *Unissued Diplomas*: a transnational initiative to commemorate 40 Ukrainian students who have died as a result of Russian aggression.

OPENING BANNED BOOKS

Our social media channels continued to engage followers worldwide, and celebrated World Book Day in March 2024 by opening some of our 'banned' books in a series of short films.

Bodleian Curator Dr Andrew Dunning presented the videos, exploring books like the Roman Catholic Church's 1557 *Index of Prohibited Books*, and asking: what could possibly go wrong in providing a list of every book that people should not read?

CARBON COMMITMENTS

During 2023–24, in line with the Bodleian Strategic Plan, we completed work to create a carbon baseline report (for 2021–22) and set carbon reduction targets.

This work has also been delivered across the Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) and supports the University goal of carbon 'net zero' by 2035. Key areas of focus are emissions from our buildings, suppliers that we use, our commercial operations and staff travel.

To help support implementation, we've created a new GLAM Environmental Sustainability Manager. All new starters are offered carbon literacy training as part of their induction, and we have several Green Impact teams across the libraries promoting recycling, improving biodiversity and reducing energy usage.



AN AWARD-WINNING MAP CURATOR

In January 2024, Bodleian Map Curator Nick Millea was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and presented with the prestigious Bartholomew Globe by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

Nick's award recognised his work promoting maps and cartography in the national and international community. Nick joins an elite list of Honorary Fellowship recipients including Ernest Shackleton, Neil Armstrong and Annie Lennox!



SUPPORT & FINANCIALS

ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund 2024 supported our work to help safeguard some of the world's greatest literary treasures and collections. Generous contributors helped to ensure that our collections continue to inspire generations to come with the knowledge that should be accessible to all.



FRIENDS OF THE BODLEIAN

Our Friends of the Bodleian membership programme saw several exciting activities this year.

On Valentine's Day 2024, we led 40 Friends on a tour of the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library – with a romantic twist. Our 'Date Night at the Divinity School' shared the love story of the first Bodley's Librarian, Thomas James, and his sweetheart Anne Underhill. Our Development team shared the history of these iconic buildings, interspersed with chapters from the love story.

In May, the Friends of the Bodleian programme was invited to be charity partner to the ABA book fair at the Saatchi Gallery, London. The annual book fair welcomes 6,000 visitors over three days and includes many of the most influential booksellers in the UK and globally.

In June, the Friends' most popular speaker of 2023 returned to give the Annual Lecture 2024. Professor Emma Smith (Professor of Shakespeare Studies, Hertford College) discussed the four copies of Shakespeare's First Folio now in Oxford, and the ways in which their specific stories illustrate the wider biography of this charismatic edition.

OUR DONORS

We are pleased to recognise donors who gave £25,000 and above to the Bodleian Libraries in 2023–24. We would also like to thank all our donors who prefer to remain anonymous. We couldn't have achieved our work this year without your generosity and support.

The Andrew W Mellon Foundation

Aubry Family

Mr Julian Blackwell

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Mr Peter Burnett

The estates of the late Gillian Avery and Tony Cockshut

The Conservative Party

Donner Canadian Foundation

The Right Honourable The Lord Thomson of Fleet

Gale

The Helen Hamlyn Trust

Open Society Foundations

Peter Tatchell Foundation

Robert Craft Igor Stravinsky Foundation

The William Talbott Hillman Foundation

The Vogel-Denebeim Family

The late Brian Wilson



KEY STATISTICS & FINANCE

LIBRARY SPACES	2023–24	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Gross internal floor area <i>m</i> ²	43,594	42,628	42,628	42,774	42,774
Study spaces * <i>as at end Trinity term</i>	4,072	3,923	4,030	1,003	4,289

COLLECTIONS

Total catalogued print stock <i>excluding archives and manuscripts</i>	13,708,007	13,792,907	13,641,321	13,501,857	13,435,019
Net number of items added to the collection	125,024	151,586	139,464	66,838	140,853
Total linear metres of archives and manuscripts	29,522	29,285	28,452	28,293	28,062
Number of ebooks	2,422,400	1,629,194	1,541,342	1,458,802	1,896,480
Number of ejournals	203,680	177,620	177,365	142,506	135,843
Number of current journals only available in print	13,873	21,664	21,919	22,360	26,100
Number of print legal deposit books received	78,765	61,467	78,320	44,141	36,514
Number of electronic legal deposit books received	42,341	87,852	80,290	121,298	237,000
Number of print legal deposit serials received	10,042	11,253	20,857	20,529	24,688
Number of electronic legal deposit serials received	26,003	25,807	17,924	16,878	15,259
Fetches from the BSF	117,934	124,814	117,455	44,135	115,751
Books moved	2100	1,600	827	4,000	10,000

RESEARCH & STUDY SUPPORT

Number of complete works in ORA available to the public	124,128	108,372	98,114	88,853	74,233
Number of datasets in ORA	1,492	1,321	1,152	933	821
Number of theses in ORA available to the public	20,001	18,479	12,859		
Total number of items in ORA	-	280,371	270,325	261,280	246,396
Downloads of items from ORA	2,859,401	2,098,980	996,257	2,065,0145	2,079,771
Number of 'live' lists in ORLO	2,334	2,593	2,595	2,632	1,514
Number of visits to ORLO lists	527,465	477,051	529,658	526,388	323,134
Number of attendees at information skills training	24,758	25,436	27,608	29,664	16,398
Number of students supported by ARACU	54	70	70	49	45
Number of pages provided in alternative formats by ARACU	58,948	73,543	128,582	86,592	88,673
Number of items processed by ARACU	4,157	5,249	5,879	3,329	2,281

LIBRARY USE	2023–24	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Reader visits	1,933,041	1,702,360	1,316,510	448,958	1,019,569
Peak reader headcount on sample days (16 days at 11:30am & 3pm)	2,118	2,004	1,646	697	1,972
Article downloads	14,962,862	13,435,814*	12,689,163	12,997,441	12,010,565
Book chapter downloads	7,214,935	7,065,314*	6,216,739	6,675,481	5,933,885 <i>new metric</i>
Searches of SOLO	19,544,852	17,716,039	17,218,141	16,245,206	17,608,858
Database searches <i>new metric</i>	-	2,900,000*	2,875,991	[14,329,974]	[12,147,271]
Total loans	22,507,590	321,248	259,995	122,024	318,352
Number of borrowers	19,091	20,080	18,986	16,972	21,317
Number of Scan & Deliver requests completed	24,502	22,959	29,168	44,347	9,942
Special Collection items consulted	56,418	55,333	66,435	18,276	29,728
Number of Special Collection Scan requests completed	1,492	1,623	1,771	2,012	111
Views of a digitised book or manuscript	5,826,297	3,025,697	4,633,725	2,983,034	2,958,864
Total enquiries to reader.services mailbox	4,155	8,105	8,068	11,888	2,812 <i>from 16 March</i>
Total number of LiveHelp chats	5,201	4,631	5,132	8,271	5,023

* Estimated due to impact of Alma implementation

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Number of visits to physical exhibitions	253,427	190,417	254,363	37,335	192,303
Number of visits to online exhibitions	21,563	22,769	25,423	37,327	113,967
Visits to Blackwell Hall	849,893	665,080	471,108	65,975	479,047
Widening Engagement participants <i>at schools / community groups / public activities</i>	28,480	14,966	11,520	5,062	11,158
Number of visitors taking tours	209,427	175,727	116,599	30,285	98,622
Number of website sessions	4,121,389	3,275,178	2,949,065	2,366,146	1,814,815
Mentions in traditional media	5,225	3,302	2,517	1,673	5,530
Social media interactions	599,654	507,733	395,279	646,693	449,186

COMMERCIAL	2023–24	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Shop sales	£1,680,300	£1,157,283	£816,800	£274,670	£682,348
Books published by Bodleian Library Publishing sold	72,256	72,072	69,973	70,607	63,527
Boxes made	34,409	34,328	37,712	25,994	21,116

STAFF

Total staff (FTE)	555.51	562.76	542.13	541.54	568.59
Library staff (FTE)	482.4	482.97	469.03	477.06	500.74
Trading staff (FTE)	44.99	42.66	43.1	41.78	47.39
Project staff (FTE)	28.12	37.13	30.00	22.70	20.46

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS	2023–24	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20
Staff expenditure	£25,531,775	£25,382,610	£22,919,886	£22,473,959	£23,495,860
Information provision expenditure	£9,330,747	£9,952,684	£8,933,325	£10,147,043	£10,042,534
APC expenditure	£3,347,099	£3,516,682	£3,248,514	£2,972,504	£2,847,405
Other expenditure	£16,507,280	£18,967,423	£17,161,274	£15,302,082	£15,299,161
Total gross expenditure	£54,716,901	£57,819,398	£52,263,000	£50,895,588	£51,684,960
University funding	£34,998,605	£36,118,468	£34,757,600	£34,553,550	£33,567,000
HEFCE NRL grant	£2,008,887	£2,012,669	£1,897,947	£1,897,947	£1,897,947
Other income – internal	£436,618	£569,331	£541,098	£361,828	£548,523
Other income – external	£18,110,140	£18,637,303	£14,716,162	£14,149,186	£15,501,746
Total income	£55,554,250	£57,337,771	£51,912,807	£50,962,512	£51,515,216

