Students continue to stream into our library sites at all hours.

Our digital content use and students’ search and discovery activities through the web increase each year. And yet reliance of students on library-supplied learning resources in print form, necessary for student completion of their modules, remains a high expectation amongst our Sheffield community. Questions around sustainability of this mixed model of resource provision have become more pressing throughout the year. Political shifts and economic forecasts simply add to the uncertainties around a scholarly communication supply chain in transition.

We celebrate the high value our students place on their library services and spaces, evidenced again through the National Student Survey. The Library will continue to strive to be at the centre of the student learning experience. The Library’s new Strategic Plan, Our Library, Our Information Future, provides a view of the future library that we will be exploring further with our students and academic community in the coming year.

It is pleasing to see the Library’s thought leadership in framing what we mean by information and digital literacy at Sheffield incorporated into discussions around Digital Learning. Further, our productive engagement in the development of the Learning and Teaching Strategy 2016-21, contributions to Achieve More and the introduction of gamification to engage new students in library services, illustrate the success of our new Library Learning Services Unit.

Researchers are similarly receiving a more comprehensive and responsive service to support engagement with open scholarship and compliance with HEFCE and funder requirements for open access. The Library Research Services Unit works in partnership with Professional Services Departments and Faculties, and is able to draw upon expertise across the Library. Both Units are small, agile and efficient.

Our Library, Our Information Future recognises that the Library’s aspirations for excellence will be achieved through creating environments that nurture talent, empower staff to learn from each other and allow innovation. I am grateful to staff who have embraced new opportunities, thank you for your contributions and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Anne Horn
Director of Library Services and University Librarian.
Student Learning and Success

Outstanding Services for Learning and Teaching

The Library’s resources and services have been recognised once again in the National Student Survey (NSS), with a high satisfaction score of ninety-two per cent, a rise of one per cent against the previous two years, and four per cent higher than the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) sector average. This result demonstrates the high value our students place on the Library, and its contribution to the student experience. The NSS, commissioned by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, gathers information from final year undergraduates on a range of aspects relating to their experience at university.

The Library has continued to anticipate the needs of its customers with a strong focus on digital and content, learning spaces, and educative and advisory services:

1. We have extended our digital capability, enabling students to discover and access more relevant content whenever and wherever they want it.

2. The Diamond: this important addition to our Library network opened at the start of the 2015/16 academic year, and provides a secure study environment for our students twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It offers 1,000 study spaces, houses multiple copies of the most heavily used textbooks, a quick and efficient book reservation/pick-up service, free access to our burgeoning digital collections, and future-proof facilities for the delivery of information and digital literacy workshops.

3. Library Help: we have significantly improved our help and advisory services by providing students with new and convenient ways to connect with our specialist staff.

The Library’s place is at the centre of the student learning experience. We aim to sustain this high standard, though there will be challenges in the coming year. The Library will use the valuable NSS feedback to target our services to ensure that all students receive the best experience, and benefit from the best environment within which to learn and develop. We will also reach out to our students to consult in new ways.
Improving our Learning Spaces

Our Library sites are highly valued by students. In this digital era, the Library’s physical spaces have never been more popular. We strive to create spaces that encourage our students to learn independently, as well as to develop areas suited to group study, and places to relax. The Library’s aim is to continue to design environments that will inspire.

This year, a generous contribution from the Alumni fund has enabled us to refurbish the reading room at Western Bank Library. In response to feedback, many of the 250 new desks now have power sockets. The age of the building and its wiring leaves more to be done here. The new desks are arranged so that they create an area that is conducive to quiet, reflective study whilst remaining sympathetic to the Grade II listed building status.

The silent study area on Level 5 in the Information Commons has also been upgraded to provide more desk space for working with a PC or laptop.

Since The Diamond opened in September 2015 with 1,000 study spaces, the Library has continued to re-evaluate the learning environment. We thought it important to garner opinion from our current students, the results of which led to the addition of 200 more study spaces, a testament to the flexibility of the building.
Information and Digital Literacy

The Library is committed to working with learners to develop the skills they need to become world leading citizens of the digital age.

Our vision for information and digital literacy was presented by Vicky Grant, Head of Library Learning Services, and Chris Stokes, Director of Digital Learning, at the national Librarians’ Information Literacy Annual Conference in Dublin in the Spring of 2016.

Our Library Learning Services Unit has developed a model for information and digital literacy conceptualised around six core literacies: discovering, understanding, questioning, referencing, creating and communicating. These literacies intersect with a fluid range of digital tools to underpin student learning.

The Library continues to work with colleagues across Professional Services to develop a holistic, coordinated approach to skills development. We worked with colleagues in the Careers Service and University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE) to develop support for commercial awareness, designed to help students to research companies when applying for jobs, and to give them an edge when preparing for interviews. We have also worked with 301 Student Skills & Development Centre to deliver workshops designed to help students improve their critical thinking and evaluation skills.

Last year we delivered over 800 hours of teaching, workshops, and one-to-one appointments, working with over 14,000 students, researchers and staff across the University to cultivate information and digital literacy, study and research skills.

This teaching is delivered through our successful programme of Information Skills Workshops at the Diamond, through the Doctoral Development Programme, or embedded within taught modules. Our Information Skills resource supports these activities offering an impressive range of online, blended and flipped learning options for our information and digital literacy offer.
Managing Shared Learning Spaces: “Is it ever ok?”

As well as delivering environments that inspire students, the Library also acknowledges that students would like to engage with how these spaces are managed.

This year we have introduced a communications campaign with the aim of encouraging students to think responsibly about how they share their learning surroundings.

Students were asked questions such as "Is it ever ok to leave your belongings at a study space while you are elsewhere?"; "Is it ever ok to sit at a PC space when you are not using the PC?", and, "Is it ever ok to leave litter and food waste at a learning space?". They were encouraged to share their own responses and solutions, and to vote on other students' ideas. The campaign engaged students so much that it received a total of 650 votes.

The Library is leading the way in tackling the challenges of learning space culture by engaging the students who use those spaces. This collaborative approach has led to the launch of a study break pass scheme that operates all year round, and importantly, is a positive move towards a more engaged and considerate culture among library customers at the University of Sheffield. Progress will be reviewed in consultation with the Students’ Union Education Officer.

Research Excellence and Impact

Developments in Open Access

Libraries have been championing new forms of scholarly communication and the benefits of open access for over a decade. Open Access enables the rapid dissemination of all forms of research output, introducing new audiences to university research and providing opportunities for new partnerships.

This year, the Library has continued to strengthen its services engaging researchers with open scholarship. In preparation for the new HEFCE open access policy, we ran the successful 'Ready for the REF?' campaign. The campaign included updated web guidance, postcards sent to all researchers, and a video showing researcher perspectives on Open Access. Over the next twelve months we will visit all departments to update researchers on REF Open Access activities, and will work closely with colleagues from Research & Innovation Services (R&IS) to promote good practice.

Advocacy and education services continue to be key elements of our work. The Library delivers a diverse programme of sessions to postgraduate researchers on open scholarship topics, and engages in awareness-raising sessions with academics and faculty support.
Expanding the Support for Research Data Management

Managing and sharing research data is central to the modern research process and supporting it requires a wide range of skills. The Library co-ordinates this activity, but works closely with the Faculties & Professional Services to ensure we are able to provide a full service to our research community.

This year, we launched Online Research Data (ORDA), our platform for sharing datasets, code, presentations, posters, reports, and many other non-traditional research outputs. Powered by figshare, this service allows researchers to make their research available to the world and claim a digital object identifier (DOI) for it, allowing it to be cited. In only a few months we have attracted twenty-five substantive deposits, gaining 3,372 views and 369 downloads between them.

We respond to queries from researchers across the University relating to data management and sharing. In November 2015 we introduced LibAnswers, an enquiry management system to improve support, and since then we have responded to 195 enquiries.

Part of the RDM service involves providing support for researchers creating data management plans (DMPs), often required as part of a grant application. We review draft DMPs and give advice on appropriate content and structure. Over the past twelve months, we have reviewed and given advice on twenty-four draft DMPs.

We have continued developing and embedding our training offer, delivering in-depth RDM workshops and shorter induction sessions for postgraduate students, both at the University-wide and faculty level. We are also integrating research data into a range of other Library-led training activities, including our regular boot camp series of workshops.

We also work with departments and research institutes, such as Insigneo, to build capacity and deliver solutions for discipline-specific data management requirements.
Scholarly Communications and Research Skills Support

The Library continues to develop its support for researchers at all stages of their careers with staff delivering a wide range of workshops and lectures and providing one to one guidance.

We have worked across Professional Services to deliver high-quality research skills support through the Doctoral Development Programme. Our workshops are designed to help researchers develop the skills and awareness they may need at each stage of their PhD, from starting a literature review and managing references and citations, to looking after their data and sharing their research outputs through open access publishing. In 2015-16 we had 380 attendees at our workshops, which were rated as either ‘good’ or ‘very good’ by ninety-six per cent of attendees.

We have also worked closely with the Doctoral Academy, delivering introductory workshops for new PhD researchers, and attended the Doctoral Academy conference, which provided a valuable opportunity to talk to researchers about their work and how we can support them.

For new post-doctoral researchers, we participated in welcome activities and delivered seminars on scholarly communications through the Think Ahead programme and through tailored sessions for Faculties.

The Library was involved in the planning of the first Conference for Research & Innovation Supporters (RICON), held at the University in June 2016. As well as helping to organise the conference, library staff delivered two workshops:

- Library research showcase: Aligning scholarly communications with researcher needs and highlighting the range of support services and tools provided to researchers at critical points in the research life cycle.
- Meeting the skills requirements of researchers through the Doctoral Development Programme and beyond: this outlined our skills support for PhD researchers and how we plan to build upon this in future by extending similar support to researchers at later stages of their careers.

The conference was a fantastic opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the University and share ideas and best practice around supporting research.
Developing our Collections

The Library works closely with staff, students and researchers to ensure that our print and online collections align with learning, teaching and research activities across the University.

The popular MyBooks campaign, now in its second year, asked undergraduates, taught postgraduates and PhD researchers to recommend the books they wanted to see in the Library. We received 993 requests for new titles and extra copies, enabling us to make significant developments in our book collections.

Our dynamic loan system tracks book reservations to alert us to high-demand items. Last year we satisfied over 104,000 requests for books, and purchased over 400 additional copies, new editions, or digital versions of popular titles. We attend Student-Staff Committee meetings throughout the year, and gather feedback from our students about Library services. All of this has enabled us to respond quickly to demands for key texts.

Strategic Purchases

The Library has worked closely with academic staff in each Faculty to ensure that our digital collections continue to support our research strengths now and into the future.

Working with Faculties, we undertook a consultation exercise, whereby we surveyed academic staff to identify key online resources needed to support novel research methods and emerging disciplines such as digital scholarship and computational linguistics. As a result we purchased twenty-three new digital resources including Sketch Engine, Nineteenth Century Collections Online, The ENDS Report, Gallup analytics and The Economist Historical Archive.

In addition we have taken out subscriptions to a range of other resources including Science Signaling, Journal of Applied Physiology, Methods in Enzymology, PsychiatryOnline, Cell Chemical Biology, Cell Metabolism, Cell Host & Microbe and Biophysical Journal.

Content and Collections

White Rose University Press: taking the lead in scholarly publishing

In January 2016 the Library, along with its partners at the Universities of Leeds and York, launched the UK’s newest academic publishing house: the White Rose University Press (WRUP). WRUP is an open access digital publisher, founded to support the production of high quality academic works and to make them free to read online. It is also the only jointly run university press in the UK.

The press was set up as a response to existing publishing models which may allow some publishers to levy high subscription or article processing charges, demand copyright over academics’ works, and offer restrictive ebook access. The Library wanted to play a leading role in developing a new means of scholarly publishing that would enhance the broader open access agenda and enable academics to keep control of the material they create, while simultaneously making it freely available, thereby reaching as wide an audience as possible.

The solution was a joint initiative of the White Rose Libraries, in partnership with the open access publisher Ubiquity Press, who is providing WRUP’s technical infrastructure. Overseen by an editorial board of distinguished academics, WRUP is an academic-led and academic-focussed initiative, which will support the publication of an entirely free collection of peer reviewed journals and monographs, presented to a high degree of sophistication through an intuitive site, thereby creating an important new route for academics to publish to a global audience. The first titles will be available at the start of 2017.
In an increasingly complex information environment, the Library recognises the need to give students the best possible discovery service. After seeking feedback from customers, we liaised with a web design company to give StarPlus a fresh clean look. This has provided the opportunity to promote new digital resources as well as informing customers of our services. We also initiated a project which has made our most popular web pages discoverable through StarPlus, leading students to topics such as Information Skills support and Library site information.

The infrastructure of StarPlus has now moved to a cloud-based hosted environment. One of the benefits of this is that the Library can carry out maintenance at quieter times thereby having less negative impact on our customers.

StarPlus already provides access to a wealth of digital and print resources from both within and beyond the University. As a leader in the field of resource discovery, we are continually developing and enhancing the user experience.

The Library has purchased a new system for managing and giving access to reading lists online. The new system will offer a smarter and easier to use interface for reading list users. It will go live in Summer 2017. Once existing reading list content is available on the new system, the Library aims to use it to deliver further benefits, including the ability for course leaders to update their lists online if they wish, more efficient methods of ordering material on reading lists, and through improved analytics, a better understanding of how customers use material on their reading lists.

Managing Collections with GreenGlass

In February 2016 the Library signed an agreement with OCLC’s Sustainable Collection Services to use their collection decision support tool GreenGlass. This web-based application enables the Library to analyse its own print collections in terms of both holdings and usage, and to reveal any overlaps between print and e-books. It also facilitates comparisons of holdings with those of other institutions at a regional, national and international level in order to identify collection strengths, weaknesses, commonalities and gaps.

The Library will use the data provided by this analysis to provide evidence that will inform decisions in relation to its collection development and management activities locally, while also going forward to support our collaborations at a regional level with the White Rose Libraries, and nationally with RLUK, the British Library and other key agencies that are focussed on extending access to research collections.

GreenGlass has been used successfully by over 200 libraries worldwide, but we are the first library in the UK to utilise it.
The Open Library

UK Alma
Exchange of Experience

Alma is the system which manages many of the Library’s workflows, including the acquisition, organisation and access to materials, and is particularly suited to managing the large growth in digital resources.

It is therefore essential that the Alma user community operates efficiently and is able to communicate its needs to the vendor, ensuring that we have a reliable system for the future and that the Library’s voice is heard.

In February, the Library hosted its second national “Exchange of Experience” day for other Alma customers based in the UK. Seventy-eight representatives from twenty-five higher education institutions attended the day, along with representatives of the vendor. Attendees shared experience of using the system, and were given the opportunity to raise issues.

The National Fairground Archive

In 2016, the University of Sheffield Library was delighted to receive the Circus Friends Association archive into the National Fairground Archive.

This major donation comprises thousands of circus posters, handbills, programmes, photographs, scrapbooks, research materials and original artwork, and dates from the late-eighteenth century to the present day. The NFA now holds the largest publicly accessible collection of circus archives and ephemera in the United Kingdom. The NFA is the leading repository for circus and fairground archives, and attracts both local and international researchers to the Library.

This unique collection will be fully available to researchers, and resources will be carefully targeted to ensure that it is preserved for future generations. As a hugely popular form of entertainment since the eighteenth century, the circus is an important part of our social history. An exhibition entitled ‘Spectacle & Wonder: The Circus Friends Association Archive’ will open in November 2016, showcasing rare and important posters, handbills, programmes and archives from Britain’s leading twentieth century circuses. The NFA will also celebrate the donation by changing its name to the National Fairground and Circus Archive.
Digital Preservation

The Library has taken the lead in tackling the challenges of digital preservation through the implementation of Rosetta. Rosetta is a digital asset management and preservation software product that enables the Library to preserve its important and unique digital cultural assets.

All items digitised from our distinctive collections (including from the Library’s Special Collections Department and the National Fairground Archive) are now successfully preserved within the Rosetta system, where we can monitor risks to retrieval of the content over time and ensure that we can provide sustainable enduring access to our digital archives for future researchers. The system will also help us care for born-digital content such as important scholarly research data deposited in ORDA, (Online Research Data platform), personal archives and administrative records.

The Library has also played an active role in advocating for the awareness of digital preservation issues. This is demonstrated through its active membership of the Digital Preservation Coalition and contributing content to the second edition of the organisation’s well known and practical manual, the Digital Preservation Handbook.

The Library ran a successful and engaging project in collaboration with Sheffield artist Paul Carruthers as part of Festival of the Mind 2016 entitled ‘Project, Protect and Preserve: Memories in the Digital Age’. This project used images and films from University collections to reflect on the creative process, the development of media and how technology changes the way we communicate with each other. The thought provoking installation opened up discussion and debate in the wider community on the challenges of preserving personal and collective cultural memories.

Cultural Engagement

For Special Collections, the past year has provided many opportunities to participate in the University’s cultural engagement with the city.

The exhibition Business & Benefaction: the colourful life of Sheffield artist Annie Bindon Carter contributed to the rediscovery of one of Sheffield’s greatest philanthropists. The artist Annie Bindon Carter was the founder of Painted Fabrics Ltd. Her business employed badly wounded ex-servicemen from the trenches of the First World War saving them from a life of destitution. The exhibition was a collaborative effort between Special Collections, the Sheffield City Archives, and Museums Sheffield, with input from Sheffield Hallam University, and was part of the Sheffield Year of Making, 2016.

Special Collections also teamed up with academics from the School of English to take part in the Festival of Arts and Humanities Showcase Event at the Millennium Galleries. As well as material of local interest, we presented a volume from the Library’s collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century satirical caricatures by prominent artists such as Thomas Rowlandson, James Gillray and George Cruikshank. Our caricatures collection is of national importance and is undergoing extensive and vital conservation work, as well as being digitised and made available via the Special Collections digital portal. The volume was also on public display at Sheffield Archives during the Summer of 1816 Conference, and featured in Dr. Seán Williams’ public engagement film, The Hairdresser in History.
In 2016, The University of Sheffield Library received the very generous bequest of a collection of early and rare medical books from Emeritus Professor Frank Woods CBE, former Sir George Franklin Professor of Medicine, and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University from 1988 to 1998.

The books include copies of Robert Boyle’s *Medicinal Experiments* (1692-1694), *A Directory for Midwives* by Nicholas Culpeper (1777), and Henry William Fuller’s *On Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, and Sciatica* (1864).

**Frank Woods Bequest**

**Festival of Arts and Humanities**

When Sheffield alumnus and honorary graduate, Dr. Edmund de Waal, learned of the University of Sheffield’s strong tradition of welcoming staff and student refugees, he wanted to produce a piece of art to honour this commitment. A new exhibition space was created in the Main Hall of Western Bank Library where the sculpture can be enjoyed by everyone.

The sculpture, titled *fetched home*, was inspired by a line in ‘Homecoming’, a poem written by the Jewish Romanian-born German-language poet Paul Celan. The piece comprises a vitrine containing delicate porcelain vessels visible yet obscured by frosted glass. It was unveiled as part of Dr. de Waal’s guest lecture, *On the Eve of Departure: Homelessness, Exile and Art*, in which he discussed place and displacement in poetry and the visual arts, drawing on his own family history.

**Acquisition of the ed.it Archive**

Special Collections has a long-standing association with the artist, printer and publisher Ian Tyson, and with his help, we have built up a strong collection of his Tetrad Press output.

In the past year, he chose The University of Sheffield Library as his first choice of repository for his ed.it Press archive (the Tetrad Press archive is in the University of San Diego Mandeville Library). Not only does the ed.it collection include all the official titles of the press, but also original artwork, mock-ups, and correspondence with poet collaborators, and will be a valuable research resource for the future.
An important and rewarding role for the Library is public engagement; sharing its expertise and resources with the wider community outside the University. To this end, the Library works with the University’s Outreach and Widening Participation team to introduce young people to an academic library environment. Over the past year, the Library has welcomed students from nineteen schools and colleges around South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

As part of this scheme, students are first given a tour of Western Bank Library, and then are set a number of tasks to help improve their research skills, which they must complete by using the Library’s resources.

The Library will continue to be a welcoming and valued resource for schools and community groups. The unique resources in Special Collections and the National Fairground Archive have attracted many researchers from the academic community and wider public.

Hidden Worlds: Krebs and his legacy in Sheffield

The exhibition Hidden Worlds was curated by the Library and the Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology as part of the larger Krebs Festival which celebrated the work of the University’s Nobel Prize winning biochemist, Sir Hans Krebs.

The exhibition showcased ground-breaking research work currently being undertaken by the University of Sheffield’s Krebs Institute.

Using material from the Krebs Archive housed in the Library’s Special Collections, the exhibition examined the important scientific discoveries in cell metabolism made by Sir Hans Krebs and his team at Sheffield, which established the University as a world-class research facility. The legacy of Hans Krebs in the twenty-first century was presented in the exhibition in the form of three current world-leading molecular science research projects: Imagine: Imaging Life; Florey; and the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures.

There were many interactive elements in the exhibition, plus videos and displays, including a hands-on microscope, and the popular RoboPlant which simulates the process of photosynthesis. Visitors were also invited to view the unseen world of microbiology through a series of giant images and videos beamed from microscopes.

Engaging with the Wider Community

An important and rewarding role for the Library is public engagement; sharing its expertise and resources with the wider community outside the University. To this end, the Library works with the University’s Outreach and Widening Participation team to introduce young people to an academic library environment. Over the past year, the Library has welcomed students from nineteen schools and colleges around South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

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The Library will continue to be a welcoming and valued resource for schools and community groups. The unique resources in Special Collections and the National Fairground Archive have attracted many researchers from the academic community and wider public.
Visits to the Diamond

The opening of the Diamond at the start of the 2015/16 academic year generated interest from staff at university and college libraries across the country, all eager to experience the building and explore its innovative blend of learning and teaching spaces.

Since March, Library staff in the Diamond have hosted visits from fellow professionals around the country, all of whom have been impressed by the sheer scale of the building itself, and by the innovative use of the Library’s spaces. So far, Library staff have welcomed members of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP); a cohort from the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL); staff from Bishop Grosseteste University Library in Lincoln; and staff from Manchester University Library.
Our Enduring Services with Alumni

The Library is proud of its enduring association with the University of Sheffield alumni, who, through their continuing generous support, have helped to improve the learning environments for our current students. Recent donations have enabled areas of Western Bank Library to be upgraded and refurbished, and have increased the number of essential books and journals. This year, support from alumni has helped us to install new study desks into the Western Bank Reading Room.

Alumni donations have also contributed to the excellent exhibition space where we showcase items held in the Department of Special Collections and the National Fairground Archive. We are delighted to welcome alumni to special exhibition viewings, which are at the heart of the Library’s community engagement programme.

We have now begun to issue smartcards which allow entry to Western Bank Library and the Health Sciences Library during self-service hours; they also act as payment cards for photocopying. Alumni are also welcome to visit the Information Commons.

Strategic Partners

White Rose Doctoral Training Centre

We have worked closely with colleagues from the Universities of Leeds and York to deliver support to researchers through the White Rose Doctoral Training Centre, helping to prepare Social Sciences doctoral graduates for future research and leadership challenges.

Support has included presenting at DTC welcome events. We are also working with our partner institutions to develop a White Rose Libraries approach to Digital Scholarship support.

International Faculty

Last year, the Library welcomed to Sheffield Rania Anagnostopoulou, Head Librarian at the University’s International Faculty in Thessaloniki.

During her visit Rania attended the University’s research conference and had productive meetings with colleagues from a variety of teams with the aim of exchanging examples of good practice. Previously, staff from the Faculty Engagement Team visited the International Faculty to speak to teaching staff and students about the range of research material available to them. The Library has a long-established relationship with colleagues based in Greece, and reciprocal visits are an important part of this collaboration.
Outstanding Services for Learning and Teaching

Apprenticeship programmes at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre attract more students and provide innovative routes into higher education for students from non-traditional educational backgrounds, and the Library is proud to support such a high profile initiative. Working with academic staff and AMRC managers, we have been able to put a framework in place to ensure that students on the new Foundation Degree in Manufacturing Technologies have access to the learning material they need. We are also working with the students to help them develop the skills they will require not only for their studies, but beyond into employment. We look forward to continuing our close relationship over the coming years.

The Library is working closely with regional and national colleagues to ensure that Health Education England’s ambitious vision as set out in their Knowledge for Healthcare: a development framework for NHS library and knowledge services in England 2015-2020 will be able to take health libraries and knowledge services forward into the future.

Over the coming months we will also be working to develop and implement a new service agreement with Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which recognises the different information landscape that exists in the digital world.

We have welcomed over 6,000 members of staff from the NHS to our Health Sciences Libraries, loaned over 2,000 books to more than 5,000 registered customers, and had our digital resources accessed over 11,000 times. We have managed two successful workshops: ‘Finding the evidence to support your practice’ (a practical guide to effective literature searching) is run three times a year in the Library, and the acclaimed ‘Critical Appraisal Workshop’, which helps our Sheffield Teaching Hospitals staff to judge the reliability of published research, is run quarterly.
The Library is continually developing its workforce planning as part of a process to build opportunities, attract and nurture talent, and strengthen innovative teams able to realise the Library’s vision.

New Teams and Appointments

As well as our Faculty Engagement Team now having a full complement of staff, the past year has also seen the realignment of existing resource to strengthen the Library’s contribution to learning and teaching and research activities through two units:

- **Library Learning Services Unit**
  Responsible for the development of Library services and information literacy provision for students in the context of learning in a digital world. The unit leads and develops the Library’s information and digital literacy provision for students to support the University’s strategic priorities and reflect the information landscape in an increasingly digital environment.

- **Library Research Services Unit**
  This team develops and delivers programmes supporting scholarly communication including services, systems and guidance to all research communities, focussing on open access to research outputs and research data management. A key component of the team’s work across the University is advocacy and awareness raising activities, which include presentations to research groups and student workshops on the evolving nature of scholarly communications, and how researchers can maximise the visibility and reach of their research. Current activity is centred on promoting and managing the open access requirements for the next REF exercise and launching our research data catalogue ORDA.

In recent months the Library has taken an agile approach to staffing to deal with fluctuating service demands and to respond efficiently to emerging priorities. In order to deal with increased workloads in the Research Services Unit as a result of the REF open access requirements, temporary secondments were created by bringing in staff with related skills from other teams. For staff, the benefits of the initiative have included an increase of awareness of a key library service, and an opportunity for career advancement and to develop new skills.

Our workforce is becoming increasingly specialised, sharing expertise and making a contribution to student learning and success, and research excellence. This year, the Library has successfully recruited to many senior posts both from within the University and by external appointment. These new posts include: the Library Business Services Associate Director (Ellie Reynolds); Head of Research Services and Scholarly Communications (Angela Davies); Head of Faculty Engagement and Partnerships (Gavin Boyce); Head of Library Learning Services (Vicky Grant); and Head of National Fairground Archive and Digital Humanities (Angela Haighton).

As part of the Additional Support Team within the Library, Gemma Holtam was recruited to the post of Assistive Technology Officer, which is part funded by the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service. Gemma will work closely with the DDSS as well as with the Library supporting student use of assistive technology.
The Library recognises that our aspirations for excellence will be achieved through creating environments that nurture talent, empower staff to learn from each other, and allow innovation and the translation of ideas into benefits for students, staff and researchers.

The following achievements encapsulate this notion:

Helen Dickinson won the award for Student Support and Wellbeing at the 2016 Students’ Union Academic Awards. This category is voted for by students, so is a fantastic recognition of Helen’s continuous support.

Maria Mawson has become a CILIP fellow, and Amy Haworth a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

At this year’s Green Impact awards ceremony, the Library was presented with three awards: Gold, Environmental Hero (Jane Antcliff), and Student Leadership (Ben Tang, our student project assistant). Our success this year is testament to the commitment and enthusiasm of the Library staff who have made these awards achievable and helped the Library to become a greener environment for all.

Awards

Conference Presentations


Bussey, A., & Sykes, L. (2015). No more fines: how Alma is allowing us to increase our customer focussed approach to lending services. Paper presented at the IGeLU, Budapest.


Visits 3,080,353
Study spaces 3,230
Loans 278,207
Collection size 1,011,000

Digital library visits 10,825,371
Digital downloads 5,407,023
Chapter downloads 3,072,562
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