

Other news

National Fairground Archive

Marisa Carnesky, the renowned show-woman and theatrical artist, and creator of Carnesky's Ghost Train, became an AHRC Creative and Performing Arts Fellow in 2008, one of the first such fellowships to be held in a non-academic department in the UK. Her work with the NFA will enable her to research and document the theoretical basis of her performance.



Marisa Carnesky in performance with the Insect Circus at Professor Vanessa's Twenty Performing Wonders: the inaugural lecture of Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Director of the NFA, December 2008

Getting the books to you

We know from our customers that getting access quickly to materials they need for study is crucial. And, although books are just one type of content, they're still a very important one. So our Customer Services Team have made major changes to the way books are handled to meet customer needs better:

- Item request now enables customers to request a book from any site and pick it up where it is most convenient to them
- Shelving has been reorganised to ensure that books return to the shelves around the campus as quickly as possible.

In the IC, new technology helps us to do this. The book collection features RFID (radio-frequency identification), and the robotic book return sorter (the first operational unit in the UK) uses this technology to sort incoming books, ensuring they get back to the right floor as quickly as possible.



Members of the IC shelving team, Will Hardiman, Hazel Holliday and Lynette Hodges, with the book return sorter

The THELMAs

The University Library was pleased to be one of only six libraries, and the only one from a Russell Group university, to be shortlisted for the first-ever Times Higher Education Leadership and Management awards (known as THELMAs) in 2009. We didn't come away with the trophy, but the nomination reflects great credit on the Library's team.



The University Of Sheffield.

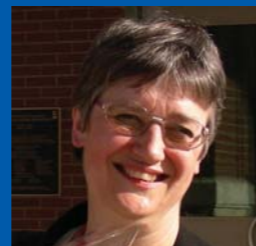


The University Of Sheffield.

The University Library.

Obituaries

We were deeply saddened by the deaths in service of two long-standing members of staff, both of them immensely experienced and popular colleagues and friends.



Eileen Ryan, Head of Technical Services, joined the University Library in 1978. Eileen made an outstanding contribution to the development of our services, and her innovative work on book acquisitions gave her a national profile.



Margaret Lamb, Senior Library Assistant at St George's Library, joined the University Library in 1987. Margaret worked at most of the Library's sites during her career, and while she was with us gained an honours degree by part-time study at The Institute for Lifelong Learning.

Facts and figures

The University Library has 176 staff (135 fte), based at five sites. Its budget was £7.2 million in 2008/09.

Total bookstock is nearly 1.3million items, and there are 2,528 study spaces. The Library is a member of Research Libraries UK (RLUK), which includes libraries of the largest research-led universities in the UK and Ireland.

	2008/09	2007/08
Total number of loans	1,643,942	1,647,626
Interlibrary loan applications	5,762	8,794
Photocopies and prints made	5,952,069	6,561,796
Full text e-journal downloads	3,106,889	2,740,385
User visits to Library	1,971,083	1,895,899

Contacting the University Library

If you have any comments or questions on the issues covered in this year's Annual Report, please contact the Office of the Director:

Tel (0114) 222 7224 Fax (0114) 222 7292

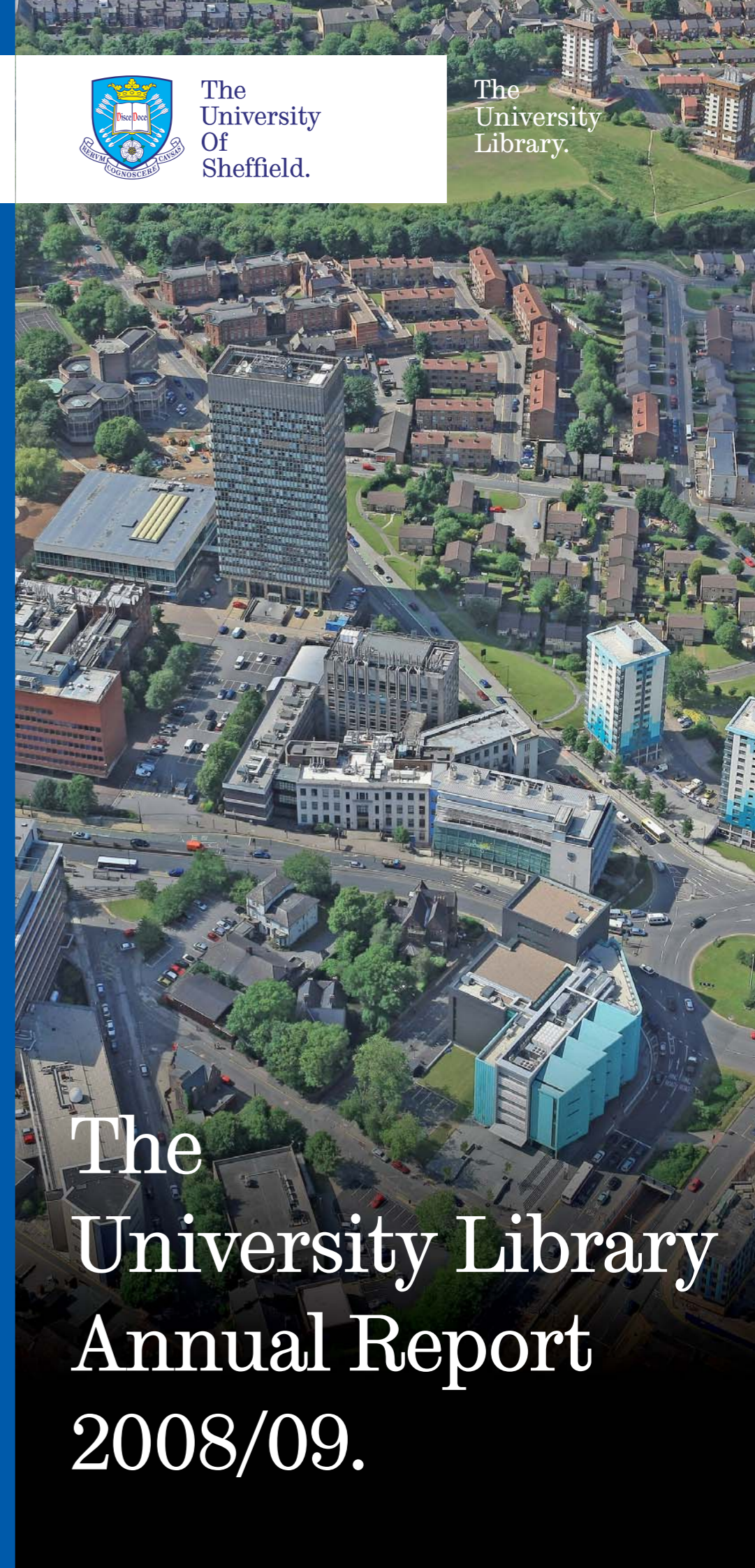
Email: h.hunt@sheffield.ac.uk

You may also want to look at the Library's web pages at <http://www.shf.ac.uk/library>

and you can follow us on Twitter at

<http://twitter.com/UniSheffieldLib>

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The University Library
Annual Report
2008/09.



From the Director

A tight budget settlement for 2008/09 allowed us to put an additional £130K into our subject funds – not enough to avoid further journal cancellations. And with the majority of our purchasing in non-UK currencies, we watched with alarm the decline in the value of sterling during 2008. It's clear to us, if not to academic publishers, that the current business model for scholarly communications has to change, so it was interesting to note the publication during the year of a report from JISC suggesting that the UK would see economic advantage from a general move to open access publishing¹. At the start of 2009/10, the financial outlook for universities seems even more challenging than it

did in August 2008. But there's been a lot to celebrate this year for the University Library, including a further increase in student satisfaction, more innovation in service delivery, and a further clutch of awards for the Information Commons.

Our strategic plan *Progress through partnership* was launched as the year started, so we've organised this year's annual report around the plan's seven themes. The first of these is "Library everywhere", reflecting the increasing richness of our digital content and services, available 24/7 regardless of location. Expect to see "Library everywhere" used more frequently in the future to emphasise that our services aren't limited to our physical premises. Our staff helped to frame the strategic plan, and in our regular world-café events they've worked hard at developing a concise statement of our values, which you can read below. We're fortunate to have a great team in the University Library, and they can take huge credit for the progress shown in this report.

Martin Lewis

¹ Houghton, J [et al] *Economic implications of alternative scholarly publishing models: exploring the costs and benefits*. JISC, 2009. <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/publications/rpconomicoapublishing.pdf>

Library values

We're enthusiastic and confident about our mission and vision

We want to do a great job for our customers, and we show them courtesy, interest, and respect

We take pride in our Library and in our services

We show professional leadership in library and information service delivery, both within and outside the University

We encourage and celebrate diversity in our workforce and amongst our customers

We share a commitment to quality in all that we do

We value creativity, innovation and initiative

We work in partnership with our colleagues in the Library and with the wider University community

We aim to empower our staff and to encourage everyone to reach their full potential

Our workplaces are friendly, informal spaces where staff are productive and feel comfortable.

1 Library everywhere!

We've made it easier to find and link to econtent in two ways:

- FindIt@Sheffield makes it easier to find and link to electronic journals, articles and ebooks.
- We've created direct links from **Star**, the Library catalogue – see below.

As part of our "Making the Library Easier to Use" programme, the "3 clicks & you're in!" project has delivered direct linking to a wide range of digital resources from within **Star**. Some 38,000 high quality ejournal records

have been added to the catalogue alongside over 18,000 records containing direct links to electronic books. All new digital content will now be added with direct links from **Star** created automatically.

Sheffield joins the UK Research Reserve (UKRR)

Following a successful pilot project, the Library joined UKRR, a national scheme offering HE libraries a secure solution to storing and preserving low use print research journals. This collaborative approach to collection management enables academic libraries to resolve storage challenges whilst guaranteeing long term access via the British Library.

2 A world-class study environment

We agreed the scope of the next phase of the Western Bank Library redevelopment. Work on the project has started, and will be completed in January 2010.

The winners of the inaugural Sheffield Design Awards were announced at a ceremony on Wednesday 11 February 2009 at The Showroom & Workstation, Sheffield. The Information Commons not only took the top prize in the overall Best Building category, but also received a commendation in the Citizens' Award category.

3 Supporting our researchers

We've completed a JISC-funded project to enhance the capabilities of White Rose Research Online (WRRO) <http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/docs/information.html> making WRRO one of the best developed repositories in the UK.

eTheses

Working in co-operation with the Graduate Research Office, the Library spearheaded introduction of eTheses to the University. As a result, all PGR students registered from October 2008 onwards will now submit their thesis electronically, while existing students are strongly encouraged to do so. Theses are held on the White Rose eTheses Online server <<http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/>> and links with the national EThOS service for access to electronic copies of theses are being developed.

Special Collections

A number of significant collections were added during the year, including:

Morris Papers The collection comprises the surviving personal and working papers, manuscripts and associated correspondence relating to the life and work of Brian Morris, Lord Morris of Castle Morris, a former professor of English Literature, Principal of St David's University College Lampeter, and a major public figure in the spheres of cultural and educational policy in the 1980s and 1990s.

Willis Papers The working papers of Arthur Willis, late Professor of Botany at the University of Sheffield, specialist in ecology and palaeobotany.

Barry Hines Papers Screenplays, scripts and novels, published and unpublished, from the author of *Kes* and *Threads*, a former member of staff in the School of English.

4 Progress through Partnership

We've worked hard to develop communication with students and we've held regular meetings with Union Links.

Library Planning Statements, intended to guide the development of library support for each department and to reflect planned academic developments, have been successfully piloted with selected departments.

5 New roles, new skills

Library staff are working hard to ensure that skills and roles meet the needs of customers. Our revised staff development plan was launched, and the delivery of leadership training to all managers was completed.

Our new fortnightly e-bulletin for Library staff helps us to share ideas and to keep everyone in the loop.

The 'world café' format for library staff consultation once again sparked lively and fruitful discussion, focussing on role flexibility and the associated staff development needs, and on our shared values, which appear earlier in this report.



Appointment of Head of Collections and eStrategy

In March 2009 Tracey Clarke was appointed to the new post of Head of Collections and eStrategy following national advertisement. Tracey, who was previously eServices Technology Manager in the Library, takes up this senior role at a crucial time, with a remit to accelerate the Library's use of new technologies and further develop our rapidly growing range of digital content and services.

6 Working with the NHS

Evidence based practice is central to the work of the NHS, and our services have developed to meet the information needs which arise. We've created a new clinical outreach post to work with NHS staff where they are – in the hospitals and on the wards.

Our 'Walk-in access' project has opened up the majority of the Library's electronic journal titles to members of Sheffield's NHS community outside the acute Trusts. This pilot project will be extended to all of the University Library's external customers.

Nursing books to Ethiopia

In May 2009, we closed the Manvers Campus site of the Health Sciences Library following completion by the last students on the pre-registration programmes in Nursing and Midwifery. This end became a new beginning for health libraries in Mekelle in Ethiopia through a link with the Sheffield charity SHARE (Sheffield Health Action Resource for Ethiopia).



Some 10,000 nursing textbooks, complete with shelving, were packed by volunteers, and began their journey to Ethiopia on 12 May. In September the container reached the safe hands of the Tigray Regional Health Bureau, who will now allocate the books to the medical colleges and the nursing schools in Tigray.

7 Delivering on our promises

Our revised Service Level Agreement (SLA) is in place and you can see our traffic light reporting on our web pages. <http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/sla/performance.html>

Our ambitious target for improved Library ratings in the National Student Survey was met in 2009, a year early. The University's own Student Satisfaction Survey showed a sixth year of improvement in overall satisfaction levels with our services, now at 89%.