

Bodleian Social Science Library: Committee on Library Provision and Strategy

2.00pm, Friday 21 February 2025

SSL Large Discussion Room

FINAL MINUTES

1. Introductions and apologies

Academic members: Ariell Ahearn (SoGE, Chair), Alan Beggs (Economics), Joseph McAuley (Socio-Legal Studies).

Student members: Baltazar Dydensborg (DPIR), Cerys Acton (SoGE), Doris Agbevivi (SoGE).

Library members: Aimee Burlakova (St. Antony's College Library), Andrew Kernot (Social Science Library), Helen Worrell (Social Sciences Libraries), Jo Gardner (Social Science Library, Minutes), Louise Clarke (Head of Social Sciences Libraries), Sarah Rhodes (Social Science Library).

Apologies received: Chiara Rohlf (Socio-Legal Studies), Eleanor Peers (Social Science Library), Jessica Rowe (DPIR), Maki Kumagai (Sociology), Selcuk Beduk (DSPI Academic).

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2.1 British Library outage

An interim solution providing some access to e-Legal Deposit material published before the cyber-attack on the British Library (October 2023) is expected by the end of Hilary Term.

2.2 Extending categories of lending material

Louise Clarke reported that the Curators of the University Libraries have approved the proposed change in policy relating to the lending status of items stored in the Collections Storage Facility (CSF). This means that books published in 2000 and after will be available for loan, unless they fall into excluded categories or are selected for in-library use only. A Bodleian Libraries Task and Finish Group will implement these changes for the start of the 2025-26 academic year, and will undertake a review in 2027. Subject to the review, the publication date of items in scope may be extended back to 1960 or 1920.

2.3 More monitors for laptops

Ninety additional large-screen monitors will be installed across the Bodleian Libraries during the next few weeks. The SSL will receive eight more monitors, bringing the total to twenty-two.

3. Manor Road Building Refurbishment project update

Louise Clarke gave an update on progress so far. Subject to departmental and OUES approvals, RIBA Stage 2 design will commence shortly, in parallel with a 'Quick Wins' workstream to achieve some self-contained improvements for accelerated progression. Quick Wins proposed for the Social Science Library include:

- Remove film from the windows on the west side of the library to increase daylight.
- Receive design input and procure furniture, plants, discussion pods to pilot.
- Reconfigure the library entrance to provide a warm and welcoming arrival. This includes flooring, staff desk, security, walls and furniture.
- Improve the soundproofing between the Common Room and the Library.

Louise reassured the committee that any disruption relating to these works would be kept to a minimum.

4. Social Science Library Report

4.1 Project to increase loanable books at the SSL

Jo Gardner reported that the SSL has received permission to enable readers to borrow books received via Legal Deposit. Library staff are converting 'Library Use Only' books on the SSL shelves to loanable, working backwards by publication year from 2024. Library staff have got as far as books published in 2006, and this term they have made another 3,000 books available for readers to borrow. Some titles are designated essential reading by course tutors, so the library retains one copy 'Library Use Only' if there is no ebook version available.

4.2 Subject support reports selected for this meeting: Anthropology, Geography, Internet Studies, African Studies, Slavonic and East European Studies

The Committee received the subject support reports selected for this meeting and the relevant Subject Consultants provided the following highlights:

Helen Worrell [Anthropology] will trial new approaches for welcoming new students next Michaelmas Term. Helen has also started emailing new staff members as they arrive at Oxford, to introduce herself and provide information on the library services. Helen is working with the Bodleian Libraries Public Engagement team and others to develop and promote an upcoming 'Pets and their people' exhibition at the Weston Library.

Andy Kernot [Geography] now provides information skills training for all five MSc courses. The timing of these sessions varies according to course, and links in with the students' dissertations.

Andy also supports Internet Studies and confirmed that the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) will move into the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities during summer 2025, and

the OII Library collection will be integrated into the new Bodleian Humanities Library. Louise commented that students will benefit from longer opening hours, as the new library will be open 9am-9pm seven days a week.

Sarah Rhodes [African Studies] has provided information skills training for the African Studies MSc students as part of the Bodleian Libraries Information Literacy Framework pilot project. These sessions were well received and had full attendance. The Refugee Studies Centre grey literature collection is now fully integrated with SOLO, and this has led to an increase in requests for our archival material relating to development aid and refugee studies in Africa. Sarah and Andy have arranged trial access to Policy Commons, an online gateway for grey literature, and would welcome feedback.

5 Bodleian Libraries reports

Louise encouraged committee members to complete and promote the Bodleian Libraries Reader Survey, open until 24 February 2025. The survey is run every three years, and the Bodleian Libraries made over fifty improvements in response to feedback received from the 2022 Reader Survey.

Baltazar Dydensborg and Doris Agbevivi commented that the numerous demographic questions at the beginning of the survey may discourage people from taking part. Louise will feed this back to colleagues. *ACTION Louise.*

6 Comments from student representatives

Cerys Acton reported that books on the BA Geography courses were missing from the library. Andy will follow this up with Cerys direct, and Ariell will add it to the agenda for the next SoGE undergraduate teaching committee meeting. *ACTION Andy, ACTION Ariell.*

7 Comments from staff representatives

Joseph McAuley commented that the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies will look forward to working with the library on Manor Road Building developments.

8 Items for the Divisional CLiPS

Ariell would report on the OII move to the Schwarzman Centre, and updates on the Manor Road Building refurbishment project.

9 Any other business and date of next meeting

None noted, Friday 30 May, 2-3pm.