Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter is an informal bulletin sent every term to keep you up to date on news and developments at the Bodleian Libraries. I hope it will be of interest to you. If you would like to contact me with feedback and ideas for future issues, please email: bodleys.librarian@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

This new update gives me the opportunity to reflect on the past year and look to the year ahead. During 2015 we completed the Weston Library development. Since its public opening in March 2015 we have welcomed over 700,000 visitors and many researchers and scholars from around the world working in every conceivable field, far exceeding our expectations.

We continue in our efforts to provide Oxford with the best library service possible, and so were delighted with the news that students rated Oxford’s libraries as the best in the UK for the third year running. The results of the 2015 National Student Survey (NSS), published in August 2015, revealed that 97% of students at the University of Oxford felt the libraries met their needs, the highest satisfaction score of any UK university and further education institutions. Oxford’s libraries have consistently been at or near the top of the poll over the past six years.

We were also pleased to see an increase in use of our services in 2014/15. A roundup of statistics from the academic year 2014/15 show that the number of reader visits to our physical libraries increased by 7% on the previous year and with the opening of the Weston and adjustments to spaces across the libraries, we now have 300 more study places to accommodate additional readers. We saw the impact of the digital shift with 8.6 million electronic journal articles downloaded (a 12% increase on last year) and access to electronic book chapters increasing by 23% to 7.3 million.

We continue to seek input from readers and this term saw the launch of the 2016 Reader Survey. Running until 29 February, the survey is open to all users of the Libraries, including all academic staff and students. The last Reader Survey took place in 2012 and feedback and recommendations from the survey were incorporated into the Libraries' planning activities.

Over the term ahead we’ll also be focusing on developing the Bodleian Libraries’ next Strategic Plan. The Libraries’ current Strategy and related Implementation Plan were developed in 2012 to run 2013–16. We have extended our plans to take us into 2017 and are now working on a longer term strategy that will bring us in line with the University’s planning cycle, which takes effect from 2017.

As I indicated in my updates in 2014/15, serious pressures remain on the Libraries’ finances, and in order to meet the financial targets set by the University, we are addressing a significant budget shortfall in the academic year 2015/16. We are striving to limit the effect of these reductions on readers, and are working to increase income to help maintain and improve our collections and services and to retain our place as one of the great research libraries of the world, serving the entire academic community.
KEY PROJECTS

Resource Discovery
The University has embarked on a major investigative project, sponsored and managed by the Bodleian Libraries, called Resource Discovery. Online access to the University's resources, physical and digital, is fragmented and often a barrier to finding information – whether for research, education, project funding or widening engagement. Working with colleagues across the University, the Resource Discovery project team are seeking to find an intelligent solution which will make the task of searching through the riches of the University’s intellectual assets easier and bring them to greater prominence online.

In May 2015 the Libraries started on the first phase of the project by working with colleagues across the University to scope the work needed to develop an intelligent search and retrieval tool or tools. This large-scale consultation exercise was completed in November, encompassing 113 interviews, 18 site visits, and 3 literature reviews, in order to discover the requirements of users at Oxford and understand the broader landscape of resource discovery. The report of this scoping study is available on the Bodleian Libraries website at: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about-us/policies. Work is now under way to scope the first recommendation of the report: using collection level metadata to visualize the scope of the collections at Oxford – an interactive diagram that represents the range of those collections. If you have any questions about the project please contact Deputy Librarian Catríona Cannon at: catriona.cannon@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Centre for Digital Scholarship
The Centre for Digital Scholarship, a new multimedia centre in the Weston Library, opened in October 2015 and enjoyed a successful first term hosting a series of research talks, workshops, and hacks. The Centre is a hub for translating innovative digital technologies into multidisciplinary academic practice and public engagement activities. It complements the research, teaching, training provision and support across the Bodleian Libraries, and the wider University, working particularly closely with the Oxford e-Research Centre, the Oxford Internet Institute and IT Services. A full programme of events is running at the Centre throughout Hilary term – see: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson
The latest news on the Centre's digital projects and other work amongst the Bodleian Digital Libraries can be found at: http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/digital

Weston book moves
Book moves from sites across Oxford and the Libraries’ Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon to secure storage at the Weston Library have been underway for some time and are continuing into 2016. The moves of the University Archives and the Conservative Party Archives into the Weston Library are now complete and the move of the John Johnson Collection is currently underway. The moving of Rare Books stopped at the beginning of December 2015 in order to facilitate repair work in the Weston Library underground stacks, but will continue once the repairs are completed.

RESOURCES

ORA-Data
In early 2015 the Libraries launched a new University-wide service, the Oxford Research Archive for Data (ORA-Data). ORA-Data is one of a suite of support services designed to help researchers at the University access, create, archive, share and cite research data. It is also designed to hold catalogue records of archived research data deposited at subject specialist archives as well as research data deposits of its own. The Oxford Research Archive (ORA), www.ora.ox.ac.uk, already acts as a searchable repository of theses and publications, but ORA-Data extends this capability and is essentially the facility of the ORA service to include datasets.

The ORA-Data pilot service has complied with the EPSRC’s minimum requirements since 1 May, allowing researchers and the University to comply with the key expectations regarding the storage, description, discovery and sharing of data. A minimum standard of compliant service has been established successfully, and this continues to be developed as the service matures.

ORA-Data can be accessed via the main ORA website at: www.ora.ox.ac.uk. A full LibGuide for ORA-Data, with help and guidance on how to deposit, is also available at: www.libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Non-print Legal Deposit
As of December 2015, over one million electronic articles and more than 41,000 e-books have been deposited with the six UK Legal Deposit Libraries by publishers and made available through the Bodleian Libraries’ catalogue SOLO. Over two years since the introduction of the Legal Deposit (non-print) Regulations in April 2013, the Legal Deposit Libraries have entered ‘phase two’ of implementing non-print legal deposit which will focus on official papers, digital sheet music, digital maps, grey literature behind paywalls and other non-standard and emerging formats, with the focus firstly on digital maps.

For more information on accessing non-print legal deposit material, please visit: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/finding-resources/legal-deposit
Open Access – Act on Acceptance and compliance

From 1 April 2016, the final peer-reviewed version of journal articles and conference papers (with an ISSN) must be deposited in an open access repository within three months of acceptance for publication in order to be eligible for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF). This is a new requirement from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and affects all researchers and academics producing works at the University.

To fulfill this new requirement, the Libraries launched a new ‘Act on Acceptance’ service in October 2015, allowing University staff to submit their work to the Oxford University Research Archive (ORA). Once work has been submitted, the Libraries staff will check copyright and licensing conditions, create a record on the ORA, and make the full-text available if and when it complies with the requirements of the publisher. Bodleian staff are working with divisions, departments and Research Services to encourage researchers to deposit their accepted manuscripts within a three-month window. In the first three months of the service over 1,700 deposits of varying types of publications were made and the service continues to be developed, with improvements to services workflows to ensure compliance with HEFCE REF open access requirements.

The service is well on track to achieve its aims by the time the HEFCE policy becomes live in April. For full details on how to deposit your work, please see: http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/home-2/act-on-acceptance

ESTATES

St Cross building refurbishment

The Bodleian Law Library (BLL) and the English Faculty Library (EFL) are both located in the St Cross Building on the corner of Manor Road. Major building work on the St Cross Building is taking place through 2016 to improve access and circulation in the building, and add new facilities such as a cafeteria. Initial refurbishment work began in the Long Vacation 2015, and the project will continue until October 2016.

As a result of this work at the Bodleian Law Library, some law collections will be housed off-site in the Gladstone Link in the Bodleian Library. Other parts of the law collection (50,000 volumes) have been sent to the Bodleian’s Book Storage Facility (BSF). Seating space will become more restricted in 2016 and during the Long Vacation of 2016 the Main Reading Room will not have any seating capacity. There may be periods of noisy work during vacation times. While there will be major disruption during summer 2016, it is intended that the Law Library will be able to function during term time, and will continue to provide as normal a service as possible throughout the works.

The English Faculty Library has begun work on consolidating its three stacks into one. Approximately 4,000 volumes have been sent to the BSF and other collections will move to the Weston Library. It will be necessary to close the library for the Long Vacation of 2016, but alternative strategies will be put in place to assist readers; this closure is to allow the relocation of the EFL entrance and the installation of a new issue/enquiry desk.

Regular updates, including timescales and information on the availability of spaces and collections, are available at:

Bodleian Law Library’s project page
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/about/law-library-refurbishment

English Faculty Library’s project page
www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/english/about/st-cross-building-project

Law Faculty’s project page (Oxford staff & students access only)
www.law.ox.ac.uk/stxbuildingproject.php

Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

Work continues in planning the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ) Humanities building, a new building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter that will bring together various disciplines within the humanities division. A Project Sponsor Group for the proposed ROQ Humanities building has been established, chaired by the Master of Balliol. There is also a Building Committee with representatives of all Humanities Faculties, the Head of Humanities Division, Divisional Secretary, representatives of Estates Service and the Head of Humanities Libraries. A Libraries User Group has also been established, consisting of academics, students and subject librarians from relevant faculties, reporting to the Building Committee. This group will also look into the provision of graduate study space in the Library and in the rest of the building. CLiPs in Humanities will discuss the plans as appropriate during Hilary Term and Trinity Term during the development of a ‘statement of need’ for the new building and its library.

Taylor Institution Library

In 2015, following extensive consultation, the Curators of the University Libraries endorsed the recommendation of the Humanities CLiPs to proceed with the integration of the Taylor-Slavonic Annexe with the main Taylor Institution Library, subject to delivery on various dependencies. In the longer term, the Humanities Division and the Bodleian Libraries are planning for a major overhaul of the library to enhance its role as a national and international centre for the study of Modern Languages and Linguistics.
The Libraries continue to run a programme of thought-provoking exhibitions, displays and events based on its world-class collections. These are primarily held in the Weston Library and the Bodleian Library. Admission to exhibitions is free; events are also free but pre-booking advised at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson

• The exhibition Armenia: Masterpieces from an Enduring Culture which celebrates over two thousand years of Armenian history, is open until 28 February 2016.

• Opening 25 February 2016 in the Treasury at the Weston Library is Bodleian Treasures: 24 Pairs, which will present some of the best of the 12 million items in the Bodleian’s collections and will uniquely display these treasures in 24 pairs. A programme of talks and events will be held over the course of the exhibition.

• To celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, the Bodleian Libraries will be displaying a major exhibition that confronts the theme of death itself in Shakespeare’s works. Shakespeare’s Dead provides a unique take on the subject by exploring how Shakespeare used the anticipation of death, the moment of death and mourning the dead as contexts to bring characters to life. The exhibition runs from 22 April – 4 September 2016 in the Weston Library.

Our next newsletter will be with you in Trinity Term 2016. 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 contact me direct if you have any other questions or comments on our services.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Ovenden
Bodley’s Librarian