The experience of all students in using library services, resources and spaces is central to the priorities and actions the Library sets each year. The Library’s longer term planning recognises that it will be essential to continually shape and re-shape services and spaces to match the University’s ambitions and meet students’ expectations. I am confident that the Library will be successful in doing so through the commitment, enthusiasm and expertise of our staff. It has been particularly pleasing over 2017-18 to see real benefits from introducing new ways of capturing the student voice and observing the different ways students prefer to learn, study and reflect in our library sites and online.

Remodelling the mix of collections and student study spaces on Level 1 of the IC has been informed by an investigation undertaken by a Masters student in the School of Architecture seeking students’ views. We know from the release of a report commissioned by the UUK (ComRes 2017) that respondents felt the top reason that makes a course good value for money was ‘good facilities available for studying’. Library staff are also integrating User Experience (UX) techniques into their day-to-day activities, gathering first-hand evidence of how students engage with the Library.

The Library’s Live Chat Service has been another success story for 2017-18. Students and staff want assistance in finding and using information at point and time of need. A Chat widget that has been integrated into the Library’s discovery platform, StarPlus, is delivering on this promise. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. As the ways we teach our programmes change, and disruption in the IT and information landscape continues, the Library will continue to seek innovative solutions for the benefit of students, and in partnership with colleagues across Faculties and Professional Services.

A capstone achievement for the year has to be the launch of the University’s Pre-entry Information and Digital Literacy online resource, adopted by our partner schools and colleges and available to teachers and students everywhere through Creative Commons. The market need for this resource has been evident from the responses to this offer.

The Library also reaches out to local and global communities in other ways. Celebrating the impact of research and teaching at our University, this year saw the opening of the Sheffield Authors Showcase by the President & Vice-Chancellor, Sir Keith Burnett. This is a living collection with staff, students and alumni invited to nominate works by Sheffield academics that have made an impact on their studies, their careers and their lives.

Digitisation of our collections and the pioneering role of the Library in digital preservation ensures that our unique special collections and image-rich National Fairground and Circus Archives are available to anyone with an internet connection. We were assisted this year by a student placement from the Department of History in digitising the Firth Ballads, seven volumes of nineteenth-century ballads originally collected by Sir Charles Harding Firth.

Our global collaborations continue to expand and we were very proud to offer to our students and researchers campus-wide access to the National Library of Korea Digital Collections – a world first.

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The White Rose University Press (WRUP), in contrast, is a regional partnership. WRUP is an open access digital publisher and a relatively new venture that grew in strength throughout the year, publishing peer-reviewed academic journals and books.

Finally, the frustration on the part of government and research funders around progress towards Open Science was becoming more evident throughout 2018. Following years of investment, the anticipated shift to open access channels of distribution when sharing research outputs was not seen as happening fast enough. Attention was also being directed to investigating models for publishing open access monographs, through UUK’s Open Access Coordination Group and consultation for the REF. I expect the year ahead to bring a new strength of purpose from key stakeholders, accelerating the transition to open access. As ever, the Library will be providing support to our academic community as we move forward through these challenging times.

Welcome

Anne Horn
Director of Library Services and University Librarian.
The Library has been working with our academic programme leads this year to identify opportunities for Information Digital Literacy in the curriculum, ensuring that students develop this graduate attribute as part of their wider academic studies.

This work has been complemented by the work and activities of our Student Associates, who have analysed the questions asked through our virtual advisory service and matched them to existing online tutorials. Our visual literacy offer, which incorporates rights and responsibilities of working with images, and our fake news game have been particularly popular this year. Both are designed to enhance our students’ critical evaluation skills necessary for effective citizenship.

The Library has also worked with the University’s Equivalent Qualification Project team to devise a Pre-entry Information and Digital Literacy offer to support students preparing for University. Our offer, which is openly available to teachers and students through Creative Commons, has been adopted by the University’s partner schools and colleges and has received excellent feedback.
Live Chat

Our Live Chat service offers a quick and effective way for Library visitors, students and staff anywhere in the world to ask questions and talk directly to Library staff. The service provides advice at point and time of need. Live Chat also ensures that those who are off campus, including distance learners, can experience the same one-to-one service as campus-based staff and students.

A Chat widget has been integrated into StarPlus, the Library’s discovery platform, raising the visibility of the service and driving an increase in the volume and complexity of enquiries received.

Feedback on our virtual service has been overwhelmingly positive, with 87.5% of Chat users reporting that the service exceeded their expectations.

“...The librarian was really nice, and really easy to talk to. She really helped me and explained everything thoroughly. She also showed me how to use the databases on my own laptop too. I feel much more confident with my search strategy.”

PGT student, ScHARR

87%
Exam-time initiatives

The Library is delighted with the increasing popularity of its learning spaces with students. 105,000 study hours were recorded during one pre-exam week in the Information Commons alone. To meet the increase in demand at exam time, we have provided additional study spaces at Halls of Residence and other University locations, to a very positive response from students.

We have worked closely with Student Services and the Students’ Union to promote health and well-being initiatives across Library sites.

100-hour OnCampus Placement

This year, the Library participated in the University’s 100-hour OnCampus Placement Scheme and appointed Pablo Ibargüengoytia, a Masters student in the School of Architecture, to investigate students’ views on the ideal spaces for individual study and collaborative working in the Information Commons. The research mixed User Experience (UX) techniques with daylight analysis using gD plans of the building. Many of the recommendations in the final report are being implemented in a remodelled area of Level 1 and will continue to inform future developments in our study environments.

Pablo Ibargüengoytia, OnCampus Placement student

"Extremely helpful service. The librarian even continued to help me after the appointment by emailing me with extra information. Really appreciate it, otherwise my dissertation could have taken a lot longer - thank you!"

PGT student, Faculty of MDH

The University Library Annual Report 2017-18

Information Commons

Group Room, The Diamond
Library staff are increasingly integrating User Experience (UX) techniques into their day-to-day activities, gathering first-hand evidence about how students engage with the Library. This year we have been testing out different ethnographic approaches to gathering information, ranging from direct observation and behaviour mapping to ‘guerrilla’ interviews and collecting data on students’ interactions with and perceptions of the Library.

User experience analysis will inform our service evaluation, exploring and testing innovative ideas and implementing service improvements in an agile and responsive way. The Library has set up a UX community to share good practice amongst all student-facing staff, implemented data gathering projects, and provided a forum to ensure that giving students the best learning experience is at the heart of what the Library does, without the need for endless surveys.

Sheffield Authors Showcase

Celebrating the impact of research and teaching at our University, this year saw the advent of the Sheffield Authors Showcase - located in the Main Hall at Western Bank Library - which features a collection of over five hundred books written by current and former academics of the University.

The Showcase honours the achievements and contributions of our academic community. Launching the Showcase, Professor Sir Keith Burnett (President & Vice Chancellor) said:

"I am delighted that the University now has this wonderful showcase... I first noticed displays of a university's own authors on a visit to the U.S., and I thought it was a wonderful idea. But our own Showcase goes further because it not only celebrates scholarship and scholars, but also recognises the effect that their works have had on their readers."

Launch of the Sheffield Authors Showcase, Western Bank Library
Staff, students, and alumni were asked to nominate works by Sheffield academics that had made an impact on their studies, their careers, and their lives. The collection will continue to grow in response to new nominations and will serve not only to demonstrate the impact of our Sheffield academic authors but also to inspire the next generation of researchers.

**ORDA: Preserving Research Datasets**

It is important that access to University of Sheffield research datasets, published in ORDA, is maintained for the duration of their usefulness to the research community.

By ensuring that we offer full lifecycle care for our researchers’ valuable data, we are now able to monitor and report on material held in the repository, including details on formats and software. Analysis of risks associated with this content will allow us to provide advice and guidance for researchers when preparing their data for deposit.

The Library is working with the vendors of both Figshare (which powers ORDA) and Rosetta (which powers ArchiveUS) to enable automatic preservation of datasets uploaded to ORDA. Rosetta provides digital preservation facilities such as ensuring consistency of data preserved, and planning for format obsolescence. It captures and archives a copy of every public item in ORDA, and items harvested and preserved by Rosetta are clearly badged, requiring no intervention on the part of researchers.

https://orda.shef.ac.uk/
The Library plays an integral role in the academic publishing process, from providing the knowledge base and discovery tools essential to research, to advising on data management planning, open access publishing and REF compliance, citation metrics, copyright and intellectual property, and issues of digital preservation.

The Library is working hard to ensure that it is well-placed to respond to and influence developments in academic publishing, particularly regarding the new targets being set by research funders to accelerate the transition to open access. White Rose Research Online (WRRO), the collaborative institutional repository managed by the three White Rose Libraries partners, ensures that the University’s research outputs are available to a global audience, eligible for inclusion in the Research Excellence Framework and compliant with the policies of funding bodies.

As the open access agenda continues to develop, each year we continue to see an extension of the services that the Library offers. We are currently completing a Scholarly Communications Toolkit to connect researchers to the support, advice and guidance available throughout the publishing lifecycle.

A key ambition of our service is to disseminate our understanding of new publishing models and new channels for sharing research outputs. The early successes of White Rose University Press have demonstrated researcher interest in exploring future models for publication, including open access monographs. The Library also offers researchers the opportunity to make their research data known through ORDA, our research data catalogue and repository.

Publishing Lifecycle

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The Library performs a key role in monitoring, responding and adapting to national and international developments and initiatives within the open scholarship environment.

Anne Horn, our University Librarian, was Chair of the Universities UK Open Access Repositories Working Group in 2017–18, and spoke at Inside Government’s ‘Moving Towards Full Open Access in Higher Education’ event in June 2018. The Library continues to develop its services and support for researchers at a time when scholarly communication is being transformed by new technologies and evolving funder policies. Handling over 5,000 enquiries per year, we ensure that more than 4,000 articles annually meet the open access requirements for key funders. There are now 22,012 University of Sheffield papers available in White Rose Research Online, over a six-fold increase in five years.

Over
22,000
University of Sheffield papers available in White Rose Research Online

#weareinternational
Research Data Management (RDM)

Over the past four years, the Library has developed a suite of services to support research data management.

We provide ORDA (Online Research Data) for Sheffield researchers to publish datasets, code and other research outputs; all depositors are offered expert support from our specialists in the Scholarly Communications Team. We offer self-led guidance and training opportunities for research students and staff, from induction sessions to in-depth, specialised Data Carpentry (https://datacarpentry.org) workshops run with Corporate Information and Computing Services (CiCS) and Research Software Engineering (RSE).

We work closely with colleagues in CiCS, RSE, Research Services (RS), and the Faculties to identify new data-related services and infrastructure, and to pilot ideas that meet the needs of a range of researchers, but cannot be implemented by a single department. This year we developed a data visualisation showcase as part of ORDA with accompanying training materials, in collaboration with the University of Oxford.

Speakers were really engaging and workshop content was very relevant and useful to all PhD projects - definitely worthwhile for first year students!

PhD student

Copyright

The reuse of creative material is key to the success of many University activities, from the dissemination and impact of world-class research to creating cutting-edge, bespoke teaching programmes.

We have worked within the Library and across Faculties and Professional Services to develop and embed copyright policy, processes, training and guidance. Our focus has been on empowering staff and students to make informed decisions about their own use of copyright material - as well as raising awareness about the rights they own in their intellectual outputs.

With this in mind, we have refreshed and relaunched the Copyright Hub (the University’s central portal containing information, guidance and policies). We have presented at a wide range of University events, from Digital Commons seminars to TELFest, and have run bespoke workshops on Creative Commons licensing, open educational resources, using images, scholarly publishing and open research.
The University Library Annual Report 2017-18

White Rose University Press now has four journals, all publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed, open access (OA) content.

Advances have also been made in monograph publication. April 2018 saw the release of the ground-breaking multi-volume Star Carr, showcasing the findings of decades of research at one of the most important Mesolithic sites in Europe. Downloaded nearly 1,000 times in the first three days of release, this high-quality publication reached 3,000 downloads within three months. Two further monographs followed at the end of the academic year, with Western Bank Library hosting the official launch of Wendy Michalat’s 320 rue St Jacques: The Diary of Madeleine Blaess.

As the discussions around OA monographs gain momentum, driven by the expected increase in significance for future REF exercises, WRUP has demonstrated its ability to support academics through the publishing process, and to produce high-quality OA output, publishing three monographs in the year and commissioning six for release in the 2018-19 session.

In 2017, the Library published its Digital Preservation Policy, which formally acknowledges our commitment to preservation. Our web pages offer guidance and advice on safeguarding digital content to a broad University audience. In collaboration with the Universities of Leeds and York, a set of shared preservation standards has been developed and approved for research outputs held in the White Rose repositories.

For some time, the Library has been collecting born-digital archives alongside traditional paper collections, including material from oral history projects and business archives. The development of our processing and delivery workflows enables us to make some of these collections available in our reading rooms at Western Bank Library.

The Library has maintained its pioneering role in digital preservation at the University by safeguarding our digital assets in ArchiveUS, the University’s digital preservation system. The scale of this programme has been expanded over the past year with the completion of a project to integrate ArchiveUS with ORDA, the University’s research data repository.

In collaboration with the Universities of Leeds and York, a set of shared preservation standards has been developed and approved for research outputs held in the White Rose repositories.

By 2010, 80% of the world’s internet traffic will be video
Content and Collections

Consortia negotiation with publishers

The Library is a member of the Jisc Collections consortium and we continue to negotiate with the main commercial publishers of scholarly material over access to affordable digital content for the higher education community. The current negotiations are an effort to secure ‘transformative agreements’ with particular emphasis on open access requirements.

Negotiations have become increasingly complex and protracted, as pressures exerted by research funders for openness and by institutions for affordability escalate.

There is certainly a determination from the higher education community to follow the example of European purchasing consortia in not renewing agreements if publishers are reluctant to offer more suitable terms. Hard negotiation is necessary if we are to better meet the needs of higher education institutions.
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The University Library of Sheffield and the National Assembly Library of Korea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate on the sharing of information resources which further digital scholarship.

An immediate benefit is that our researchers and students in Korean Studies may access many digital library resources provided by the National Assembly Library of Korea. Sheffield is the first institution outside Korea to provide campus-wide access to these resources via IP range.

The National Assembly Library of Korea was established in 1952 and collaborates globally with other research libraries to promote Korean Studies. The School of East Asian Studies introduced Korean Studies in 1979 and is one of the leading teaching and research centres for Korean Studies in Europe.
Learning Discovery System

Following a period of consultation with our academic community, we have developed a new and improved version of StarPlus, our Library discovery system.

Starplus connects our students and researchers to the vast wealth of electronic and print content and unique collections available through the Library.

The Library now provides a streamlined and focused search interface, greatly enhancing the specificity of search results. The new interface responds better than before on mobile devices.

In partnership with Ex Libris, our vendor, we continue to make improvements, and a period of further user experience (UX) work is underway to ensure that these improvements meet the needs of students and researchers. This includes integrating the Browzine service into the new interface to provide more streamlined access to journal content, as well as facilities for browsing journal tables of content.

I tried this new desktop and mobile app - this is certainly next level! It is awesome. I used to have difficulty accessing JACC - JACC imaging through the university previously, but this solves all the problems and most importantly works across platforms. Thank you! I have cc'd some of my colleagues from Academic Cardiology who will be glad to know about this.

Academic, IICD

Books, e-books and learning resources

The Library provides learning resources online and across five sites; the Information Commons, Western Bank Library, The Diamond and the two hospital libraries.

The digital library opens up access to a large knowledge base of resources in many formats that are available through different channels and different devices.

We seek the best mix of purchase and access models that will provide students with the recommended readings for their modules and programmes at point of need. New technologies are powering the Library’s efficient use of its space and responsiveness of its resource provision. In-demand titles are supplemented by additional copies, with purchases triggered as students download a title from Starplus. The Library is also working in partnership with agents of e-textbooks, as well as Jisc, to influence greater availability of core texts in electronic format for the benefit of our students.
Resource Lists
In the summer of 2017, the Library renewed its Resource Lists service provision, replacing its legacy system with Leganto from Ex Libris. Leganto presents students and academic staff with an improved user interface and personalised services. It provides closer integration with MOLE, the University’s virtual learning environment, and enables efficient processing and reporting workflows for the Library. The Library continues to offer its Resource Lists service to academic departments, receiving lists, acquiring content and digitising key materials for programmes and modules. The new platform also makes it possible for instructors to create and maintain lists for themselves, ensuring a more dynamic and responsive service to meet the needs of our research-led teaching.

Heritage Collections
The Heritage Collections comprise thousands of objects including paintings, sculptures, glass and silverware, medals, scientific instruments and zoological specimens which have been acquired by the University since its foundation. Some of these objects are displayed in departments across the University’s campus, and in dedicated spaces including the Turner Museum of Glass and the Alfred Denny Museum of zoological specimens, which are not only important teaching and research collections but also popular public attractions on University open days. Among the many highlights are the sextant used to survey the coast of South America during HMS Beagle’s expedition of 1826 to 1830 and the glass lantern slides onto which Henry Clifton Sorby mounted his collection of marine organisms.
November 2017 saw the opening of The Wonderful Mr. Willughby exhibition celebrating the research of Professor Tim Birkhead and Emeritus Professor Mark Greengrass into the life and work of the seventeenth-century naturalist Francis Willughby.

The rare book and archive collections joined with objects and digital technology to create an exhibition which garnered a great deal of interest and praise. This event also provided a suitable opportunity for the University Librarian’s lecture, delivered by Tim Birkhead, and an open evening for Alumni guests.

In July 2018, we were successful in having the first page of Barry Hines’ manuscript of A kestrel for a knave included in the ‘History of the North in 100 Archives’ initiative, part of the Great Exhibition of the North. This year marks fifty years since the book was published, further commemorated in the Festival of the Mind in September 2018, and in an upcoming exhibition in 2019.

In November 2017, Jacky Hodgson, Head of Special Collections, took part in a panel discussion about the Madeleine Blaess Project as part of the Being Human Festival. The Blaess journal (translated into English from the original French, held in our archives) is one of the first books published by the White Rose University Press, under the title 320 rue St Jacques: The Diary of Madeleine Blaess.
New collections

During the past year, we have acquired a number of important collections including: the papers of the stage and screenwriter Rosemary Anne Sisson (scripts include Upstairs, Downstairs, Elizabeth R, The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles, Candleshoe, The Queen and the Welshman); the archives of three highly-regarded avant-garde British poets, Sheffield-based Alan Halsey and Geraldine Monk, and Roy Fisher; and the working papers of the screen and radio writer Peter Tinniswood (scripts include I Didn’t Know You Cared, The Home Front, Tales from a Long Room).

Alumna Annette Kuhn (FBA), Emeritus Professor, School of Languages, Linguistics and Film at the Queen Mary University of London, generously donated a portfolio of lithographs done by Josef Herman for the ill-fated Golden Cockerel Press edition of The Poems of Catullus. The press closed before the book could be realised. Professor Kuhn also donated two additional titles to our Tetrad Press Collection, and Small Press Poetry Collection.

A retired member of the Department of Sociology, Dr Amanda Wade, has made significant donations of avant-garde poetry pamphlets to the Small Press Poetry Collection. Amanda was a student at the time of the British Poetry Revival of the late 1960s and 1970s, and befriended many of the poets—she even met Allen Ginsberg at a friend’s bookshop in London!

Digitisation placement

Our first Digitisation work placement was undertaken by Sam Wassell, a Masters student from the Department of History, and involved the digitisation of the Firth Ballads, seven volumes of nineteenth-century ballads originally collected by Sir Charles Harding Firth.
The National Fairground and Circus Archive (NFCA) collects material from the fairground, circus and allied industries. The collection embodies the history of popular entertainment in the United Kingdom from the seventeenth century onwards, covering every aspect of the travelling fair, circus and allied entertainments as well as the culture, business and life of travelling showpeople. The NFCA provides a primary source of research and teaching material for a wealth of popular culture and history interests, from the unique viewpoint of the travelling entertainment industry.

The Archive’s activities this past year have focused on celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of modern circus in England. Our exhibition, *Circus Performers: Extraordinary Feats from Ordinary People*, examines the stories behind the pioneering showmen and circus performers, from the equestrian skills of Philip Astley to human cannonballs, from acrobats to aerialists, and from animal tamers to clowns.
Over the last year, we have welcomed more than thirty-five groups from local schools and colleges: over 650 students experienced the opportunity to undertake independent study in a university environment, and to make use of library resources.

By the end of the academic year, we had 390 Post-16 External Reader members, 51 of whom had visited the Library as part of an Outreach or Widening Participation activity in 2017-18.

This year we have also expanded our support for the Realising Opportunities (RO) outreach programme: Library staff hosted a stall at the Sheffield RO launch event, delivered an information and digital literacy workshop for the cohort, and ran drop-in sessions in Western Bank Library to support the RO students completing their academic assignments. Library staff also hosted a stall at the TUOS Teachers and Advisers Conference, which was an opportunity to promote our new Pre-entry Information and Digital Literacy Tutorials to teachers, managers and advisers from local schools.

The NFCA has also loaned collections and supplied images and audio-visual material to other exhibitions and events, notably Museums Sheffield’s exhibition Circus! Show of Shows. The NFCA worked with Artfelt to produce an exhibition of circus posters at Sheffield Children’s Hospital, and has collaborated with Déda, a Derby-based creative centre for contemporary circus and dance, to curate the exhibition Showmanship and Performance: 250 Years of Circus. We have brought circus displays to our tent at the Weston Park May Fayre, and at the Sheffield Fayre at Norfolk Heritage Park.

New donations of circus archives have been received from: David Jamieson, a circus enthusiast, author, and expert in the field; Derek Simpson, an agent for foreign acts looking to perform in British circuses; and Vernon Stumke, a third generation showman, with links to Bertram Mills Circus and the UK fairground entertainment industry.

Our digitisation work has focused on circus material this year, including the Sanger Circus Collection, the Ohmy Circus, and the Paulo Family Collection.
As outlined in our last annual report, we have seen a significant increase in enquiries from staff and students relating to partnering with the Library, in line with the University’s focus on collaborative research and public engagement.

This academic year we have focused on using our expertise and working with our partners and the sector, locally, nationally and internationally, to influence new models of information access that support the changing needs of our staff and students.

Our White Rose collaboration with the Universities of York and Leeds continues to flourish. The highlight this year was winning the Times Higher Education Leadership & Management Award for Outstanding Library Team for 2018.

The Library is an active member of the Northern Collaboration, and has recently been invited to participate in the 2019 conference as part of the conference planning team. The 2017 conference theme was ‘Digital Transformation’ and Anne Horn, our University Librarian, presented the closing keynote, entitled: ‘Academic libraries—shifting our digital strategy to a higher gear’.

The Library has been a member of the Research Libraries UK (RLUK) Special Collections Leadership Network since its launch in January 2017. Meeting three times a year, the group provides a forum for the heads of Special Collections departments in RLUK member libraries to meet and discuss topics of significance, to input to national initiatives, and to act as a peer group for advice and information. The group has also been involved in the creation of the recent RLUK report Evidencing the impact and value of special collections; in developing a bid for funds to model a new process to increase the visibility of hidden collections; and in contributing to the Jisc Collaborative Digitisation Initiative.

This year Library staff have worked with Jisc on the Digital Archives Purchasing Group Pilot, which is aimed at ensuring sustainable access to digital archives of primary source material at affordable prices. Our Director of Library Services has Chaired the Jisc Steering Group for Transnational Education (TNE) Licensing, which seeks to achieve parity of access to library resources for students who are based overseas.

The Library has been developing its partnerships in the area of discovery, promotion, and management of research outputs. The Library, together with Research Services and CiCS, has partnered with Ex Libris, a global provider of information systems, to help develop a new system for research outputs—Esploro. Engaging with Ex Libris and other development partners in the UK and US has been an opportunity to examine our own practices and learn from others. This is helping us understand our needs and will enable us to find the best system for the University in the future.
The Future Organisation

Workforce Planning

The Library uses workforce planning to create opportunities for attracting and developing talent and to encourage innovative and forward-looking teams.

The annual Staff Review and Development Scheme assists the Library in identifying key training needs for the coming year. Three main themes have emerged: technical knowledge; horizon scanning; and softer skills such as influencing and advocacy. These themes are being explored during training hours and informal meetings, allowing Library teams to share learning and best practice.

The Library also uses apprenticeships to encourage the development and career progression of existing staff. We are currently supporting apprenticeships in Digital and Technology Solutions, Accountancy, and Digital Marketing.
Let’s Do Digital Festivals

Library staff have been developing skills for a rapidly changing digital world through our Let’s Do Digital staff training programme.

A highlight this year has been the Digital Festivals, which offered staff the opportunity to participate in six speed workshops, all aimed at enhancing information and digital literacy. The events, hosted by colleagues from our Library Learning Services, Customer Services, and Faculty Engagement Teams, included workshops on Creative Commons licensing, image editing, eBook functionality, reference management software and gamification in higher education.

‘Our value, Our offer, Our future’

As part of the Library’s ongoing mission to support the University of Sheffield’s world-leading research and teaching, we interviewed staff and students over the course of the 2017–18 academic year. Contributors shared their vision for the University and the Library. We will use the information gathered to shape the future development of our Library services. We will disseminate our findings both within and beyond the University during 2018-19 through a number of events and publications.

The Library has also reviewed the operational data it collects to better inform decision making. This review has identified a core dataset for the Library, established data governance procedures and begun to develop reporting dashboards for use by library management to enable improved evidence-based planning and development of services for students, researchers and academic staff.

‘Our value, Our offer, Our future’
The libraries at the Universities of Sheffield, Leeds and York began working together as White Rose Libraries in 2004 and in White Rose Research Online have created what is still the only collaborative repository service in the sector. The emphasis in recent years has been on developing a deeper partnership that aims to promote efficiencies and maximise value for money.

The libraries have been actively addressing the major challenges of managing print holdings by examining their individual collections with the help of the GreenGlass analysis tool. A formal report commissioned by Jisc has suggested a number of recommendations which have formed the basis for wider national discussion.

The THELMA judges were impressed by the partner institutions’ effective team-working, their shared commitment to supporting a joint repository and the White Rose University Press, and their collaborative approach to the management of print collections.
Maria Mawson, Faculty Librarian for Social Sciences, was awarded a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (now Advance HE). The award recognises commitment and professionalism in the practice and leadership of learning and teaching, through engagement in a process that encourages research, reflection and development.

We are proud that our University Librarian, Anne Horn, will become the next International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) President from January 2019. IATUL offers an influential and inclusive community for leaders of university and research libraries from around the world. It brings together library directors and senior managers from over 60 countries to exchange ideas, expand professional networks, form new collaborations, and work together on multinational projects exploring the big challenges we all face.

Conference Papers and Presentations


Clark, T., Grant, V., Little, A., Simpson, C., Stokes, C., and Stone, B. (2018). Building information and digital literacy through programme level innovation: Enabling engaged learning experiences for education, employment and citizenship. Presented at the Learning and Teaching
Conference, University of Sheffield.


Grant, V. (2017). Information and digital literacy in a hyper-visualised world: a case study of the Knowing as Healing project. Short-fuse presentation given at the Valuing the Visual in Literacy Research Conference, Centre for the Study of Literacies, University of Sheffield.


McIntyre, S. (2018). Looking after your research data. Presentation at the MDHRSA Big Data Forum, University of Sheffield.

Visits

The University Libraries of Sheffield and York, as part of the White Rose partnership, provide a joint Erasmus programme for individuals looking to enrich their knowledge and gain experience of library and archive practices in the UK. This year we hosted guests from academic institutions in Spain, Poland, Germany and Italy.

Throughout the year we have also hosted visitors from national and international universities interested in the Library’s innovative work. Colleagues from the Universities of Cambridge and East Anglia wanted to learn about our pioneering work on Information and Digital Literacy. We also hosted visitors from Sweden, Switzerland and Indonesia to discuss our library services and to view our innovative learning spaces.

Our Special Collections team has hosted many visitors over the past year: donors of archives and rare books, such as the poets Alan Halsey and Geraldine Monk; schoolchildren from Trinity Academy, Thorne, to work on the Barry Hines archive; academic colleagues such as James Titterton from Sheffield Hallam University to discuss potential collaborations around our collections; professional colleagues from the Special Collections department at Newcastle University to explore the use of our digital asset management system; the artists Anton Want and Patrick Murphy to seek inspiration for their Festival of the Mind exhibition.

This year the National Fairground and Circus Archive has hosted collaborators from Circus250 projects, which celebrate the 250th anniversary of circus in 2018. Media interest in the celebrations has led to radio and television interviews. We also welcomed groups from the Circus and Beyond Conference, a Gothic Studies Research Retreat, and Greentop Circus.
Fast Facts

- Library visits: 3.2 million
- Study spaces: 3,532
- Collection size: 1.1 million
- Digital library searches: 5.6 million
- Loans: 216,000
- Digital downloads: 12.1 million
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