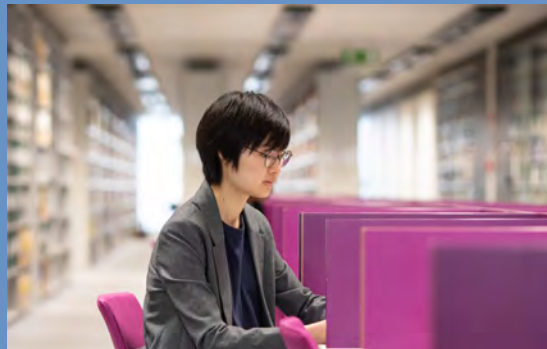
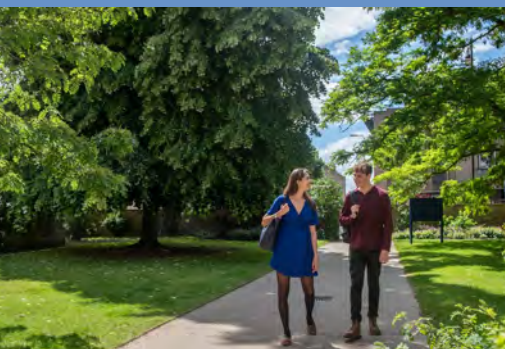




# BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020-21



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**BODLEIAN**  
LIBRARIES

# INTRODUCTION

## What role do – and can – libraries play in society?

That's the question we asked expert speakers at a conference we held in September 2020. We had originally planned to invite around 150 delegates to the Bodleian Libraries for the event, but with the COVID-19 pandemic still very present – and the vaccine not yet announced – we reimagined it as an online conference that anybody was welcome to attend.

The result was *Oxford Libraries 700*: three tremendous days of talks, panel events and online interactions with upwards of 2,000 people worldwide.

We have many similar stories from Academic Year 2020–21 which demonstrate how the Bodleian Libraries has remained not only agile and responsive but has also been proactively working for our community during an incredibly challenging period in our history.

Lockdowns and restrictions would continue to affect physical access throughout the year (covering the period 1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021), frustrating the plans of colleagues, readers and public visitors alike. But rather than batten down the hatches and waiting for the storm to pass, we chose to change the way we worked.

We adapted our services to meet the new needs of readers. We substantially advanced our efforts in opening up access to our world-class collections. We found innovative ways of engaging with our many communities.

Importantly, we realised that these changes did not have to be temporary and that many of them could actually enhance our work in the long term. We recognised that the circumstances of the year were transforming our society. People were developing new expectations as to how they should be able to access information, and digital expectations have become far more widespread among people of all ages.

However, we also know that the digital landscape is no utopia. Widespread misinformation about COVID-19, for example, has contributed to society's already uneasy relationship with online sources. Meanwhile, even outside of the pandemic, issues around data security and the way knowledge is managed challenge our ethics, freedoms and even democracy itself.

Returning, then, to the question of the library's role in society: the answer is of course complex, because society is always evolving. Even a three-day conference can only scratch the surface. So, if the Bodleian Libraries is to continue its mission to preserve and share knowledge, we must also evolve. We must be prepared to reflect on, and rethink, the way we work – as we have done throughout our history, going back to 1320 (as many of the speakers at the *Oxford Libraries 700* conference pointed out).

While this Annual Report gives a flavour of some of our developments and achievements in Academic Year 2020–21, there are inevitably countless more that we couldn't squeeze in.

So: to our generous donors and benefactors; to my committed colleagues; to our wonderful partners and peers, readers, visitors, and online followers, I want to say a huge **thank you** to each and every one of you. Not only did you help us to rise to the year's challenges, but you achieved this while navigating the effects of an international crisis on your own lives. The extraordinary nature of the year cannot be over-emphasised, but neither can your extraordinary response.

You've helped make the Bodleian what it is today: not just an assortment of physical structures and processes, but a dynamic force, shedding light on our past and illuminating the way forward.

It is thanks to your ongoing support that we can keep this vital resource resilient and meaningful for the society we know now, and that of generations to come.



RICHARD OVENDEN; BODLEY'S  
LIBRARIAN AND HEAD OF  
GARDENS, LIBRARIES AND  
MUSEUMS

# ABOUT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

The Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford forms the largest university library system in the UK. It provides a world-class resource for students and scholars from all over the world, and heritage for all to enjoy.

The Bodleian Libraries group includes major research libraries; libraries attached to faculties, departments and other institutions of the University; and, of course, the principal University library – the Bodleian Library, which first opened its doors in 1602.

Our collections include books, journals, manuscripts, maps, music, digital data and much more. We work increasingly collaboratively with other parts of the University: with college libraries and archives, and especially with our colleagues in the University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM).

The work of the Libraries is defined by its strategic plan, which was created to enable the Libraries to achieve three key aims during the period **2018–2022**:

- 1. To help ensure that the University of Oxford remains at the forefront of academic teaching and research worldwide;**
- 2. To contribute leadership to the broader development of the world of information and libraries for society; and**
- 3. To provide a sustainable operation of the Libraries.**

## THERE ARE 28 LIBRARIES ACROSS THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

- Bodleian Education Library
- Bodleian Health Care Libraries
  - Cairns Library at John Radcliffe Hospital
  - Horton Hospital Library
  - Knowledge Centre at Old Road Campus
  - Girdlestone Memorial Library at Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre
- Bodleian Japanese Library
- Bodleian KB Chen China Centre Library
- Bodleian Latin American Centre Library
- Bodleian Law Library
- Bodleian Old Library
- Radcliffe Camera
- Weston Library
- Bodleian Music Faculty Library
- Nizami Ganjavi Library
- Bodleian Social Science Library
- English Faculty Library
- History of Medicine Library
- Leopold Muller Memorial Library
- Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library
- Radcliffe Science Library *currently closed with staff and collections housed at the Vere Harmsworth Library*
- Rewley House Continuing Education Library
- Sackler Library
- Sainsbury Library at the Saïd Business School
- Sainsbury Library at Egrove Park
- Sherardian Library of Plant Taxonomy
- Taylor Institution Library
- Tylor Library
- Vere Harmsworth Library at the Rothermere American Institute



## OUR SERVICES

The pandemic called for a rapid review of our services as we worked to meet the changing needs of readers. We adjusted the way we delivered regular services, redefining them at scale and creating new avenues for accessing collections and resources. While some changes were temporary, others were compelling and sustainable enough to remain permanent. These will be transformative for our own future and for the people we serve.

### IN NUMBERS

The number of study spaces provided by the Bodleian Libraries changed throughout the year as the situation with the pandemic evolved. During Michaelmas Term there were **13,185** seat-sessions per week. At the end of Hillary Term there were **9,465** seat-sessions per week. During Trinity Term there were **14,336** seat-sessions per week.

There were **456,789** reader visits to our libraries.

Scan & Deliver fulfilled **44,347** requests, compared with 9,942 the previous year, and delivered over **1.1 million** individual scanned pages. We satisfied **2,012** requests for scans of Special Collections items, producing **182,516** scans that were sent free of charge to researchers round the world.

In the 2020-21 academic year, the Live Chat team held **8,271** instant messenger conversations and there were **11,888** emails to the main enquiries mailbox.

Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) reached **2,600** reading lists during the year. It provided access to reading lists for **148** taught courses, and was accessed **526,388** times, from over **180** countries.

The Admissions team conducted induction ceremonies to welcome **12** groups online via Microsoft Teams instead of in Convocation House.

The Accessible Resources Acquisition and Creation Unit (ARACU) processed **3,329** requests for materials. **84%** of the requests were fulfilled via institutional digital collections, specialist databases and publisher requests. **12%** of the requests were fulfilled through scanning, resulting in over **86,000** pages scanned. SensusAccess, which automatically converts documents into a range of alternate media, received **1,037** conversion requests.



We moved our programme of induction and training workshops online, delivering more than **859** induction, iSkills and other training sessions to **29,230** student and researcher attendees. To help Law undergraduates avoid significant delays in completing a compulsory module, the Law Library ran **123** 'moot courts' (simulated court hearings) online.

Almost **50,000** Click & Collect requests were placed.

The Open Access and Scholarship support team reported that **172** datasets were deposited in

the Oxford University Research Archive (ORA) this year, to ensure researchers' compliance with their funders. This brings the total to **993**, which were downloaded **13,780** times this year. A total of **14,884** full-text research outputs (articles, book chapters etc) were added to ORA, bringing the total to almost **89,000**. They have been downloaded **1.6 million** times this year. The team also provided training on compliance with the Copyright Licensing Agency to **426** administrative staff across the University.

### ADMISSIONS & APPLICATIONS

With the Bodleian being, at times, physically closed to readers this year, our **Admissions** team completely changed the way they operated. They introduced a telephone appointments system, as well as novel ways of processing payments and applications and communicating information to applicants. They designed information leaflets, booklets for prospective group organisers and a welcome pack for new team members.

## TRANSFORMING READER SERVICES

**Oxford Reading Lists Online** (ORLO) is Oxford's tool for creating online reading lists. The fast adoption of ORLO across the academic divisions during the pandemic continued, with the service contributing to flexible and inclusive teaching. The number of published lists doubled, as did the number of chapters/articles digitised by our **digitisation service**.

To manage the rapidly changing availability of e-resources during temporary pandemic measures, we developed automatic processes to bulk add and remove links, enabling immediate access to e-resources.

ORLO is being used on a range of subjects outside of formal teaching, such as Study Skills and Counselling service recommendations, as well as for Black Lives Matter and LGBT+ resources, helping support equity, diversity and inclusion at the libraries.

Our **Scan & Deliver** service continued to play a vital role in connecting readers with content.

As part of the service, we supplemented the existing **Remote Document Delivery** service with **Library Scan**: a service for reading room materials. Both services were offered free of charge and were so popular that we had to introduce a limit of one request per day.

The enhancements were made possible by a huge coordinated effort across the Bodleian Libraries involving over 200 staff and investment in new overhead scanning equipment at the busiest scanning sites. Oh, and the service had its own music video parodying

a certain 1980's pop song, with all instruments and vocals from Bodleian staff! You can enjoy 'Scan and Deliver' on YouTube.

Other free mediated copying services included a free scanning service from Special Collections and a free inter-library loans copy service.

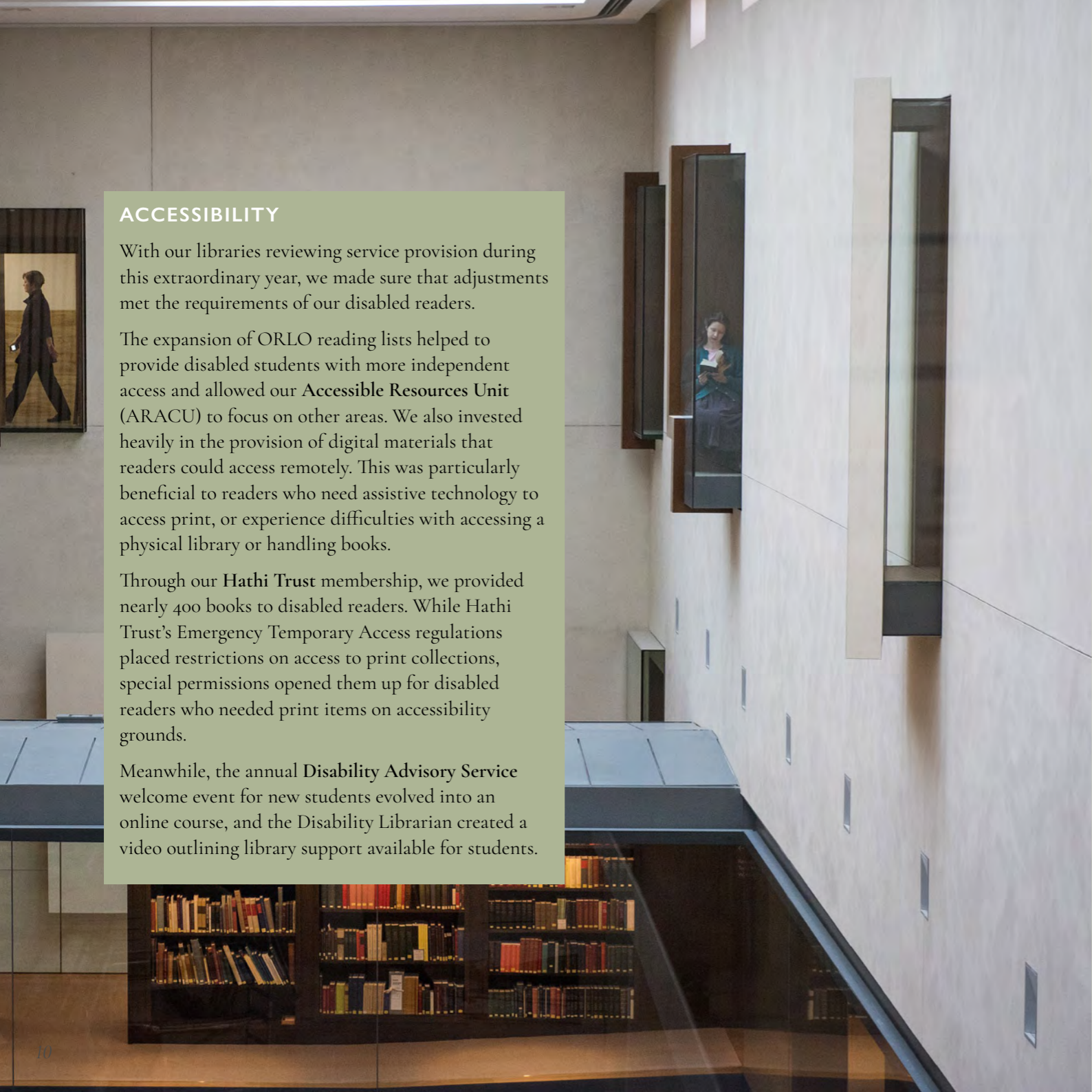
Through **Click & Collect**, readers could remotely select books from the lending collections to be set aside for collection. If they couldn't physically come to Libraries – for reasons including the need to self-isolate – readers could nominate another reader to collect the request on their behalf.

We implemented a suite of **Return of Loans** measures to make sure readers didn't need to put themselves at risk when returning materials to the libraries. These included not accruing fines and very long loans that were systematically renewed, as well as postal returns and in-person returns to accessible 'hubs' – available 24/7 – where readers and our staff didn't have to make contact with each other.

## LIVE CHAT

We first introduced **Live Chat** to readers in July 2011, when it was available via a widget on the **Search Oxford Libraries Online** (SOLO) page. Having since developed into one of the Bodleian Libraries' core enquiry services, it really came into its own during the pandemic. Today, access to Live Chat is available on all Bodleian web pages, SOLO and general library guides. It has more than proved its importance, as well as the value of the extended hours in an environment where remote working and access to digital resources are key.





## ACCESSIBILITY

With our libraries reviewing service provision during this extraordinary year, we made sure that adjustments met the requirements of our disabled readers.

The expansion of ORLO reading lists helped to provide disabled students with more independent access and allowed our **Accessible Resources Unit (ARACU)** to focus on other areas. We also invested heavily in the provision of digital materials that readers could access remotely. This was particularly beneficial to readers who need assistive technology to access print, or experience difficulties with accessing a physical library or handling books.

Through our **Hathi Trust** membership, we provided nearly 400 books to disabled readers. While Hathi Trust's Emergency Temporary Access regulations placed restrictions on access to print collections, special permissions opened them up for disabled readers who needed print items on accessibility grounds.

Meanwhile, the annual **Disability Advisory Service** welcome event for new students evolved into an online course, and the Disability Librarian created a video outlining library support available for students.

“Readers and enquirers more than ever really appreciated a human response that gave knowledgeable and expert advice during this difficult time in an ever-changing environment.”

HANNAH CHANDLER, OFFICIAL PAPERS LIBRARIAN



## OPEN ACCESS & OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Our Open Scholarship Support department continued to play a lead role in the delivery of support for Open Access, Open Research, and Research Data Management provision. The work of the **Open Access Collections** team includes carrying out negotiations for electronic licensing agreements.

The year was one of transition, as the publishing industry adapted its models in a commitment to move to fully Open Access. This was primarily achieved through Read & Publish deals, which combine subscription costs and Open Access publishing costs into a single agreement.

Supported by the University's Research and Innovation Committee, we established a new strategic Read & Publish Review Group in March 2021, tasked with assessing deals on the University's behalf. The group also played a leading role in the negotiations for the next Elsevier five-year 'big deal', to include open-access publishing services.

## OUR LIBRARIES

In response to the needs of readers, especially graduate students, Trinity term 2021 saw a programme of extended opening hours for some of our libraries, including the **Old Bodleian**, **Taylor Institution Library** and

**Sackler Library**. This helped improve access to study space and non-lending material at weekends and during vacations.

At the **Social Science Library**, we made preparations for a SafePod: a standardised study cubicle that gives users secure online access to restricted data centres such as the Office for National Statistics and the UK Data Service. We finalised the funding arrangements and completed the installation and staff training in advance of a September 2021 launch.

Meanwhile, the completion of the roof project in the central Reading Room of the **Bodleian Law Library** means readers can now enjoy plenty of natural light!

## OUR COLLECTIONS

In a year that underlined the importance of digital access, our hands-on work remained essential to making this possible. We catalogued, photographed and treated items in preparation for digitisation. Meanwhile, our libraries were further enriched with some very special acquisitions and donations. Step by step, we're opening our world-class collections to the world itself.

### IN NUMBERS

Today, the combined library collections number over **13.5 million** printed items, as well as over **1.46 million** ebooks, **142,500** e-journals, and more than **28,000** linear metres of archives and manuscripts, and vast quantities of materials in other formats.

Our membership of the Hathi Trust continued from June 2020, enabling on-screen access to approximately **4 million** public domain items.

We received **230** linear metres of archives and manuscripts into our collections, and catalogued and made available **287** linear metres of previously inaccessible archive and manuscripts. We also ingested **131GB** of born-digital archives.

We made many more full descriptions of archives and manuscripts available online for the first time via the Bodleian Archives and Manuscripts catalogue ([archives.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://archives.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)) – surpassing the milestone of **20,000**

linear metres of material.

**1,930** items were treated by the Conservation and Collection Care team.

More than **100,000** images were produced by the Imaging Services team.

There were **122,000** loans of physical books to **17,000** readers.

There were **18,276** consultations of Special Collections items in the Weston reading rooms.

There were almost **13 million** downloads of full-text journal articles.

There were over **6.6 million** downloads of chapters from e-books.

There were over **12 million** searches of bibliographic databases.

There were over **16 million** searches of SOLO.



### E-RESOURCES

We acquired more than a million new e-resources, including databases, books, journals, newspapers and magazines. The evidence-based acquisition (EBA) projects, which ran with suppliers including Cambridge University Press, de Gruyter, Springer and Elsevier, were a major new development that gave us access to 200,000 books.

### OPEN ACCESS

The **Open Access Collections** team have continued to support research students with the deposit of their theses in line with exam regulations. This was particularly important during the pandemic and the temporary suspension of the delivery of physical theses copies to the Libraries.





## COLLECTING COVID

The University of Oxford has been at the forefront of international efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with the History of Science Museum, we initiated our *Collecting Covid* programme (generously funded by the EPA Cephalosporin Trust) to capture records of the University of Oxford's research response to COVID-19 and preserve them for posterity.

To help capture relevant items, the **Oxford University Research Archive** (ORA) launched the ORA COVID-19 collection. The portal provides (where possible) the full text of items held in ORA as well as links to the University COVID-related outputs held at other locations. This will help us and future generations to understand what happened, and to recognise the contributions of a great many people at the University and beyond.

## RACE AND DIVERSITY

In collaboration with the City of Oxford Museum, we managed a **race and diversity narratives** project which supported two students to explore the archives and acquired protest placards from Rhodes Must Fall protests held in Oxford earlier in 2020.



## CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Across the University, equity became a core focus, with changes to rectify historic gaps in teaching. The Bodleian Libraries actively engaged with this movement to foster equality, diversity and inclusivity across our workforce, collections, services, spaces and activities.

Having launched in January 2020, our *‘Changing the narrative’* project continued to encourage subject librarians to think critically about the gaps in the narratives that the collections tell.

Throughout the project, we've enhanced our collections in areas such as LGBT+ Studies, Women's Studies, Disability Studies, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BME) Studies and the intersections between these identities.

The project also proposed an addition to our overarching collection management policy: *‘The Bodleian Libraries commits to developing collections that reflect a diverse academic community and breadth of scholarship including previously under-represented areas.’*

The inclusion of this statement will direct librarians to consider and collect in areas that are currently underrepresented in their subject collections, identify and reveal collections already held, and require acquisition services to diversify the range of suppliers used.

“We wanted to take a more proactive approach to collection development, to ensure the collections we build are used and useful, and continue their transformational impact.”

HELEN WORRELL, ARCHAEOLOGY AND TYLOR ANTHROPOLOGY LIBRARIAN, AND CHANGING THE NARRATIVE PROJECT LEADER

## RARE BOOKS & PRINTED EPHEMERA

While the **Rare Books team's** cataloguing schedule was disrupted throughout the year, a return to on-site working saw the completion of several cataloguing projects by July 2021. These included:

- the second half of Professor Giuseppe Scalabrino's small but highly important donation of Italian Literature, which arrived in May 2021 (25 items);
- a collection donated by Booker Prize-winning author Ian McEwan of his works in translation (1000 items); and
- around 900 individually donated or purchased items.

Acquisition highlights included a donation of a pre-eminent collection of almost 250 modern designer bookbindings; and a bequest including hundreds of clandestine works published by Dutch printers during the Second World War, including poetry and literature.



Significant purchases included:

- a copy of Robert Frank's photo book *The Americans* (NY, 1959);
- an archive of Dean's Rag Book Company ledgers comprising three volumes of around 3000 mounted leaves of 280 titles published between 1903 and 1933, accompanied by a donation from Pickering and Chatto towards their conservation; and
- several important modern Artist's Books by Ken Campbell, Kitty Maryatt, Edward Ruscha, Leonard Baskin and Ana Paula Cordeiro.



## ARCHIVES & MODERN MANUSCRIPTS

Largely thanks to donations and grants, our **Archives and Manuscripts team** catalogued and made available previously inaccessible materials, including:

- the oral history project, *Recollecting Oxford Medicine*;
- the diaries of campaigner Mary Whitehouse;
- the academic papers of Professor of African Politics Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha, the University of Oxford's first Black African University Lecturer;
- a Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley autograph manuscript draft of 'The Invisible Girl' (incomplete);
- letters from poet William Wordsworth and his circle.

The team also barcoded the majority of archives and manuscripts held at the Weston Libraries – widening access to our Special Collections.

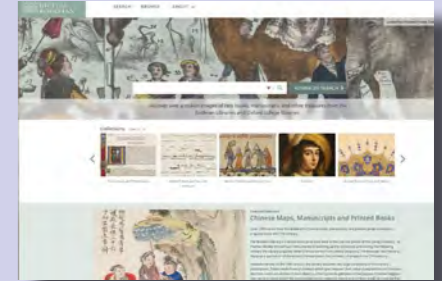


## SECURING THE FUTURE OF HEBREW AND JEWISH CURATORSHIP

A major donation from Sir Victor Blank and the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe endowed the curatorship of one of the treasures of the Bodleian Libraries: the **Hebrew and Jewish collections**, which include stunning illuminated manuscripts and important historic works, as well as modern works concerning Hebrew and Jewish studies. Dr César Merchán-Hamann, the current guardian of what is arguably the most significant Hebrew and Jewish collections in the world, will become the first Victor Blank Curator of Hebraica and Judaica.

## LAUNCHING DIGITAL BODLEIAN

Our **Digital Bodleian** (digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) 2.0 site went live in late 2020. This presented a significant step forward in the presentation and delivery of our digital collections and included new ways to search, view and explore items. By the end of the academic year, it contained 1.1 million images relating to 17,082 real-world items and had been visited 218,595 times.





紅苗在銅仁府及楚省有之  
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 用斑絲女工以此為務若同  
 類相鬪必婦人勸方解五  
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 十年至嘉慶二年所征服  
 者

紅苗十四



**DIGITISING 100,000 IMAGES FROM OUR CHINESE COLLECTIONS**

In 1602 – the year that Sir Thomas Bodley founded the Bodleian Library – the library bought its first Chinese book.

Almost 420 years later, our Imaging Services team have completed a major project to digitise 100,000 images from pre-modern Chinese collections, which are now freely available worldwide to anyone by visiting [Digital Bodleian](#).

Highlights from the ten-year *Sinica* project include the Bodleian Library’s 100 or so earliest Chinese acquisitions, deciphered in 1687 by Shen Fuzong, the first recorded Chinese person to visit England and the first Chinese person to be employed as a librarian in Britain; a unique collection of Daoist Yao manuscripts; and the famous Selden Map.

Also included are three manuscript albums, generally known as the ‘Miao albums’, which were created in the mid to late Qing period (which lasted from 1644 to around 1911) as the Qing Empire projected its power deep into non-Han populated areas of Yunnan, Guizhou and surrounding regions.

“As the early visual representations of non-Han peoples of southwest China, the Miao albums have continuously attracted scholarly interest, are an ideal visual material for teaching Chinese imperial history, and resonate with the current race and decolonisation debate from a unique perspective.”

MAMTIMYN SUNUODULA,  
 CURATOR OF CHINESE COLLECTIONS

## CONSERVATION: MENDELSSOHN, THE MUGHAL EMPIRE AND MORE

The Bodleian's extensive and important collections of material relating to composer Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–1847) include the sequence of 27 so-called 'Green Books', which contain nearly all the composer's incoming correspondence from the age of 12. Our **Conservation and Collection Care** team's work to treat this fragile collection is a crucial part of a wider project to digitise the Mendelssohn archive and make it available online.

Thanks to various donations, we've been carrying out extensive conservation work on a 17th-century Mughal imperial album containing 41 high-quality paintings and exquisite calligraphy from the Shah Jahan period within contemporary lacquered boards. Our delicate work has included consolidating unstable flakes of paint found on the paintings and



decorative borders by re-adhering each flake to the paper substrate.

Meanwhile, with generous support, the team have been developing skills and knowledge in textiles in libraries. We've developed a network of conservators, embroiderers, historians and curators with an interest in textiles that appear

in, around or in association with books. We delivered a related series of six online talks, which broke attendance records for the team's online presentations!



## SECURING IMAGES FROM THE DAWN OF PHOTOGRAPHY

In 2021, we were excited to secure the future of some of the earliest photographs ever made: a highly important collection of images by 19th-century pioneering photographer **William Henry Fox Talbot**.

Thanks to the generosity of a private individual, the items have been placed on long-term loan at the Bodleian Libraries, allowing them to be studied, exhibited and made available digitally. This has prevented the collection from being broken up, removed from public access or located abroad.

The collection had remained in family ownership until the auction in New York in April 2021, where Sotheby's described it as 'the most important lot of 19th-century photographs ever to come to auction'.

Comprising about 190 photographs in total, the collection contains early experiments with the chemistry and optics of photography, some of the earliest portrait photographs ever made, and many of the earliest photographs ever taken of Edinburgh, London, and other locations in the UK and France. It offers a major opportunity for scholars and lovers of photography to better understand the emerging art form.

“It seems particularly fitting that the Library will now be able to tell the story of how photographs came to be presented in book and album form, always a key aspiration of Talbot's.”

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY BATCHEN,  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY'S PROFESSOR OF  
THE HISTORY OF ART

The focused expansion of photography in our collections is a natural progression for a world-leading institution that specialises in collecting memory. Many of our collections already chart the evolution of photography in other ways. Our literary and political archives contain huge numbers of photographs, and our vast book holdings contain many of the most important photobooks ever published. Targeted collecting around the history of photography itself helps to complete our archive and adds to its scholarly value.

Our work to preserve digital knowledge and heritage by archiving the web and collecting social media content will soon expand to include capturing viral images and memes.

## OUR COMMUNITIES

In Academic Year 2020–21, the Bodleian Libraries worked hard to secure greater engagement with people near and far. Our talented colleagues problem-solved and innovated to make sure we could reach existing audiences while welcoming new exhibition visitors, event attendees, online followers and more. This resulted in inspirational virtual experiences, enhanced commercial offers and more rewarding connections with our work.

The Centre for the Study of the Book ran **34** online events. Audience numbers were approximately **double** those from previous events.

**21** happy couples tied the knot at the Bodleian.

We published **18** books and continued to guide over **100** through earlier stages of the publication process.

Public engagement activity continued at pace despite the challenging circumstances. Across the Bodleian teams delivered **72** events – including public online events, schools virtual sessions, and in-person community sessions for a total of **5,062** attendees.

**87%** of people agreed or strongly agreed that our *Roots to Seeds* exhibition had improved their understanding of the importance of plants and plant science. **77%** said it made them 'likely' or 'very

likely' to visit the Oxford Botanic Garden.

We welcomed **37,335** exhibition visits to our galleries and over **37,000** visits to our online exhibitions

On average we welcomed **414** visitors per day to our **Helen Muspratt: Photographer** in the Blackwell Hall atrium between 5 October and 5 November 2020.

The digitized versions of books and manuscripts from our collections saw a **54%** increase from pre-pandemic levels with **3 million** views of these free online resources. There were also almost **83.5 million** views of Bodleian Collection items in Wikipedia

In the two month reopening to the public in September 2020, we welcomed almost **over 30,000** visitors into the Divinity School or on exclusive 'household/social bubble' tours.

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) were held online, seeing our annual output rise from three seminars to five, and resulting in audience numbers **five times larger** than at previous events.

We enjoyed **350,844** engagements on Twitter – a **64%** rise on previous year.

We published **29** videos of events and talks on YouTube – **almost double** the previous year. Our videos on YouTube had **82,569** views compared to 47,297 the previous year.

Our #BodUnlocked campaign saw a dramatic rise in referrals from social media channels to our online shop: Twitter referrals were up **480%** on the previous year, and up **239%** for Facebook.

During the November 2021 lockdown, overall revenue for sales via the online shop (while our physical shops were closed) was up **220%** on previous year.





## CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK

The Centre for the Study of the Book (CSB) hosts research projects and academic outreach from Bodleian Libraries' Special Collections. This year, the CSB transformed its programme to enable distance learning and online academic seminars.

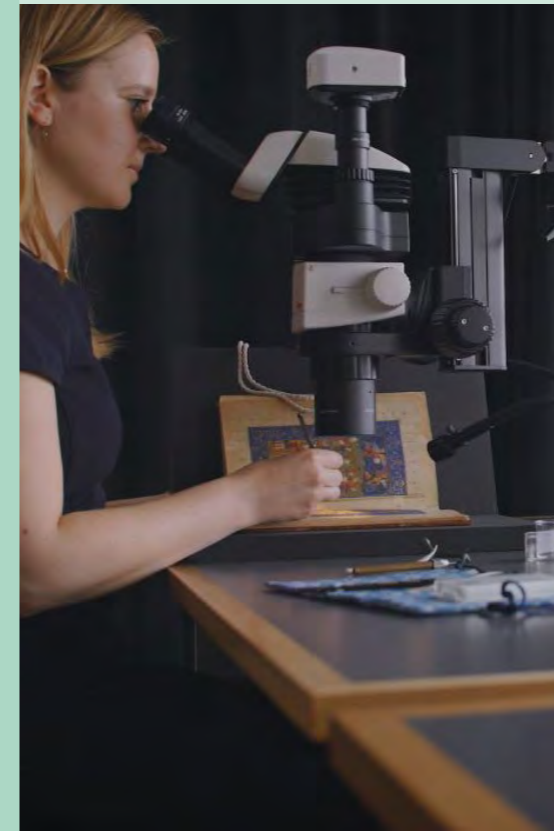
We hosted sessions for University courses such as the English Master of Studies and Medieval Studies, with films of special collections material, and socially distanced show-and-tell sessions. We presented 34 online academic conferences, lectures, seminars and master classes. We held two online conferences: one that celebrated women in photography and one on the Persian Arts of the Book.

With CSB support, the Bodleian took part in five multi-library seminars, enabling comparisons to be made and connections drawn between rare and unique material from our collections and similar items in libraries around the UK and in the USA, Italy and Germany.



## FELLOWS AND AFFILIATED SCHOLARS: FROM ECOLOGY TO EPHEMERA

We were delighted to welcome several Fellows and Affiliated Scholars in 2020–21. Chiara Betti began her Collaborative Doctoral Partnership research as a student of the University of London and the Bodleian Libraries, researching our Rawlinson collection of copper plates. Byrne Bussey Marconi Fellow Georgina Montgomery researched the University's own 'living laboratory,' Wytham Woods, studying the early teaching of ecology in Oxford and presenting this at an open-air event in the woods. Albi Rosenthal Fellow Tom Coult wrote *Clippings and Fragments*, a song cycle based on John Johnson Collection ephemera material in our Special Collections, to be



performed at the Oxford Lieder Festival in 2021.

Three other Visiting Fellows were in residence at the Weston Library in July 2021. The CSB commissioned several short films showing researchers with Special Collections material, available on the Bodleian Libraries YouTube channel.



## THE MAP ROOM: TOSCA TALKS

The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) have run since 1993. In 2020–21, the programme hosted five online talks – an increase from the usual three – and saw a five-fold increase in average audience numbers. The switch to online meant prestigious speakers could be secured to present virtually. A one-day symposium titled 'Women and Maps' brought an international roster of speakers and 200 audience members. Colleagues from our **Map Room team** spoke virtually at events as far afield as Hamburg, Singapore – and Suffolk!

## BRINGING THE BOOK CONVEYOR TO LIFE

A project to install a section of the original **book conveyor** and Lamson tube system in the Weston Library was completed ahead of schedule. The project was part of the listed building consent for the 2015 refurbishment. Originally designed in the 1940s by Stanley Rooke, the apparatus may now be exhibited to VIPs who are interested in historical engineering and building conservation. Further plans include an interactive element, showcasing the sights and sounds of the unit in operation.



## PUBLISHING: GIN AND CHEESE TOASTIES

Sales of books from our **Publishing team** remained buoyant, but the global pandemic had a big impact on our income from sales and licensing, and on costs and commissioning. However, review coverage in the mainstream media and online was very strong, raising awareness of our titles and the Libraries generally.

Five titles were reprinted, and six were sold to foreign language publishers for publication in Polish, German, Japanese, Dutch and Korean.

Books covered everything from Victorian vocabulary to the *Botany of Gin* to *Secrets of the Great Ocean Liners*. We produced several publications to accompany our public exhibitions, as well as books on the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and the history of the Bodleian Library itself. We even printed a 19th-century 'household book' by Martha Lloyd, a friend of Jane Austen's, which included the recipe for the novelist's favourite cheese toastie!

## VENUE HIRE

While lockdowns brought huge challenges to the wedding and event industry, our **Events team** helped couples get married at smaller weddings for up to 30 guests in the autumn and early spring. When restrictions were lifted in June 2021, guest numbers rose to more than 60, with the usual high numbers returning in July. The team also held two very well-attended 'virtual showcase' events!

## OUR SHOPS

The five biggest earning items sold by our **Retail team** over the Christmas 2020 period were:

1. *Tolkien: Maker of Middle Earth* – Collector's Edition
2. The Grayson Perry Silk Scarf
3. The Bodleian Library Oak Bookrest
4. The Bodleian Library Advent Calendar
5. *Treasures from the Map Room* by Bodleian Publishing

The most popular items (units sold) during this period were:  
"I Buy Books" cotton bag (online shop) and the Bodleian Logo cotton bag (Weston Library Shop).



“I cannot tell you how much I loved the ‘Bodleian Unlocked’ at the weekend. I wrote a script alongside it at the weekend and sent it to my Grandma, my parents, my sister, my in-laws, my BFFs.... so they could all take a virtual tour. I thought it was really excellent. I also sent it to a friend that has MS [multiple sclerosis] and is housebound. Such an amazing resource for her because it allows her to get out virtually. Very cool.”

A SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWER RESPONDING TO A SPECIALLY-PRODUCED 360° VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE OLD BODLEIAN LIBRARY

## OUR TOURS

Despite the limitations imposed by the lockdown, the Front of House and Tours teams took the opportunity to develop and launch a new audio guide which proved very popular with visitors in December 2020. Available in six languages, the guide featured fascinating information about the Old Bodleian’s history and architecture, and helped visitors to experience the old site while maintaining social distancing protocols.

To help attract visitors back to Oxford for summer 2021, we partnered with the Oxford Guild of Tour Guides to launch an exciting new City Walking Tour. This new addition to our tours programme will enable us to engage with a wider variety of visitors, including younger family members who can enjoy discovering how Oxford has inspired several favourite literary characters.

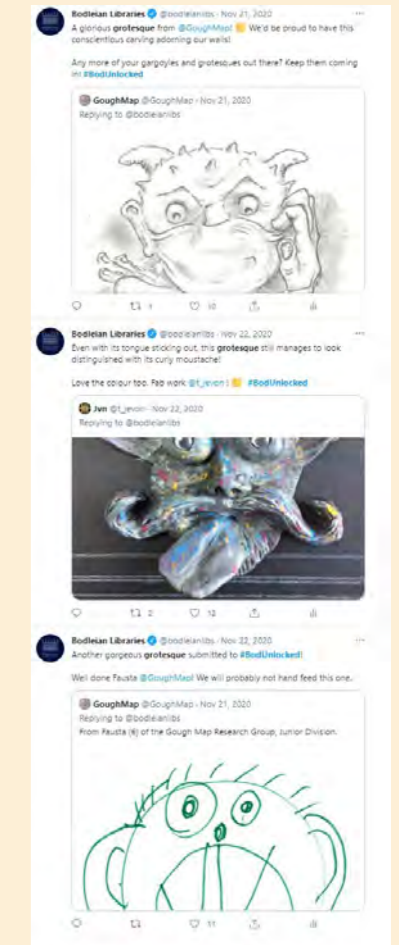
## COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

In 2021, the **Communications and Marketing team** launched a brand-new look for the Bodleian Libraries website, helping readers to discover information more easily. The new site is mobile-optimised and offers a series of ‘Getting Started’ guides to introduce readers to our libraries and their services.

In response to the November 2020 national lockdown, our **#BodUnlocked** campaign on **social media** aimed to make the most of the Bodleian’s digital content. Each day, the campaign creatively curated highlights from our online collections, invited followers to design a ‘grotesque’ or write a lockdown poem, and shared some of our rich history. It attracted superb levels of engagement with various audiences, expanded our reach and supported retail operations.

The campaign culminated in the launch of the 2020 ‘#Bodvent’

calendar. Online followers could ‘open’ a virtual door each day on an interactive webpage and view beautiful watercolour illustrations of our libraries, courtesy of local artist Tim Kirtley.





## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: MANUSCRIPTS AND MINDFULNESS

With physical visits to the Weston Library not possible, our **Public Engagement team** developed their digital and online skills to find creative ways to engage audiences.

Led by our academic and collection strengths, we delivered 14 innovative public online events and workshops, including a series of online Gregorian Chant workshops; a new programme of events, *'Meet the Manuscripts'*, to showcase collection highlights; and creative learning opportunities such as an online linocut project with a group of adult learners. Many of these events were run through the Bodleian's Education and Public Engagement Programme, which is supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust.

Meanwhile, in partnership with the History of Science Museum, we received a grant from the Art Fund to develop a 'virtual



classrooms' pilot programme, helping to move previously in-person-only school events online.

But our in-person opportunities didn't stop. Instead, we went outside! In 2021, we ran an outdoor community engagement project group connected to our exhibition on 16th/17th-century writer Robert Burton's *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, which opened later in the year. The six-week *'Greenspaces of a Self'* project was led by an artist and a mental health researcher from the University of Oxford's Department of Psychiatry. With guided walks around Harcourt Arboretum and creative activities, it used mindfulness-based approaches to explore the connection between nature, a sense of self, and well-being.

## EXHIBITION LOAN PROGRAMME

While exhibition venues were closed worldwide, we developed digital solutions and protocols to facilitate **exhibition loans**. We resumed our normal national loan service from May 2021, supporting exhibitions at Hampton Court, London; the Heath Robinson Museum, Pinner; Kresen Kernow, Redruth; and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The Old Bodleian Library and Weston Library were awarded a **'Gold' Green Impact Award** by the University's Sustainability Team for our measures to reduce the Bodleian's environmental impact – such as switching to 100% recycled paper for all printers and photocopiers, using only FSC-approved materials and reducing the amount of plastic in the shop's Bodleian-branded products.





# HELEN MUSPRATT PHOTOGRAPHER

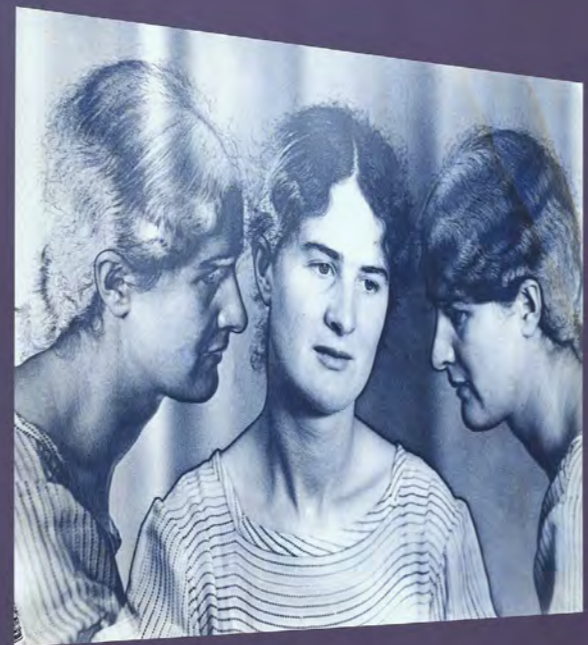


The pioneering photographer Helen Muspratt (1907–2001) produced some of the most extraordinary images of the 20th century.

This exhibition celebrates the recent gift to the Bodleian Libraries of her photographic archive, comprising over 2,000 original prints, surviving negatives and documents. These include experimental work, using techniques such as solarisation and multiple exposure, produced during the 1930s in Swarage and in Cambridge with her partner Lettice Ramsey. The triple self-portrait illustrates both these techniques. The archive also reflects the political interests of Helen and her close circle, including documentary records of travels made in 1936 to the Soviet Union and in 1937 to observe severe unemployment in the Welsh Valleys.

In 1938 Helen opened a studio in Cornmarket, Oxford, while Lettice Ramsey remained in Cambridge. Pressures of work and family life left little time for experimentation and documentary work, but Helen became established in Oxford as a remarkable portrait photographer recording some of the leading figures of the 20th century, as well as Oxford people in celebratory moments.

Critical to all her work was her preoccupation with the face – its 'shape and angle'.



“A wonderful exhibition, so good to see female photographers recognised. Also heartening that the Bodleian has the archive.”

AN EXHIBITION VISITOR

## EXHIBITIONS

Faced with a reduction in visitor numbers to the Weston Library, we altered exhibition schedules and implemented safety measures in our exhibition spaces. We found new ways to plan and work remotely with collections and curators. Despite lower attendance, responses to our exhibitions were extremely positive.

**Art of Advertising** (March 2020 – August 2021) told the story of British advertising from the mid-18th century to the 1930s. Showcasing the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera, it celebrated ephemera as a historical resource and displayed examples of advertising copy, printing techniques and graphic design.

**Helen Muspratt: Photographer** (October 2020 – June 2021) celebrated the work of this pioneering photographer, who opened a studio in Oxford in the late 1930s that was entirely run by women. The exhibition marked the important gift of Muspratt’s photographic archive to the Bodleian, which includes over 500 original prints and surviving negatives.

**Roots to Seeds** (May – October 2021) marked the anniversary of the foundation of the Oxford Botanic Garden in 1621. This research-led exhibition reflected on four centuries of botanical research and teaching at the University.

The exhibition delivered a number of Bodleian ‘firsts’, including a live-streamed opening, audio tours, touch tours for blind and partially sighted visitors, street art, and accompanying videos on YouTube that highlighted graduate students’ research projects. The project also demonstrated positive ways in which the University’s Garden, Libraries and Museums departments can collaborate through shared public programming and marketing.



## SUPPORT & FINANCIALS

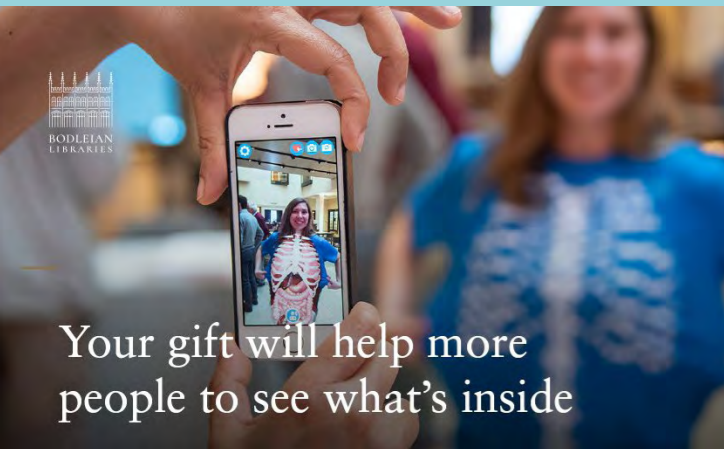


### DEVELOPMENT

This year, it became even more important to provide access to unique collections for the benefit of scholarship and society, but the pandemic meant that some of our traditional sources of funding and income dropped. Our **2021 Annual Fund campaign** helped us to rise to this challenge.

**‘Digital access for all’** set out to raise money to help people access the Bodleian online. Digital access is now a crucial part of how we serve our community of readers, scholars and the public. The pandemic has taught us that digital access to the Bodleian Libraries has the power to transform lives and expand horizons.

Donations will enable us to provide innovative new content online and react to the remote learning and research needs of our scholars, giving access to our cultural institution when it is needed most.



### DONOR LIST

A big thank you to our donors. We couldn't have risen to the challenges of the year without your generosity and support.

*Sir Victor and Lady Blank*

*The late Miss Cornelia Starks*

*Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe*

*The Martin J Gross Family Foundation*

*The William Delafield Charitable Trust*

*The Tolkien Trust*

*The late Mr Patrick Leonard Strong*

*Professor Joseph Sassoon*

*The Polonsky Foundation*

*The Andrew W Mellon Foundation*

*The Conservative Party*

*The Helen Hamlyn Trust*

*Robert Craft Igor Stravinsky Foundation*

*Guy and Elinor Meynell Charitable Trust*

*Dr David R. Harvey*

*Mr Dave Aylott*

*The Stephen Taylor Foundation*

*Hogan Lovells LLP*

*The late Mr John Wrigley and Mrs Barbara Wrigley*



### FRIENDS OF THE BODLEIAN

The Friends of the Bodleian membership events programme moved online during 2021. This included the annual lecture, where we welcomed journalist and broadcaster Samira Ahmed, who discussed Persian art and the Bodleian's collections.

We warmly invite anyone who'd like to support our work to join the Friends of the Bodleian membership programme.

## KEY STATISTICS & FINANCE

LIBRARY SPACES	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Gross internal floor area (m2)	42,774	42,774	44,948	45,042	53,274
Study spaces	1,003*	4,289	4,567	4,553	4,376

\*as at end Trinity term

### COLLECTIONS

Total catalogued print stock <small>excluding archives and manuscripts</small>	13,501,857	13,435,019	13,294,166	13,121,079	12,857,047
Net number of items added to the collection	66,838	140,853	173,069	178,617	269,472
Total linear meters of archives and manuscripts	28,293	28,062	27,890	27,625	26,805
Number of e-books	1,460,538	1,896,480	1,473,832	1,352,556	1,257,210
Number of e-journals	142,506	135,843	118,230	99,118	81,647
Number of current journals only available in print	22,360	26,100	27,971	28,540	28,594
Number of print legal deposit books received	44,141	36,514	71,051	79,417	92,068
Number of electronic legal deposit books received	123,034	52,982	186,752	140,140	94,575
Number of print legal deposit serials received	20,529	24,688	26,528	26,620	26,755
Number of electronic legal deposit serials received	16,878	15,259	13,750	9,449	7,076
Fetches from the BSF	44,135	115,751	192,719	214,637	218,877
Books moved	4,000	10,000	8,000	5,000	13,950

### RESEARCH & STUDY SUPPORT

Number of complete works in ORA available to the public	88,853	74,233	56,254	41,210	24,793
Downloads of full-text items in ORA	1,643,855	2,064,787	1,014,406	246,511	
Total number of items in ORA	261,280	246,396	230,107	213,184	197,609
Number of 'live' lists in ORLO	2,632	1,514	628	-	-
Number of items on 'live' lists	182,630	92,875	28,261	-	-
Number of 'unique users' of ORLO	79,672	46,121	15,136	-	-
Number of visits to ORLO lists	526,388	323,134	116,888	-	-
Attendees at information skills training	29,664	16,398	17,591	14,047	22,655
Number of students supported by ARACU	49	45	32	24	23
Number of pages provided in alternative formats by ARACU	86,592	88,673	90,819	101,136	57,312
Number of items processed by ARACU	3,329	2,281	5,085	5,468	2,207

LIBRARY USE	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Reader visits	456,789	1,019,569	1,999,561	1,989,678	2,145,349
Average reader headcount on sample days 11:30am & 3pm	460	1,246	1,315	1,252	1,274
Article downloads	12,997,441	12,010,565	10,320,220	9,487,339	8,946,538
Book chapter downloads	6,675,481	5,933,885 <small>(new metric)</small>	[9,892,884]	[10,299,966]	[9,913,556]
Searches of SOLO	16,245,206	17,608,858	15,482,251	13,829,613	11,891,834
Database searches	12,147,271	10,669,473	14,403,363	13,273,565	11,793,348
Total loans	122,024	318,352	526,785	577,468	592,462
Number of borrowers	16,972	21,317	25,519	26,339	26,547
Number of Scan & Deliver requests completed	44,347	9,942	3,620	3,086	1,602
Special collection items consulted	18,276	29,728	53,982	59,805	75,047
Number of Special Collection Scan requests completed	2,012	111			
Views of a digitized book or manuscript	2,983,034	2,968,194	1,932,432	948,650	562,099
Number of prints, copies or scans (PCAS)	1,112,091	1,360,069	2,181,685	2,508,555	2,692,024
Total enquiries to MED mailbox	11,888	2,812 <small>(from 16 March)</small>			
Total number of LiveHelp chats	8,271	5,023	3,727	5,520	

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Number of visits to physical exhibitions	37,335	192,303	301,230	369,842	344,228
Number of visits to online exhibitions	37,327	113,967	163,338	71,097	70,718
Visits to Blackwell Hall	65,975	479,047	847,628	824,349	691,496
Widening Engagement participants	5,062	11,158	29,657	10,080	5,311
Number of visitors taking tours	30,285	98,622	188,647	176,787	154,246
Number of website sessions	2,706,505	1,853,044	2,844,400	2,460,983	2,634,614
Mentions in traditional media	1,673	5,530	3,597	6,057	2,938
Social Media interactions	646,693	449,186	734,990	610,263	n/k

COMMERCIAL	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Shop sales	£274,670	£682,348	£1,290,600	£1,256,747	£945,626
Books published by Bodleian Library Publishing sold	70,607	63,527	100,392	99,421	75,970
Boxes made	25,994	21,116	30,949	39,093	30,060

#### STAFF

Total staff (FTE)	541.54	568.59	573.08	567.78	561.53
Library staff (FTE)	508.35	534.22	546.92	532.35	516.98
Trading staff (FTE)	10.49	13.91	14.29	12.56	13.07
Project staff (FTE)	22.70	20.46	11.87	22.87	31.47

#### END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Staff expenditure	£22,473,959	£23,495,860	£22,959,942	£22,412,741	£21,770,153
Information provision expenditure	£10,147,043	£10,042,534	£9,844,709	£8,751,478	£8,295,229
APC expenditure	£2,972,504	£2,847,405	£3,130,011	£2,137,332	£2,876,692
Other expenditure	£15,302,082	£15,299,161	£16,238,483	£15,513,068	£15,902,062
<b>TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£50,895,588</b>	<b>£51,684,960</b>	<b>£52,173,146</b>	<b>£48,814,618</b>	<b>£48,844,136</b>

University funding	£34,553,550	£33,567,000	£33,156,000	£32,844,000	£32,521,666
HEFCE NRL grant	£1,897,947	£1,897,947	£1,897,947	£1,897,947	£1,897,947
Other income — internal	£361,828	£548,523	£594,681	£644,199	£675,249
Other income — external	£14,149,186	£15,501,746	£16,524,639	£13,428,420	£13,307,170
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£50,962,512</b>	<b>£51,515,216</b>	<b>£52,173,267</b>	<b>£48,814,566</b>	<b>£48,402,032</b>

