WELCOME

For the University of Sheffield Library, the academic year 2014/15 was a time of transition to new leadership, contributing to the development of the University’s new strategic plan, and presenting our view of a world-class research library in 2020 through the Library’s Strategic Plan, Our Library. Our Information Future.

When I took up the position of Director of Library Services and University Librarian in March 2015, I was familiar with the life of a contemporary research library.

Our collections that researchers use daily are predominantly digital. Our information services and spaces that students value are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our archives and special collections are engaging new audiences through the use of digital and multimedia technologies.

Regardless of where we are in the world, the advances in new technologies, and the new generations of students and researchers who we welcome, the primary purpose and enduring value of a research library is to enable intellectual discovery.

It has been a privilege to celebrate with our talented and dedicated Library staff the achievements of 2014/15; the culmination of years of hard work and creative endeavours that began long before my arrival. I pay tribute to my predecessor, Martin Lewis, whose contributions are evident throughout this Annual Report. We have seen the opening of The Diamond, an inspirational facility that blends learning and teaching spaces. Students have again acknowledged the outstanding services provided by the Library through the high satisfaction score we received in the National Student Survey. Rolling out the Library’s service and infrastructure initiatives supporting open access publishing, implementing systems for digital preservation, and making research data discoverable will continue to be a focus in the coming years.

The Library’s exhibitions showcasing the Special Collections and the National Fairground Archive’s documentary Show of Shows: 100 Years of Vaudeville, Circuses and Carnivals are reaching local and global audiences. Literature of the Country House, a School of English MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), created new advocates for special collections among the participants through their appreciation of archival materials that they were able to experience online.

I thank all staff for their contributions and the achievements you will read about in this Annual Report 2014/15. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to working with Library staff and colleagues across the University to achieve the aspirations of the Library Strategic Plan, Our Library. Our Information Future.

Anne Horn
Director of Library Services and University Librarian.
EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Services for Learning and Teaching

Outstanding services provided by the Library have been recognised with another high satisfaction score of 91% in the latest National Student Survey (NSS). This is the fourth year running where the Library has scored 91% or above. The satisfaction level is a reflection of the Library’s drive to put the needs of the students at the heart of everything it does.

By working in partnership with student groups, collections have become richer, the way students borrow books has changed, and access to study spaces has been enhanced. It is extremely encouraging to see that so many students are recognising the benefits of the many positive developments delivered by the Library.

The results show uplift in scores from across the Faculty of Social Sciences where the Library has worked particularly hard in response to what students were saying.

The overall score from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health remains extremely high at 96%. Initiatives such as the pop-up library supported students during key times of the year.

The Library will continue to work alongside students to identify how it can further exceed expectations. Another outstanding year!

Helping Students to Achieve More

This year saw the introduction of Achieve More, a series of faculty-wide challenges giving students from different disciplines the chance to work together to develop potential solutions for a range of real-life global problems. Staff from the Library’s Learning and Research Services Team and the Customer Services Team worked together to deliver skills training via pop-up libraries, lectures and online support, to help students find and reference high-quality research for their projects.

Developing Great Spaces

As one chapter closes . . .

After more than twenty years serving Engineering, Management, the iSchool and the Glass Society, St. George’s Library closed its doors in June 2015. Staff and students celebrated their memories of this innovative study space as they looked forward to the next chapter in the University of Sheffield’s vision to deliver unrivalled study facilities.

another opens . . .

Following the closure of St. George’s Library, we have turned our attention to The Diamond, an inspirational facility that blends learning and teaching spaces. The Library and CiCS offer services and technologies that assist students across disciplines to be effective and productive learners, developing the skills they need for discovering, accessing and sharing information in our spaces, at home and in the workplace.

The Diamond is open around the clock. It offers 1,000 study spaces, core books for use on site, an on-demand book collection service, and skills workshops. The Diamond is a great place to meet up and work together. The building is secure and open when students need it to be.
Developing Students’ Information Skills

The Library helps students and researchers to develop the skills they need to find, evaluate and organise information effectively. This year, the Library delivered 540 hours of teaching to over 15,100 students and researchers across all academic departments, via workshops, lectures and the drop-in Information Skills Advisory Service.

Working with Our Students to Improve Our Collections

Whilst book purchases have always been made in collaboration with students and researchers, the Library wanted students to feel more involved in the process. The innovative My Books campaign made £50,000 available to students to spend on the books they wanted to see in the Library by completing an online form or requesting extra copies of titles through StarPlus, the Library’s online catalogue. 1,068 requests were received and the money was spent in less than two days.

Students and researchers can continue to recommend books in the usual way by completing a book recommendation form or by contacting their subject librarian.

Improving access to our Libraries

Students told us that although they love the 24/7 opening of the Information Commons, they would also like to see longer opening hours at other library sites. In response, the opening hours of Western Bank Library were extended from 8:30 a.m. every weekday, closing at midnight Sunday to Thursday during semester.

Rethinking Book Lending

The Library scrapped fines for overdue books in 2014 in a pioneering move to make the loan system fairer and more efficient for students, and the scheme is proving to be a great success.

Library fines have historically been a contentious issue for universities and last year the National Union of Students said it was "incredibly unfair" to prevent students from graduating because of unpaid library fines. The library became one of the first university library networks in the UK to abolish fines. Books are now automatically renewed until someone else requests them – then students are given two days to return the book.
The No More Fines scheme is working well with over 80% of requested books made available for collection within 7 days. This innovative move has helped to make the Library even more welcoming and user friendly for all students. The system is based on the trust that students will bring the books back when someone else requires them.

Students are encouraged to continue requesting the books they require; this way the Library knows which books are in high demand and will do its best to buy extra copies making life easier for everyone.

Exam Success

The Library led the Exam Plus campaign designed to assist students in locating study spaces and available computers to work on across campus, and to get the skills and advice they needed. The campaign successfully brought together Corporate Information and Computing, Student Services, and the Students’ Union to help students succeed in their exams.

For the second year running, the Library worked with Estates & Facilities Management to provide extra study space during the exam period. Following feedback from the previous year, extra study spaces were made available at weekends.
SERVICES FOR RESEARCH

Doctoral Development Programme

The Library offers a suite of workshops designed to help postgraduate researchers develop the skills they need to succeed in their PhD and beyond. This year, 469 PhD researchers attended workshops on literature searching, reference management, open access publishing, copyright, responsible use of metrics, and research data management.

More Attention to Open Access

Every researcher now needs to know about open access and the Library is well positioned to help support colleagues in taking the necessary steps in going Open Access, and making research findings open and available to everybody.

Open Access is supported by the University and researchers are encouraged to share their findings as widely as possible. The University now has a Position Statement on Open Access which was drafted by the Open Access Advisory Group and approved by the Research and Innovation Committee in November 2014. The Group’s members include representatives from Corporate Information and Computing Services (CiCS), Research and Innovation Services (RIS), the Library and the Faculty Directors of Research. Its remit is to advocate the University’s support for the principles of open access. Academics are encouraged to use MyPublications to record their research outputs and make as many as possible openly accessible through the repository White Rose Research Online.

We are now in the third year of the RCUK policy on Open Access. RCUK provides research universities with funds to pay the article processing charges for Gold Open Access. In the grant year 2014–2015, we have spent approximately £400,000 on 225 articles. In 2014, HEFCE announced their new open access policy for outputs that will be submitted to the next Research Excellence Framework. In principle, the policy requires all articles published after 1 April 2016 to be submitted to a repository within three months of the date of acceptance by a journal. The Library Open Access team has been working closely with colleagues in RIS and the Faculty Research teams on communication strategies that reach out to the researchers and raise awareness of how these requirements need their attention.

Expanding Our Digital Collections

The Library has continued to expand its online journal collection, giving users access to the latest world-class research. Recent subscriptions include:

- Online access to all Nature Publishing Group journals, covering the latest research from 137 separate titles.
- Expanding our newspaper collections with the Financial Times Online, the Economist Online and the Daily Mail Historical Archive (1896–2004).
- Adding to our eBook holdings for Arts & Humanities with Cambridge Companions collections in Philosophy, Religion & Culture, and Music.
- Engineering resources SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Digital Library and ASM (American Society for Metals) Handbooks Online.
- JAMA Network Backfiles, giving online access to archival material from American Medical Association publications.
Digital Preservation
The Library is leading the way in tackling the challenges of digital preservation within the University by investing in Rosetta, an Ex Libris product. Rosetta will ensure the sustainable preservation of the digitised objects created by the University Library’s Special Collections Department and the National Fairground Archive (a unique collection of videos, texts, audio files and photographs about the culture and history of travelling fairs and entertainment).

The Library has appointed a Digital Preservation Manager to help develop and embed digital preservation practices within the Library and across the University.

Making Research Data Discoverable
We now live in a world of data. Technology allows researchers to collect and process more data than ever before, which requires new skills of data management. In addition, most researchers now either want or are expected to make data underlying their publications available for scrutiny and reuse. This requires data to be well organised and documented with appropriate metadata.

To support researchers in this new era, the Library is leading on the development of a variety of university-wide services, partnering closely with CiCS and RIS for their technical and policy expertise respectively. The Library now provides specialist guidance on all aspects of research data management, via online resources, face-to-face and online training, templates and examples. It is also developing a service to provide direct consultation on and assistance with writing data management plans, data documentation & metadata and preparing data for deposit. The Library is also working with CiCS, RIS and Finance to ensure expert advice on data storage, information security and costings are available.

Underpinning this is an evolving data management and sharing infrastructure comprising of a number of systems. The Library has implemented Figshare for Institutions to provide a platform for: public and private sharing of modest amounts of data directly by researchers; and registration and dissemination of datasets held elsewhere to improve visibility and reporting. The Library is working with the British Library to enable researchers to obtain Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to give persistent, unique web addresses to their data.

Looking to the future, the Library is partnering with researchers to investigate and pilot other systems to assist with management and publication of data, including electronic lab notebooks and data journals.

Overseeing this activity across the University, a new Research Data Management Steering Group has been set up, including academics from each of the faculties as well as representatives of the Library, CiCS and RIS. It will provide strategic guidance and valuable academic input into the ongoing RDM service development.

The Library also works with the national and international academic communities to contribute to solving some of the key research data issues facing the sector, working on training materials and scoping out other areas for regional collaboration with the White Rose and N8 groups of universities.
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Kroto Archive
In 2014, the Library received the archive of Professor Sir Harry Kroto, distinguished alumnus of the University of Sheffield and Nobel Prize winner in 1996 for the discovery of a new form of carbon known as ‘buckminsterfullerene’. This generous donation includes offprints, research notes, news cuttings, correspondence, photographs and books. It records Sir Harry’s studies at Sheffield, his academic research, art and design work, knighthood and Nobel Prize.

Barry Hines Papers
Many visitors took the opportunity to consult material from the Barry Hines Papers during the year. They included Year 8 students from Ecclesfield School, undergraduates from the School of English taking the new ‘Imagining the North’ module, and a student undertaking one of the University’s SURE projects who created an exhibition of Hines’s work. In the autumn, material from the archive was displayed at Sheffield’s Site Gallery to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the release of Hines’s television film Threads. Most exciting of all is a new PhD studentship starting in September 2015 to research ‘The Lost Works of Barry Hines’.
Literature of the English Country House

The second running of this MOOC (massive open online course) delivered by the School of English used a range of materials from the Library’s Special Collections to illustrate the history of country house literature from the sixteenth century onwards. Rare books, magazines and newspapers as well as manuscript letters were provided for filming sessions with academic colleagues, and a short film was included which described some of the work of the Special Collections team.

Books That Trees Would Be Proud Of: an exhibition of private and small press works at the University of Sheffield Library

This was the first time that the Library had exhibited works from the new-formed Private Presses Collection. Work had begun in 2012 to gather all the fine press and artists’ books that had been purchased as a result of the donation of £1,000 by Sheffield artist Annie Bindon Carter, and from the legacy of alumnus Dorothy May Goodby. A selection of these works, together with those from the Small Press Poetry Collection, formed the content of the exhibition.

Special Collections collaborated closely with colleagues from the School of English, a local musician, a graphic designer, local and international poets and renowned practising book artists, who all contributed to the content of the exhibition by coming in and choosing for themselves what interested them and what they would like to research and exhibit. The short essays that each wrote were then published in the illustrated catalogue.
The Show of Shows: 100 Years of Vaudeville, Circuses and Carnivals

The documentary, which achieved world-wide screening is The National Fairground Archive's latest production directed by Benedikt Erlingsson and scored by Hilmar Órn Hilmarsson, Georg Holm and Orri Páll Dýrason of Sigur Rós, and Kjartan Dag Holm. It tells the story of itinerant circus performers, cabaret acts and fairground attractions in haunting clips filmed between 1895 and 1960. The films, mostly from the NFA’s unique collection, were joined by additional footage from the Library of Congress and the Icelandic Film Archive. The NFA team worked on the project with co-producers Sagafilm and Crossover over a period of eight months. So far it has been screened at the Barbican, the Latitude Festival, the Sarajevo Film Festival and the San Sebastián International Film Festival and is currently touring the globe. The film will be screened as part of BBC4’s Storyville in 2016.
White Rose Collaboration with Leeds and York

The Library is part of the White Rose Libraries partnership, alongside the university libraries of Leeds and York. This long-standing partnership builds on the individual strengths of the three institutions and adds value through the collaborative development of joint services and by supporting shared initiatives.

In 2014, this collaboration moved into an exciting new phase with the appointment of new permanent staff in the White Rose Libraries Office, and over the past year the partnership has been working on a number of initiatives. These have included the ongoing development of the jointly managed White Rose Research Online and White Rose eTheses Online (two of the largest institutional repositories in the UK, handling over two million downloads of full-text articles per year). The consortium has also started developing a set of shared training resources for bibliographic management; begun experimenting with a collaborative approach to providing research data management training for Arts & Humanities students; run joint research projects to evaluate our customer service provision; worked on developing a common approach to collection management; and held a number of knowledge-sharing events designed to build close links between library staff and to share expertise across the partnership.

The three libraries are currently working on a major project to develop a new jointly run digital university press, intended to support new models of scholarly communication through publication of open access journals, monographs, and textbooks.

Student Events

Over the course of the year, the Library has welcomed prospective students and parents and contributed to a total of nineteen publicity events. It showcased the world-class library facilities at five undergraduate open days, two postgraduate open days, and twelve Sheffield Experience days. Working in partnership with student ambassadors, 706 guided Library tours were delivered. In addition, it facilitated over 3,000 self-guided tours.

The Library played an active role in other events throughout the year including Freshers’ Fair, the International Fair, and The Ultimate Fair. These events provide the Library with the opportunity to reach out to thousands of new students in an entertaining and informal setting. The Marketing and Communications team also used the pop-up library concept to deliver key messages throughout the year. In total the Library contributed to twenty-four events.

Fast Facts

- Visits – 2.1 million
- Study spaces – 2,689
- Loans – 257,207
- Collection size – 1.12 million
- Digital library visits – 1.5m per month
- Digital downloads – 4.1 million
- Chapter downloads – 1.9 million
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