

Bodleian Social Science Library: Committee on Library Provision and Strategy

2.00pm, Friday 20 February 2026

Social Science Library Large Discussion Room

MINUTES

1. Introductions and apologies

Academic members: Molly Grace (SoGE, Chair), Dirk Witteveen (Social Policy and Intervention), Julius Schneider (Socio-Legal Studies), Lindsay Richards (Sociology), Mehman Ismayilli (Economics),

Student members: Baltazar Dydensborg (Politics and IR), Emma Bowie (Criminology), Great Nnamani (Economics), Muhammad Atcha (Socio-Legal Studies), Nihar Gokhale (ODID PG), Shuaichu Pan (Politics UG), Shuwei Sun (Geography PG), Sophia Andresen (Social Policy and Intervention).

Library members: Eleanor Peers (Social Science Library), Jane Rawson-Jones (Nuffield College Library), Jo Gardner (Social Science Library, Minutes), Louise Clarke (Head of Social Sciences Libraries).

Apologies received: Cerys Acton (Geography UG), David Doyle (Politics and IR), Helen Worrell (Social Sciences Libraries), Mary Anne Ludwig (Sociology PG).

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2.1 SSL refurbishment project updates

Louise Clarke reported back on input received at our previous meeting. The project plan now includes two new discussion rooms with rectangular tables, wall-mounted screens and soundproofing, and the SSL entry spine will have a mix of freestanding furniture and new carpets. We expect to receive confirmation by the end of March. The works would be scheduled for the long vacation; we may need to close the library for a short period during the works and provide a book delivery service to the nearby Law Library.

2.2 National negotiation for journal Read and Publish deals

Louise confirmed that the national negotiations for new Read and Publish deals with the 'Big 5' journal publishers were successful in all cases. The University of Oxford has signed all contracts, and we will have uninterrupted access to the journals.

2.3 Accessing electronic Legal Deposit content

Jo Gardner noted that there is an online guide at <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/eld-explained> and has followed this up with John Southall as Subject Librarian for Sociology

2.4 Request for more monitors

Jo noted that further enquiries have been received at the library desk, and has requested funding for more monitors.

2.5 Request to reduce the limit for booking library discussion rooms

Jo has passed this feedback on to the Academic Services Development Librarian. Jo will also check the booking patterns on the system and pass on any causes for concern. **ACTION Jo**

2.6 Request for better quality markers for the library whiteboards

Jo confirmed that new markers are available, and library staff are reminded to check and replace any that are dried out.

3. Online news sources: Access, promotion and training

Jo gave a short presentation outlining our institutional subscriptions to current news sources, such as The Economist and Financial Times (FT.com). All are listed on SOLO (<https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>), many are listed on the Newspapers online guide (<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/newspapers>) and key news sources are listed on the Politics & International Relations guide (<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/politics/news>). Jo asked for ideas on how to promote these effectively.

Several members advised that a list of key news sources would be beneficial to students, researchers and others when they first arrive at the university. Jane Rawson-Jones offered to forward posters on to Oxford college libraries. Nihar Gokhale recommended direct links to the resources if possible. Suaichu Pan recommended promoting via subject guides and department/course canvas sites. Baltazar Dydensborg commented that access via apps is particularly important.

Louise reported that she will form a small task group to develop a communications and training plan to promote our institutional subscriptions to current news sources, and elevate the role of the libraries as provider of high-value current news, analysis and intelligence. The FT.com Customer Success Manager can supply bespoke training as part of the plan outlined above. **ACTION Louise.**

4. Social Science Library report

4.1 New digital display panels for the library discussion rooms

Jo reported that new SyncSign digital display panels have been installed next to the doors for the Large Discussion Room and the Small Discussion Room. These indicate if the room is 'Available Now' or 'Booked' according to live information imported from LibCal, the library room booking system.

4.2 Subject support highlights

The Committee received the subject support report for this meeting, and Jo outlined some particular highlights. Renewals include continued support for the Berghahn Open Anthro collection and the Overton policy citation database. Subject librarians continue to provide 1-to-1 research consultations to help students and researchers find and use resources, and manage citations and references. Jo was pleased to be involved in the new UN Department of Peace Operations fellowship scheme with the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), and Eleanor is leading a project to identify and catalogue our collections of perestroika-era independent newspapers from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

5. Comments from student representatives

Great Nnamani passed on a request for a temporary access card for students to use for re-entry if they forget their University Card. Jo will follow this up. **ACTION Jo**

Muhammad Atcha passed on a request to use library laptop chargers outside the library, which Jo will follow up. **ACTION Jo**

Shuaichu commented that the Politics and IR subject guide is helpful and should be promoted via the Politics Undergraduates' canvas site. Jo will arrange this with the department. **ACTION Jo**

Emma Bowie supported the request for more monitors in the library, and will contact Elizabeth Wells (Criminology Subject Librarian) with the details of an essential textbook for the MSc in Criminology.

Shuwei Sun commented that online resources, including ebooks, are not always available. Jo encouraged all students to contact the library with any requests, although unfortunately it is not always possible for the libraries to provide books electronically. Further information is on the SSL blog <https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl/2026/02/09/why-the-bodleian-libraries-cant-provide-all-books-electronically/>

6. Comments from staff representatives

None.

7. Items for the Divisional CLiPS

None.

8. Any other business and date of next meeting

None; Friday 29 May 2-3pm.