The University Library Annual Report 2016-17.
It has been a very successful year for the Library, which I attribute to the commitment of our staff to provide Sheffield students with the best university experience for library services.

The economic pressures and uncertainties for higher education in the UK are well known. The challenge of affordable access to the scholarly information necessary for powering our research ambitions in a new industrial age is less well understood. Libraries are at the forefront in advocating and developing systems that drive open access and support open science. Our global library community, however, is fully aware that the current publishing models that take subscription fees as well as OA payments are straining institutional budgets and cannot be sustained. This year has seen the Library raise awareness of these issues locally, within the institution. We have also been very active, nationally and internationally, in joining with publishers, researchers and their funders to take stock of how research assets are being discovered, accessed and used.

We were delighted this year to be voted joint Number 1 for Library Services by our students in the 2017 THE (Times Higher Education) Student Experience Survey. This is a tremendous accolade and demonstrates the value of the Library to student life at university, not only in association with their academic success but also the quality of their experiences while at Sheffield.

The Library’s digital services have delivered a new richness to our offer for researchers, academic teachers and students, through working in partnership with key library systems companies and cooperatives, JISC, and the University’s own IT and Research Services. The Library implemented a new reading list service, Leganto from Ex Libris, for the benefit of academic staff and students. We launched ORDA, for research data discovery powered by Figshare. We implemented the JISC Publications Router, Monitor and CORE research services. We worked in partnership with OCLC, the largest global library cooperative, to test their product SCS Greenglass for the UK academic library community. This allows a deep level analysis of our collections. And we extended our agreements with publishing agents to enrich our offer of digital content, while enabling ourselves to scale-up in-house digitisation of our original, culturally significant materials.

The University of Sheffield Library’s new Information and Digital Literacy Framework has received endorsement from the Learning and Teaching Committee of Senate, following a year of broad consultation. In the coming years we look forward to seeing implementation of the framework in curricula and integration with our educative library services for students. We are also keen to continue a dialogue with those beyond the University who adopt the framework and share our knowledge.

Over the summer, we were able to undertake Phase 1 of refreshing our multi-award winning Information Commons. The IC was a new concept for the UK when it opened in 2007, providing integrated library, learning and teaching, and IT spaces open for students 24/7. The environment supporting student learning is now more inviting, addressing 10 years of constant use. Future development of learning spaces within the IC will embrace the student voice.

All of this year’s achievements have only been possible through careful planning and efficient application of resources, financial and human capital. We are proud to have made so much progress in advancing key strategic ambitions for the Library and the University as articulated in our plan, Our Library. Our Information Future.

Anne Horn
Director of Library Services and University Librarian.
Framing Our Offer: Information and Digital Literacy in the Sheffield Context

The Library’s contribution is to equip students with the research skills and the information and digital literacy skills they need to be at the cutting edge in their discipline, and to be influential digital citizens.

As a University of Sheffield graduate attribute, the development of information and digital literacy enables a research-led university experience, positions students well for graduate level employment, and equips them with life skills which are transferable to the demands of an increasingly complex digital world. This year, the Library has led broad ranging consultation and cross-institutional collaboration to develop an Information and Digital Literacy framework for Sheffield, a framework that is usable and meaningful across the range of disciplines and strongly reflects the University’s priorities for learning and teaching.

Our offer to support information and digital literacy, both within the curriculum and through face-to-face services in our busy libraries, is transforming and will continue to do so as the needs and preferences of students and their teachers evolve. A particular highlight this year has been working with our team of Student Associates for Learning and Teaching (SALTS), and taking a participatory action research approach to the co-design and co-delivery of the popular Digital Skills for Dissertation Masterclass. This innovation allowed students from all disciplines to benefit from peer-to-peer teaching as they developed their information and digital literacy skills through bite-sized sessions, within a speed conferencing style workshop.

The Library’s commitment to work in partnership with students through the SALT initiative continues year on year.
Library Spaces and the Information Commons Makeover

The Library delivers spaces that inspire students to explore and embrace new ways of creating, sharing and applying knowledge.

The multi-award-winning Information Commons has been at the forefront of our student experience since it opened in 2007. Ten years on, and as a direct result of student feedback through the National Student Survey 2016, it has received a makeover. The number of study spaces was increased with new, flexible study areas enabling students to reconfigure the furniture throughout the academic year to suit their learning needs. The addition of squiggle glass (writeable magnetic glass panels) within these new study areas, makes it easier for students to work collaboratively without having to book group study rooms. The overall study environment has been improved following a fresh new colour scheme, new carpets, and colourful, functional furniture, including chairs with desks that are adaptable to both right- and left-handed users.

The Library seeks to engage students further around how library spaces are best designed to develop and transform their learning experiences.
The Library believes that a positive learning environment is essential for each individual student and it is vital that, at revision time, we are able to anticipate and respond to study space demand in a timely and agile way. At revision time, our flexible group study rooms, for example, are reconfigured for individual study.

Year on year, the demand for revision spaces increases. In order to meet that demand in an innovative way, we have partnered with Student Services and the Students Union to locate suitable study areas in other University buildings. We gather all the information together on a single web page which the Library maintains, and co-ordinate alerts to students on the availability of all such areas dedicated to exam provision, including those beyond our library sites.

This year agreement was reached with the Halls of Residence to extend opportunities for students to prepare for exams. The spaces created within The Edge, The Ridge and Stephenson Hall have proved popular with students.

The University of Sheffield Library offers the best student experience for library services as reported in the Times Higher Education (THE) UK Student Experience Survey 2017.

The national annual survey canvases students for their views on a range of issues concerning student life, and our library services were ranked joint first place out of 122 institutions.

Anne Horn, Director of Library Services & University Librarian commented:

"We are delighted with this endorsement and would like to thank our students for making us number one. This is a tremendous accolade of recognition from our students and demonstrates the value they place on the Library and its contribution to the student experience. We see the Library’s place at the centre of the student learning experience even more in this digital age. To be ranked first place in the UK reflects both the dedication of our staff and the clever ways we support our students wherever they are 24/7."

The University of Sheffield Library Annual Report 2016-17
University Open Days

The Library plays a central role in the support of, and participation in, the University’s Open Days. Over the past year there have been a total of sixteen Open Days during which prospective students and their families were welcomed to the Western Bank Library, the Information Commons, the Health Sciences Library, and The Diamond. Prospective students are given the opportunity to explore our innovative library spaces and discover our collections.

Over twenty Student Ambassadors were recruited as a result of the newly-implemented Ambassador Recruitment Programme. The new recruits were able to offer informed, valuable advice to prospective students and their families on the value of a world class research library, our collections, services and support. In future Open Days, the Ambassadors will play an increasingly important role in promoting the University and the Library.

Research Data Management, Training and Discovery

The Library influences the shaping of research data management policy and practice, which is informed by the infrastructure and service capacity required to deliver outcomes.

The Library coordinates support for research data management (RDM) in partnership with colleagues in CiCS, Research Services, and with individual researchers to meet diverse disciplinary needs. For example, we have worked closely to develop a visually appealing research showcase, ORDA (Online Research Data), based on the figshare platform. We soft-launched ORDA early in 2016 and, after development of a new user interface, held a well-attended formal launch event on 29 June 2017. The service now provides access to over 370 datasets and other items, and the most popular dataset has been viewed over 46,000 times and downloaded over 7,000 times.

Over 2016–17, the Library expanded the training we offer for RDM. Research students receive an overview of best practice in discovering existing data and planning its management, organising and documenting new data and how to keep it safe and secure. Research students also learn how to archive, preserve and share this data with others.

This year for the first time, in partnership with Research Software Engineering (RSE), who are based in the Department of Computer Science, and CiCS, we are running Data Carpentry workshops to provide in-depth training in this area. We now have our first certified Library Data Carpentry instructor, who joins several in the RSE team.
The Library works in partnership with the research community to transition to new models of scholarly communication, supporting open access publishing and digital scholarship.

The Library’s place in the global publishing supply chain provides insight into the interplay between the drive for the timely communication of research and the business imperatives of publishing houses and scholarly societies. Last year, we received over 5,000 direct enquiries from researchers seeking expert advice on new models of scholarly communication. Sheffield research outputs are now easily accessible to anyone with an enquiring mind. Over the past year, deposits into White Rose Research Online (WRRO, our institutional repository) have increased by 16.5%, and into ORDA, by 21%. We continue to exceed the Open Access (OA) targets for RCUK. The recent University REF stock-take exercise showed an average 94% OA compliance rate for submitted papers.

We continue to implement tools that will improve the discovery of our research. (The Jisc Publications Router tool, for example, supplies the Library with the necessary publisher information or metadata and in so doing eases the burden on researchers). We have also incorporated ORCIDs (unique researcher identifiers) into WRRO. This will further aid discovery of our research by providing common identifiers for our authors to be picked up by web harvesters, such as OpenAIRE and OAIster.
Library Services for Researchers

The Library continues to build a comprehensive offering of Library research services. As the landscape for research funding and publication changes in the UK, our research community’s needs will change. We are working closely with our senior and early career researchers to ensure that the Library infrastructure will be there to support their future needs.

The Library’s Faculty Engagement team have been collaborating with Faculty and Departmental Directors of Research and Research Committees over the last year to develop our research offer, ensuring it is in line with departmental research strategies so that our provision ensures they can deliver the world-leading and world-changing research we focus on as an institution.

We continue to develop our training for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers by working closely with the University’s Doctoral Academy and the Think Ahead team. In addition to providing generic resource discovery inductions, we have introduced discipline specific workshops, and are trialling provision in webinar and other digital formats to ensure our busy researchers have multiple options for participation. This year we have also extended access to Library resources for six months to postdoctoral researchers who have reached the end of their contracts, to facilitate their efforts to transition into a full-time research career.

Digital Preservation

The Library continues to take the lead role in digital preservation within the University by ensuring the safeguarding of its valuable digital assets.

The initial phase of preservation has focussed on important born digital and digitised collections from Special Collections and the National Fairground and Circus Archive. Our digital preservation system ArchiveUs (the University's local name for Rosetta, provided by Ex Libris) is managed by the Library. ArchiveUs allows the long-term management of digital material, so that we can avoid such preservation hazards as obsolescence or file corruption. Over the past year, we have facilitated the ground-breaking integration of ArchiveUs with ORDA, the University’s research data repository powered by figshare. We will therefore soon be in a position to offer full life cycle care to our researchers’ valuable data. Future projects include the potential for a joint Digital Preservation approach across the White Rose Universities, and the development of further ingest workflows for more types of digital material, including the University’s administrative archives.
The global publishing landscape is challenging for higher education. The large media and publishing entities continue to consolidate through mergers and acquisitions, with upward pressure on prices year on year. Within this context, a challenge for the Library is to develop a comprehensive content strategy to support the discovery, access and integration of scholarly works, and new media-rich digital content, into learning activities and the research process. As a world-leading, research intensive University, understanding this global picture is essential for continuing to enable access to the latest research, and ensuring that our own research findings are disseminated widely. Our role is to ensure that the strategic direction of the University is informed by the latest insight as to where academic publishing is heading and the options available, and to make the most of the latest technologies to innovate.

To this end we work closely with academic colleagues at a strategic level within faculties and senior University committees. This year has seen our own internal merger of open access interests — joining strategic institutional leadership for Research Data with the establishment of the Open Access Advisory Group. This will assist the University in steering the best course through the rapidly changing and complex Open Access environment. We are anticipating significant changes over the next three years as funder and government policies impact on sector practice, and publishers seek to maximise revenue.

The Library is also working closely with suppliers to design and develop new approaches to scholarly publishing that make use of the latest technology available to the industry. We are recognised within the sector as a forward thinking research library, and our expertise is valued by international commercial companies undertaking research and development on new and enhanced products for the HE market.

The Changing Landscape of Scholarly Communication

The Library embraces a collaborative network approach to extending access to rich and diverse research collections in partnerships with Research Libraries UK (RLUK), the British Library and other partners at a regional, national and international level.

This year we are proud to have been selected as one of the first contributors to the National Bibliographic Knowledgebase (NBK), a Jisc initiative to build a new UK-wide resource discovery service to help libraries collaboratively manage their collections and improve access to print and digital resources.

We have continued to participate in the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) Programme, working in partnership with various Higher Education libraries and the British Library, to create a collaboratively distributed national research collection of low-use journals. We now have over 1,000 metres of such journals that form part of the UK Research Reserve.

Working in close collaboration with the White Rose Libraries, Jisc and OCLC, we have been at the forefront of trialling and developing the Collaborative Collection Management and GreenGlass data analysis tools. We are using the data provided to inform collection development and management activities locally, whilst also supporting collaborations regionally with the White Rose Libraries, and nationally in light of the development of the NBK.
Korea Foundation

Since its establishment in 1991, the Korea Foundation has been working with universities abroad to support Korean studies. Its mission is to promote a better understanding of Korea in the global community, and to strengthen friendships between Korea and other countries.

Its supporting programme includes the provision of Korean-related materials through an annual access agreement, and upgrading or digitising Korean collections.

In 2016, we successfully applied for an award from the Korea Foundation’s Support for Libraries with Korean Collections programme, receiving 20,000 USD to improve catalogue records and access to the University of Sheffield’s Korean Collection.

The Korean collection contains 12,284 monographs and 320 journals, as well as rare books dating back to the Chosun period (14th–19th centuries). Thanks to the Korea Foundation award, and matched funding from the Library, a total of 10,590 of the Library’s older Korean books were fully catalogued and are now discoverable and able to be searched in the Korean language.

The Open Library

Rosetta Advisory Group

In June 2017 the Library, in collaboration with our industry partner Ex Libris, co-hosted the 2017 Rosetta Advisory Group meeting (RAG); the first time the event has taken place in the UK.

Thought leaders on digital preservation from nine different countries travelled to Sheffield for the two-day event entitled ‘Celebrating 10 Years of Rosetta: The Future Awaits!’ Highlights of the conference included keynote speakers William Kilbride from the Digital Preservation Coalition, who discussed the nature of change in the digital environment, and Richard Ovenden from the Bodleian Library, whose talk covered fake news and dark ads. Delegates heard reports on developments from across the digital preservation landscape, as well as updates and use-cases from global Rosetta customers on current projects and future preservation programmes. The Rosetta User Group meeting which followed the RAG gave customers the chance to discuss product development and road mapping with Ex Libris representatives. Institutions represented at the event included The Getty Research Institute, The National Library of New Zealand and the German National Library of Science and Technology.
The University Library develops high-quality exhibitions of our distinctive collections that are accessible to all and benefit the city and the wider community.

In creating the exhibition ‘The Uses of Literacy revisited’, the Special Collections team showcased one of our major archive collections and two University research projects. Documents and photographs from the archive of Richard Hoggart, academic and broadcaster, and author of the seminal book The Uses of Literacy, sat alongside the Imagine project, a community-led collaborative endeavour in Rotherham which focussed on creative writing and art work in a community context, and the Grimm & Co. literacy charity, also based in Rotherham. Both projects embody Hoggart’s thinking on literacy and creativity in everyday life. The exhibition included art work, poetry and photographs created by groups of young people, and a recreation of the atmosphere of Grimm & Co. with its emphasis on magic, ‘unthinking’ and imagination. The exhibition was well received by the many visitors from both within and outside the University, including groups of schoolchildren.
The Library was invited to join ten other UK University Libraries to participate in the development and review of research to be conducted by Alterline, a qualitative research consultancy. The research surveyed 1,112 sixteen- to eighteen-year-olds who were considering applying, or were in the process of applying, to university. The pupils answered questions about their information and digital literacy skills, information seeking and management skills, how they evaluated information, how they sought support, what their expectations of university might be, and their experience of using libraries. The findings from the final report have implications for our existing induction process for new students, and it is anticipated that this knowledge will further support a smooth transition into university life.

The Library welcomes students from local schools encouraging them to see the University Library as a place for them to learn and discover. Over the past year, dozens of groups of local school pupils and further education college students have visited our library sites. Many groups enjoyed tours of Western Bank Library. After the tours, Library and Outreach staff were on hand to introduce them to the basics of research methods, such as how to search our online catalogue and locate books on the shelves. For many students this formed part of their work towards an Extended Project Qualification, an independent research project completed alongside A-Levels.

By the end of the academic year, we had registered an extra 326 individual external reader members from local schools and colleges, seventy-one of whom had visited the Library as part of an Outreach or Widening Participation activity.

School Visits and External Readers

Library Futures - Understanding the Information and Digital Literacy of Sixteen- to Eighteen-Year-Olds

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In August, the University ran a new summer school for incoming undergraduates who had won their places at Sheffield after studying for qualifications such as BTECs rather than the traditional A levels.

It was part of a wider initiative to examine how best to support those students who have entered higher education through non-traditional routes. Working in small groups, students were asked to undertake a mini research project on the topic of robotics, and how applied robotics could impact on their future chosen fields of work.

Library staff delivered workshops on information and digital literacy skills covering how best to discover, question and reference information.

The Library provides a valued ongoing connection for our alumni. Alumni members are welcome in all our library sites where they can access the print collections, and many of the electronic journals which have been negotiated for their use.

In June, the University of Sheffield hosted the 2017 Alumni Library Forum’s Annual Conference which brought together librarians, alumni services professionals, and publishers, to showcase developments in the provision of access to study spaces and other resources for alumni members.

There were case studies from the University of Sheffield, Imperial College London, University of Manchester, University of Edinburgh, and a presentation of services to alumni from the publisher Henry Stewart Talks. The Conference offered an opportunity for networking with colleagues from across the sector and with the publishers Sage, Emerald and EBSCO.

Former Home Secretary, Professor David Blunkett, has kindly donated his archive to the University, and an archivist has been recruited to catalogue the collection and make it accessible to a wide audience.

The collection covers the years that Professor Blunkett served in the House of Commons, 1987 to 2015, and also contains personal papers dating back to his school days. As the first blind cabinet minister in the UK, the archive offers a unique perspective on a transformative period in global politics, which included 9/11 and the Iraq War. It also contains fascinating material relating to his role in the shadow cabinet in the run up to the election of the New Labour government in 1997.
The University of Sheffield

The Library received the generous donation of the archive of the late actor, writer and director Stuart Golland (1945-2003), which includes scripts, publicity material, photographs and correspondence. Although most familiar as an actor in a number of well-known television series such as Emmerdale, Waterfront Beat, Heartbeat and Coronation Street, Stuart Golland was also a noted stage actor, working with several alternative theatre companies in the 1970s including Rough Theatre and Foco Novo. He also wrote and directed his own plays, most notably Scrap (1979), a one-man comedy about a Sheffield scrap merchant, The Understudy (1988) and The Boy from Philadelphia (1992). The Stuart Golland archive makes a significant contribution to our stage and screen writing collections: like Unfinished Histories and the Betty Hunt Papers, it is a source for the study of alternative theatre, and like the Barry Hines Papers and the Jack Rosenthal Drama Scripts Collection, will provide scholarly content for both students and researchers working on the subject of writing for performance.

The Ron and Willow King Collection of Ian Tyson Prints, Paintings and Editions

British book artist and publisher Ron King, and his wife, the sculptor Willow Legge, have donated their significant personal collection of early works by fellow British book artist, publisher and sculptor, Ian Tyson. Prior to founding Tetrad Press in 1969, Tyson perfected his skills in screen printing and lithography during the mid-1960s, aided by Ron King, at King’s inclusive and innovative Circle Press. Over the years, King has collected his favourite pieces by Tyson, which include some rare Tetrad Press titles. The donation has been fully listed and catalogued, and the collection is now available for consultation. The University of Sheffield Library is the only research library to have a near-complete Tetrad Press collection which includes Tyson’s collaborative work with significant poets of the twentieth century, among them, Jackson Mac Low, Jerome Rothenberg and Roy Fisher.

A fifty-Year Nostalgia Trip

Alumni Dr. Elliot Brown, Queen’s Award winner and co-founder of PrimeVigilance Ltd. (a global drug safety and medical information service provider), and Lesley Brown met in Western Bank Library nearly fifty years ago, when they were students.

This year, they returned to reminisce about happy times spent in the Library and our lovely Reading Room. Their fifty-year nostalgia trip included a ride on the Paternoster and a saunter through Weston Park.

The Stuart Golland Papers

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In May 2017, the NFCA received a generous donation of circus-related material from the estate of former Circus Friends’ Association member, Thomas O’Beirne. Amongst the collection is a painting by Dame Laura Knight (1877-1970), the first woman to be elected to the Royal Academy. During the 1920s, Knight travelled with the combined Bertram Mills and Carmo’s Circus, depicting intimate scenes of circus life as was lived out of the public’s gaze.

The Thomas O’Beirne Collection
The University was ranked eighth in the UK for Industry Income in this year’s Times Higher World University Rankings.

We have been seeing increasing partnership activity across the University with many more enquiries focussed on how ‘open’ our researchers and teachers can be with the content we provide access to via our licences. One of the benefits to external partners of working closely with the University is the access they get to researchers and hence to the latest research. It is a focus of the Library that our offering facilitates the partnerships that our researchers make. We work closely with both the AMRC and the NHS to deliver an appropriate service, ensuring that our licences and practices are fit for purpose and allow the research endeavour of our research groups.

Across all disciplines the increasing expectation of funders for public engagement and impact activities is driving a change in academic and student behaviour that we need to plan for. Our licences and agreements need to develop to ensure that this activity is appropriately supported and that all parties are aware of their rights and responsibilities. To this end we created a new Scholarly Communications post this year to provide expert advice and guidance on copyright to the University as we navigate this changing environment.

We have seen a significant increase in enquiries from staff and students related to partnering issues over the course of the year, but we are also seeing more enquiries from partners and potential partners. Our online live chat service is now fielding an average of 253 chats per month from external users.

For the second year, Special Collections and the National Fairground and Circus Archive (NFCA), were invited by the Faculty to take part in this annual Arts Enterprise event.

The Showcase is an opportunity for the Faculty to present to the general public current research by Arts & Humanities academics in an informal setting. The event took place in the Millennium Galleries during a busy Saturday. Special Collections presented poetry broadsides from the School of English press, Constitutional Information; a hand-made book from book artist Ken Campbell; a volume of early Rowlandson and Cruikshank caricatures; and a few items from the Barry Hines Collection. The items on show highlighted our on-going work and collaborations with our academic colleagues. Our collection of World War I War Illustrated magazines was also presented by a colleague from the School of English who is using the collection as part of his current research and engagement. Similarly, the NFCA promoted their newly-acquired donation of the Circus Friends’ Association historical archive.

Arts & Humanities Faculty Showcase. March 2017

Building Benefit for Partnership
The University Library Annual Report 2016-17

Professional Collaborations

The Library leverages professional collaborations, locally and globally to influence new models of information access.

As part of a University with such an international focus and collaborative attitude we need to be flexible and innovative; willing and able to deliver services that benefit a wide range of stakeholders. We are aware that we have a significant part to play in maintaining the University's impressive performance in delivering an outstanding student experience, as recognised by our No.1 ranking in the Times Higher Student Experience Survey this year. An integral part of our success as a research library is our collaboration with stakeholders, whether they be partners, suppliers or customers.

We have to consider how to deliver an excellent service to all our students including; apprentices at the AMRC; partner students at the University of Sheffield International College; research students located at partner institutions and other remote sites; and our International Faculty students. This year we carried out an extensive survey with our International Faculty students and staff and a team of colleagues visited Thessaloniki to deliver training and follow up development work. This sort of engagement will lead to improved service for all but also enables us to learn from others and bring in fresh ideas.

Whilst we are recognised as being leaders in the field of library provision in the Higher Education sector, and regularly host visits from our peers seeking to learn from us, we find that our open, collaborative approach benefits our delivery. Throughout the year we have welcomed visitors from national and international universities seeking to learn from us, and give consideration to future collaborative partnerships.

Visitors included cohorts from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the National University of Ireland, who were keen to view and discuss our innovative learning spaces. Staff from Swansea University, the University of Auckland, Monash University, and Polonsky Fellows from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, met with Library colleagues to discuss our digital preservation practices and policies.

Our Systems expertise is often in demand: this year we have hosted visits from many institutions including Imperial College London, Norwegian Business School, the University of Nottingham, Kyoto University Library, and the University of Huddersfield to discuss a wide range of topics related to our digital services and systems.
The University of Sheffield

Workforce Planning

The Library develops workforce planning as a process of continual review, building opportunities to attract and grow talent and strengthen innovative teams able to realise our vision.

Library Business Services (LBS) has been significantly improved over the past twelve months. The new team has specialist skills in the areas of finance, human resources, estates, and data analytics, and supports all the Library’s teams to make sure that our students and researchers receive the best possible service. The creation of the Business Administration Team ensures that high service standards are maintained.

The new team is keen, wherever possible, to adopt online systems for all Library operations, and this proactive approach has already reduced the amount of paper handling by ninety per cent. A new, more efficient system for booking training events and travel, has also been implemented. These systems support managers in planning and operations, and also provide reliable information to Library Executive upon which to base business decisions.

White Rose Libraries

White Rose Libraries (WRL) is the partnership of the libraries of the universities of Sheffield, Leeds and York, which promotes opportunities for resource-saving and collaborative working and services, such as staff development events.

The White Rose Research Online (WRRO), and White Rose eTheses Online (WREO) repositories are growing. During the past year, Sheffield deposited 6,767 articles into WRRO. New features of WREO include display and linking to ORCiDs (a unique author identifier). The repository has also implemented a plugin offered by Jisc’s CORE service, which enables a searcher to see other recommended articles drawing upon all the records in the CORE open access database (The CORE database aggregates all green open access content from University repositories).

The WRL Collaborative Collection Management Group looks at new ways to improve how libraries manage space and collections. This year the Group has utilised the GreenGlass tool to analyse our collections in order to discover collection strengths and the extent of overlap between the collections.

White Rose University Press continues to develop. The Press now has four commissioned journals across a range of disciplines. The first monographs are expected to be published early in 2018. Much work has been done to establish efficient and effective workflows and to ensure the Press is on a firm operational footing as it takes on new projects. The Press continues to receive exciting, high quality proposals from across the academic community.

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Developing Systems for Learning and Teaching

The Library capitalises on the growth and development of cloud-based networks, applications and services in delivering information and discovery services. As teaching methods in the University develop, so too must the infrastructure and support that we provide. In 2017 we introduced a new software platform, Leganto, that extends our resource list offering to fulfill the needs of students and their teachers working in a hyper-visualised and fluid digital world.

Leganto affords new possibilities for programme leaders to include resources in many different formats (open access, videos, web-based content) with convenient linking and additional functionality that enables students and teachers to co-create their own annotated resource lists. This software also links seamlessly with other Library and University systems, increasing efficiency and improving service delivery.

The Library is amongst the earliest UK adopters of this new software and has the opportunity to guide future development of the platform. This approach also has the potential to form the basis of Open Education Resource delivery, which places the University in a good position to weather potential storms emanating from the publishing sector, in particular the rising cost of textbooks.

Developing Systems for Research

There are many systems that help underpin the research lifecycle. The Library is focussed on systems that enable publication, discovery and access of research outputs, whether articles or research data, and works closely with CiCS and Research Services.

Current systems include MyPublication for recording and displaying an author’s publication history; White Rose Repository Online (WRRO) and White Rose eTheses Online (WREO) for primarily article-level access, White Rose University Press offering a new OA publishing option, ORDA for research data discovery, and StarPlus for research discovery worldwide. Interoperability of these systems is a key issue and the Library works closely with CiCS, Research Services and researchers to improve services and respond to feedback.

University outputs are harvested by aggregators of content and major search engines, to make them easy to find. We are continuously improving our electronic infrastructure: making workflows easier to navigate, enabling smoother systems integration and reducing costs. We are therefore engaged with Research Services and CiCS as a development partner for a new system, Esploro.

Given the significant challenges in this space, the Library was delighted to be invited as a development partner by Ex Libris to explore a more joined up systems approach. University of Sheffield Library staff are working with our systems vendor and thought leaders from the UK and USA to develop a system for capturing research outputs (articles and data) more easily and making them more discoverable. The system will have better integration and will attempt to improve the automation of workflows to reduce the burden on researchers and support staff.

As development partners we will have significant influence on the way that the product develops, and we aim to ensure that it would meet University needs. Additionally, explaining what we currently do will require us to review our current practices and will encourage even closer working with CiCS and Research Services.
The Library plays a key role in the academic journey of students and researchers. Part of this role, for the Library's leadership team, is to ensure full engagement with developments within the sector, whether those developments be strategic, the latest design of learning spaces, or innovative services. We are recognised as national and international thought leaders who are helping to address the big challenges and government policy. Our Director chairs the Universities UK Open Access Repositories Group, which is convened to advise on progress towards open access in the UK. We are working on global challenges relating to the information landscape, access and use through national and international partnerships, working with the British Library, OCLC Research Library Partnership and Jisc. We are advising developing countries in Africa and south-east Asia. Members of our leadership team have delivered keynotes and papers at annual conferences and meetings of the International Association of University Libraries (IAIUL), RLUK, Northern Collaboration, OCLC’s member meetings in Europe and Asia, CILIP’s LILAC Conference, and the Ex-Libris Directors’ Group in the UK and Italy. Over the past year, we have managed our resources well, and have demonstrated significant value for money for the University, our students, our researchers, and for the wider public.


Barr, P. (2017). Digital humanities at the University of Sheffield Library. Presentation at EMRSG Meeting, Loughborough.


Horn, A. (2016). White Rose Libraries (UK) take a consortial approach, informing the shape of our collections. Presented at OCLC Conference, Hong Kong.


Fast Facts

• Visits – 3,312,282
• Study spaces – 3,532
• Loans – 237,879
• Collection size – 1,107,631
• Digital library visits – 5,907,943
• Digital downloads – 10,540,331
Professional Development

Catherine Bazela, the Library’s Digital Skills Training Coordinator, completed the MSc (Econ) Information and Librarianship Studies at Aberystwyth University. Her dissertation, Collaboratively developing an Information and Digital Literacy Model and Framework for the University of Sheffield: A case study, was based on the initial development of the framework which is part of the Library’s Strategic Plan project 2: ‘Build an understanding of information and digital literacy skills, developing web based resources for the learner and teacher’.

Aarti Sehgal, Senior Customer Services Assistant, completed the MSc Information Management at the Information School, University of Sheffield, with a dissertation entitled An evaluation of the Live Chat service at the University of Sheffield Library. Aarti’s study was part of the Library’s Strategic Plan project 1: ‘Develop service models to reach all students in all their spaces, physical and digital’. Our library service is integral to a uniquely satisfying student experience and the ‘instant chat’ service aims to provide help to our users at the point of need.
Our Team
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