

# **Bodleian Social Science Library: Committee on Library Provision and Strategy 2.00pm, Friday 15 November 2024**

## **SSL Large Discussion Room**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Introductions and apologies**

*Academic members:* Ariell Ahearn (SoGE, Chair).

*Student members:* Baltazar Dydensborg (DPIR), Chiara Rohlfis (Socio-Legal Studies), Clara Schurmann (SoGE), Gretchen Ellis (DSPI), Ila Zelmanovitz Axelrod (ODID), Jessica Rowe (DPIR), Lea Anderson (SoGE), Maki Kumagai (Sociology), Roshana Mir (Criminology).

*Library members:* Aimee Burlakova (St. Antony's College Library), Andrew Kernot (Social Science Library), Elizabeth Wells (Law Library), Jo Gardner (Social Science Library), Louise Clarke (Head of Social Sciences Libraries).

*Apologies:* Alan Beggs (Economics Academic), David Doyle (DPIR Academic), John Southall (Social Sciences Libraries), Joseph McAuley (Socio-Legal Studies Academic), Selcuk Beduk (DSPI Academic).

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

##### **2.1 ORLO update**

Features of the new platform for online reading lists include a 'Favourites/ORLO' export option on SOLO. This makes it easier to add items to reading lists. For advice and training see <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ORLO>.

#### **3. Manor Road Building Refurbishment Project Update**

Louise Clarke gave a presentation on progress so far. The project has a placeholder of £4M in the University's Minor Capital Plan to improve the user experience of the Manor Road Building. £1M has been released for immediate remedial works on the heating system and to progress the project to RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design. Louise represents the SSL/Bodleian Libraries on the Project Board.

Associated Architects has produced a RIBA Stage 1 Feasibility Study in response to the Project Brief, building surveys, and departmental engagement. This outlines a range of possible interventions (ranging in cost from minimal to significant) to address 14 building-wide issues and further department-specific improvements.

Evidence-based improvements to the library include:

- A warm and welcoming environment beginning with the library entrance.
- More collaborative and hybrid spaces for small groups.
- Optimised natural daylight and improved connection to outside green spaces.
- Improved noise management, especially soundproofing from the common room located above the library.

Roshana Mir noted that a priority is access to natural light. She reported on a similar discussion at the Centre of Criminology, which is also within the Manor Road Building. Priorities for the Centre include improving the lighting, style and colour scheme.

Gretchen Ellis commented that a warm and relaxing environment is important, with plants and blankets for readers.

Baltazar Dydensborg advised us to consider the main purpose of the refurbishment and clarify what should be given up.

Jessica Rowe supported the provision of sofas in the entrance area and noted that additional power sockets would be helpful.

Louise thanked everyone for their feedback, and advised the committee that further comments would be welcome and should be sent to [louise.clarke@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:louise.clarke@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

#### **4. Social Science Library Report**

##### **4.1 Welcome sessions and library tours for new students and staff**

Jo Gardner reported that SSL staff provided welcome sessions to 31 cohorts, and the total attendance at these sessions was 695. SSL staff also led 127 tour groups and welcomed a total of 699 new students and staff from 40 different cohorts to the library on the tours. SSL staff contributed to the Bodleian Libraries webinar welcome sessions, which were open to all new students and promoted via the colleges.

##### **4.2 Subject Support for Economics, Sociology, Social Policy & Intervention, Criminology, Socio-Legal Studies**

The Committee received the subject support reports selected for this meeting. Ariell noted that ORLO take-up is low for Economics and Sociology, as well as Geography. Andy Kernot commented that he had provided successful information skills sessions for Social Policy & Intervention students, and that the session for the MSC in Evidence Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation is now incorporated into a systematic review module for the course. Elizabeth Wells noted that the Centre of Criminology uses ORLO for the majority of their reading lists, and that students and staff can report broken links or other irregularities with these reading lists to [orlolaw@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:orlolaw@bodleian.ox.ac.uk). Elizabeth was also pleased to report that a new edition of OSCOLA, a specialised citation style for law, would be published soon.

## **5 Bodleian Libraries reports**

### **5.1 Proposal to extend categories of lending material**

Louise Clarke presented the findings from the recent 'listening exercise' into readers' views on extending the categories of books available for lending. There were 4,527 responses, and 84% of these were positive. The Committee fully supported the principle of changing the current lending policy, subject to a review after two years.

## **6 Comments from student representatives**

Maki Kumagai asked for clarification on access to the libraries. Louise confirmed that Bodleian Libraries are open to all University Card-holders. Aimee Burlakova advised that college libraries don't normally provide access to people who are not members of their host college, but students can request access to view special collections and any material not available through Bodleian Libraries or departmental libraries.

All Souls College Library and Nuffield College Library, unlike others, provide regular access to external readers. Current members of the University of Oxford are welcome to apply for readership at All Souls College Library via the website.

Access to Nuffield College Library is usually offered to all postgraduate students and staff of the University, but is currently restricted whilst building work is taking place and is now provided for external readers in exceptional circumstances only.

Jessica passed on a request for more loanable books for the Undergraduate US Politics course, a request for fewer 'Short Loan' books in general, and a request for longer opening hours at weekends. Jo will follow up the book loans requested. Louise noted that weekend opening hours had been increased a few years previously, and further increases are unlikely due to the resources required. Baltazar commented on the difficulty of finding evidence to support a request for increased opening hours.

Clara Schurmann reported that Geography undergraduate students are satisfied with the noise levels in the library, and that power sockets are often out of action. Jo advised that power sockets are checked regularly, and will increase the frequency of these checks. Readers are also encouraged to inform library staff when they find sockets out of action.

Roshana requested an update on the British Library outage and subsequent loss of access to the e-Legal Deposit material they provide. Louise responded that there were currently no dates given for restoring the access, and it is likely to be incremental due to the extent of the damage. Bodleian Libraries had secured large ebook package from Taylor & Francis, Routledge and CRC Press, and readers are encouraged to contact subject librarians for advice on alternative access to other affected material. Louise noted that this was an important issue and advised Jo to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ila Zelmanovitz Axelrod passed on a request for more docking monitors in the library. Jo will seek funding for these. Amy also encouraged students to ask their college librarians to provide docking monitors in their college libraries.

Lea Anderson commented that a master's student would be a more appropriate representative for SoGE. This will be organised with Ariell and SoGE colleagues before the next meeting.

#### **7 Comments from staff representatives**

Ariell encouraged student members to ask their departments and tutors for ORLO reading lists.

#### **8 Items for the Divisional CLiPS**

Ariell would report on the Manor Road Building refurbishment project and the feedback received at this meeting.

#### **9 Any other business and date of next meeting**

None noted, Friday 21 February 2025, 2-3pm.