Cambridge University Library
Main University Library and Affiliated Libraries

Annual Report for the Year

2016 – 2017
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Executive summary

It has been a wonderful year, celebrating the rich history and remarkable achievements of six centuries of Cambridge University Library. But it’s also been a time to look to the future and the excitement of what the coming years will bring.

I only joined the Library in April 2017, but was immediately inspired by what I found …

Where else could you discover medieval marriage contracts, ancient cheques, children's drawings from a thousand years ago, the archives of Second World War internment camps, notes of historic genetic experiments in breeding sweet peas, not to mention beard hair sent to Charles Darwin?

Our two major 600th birthday exhibitions this year, Lines of Thought and Curious Objects, celebrated the anniversary in style, putting the University Library at the centre of TV, radio, newspaper and online media coverage around the world. They were swiftly followed by the outstanding Discarded History exhibition of our world-leading collection of Genizah fragments telling the story of medieval life in Old Cairo.

At the same time, we built for the future and a digital age which could never have been imagined in those founding days, six hundred years ago.

More and more of our wonderful treasures have been captured online, for anyone, anywhere on the planet to experience with just a click on a keypad.

We continue to strive to improve our services, surveying all 37,000 registered University Library users to see how we could better help them to enjoy our magnificent collections and support their scholarship. We also completed a stunning refurbishment of the Medical Library based on the principles of our influential FutureLib user research programme.

It was an important, but poignant year for our major projects, with the completion of work to conserve and digitise unique records from the Changi and Sime Road WWII internment camps. This work provides a fascinating historical insight, as many survivors were so traumatised by their ordeals that they never told their stories.

There has been strong progress in ensuring all Cambridge’s libraries work together more closely, for the benefit of scholars and students, under the affiliation project. Our new book store at Ely has begun to rise from the earth, ready to allow access to collections which have remained unseen for far too long.

I am so proud of what our teams have achieved; for us, for the University and for the benefit of all. The years ahead offer a journey of human knowledge and wisdom every bit as wonderful and fulfilling as the six centuries we have just celebrated.

Dr Jessica Gardner
University Librarian and Director of Library Services
Highlights of 2016–2017

600th Anniversary
A feast of six centuries of knowledge and learning was shared around the globe as the University Library celebrated its 600th anniversary.

Our first major exhibition, Lines of Thought, received extraordinary levels of publicity. There was local, national and international coverage across newspapers and magazines, online, radio and television, resulting in 48,000 people visiting the exhibition.

In September, the University Library took part for the first time in the Bridge the Gap Walk. It provided a rare opportunity for the public to stroll through the Entrance Hall and peer inside the Reading Room, and all in aid of the Arthur Rank Hospice.

On display from October to January 2017 was In Search of New Forms, an exhibition of abstract art from Kettle’s Yard in joint celebration of their 50th and the University Library’s 600th anniversaries.

Our second major exhibition, Curious Objects, opened in November. It told the story of the University Library through some of its more unusual and unexpected items, from an ostrich feather and ectoplasm, to an old boot and a boomerang.

It also helped us to celebrate the history of the Library in a very modern way. The eleven short films specially made to accompany the exhibition were viewed nearly 100,000 times on Facebook and YouTube.

The anniversary drew to a close with Behind the Shelves, a half-day event to share our achievements with University staff.

Hundreds of guests enjoyed exclusive tours and displays, including giddying trips up the tower and behind-the-scenes glimpses into departments such as Conservation and the Digital Content Unit. They were also entertained by displays of rare books, manuscripts and maps, all highlighting the breadth of the University Library’s collections.

The programme was made possible by the support of the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, and The Howard and Abby Milstein Foundation.
A Record Year for Development and External Relations

The 600-year anniversary celebrations helped make it a record year for development and external relations.

The Friends of the University Library was delighted to welcome nine times as many new members joining this year than in the twelve months prior to the anniversary. The Friends also raised more than double the amount of donations last year, allowing the acquisition of a rare 15th-century Dutch psalter to mark the tenure of the former University Librarian, Anne Jarvis, who left Cambridge in September 2016.

The psalter was the first item to be digitised by the Friends as they seek to broaden their support to the University Library from acquisitions to a range of vital projects.

To remain at the forefront of the advance of technology requires a robust plan for digital preservation.

The 2016 appointment of three Polonsky Fellows in this subject, made possible through generous funding from the Polonsky Foundation, provides an exciting opportunity to provide leadership in the vital field of digital preservation.

The launch of the University Library’s exhibition, Discarded History: The Genizah of Medieval Cairo, has drawn worldwide attention to the remarkable Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection of medieval Jewish manuscripts.

The exhibition allowed us to focus on fundraising for the long-term sustainability of the Genizah Research Unit, so it can continue the essential work that makes this material accessible to a global audience.

Another important focus of our fundraising is the need to catalogue, conserve and digitise the remarkable holdings of western medieval manuscripts across Cambridge, beginning with the two thousand held at the University Library.

Each manuscript has the potential to generate exciting new discoveries. We are working to ensure these priceless collections are at the forefront of innovative, international collaborative scholarship.
Cambridge Digital Library

The long history of the University Library continued its march into the digital age.

In 2016–17, we added eleven new collections to our digital portfolio, and can now boast 464,340 images contained within 32,013 items.

We have digitised much unique and special material from the Library’s own collections, such as the Charter of Edward I confirming the privileges of the University, and books from the extraordinary acquisitions of the Montaigne Library of Gilbert de Botton. We are also proud to have also expanded our work beyond the Library, to other institutions including the Royal Asiatic Society, and Cambridge’s own Pembroke and Sidney Sussex Colleges.

This has led to the digitisation of treasures such as a 16th-century illuminated manuscript of the Gulistan of Sa’di, a landmark of Persian literature; Samuel Ward’s Notebook, the earliest known draft of any part of the King James Bible; and the Album Amicorum, or book of friends, of the creator of the first modern atlas, Abraham Ortelius.

Gulistan of Sa’di
(RAS Persian 258)

Now available on Cambridge Digital Library, the Gulistan of Sa’di is one of the finest illustrated manuscripts contained within the collections of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland is the Gulistan (Rose Garden) composed by the renowned Persian poet Sa’di (1203–1292). It is noted not only for its exquisite paintings of birds and animals which decorate the pages of the text but also for its colophon portrait which depicts the eminent scribe Muhammad Husayn al-Kashmiri known as Zamin Qalam (Golden Pen) and the artist, Manohara as a youth, who later had a long and illustrious career at the court of Shah Jehan (1592–1666).
Cambridge Digital Library continued

The Curious Objects exhibition also gave us a wonderful opportunity to expand our portfolio of 3D images as we explore innovative imaging methods to throw new light on our collections.

Curious Objects on the Digital Library

‘A correct globe with the new discoveries; A correct globe with ye new constelations of Dr Halley &c (ORCS.1.01)’

Cambridge Digital Library now showcases a selection of the star items from the second 600th exhibition, Curious Objects. All have a part to play in telling the story of the University Library, a story told not through its printed and manuscript treasures, but through a cabinet of curiosities that opens a window onto the nature of collecting, private and institutional. The treasures include an interactive 3D model of a pocket terrestrial globe just seven centimetres in diameter, which has a protective case covered in sharkskin and lined with a celestial chart.

Pocket globes were first produced in England by Joseph Moxon (1627–1691), and they remained in vogue as a gentleman’s toy well into the nineteenth century. Commonly—as here—they showed the latest terrestrial and celestial discoveries. This globe shows the track of Lieutenant James Cook’s First Voyage from 1768 to 1771 in the Endeavour and the depiction of New Zealand reflects the discoveries Cook made. It was presented to the Royal Colonial Institute (now the Royal Commonwealth Society) in 1953 by Olive M. Thompson

All these treasures are now available for free to anyone around the world with an internet connection—part of Cambridge’s contribution to world knowledge and furthering our mission as an open library sharing our research collections with schools and scholars.

https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/curiousobjects
Digital Humanities
The University Library continues to lead the way in the growing field of Digital Humanities, as an important partner in academic and curatorial projects where digital is the primary means of research and sharing knowledge.

Recent projects have investigated Darwin's manuscripts, archives from the Changi and Sime Road WWII internment camps, the works of the renowned Austrian author Arthur Schnitzler, and the papers of the biologist William Bateson, the first person to use the term genetics to describe the study of inherited features and conditions.

Most recently, the School of Arts and Humanities has established a new Cambridge Digital Humanities initiative, following a review of DH provision in the University.

We are delighted the Library has been chosen as the home for Digital Humanities Lab which will collaborate with this new group, when it begins work in October 2017.

Polonsky Digital Preservation Programme
The University Library is proud to be part of a major project examining one of the most important issues facing modern research collections, the preservation of digital material.

This year, Cambridge's three Polonsky fellows completed a survey of born-digital, digitised, audio-visual, and images collections across the University Library. The fellows are now carrying out case studies to investigate the Library's needs around digitised images, born-digital archives and research data.

They are also developing a strategy for the Library's future planning in this vital area of our service, as well as testing digital preservation systems to see which best meets our needs. This project is vital to help protect and preserve an increasingly digital collection at Cambridge, and the findings will be shared openly with partners across the globe so the learning is beneficial to as many other research collections as possible. The work of the project team will also help underpin a sustainable approach to digital humanities research for Cambridge.

The two year project, which has now reached its half way stage, is being run jointly with the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford and is funded by the Polonsky Foundation.

Polonsky Fellows (left to right): James Mooney (Bodleian Libraries, Oxford); Lee Pretlove (Cambridge University Library); Tuan Pham (Cambridge University Library); Edith Halvarsson (Bodleian Libraries, Oxford); David Gerrard (Cambridge University Library); Sarah Mason (Bodleian Libraries, Oxford); Michael Popham (Bodleian Libraries, Oxford); Somaya Langley (Cambridge University Library)
Exhibitions

The 600th anniversary was an unmissable opportunity to showcase the wonders of the University Library collections, from ancient oracle bones to children’s toy books.

The two exhibitions, Lines of Thought and Curious Objects, attracted over 60,000 thousand visitors in little over a year. This response demonstrated the public desire to enjoy the highlights of the collection and learn more about the myriad journeys of our quirky and mysterious objects.

Lines of Thought brought together some of our most celebrated treasures in a single room for the first time, placing Isaac Newton alongside Stephen Hawking and Jocelyn Bell Burnell, and the Codex Bezae next to the Codex Zacynthius.

Visitors were deeply moved to see these items ‘in the flesh’, with many returning for several visits. Special guides helped children interact with the exhibits and the series of films accompanying the exhibition has been viewed an astonishing 400,000 times.

Curious Objects revealed why the University Library has a pair of Indian slippers in its collections, how psychic thumbprints were made, and why Charles Darwin was sent beard hair in the post.

The exhibition centre was transformed into a cabinet of curiosities from the Stone Age to the Space Age, taking visitors on a journey through the history of the Library and the nature of collecting.

Combining both discovery and treasure, Discarded History: The Genizah of Medieval Cairo is the University Library’s latest exhibition, running from April to October 2017.

The thousand-year-old documents explore the Jewish community of Fustat, Old Cairo. Visitors can enjoy the rare opportunity to see ancient cheques, medieval pre-nuptial marriage contracts, and children’s drawings produced a millennium ago.

The exhibition aims to take the seemingly impenetrable fragments—the ancient Genizah manuscripts are written in language few but the most specialised scholars speak—and make their mysteries accessible to the public.

Future exhibitions will continue this theme. There will be an emphasis on showing the University Library’s treasures and how research on them is changing our understanding of the world.
Special Collections Major Projects

It was an important, but poignant year for our major projects, with the completion of the work to catalogue, conserve and digitise unique records from the Changi and Sime Road WWII internment camps.

The records, part of the Royal Commonwealth Society Collection, powerfully bring to life the traumatic experiences of civilians interned at the camps between 1942 and 1945, following the fall of Malaya to the Japanese. This two-year project was supported by the Wellcome Trust.

The digital archive, Voices of Civilian Internment: WWII Singapore, was launched in August 2017 and is now freely available to all as part of the Cambridge Digital Library.

Few survivors ever spoke of their ordeal, so the archive is expected to be of immense interest to the families of internees and a wide range of researchers.

Emma Nichols, a Book and Paper Conservator, also completed her project to conserve the Changi internment camp archives, funded by a Research Bursary by the Wellcome Trust. Emma had the honour of being the first conservator to be awarded such a bursary by Wellcome.

The project to produce a digital archive of the papers and notebooks of the pioneering Cambridge geneticist William Bateson (1861–1926), also funded by the Wellcome Trust, continued to make good progress this year.

The digital archive will include correspondence, field journals, lecture notes, draft publications, as well as the series of notebooks recording experiments in the breeding of poultry and sweet peas.

An initial selection of images from the Bateson notebooks has now been released on the Cambridge Digital Library.

Futurelib Programme

Futurelib has made strong progress in understanding how to ensure the University Library’s priceless collections are open and accessible for future generations.

This year, we completed a survey of all 37,000 readers registered with the University Library. The results are now being used to improve our work, such as a pilot fetching service for those who are short of time, or have difficulties finding material.

A study using cutting-edge technology eye-tracking glasses allowed us to see exactly where library users looked as they navigated Cambridge’s libraries and...
collections. For in-depth analysis, we also rolled out a digital diary study of students at the University, some of whom were interviewed afterwards.

The results led to innovative suggestions for the design of networks of library spaces at the University, as well as new signage.

The Spacefinder website, allowing students to identify their ideal location and environment for study, continues to be a huge success. Developments in the software mean that users will soon be able to search by the opening hours of spaces listed, as well as location and facilities.

The ‘Intraloan’ project investigated how Cambridge library users access printed library content. This was particularly useful in developing a book delivery system from the main University Library to three other Cambridge libraries.

One less surprising, but still pleasurable finding of the survey, was that the legendary Tea Room retains its position as the most ‘favourite aspect’ of the University Library.

iDiscover Project
Library users of the future will enjoy a faster, simpler and more fulfilling journey around the University Library’s historic collections thanks to the transformative work of iDiscover.

The project allows users to search through Cambridge’s vast collection of books, as well as online journals and ebooks.

All that’s required is an internet connection, and the click of a mouse or press of a button.

Already in use, the system has been significantly upgraded this year in response to reader feedback and in preparation for replacing the current outdated management system.

This is a major project, which had required a large amount of dedicated work. But good progress has been made in the planning and preparation, and training of super-users, in preparation for a full rollout next year across libraries at Cambridge.
Library Affiliation
Cambridge works best when we work together, and the University’s unique range of libraries are now collaborating much more closely under the affiliation project.

Routes to affiliation are being explored with the Schools of Technology, Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences.

Discussions with the School of Technology have made substantial progress this year following an influential report on the School’s future library and information needs.

We are working towards affiliation of the Engineering Library in January 2018, and for agreements with other libraries in the School over the next eighteen months.

Meetings with individual departments in the Biological and Physical Sciences have focussed on how affiliation can improve support for teaching and learning. Parallel reports on the future library needs of these two Schools will take place in 2017/18.

Plans have been drawn up for library services in the Shared Facilities Building in West Cambridge and discussions are taking place about libraries on the Downing Site linked to the long-term vision for the Cambridge Biocentrum for the life sciences.

There have been also been important discussion with science departments on how to safeguard the future of their archives and rare books, and how University Library Special Collections staff can help with this.

The library of the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit affiliated to the University Library in conjunction with the transfer of the Medical Research Council Unit to the University on 1 July 2017.

Libraries Get a Makeover
In May 2017 the fully refurbished Medical Library re-opened to great celebration from staff and students. Three new spaces were developed—Shh, Read, Share—to enable high, medium and low intensity work to take place. This approach to the library layout was based on evidence collected with our students as part of the influential FutureLib programme. The work was made possible thanks to generous donations from the Hauser Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trust.

Further modernisation of the Faculty of African and Middle Eastern Studies Library also took place this year. Students and researchers will benefit from improved lighting, heating and—essential to all study—additional power sockets.

Library Research Support Goes Undercover
Kirsten Lamb, Research Support Librarian at the Engineering Department Library, spent three months working ‘undercover’ part-time as a member of the Use Less research group led by Professor Julian Allwood. Kirsten participated in the group’s research and assisted with information-related aspects of their work to gain insight into how information skills can inform and influence research practice and how research can influence information skills. Kirsten then reflected on her experience and on the implications for the development of research library services at Engineering. The initial project report is available at https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/266987 and we are now exploring ways to extend this service to other research groups around the university.
Bite-Size Education

Georgina Cronin, the Research Support Librarian in the Betty and Gordon Moore Library for the Sciences, developed a series of short YouTube videos to help communicate research ideas as part of the “23 Research Things” training programme. The result is an interactive learning tool which taps into the existing social media practices of new postgraduate students. The programme ran during Michaelmas term in 2016 and several Cambridge libraries embedded content into their own websites and training programmes. A video on Text and Data Mining was also recently added to expand the tools supporting innovation and open research practices.

An information skills framework for all libraries at Cambridge is being developed. A group including librarians from the Colleges, Faculty and Departments and the University Library are meeting to research and develop the teaching role of librarians for taught students. Expected to report in 2017/18, research and development undertaken by the group will help introduce more use of technology to support learning for all.

Office of Scholarly Communication

Access to research has been taken to a new level as a result of the ground-breaking work of the Office of Scholarly Communication.

This year saw the successful pilot of the voluntary deposit of the digital version of PhD theses being held securely in the repository. A particular highlight was the development of a new online deposit form that is being copied around the world. We also funded the digitisation of 1,400 theses that were held on microfilm by the British Library, bringing a wealth of Cambridge research to a wider public for the first time.

Next year will see the rollout of mandatory collection of digital PhD theses thanks to the support of the Board of Graduate Studies.

At the end of 2016, the OSC launched the Research Data Champions programme, helping researchers to learn about, and advocate good data management from academic and expert library peers in their own department. Not all research data can be made open; there are often good reasons why access to data has to be carefully controlled. Well-planned data management has wide research and society benefits, however, through long-term preservation of research findings and, where appropriate, open sharing of data to allow new research to build on what has already been achieved.

OSC staff retain their high profile on the national and international stage in discussions around scholarly communication, serving on editorial boards, publishing academic papers in the field, and being asked to give keynote speeches at conferences worldwide.

Our success was formally acknowledged, when, in June 2017, a University review panel noted there was ‘overwhelmingly positive feedback’ from both within and outside Cambridge about the work of the Office for Scholarly Communication.
Electronic Legal Deposit

Impressive progress was made this year in the relatively new, but important field of electronic legal deposit.

In 2013, new regulations gave UK legal deposit libraries, such as Cambridge, the power to collect, store and preserve digital material, including online articles, books and websites.

The regulations also allowed publishers to make a choice about how to deposit their published works – in print, or electronically.

Most preferred the latter, and this year a large proportion of the major academic publishers moved to electronic legal deposit.

It will take much longer for the many other, smaller publishers to convert their operations, so we expect future years to see a more gradual pace of transition.

At the University Library, we restructured the Periodicals Department to deal with the new, and different, levels of intake arising from the growth in digital content and legal deposit changes.

For the benefit of students and researchers across the University of Cambridge a much larger amount of academic literature than we previously received through print legal deposit is now available through electronic legal deposit via dedicated terminals in the University Library and the affiliated library network. This includes a burgeoning archive taken from the UK’s internet output to help preserve websites for future research and teaching.

Library Storage Facility (LSF)

The landmark Library Storage Facility took major strides forward this year.

Works on site are going very well, and the outline structure of the building is complete. The construction of 106 km of shelving began in August 2017, and this flagship project is on target for completion in May 2018.

As one of the world’s greatest research libraries, the new facility is essential so we can meet our responsibilities as a place of legal deposit, help preserve the scholarly record and enable the most effective use of space across our libraries.

As designed, the Library Storage Facility will provide capacity for 106 kilometres (or 65 miles) of storage space on about 30,000 individual shelves.

A major challenge for the LSF project is to transfer the 12 miles (19 km) of previously hidden collections, currently held in warehouses, to the University Library.

The Commonwealth Room at the Library has been set aside as the nerve centre for the work. Here, the material will be catalogued and then moved to the LSF.

This is a vast operation, involving intricate coordination of transport, manual handling, holding space, and personnel in two distinct project phases covering the construction period and the transitional first twelve months of operations. All is set to go live by June 2018.

University staff and construction teams at the official ground-breaking ceremony in March 2017.
Collections and Academic Liaison

Collections and Academic Liaison (CAL) has seen a year of contrasts, with the excitement of rapid growth, but the sadness of an emotional farewell to a much-loved stalwart of the department.

After a career at the University Library lasting almost 40 years, David Lowe retired as Head of Collections and Academic Liaison. We are proud that David made a vast contribution in the field of collecting and cataloguing of European language material, especially German and French works.

Mel Bach, the Slavonic Specialist in CAL, was promoted to the post of Head of CAL, ensuring continuity to build on our successes.

Mel has a bold remit which will allow us to develop and strengthen relationships with faculty and departmental librarians, and their academic and research colleagues. This will also ensure collection-building continues its impressive growth in both print and electronic formats.

This innovative approach has been enhanced by the work of Rebecca Gower, responsible for English Collection Development and Academic Liaison, and the fast growing ebook area, run by Jayne Kelly.

We are delighted to report that the ebook provision is offering access to vast amounts of important content for scholars throughout Cambridge. Such is the rate of take of electronic resources, that in 2016/17 there were thirty times more downloads from licensed electronic resources than physical library book loans at Cambridge.

Library Syndicate

Professor G J Virgo (Vice-Chancellor’s Deputy)
Dr J Gardner (University Librarian)
Mr C Allen (Graduate Representative)
Professor J S Bell
Dr R Padman
Mrs Y Faghihi
Dr M Read
Professor J Goodman
Ms R Huldisch (Undergraduate Representative)
Lord Christopher Smith of Finsbury
Professor D J Ibbetson
Professor L Taub
Professor P Mandler
Mrs M Tuladar
Dr A M Nicholls
Dr N White

Major Gifts and Grants

- American Council of Learned Societies
- Anstruther Literary Trust for Rare Books
- Arcadia Fund
- Art Fund
- Arts Council England/Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund
- Bible Society
- Bodleian Library
- Cambridge Law Journal
- Cambridge University Press
- Cambridge University Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Christopher Jones
- Clifford R Webb
- Dan Burt
- Dr Pamela Raspe
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- Friedberg Genizah Project
- Friends of Cambridge University Library
- Friends of the National Libraries
- Henry Barlow
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Jardine Matheson Ltd
- Sir Alan Bowness
- The Andrew W Mellon Foundation
- The Howard and Abby Milstein Foundation
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- The Polonsky Foundation
- The Rose Marrow Fund
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
- Wellcome Trust
Staff news

Professional Staff Appointments

**Starters**

Mel Bach  
Head of Collections & Academic Liaison

Lucy Brazg  
Senior Associate Director, Development and Philanthropy  (Maternity Cover)

Dr Christopher Burgess  
Exhibitions Programme Manager

Sian Collins  
Archivist

Dr Jessica Gardner  
University Librarian

David Gerrard  
Digital Preservation Specialist Technical Officer  (Polonsky Fellow)

Rebecca Gower  
Collection Development and Academic Liaison Librarian

Dr Nicholas Hardy  
Munby Fellow in Bibliography (2016–2017)

Dr Andrew Jackson  
LMS Programme Training Co-ordinator

Dr Katrina Dean  
Curator of Scientific Collections

Somaya Langley  
Digital Preservation Specialist—Policy and Planning  (Polonsky Fellow)

**Leavers**

Paul Dampier  
Deputy Director, Digital Initiatives and Strategy

Dr Gabriele Ferrario  
Research Associate

Anne Jarvis  
University Librarian

Philip Jones  
Senior Software Developer

Susanne Mehrer  
Deputy Librarian

Andrew Priestner  
Futurelib Programme Manager

Dr Zvi Stampfer  
Research Associate

Grant Young  
Head of Digital Content

**Retirements**

David Lowe  
Head of Collections & Academic Liaison

Timothy Penton  
Team Leader, English Cataloguing
Finance

Total Income & Expenditure

Information Resources Expenditure

Library Staff Expenditure
Income Analysis
£23.5m

Expenditure Analysis
£26.5m
Appendices

Exhibitions and Events

**Exhibitions in the Milstein Exhibition Centre**


**Exhibitions in the Entrance Hall**

*Crime and Punishment* at 150, prepared by Dr Katherine Bowers and students at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, in collaboration with Mel Bach.

*Agnes Miller Parker’s Wood Engravings: Bringing the Word to Life,* prepared by Anna McGee.

*Collected Curiosities,* curated by local college students under the supervision of Liam Sims and Rosie Sharkey.

*‘The First of Rural Bards’: Robert Bloomfield (1766–1823) in Word, Music and Image,* prepared by John Wells

*Scandalous & Libellous Books,* prepared by Liam Sims.

*Resilience, Repair and Research: Items from the Royal Commonwealth Society’s Voices of Civilian Internment WWII Singapore archives,* prepared by John Cardwell, Emma Nichols and Rachel Rowe.

*Jane Austen: Letters and Readers,* prepared by Anne Toner.

*Recipes, Prescriptions and Drugs from Medieval Cairo,* prepared by Gabriele Ferrario.

*Conservation of the Cambridge University Press Archive,* prepared by Fay Humphreys and Rosalind Grooms.

*Ikebana: Japanese Art of Flower Arrangement,* prepared by Kristin Williams. This exhibition highlighted a manuscript from the Aston–Satow collection and a newly acquired 16th-century scroll, *Yuishinken kadensho,* which was purchased with the support of Art Fund and the Arts Council England/Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund.

*A Quaker Bequest,* prepared by Liam Sims.


**Virtual exhibitions (in addition to those relating to the Milstein Exhibition Centre and Entrance Hall displays)**

*Capability Brown: Landscapes in Line and Ink,* prepared by Dr Katy Layton-Jones, School of Historical Studies, University of Leicester.

*‘Fighting Windmills: the Many Interpretations of Don Quixote,* prepared by Sophie Defrance and Clara Panozzo Zenere.
Art in the Entrance Hall
In Search of New Forms, an abstract art exhibition from the collections at Kettle’s Yard, October 2016–January 2017. Two free public talks about the exhibition were held in December, delivered by Cora Chalaby providing an introduction into the works of Helen Frankenthaler, one of the artists featured in the display. These events were a collaboration between Kettle’s Yard, the University Library and the University’s History of Art department.

Woven Manuscripts, an exhibition of tapestries inspired by medieval manuscripts created by weaver and art historian, Kate Rudy, February–December 2017.

Public Engagement and Outreach

EngAGE workshops (HLF funded)
February–October 2016
As part of the Library’s partnership with Cambridgeshire Libraries, members of staff delivered a series of talks to EngAGE groups at libraries across Cambridgeshire, with a hands-on collection of 21st-century material.

‘Revolutions in communication’
April–September
These workshops were hosted by the Library’s Conservation team, featuring a fascinating talk on the history of book-making and a chance for attendees to make their own small personalised books.

Summer at the Museums
July–August
‘Make & create tent, at the Big Weekend’: volunteers helped deliver the ‘Make your own papyrus scroll’ event at the Big Weekend.

‘Stories through time’: Marion Leeper, the Bard of Cambridge, told stories from around the world (all found in the Lines of Thought exhibition) to young children.

‘Discovering Darwin’: a drop-in session in which children designed and crafted their own tortoises, as well as sorting through clues about Darwin’s life to answer a quiz.

‘How big is your brain’: Sarah James lead an educational interactive session teaching children about what their brain is, how big it is, and just how important it is for all of us.

Open Cambridge
September
‘Mapping Cambridge’: historical maps from the University Library’s collection explored the rich history of Cambridge.

‘The University Library through the ages’: an opportunity for visitors to visit the Digital Content Unit and learn about the importance of digitisation for future generations from expert staff.

Bridge the Gap Walk
September
Over 2,000 members of the public took part in this charity walk, which raises funds for the Arthur Rank Hospice. Walkers entered the building through the Entrance Hall, before walking through the Catalogue Hall, peering inside the Reading Room and exiting the building via the back door.

Festival of Ideas
October
A panel of experts discussed the changing role of libraries in the 21st century in response to a newly commissioned piece written and presented by author Ali Smith. The event was presented jointly by Cambridge University Library and the Writers’ Centre Norwich as part of the Festival of Ideas.

Twilight at the Museums (HLF funded)
February 2017
‘Curious collectors’: children aged 5–12 and their family were invited to explore curious objects from our collections and listen to the magical stories behind as told by storyteller, Marion Leeper.

Half-Term Events (HLF funded)
February
‘Magical objects’: children aged 5–10 and their family were invited to create crafts inspired by the University Library’s curious collections, and to hear the stories of Vasilisa the brave and wicked witch Baba Yaga.

‘Curious materials’: children aged 5–12 and their family explored the amazing properties of parchment in an exciting handling session.

Science Festival
March
‘Cluescape III Curious Objects’: an interactive escape game featuring puzzles and challenges inspired by the Curious Objects exhibition.

‘Resilience, repair and research’: an intimate insight into the preservation and dissemination the Royal Commonwealth Society’s WWII Archive of the Changi and Sime Road Civilian Internment Camps in Singapore.

‘Curious collections’: a day of mini talks and tours exploring the nature of collecting and the links between quirky personal collections, cabinets of curiosity and scientific classification.
‘Experiments in photography’: Jessica Sutcliffe, daughter of photographer Helen Muspratt, delivered a talk on the pioneering photography of Muspratt and her studio partner Lettice Ramsey.

‘Darwin’s evolutionary tails’: a hands-on family-friendly workshop that looked at the hows and whys of Darwin’s life and his work on evolution.

**Book launch of Changing**

*May*

A talk and reception to mark the launch of *Changing* by Richard Berengarten. *Changing* is Berengarten’s poetic homage to the I Ching, also known as the Yi Jing or the Chinese Book of Changes. The event included a sequence of eight collaborative drawings by artist Geneviève Guetemme, also based on the I Ching, entitled Changes—échanges.

**Screening of ‘From Cairo to the cloud’**

*May*

Coinciding with the recent opening of the Discarded History exhibition, a screening of the documentary film ‘From Cairo to the cloud—the world of the Cairo geniza’ told the remarkable story of the Cairo Genizah, a vast treasure trove of manuscripts discovered in the ‘genizah’, or sacred storeroom, of an ancient synagogue in Old Cairo.

**Cam Lates**

*June*

Improv comedy group, Do Not Adjust Your Stage, delivered a series of improvised sketches inspired by the Discarded History exhibition, as part of the Cam Lates series.

**Selected Notable Acquisitions**

**Special Collections**

- Taxation Roll for the Christchurch Ecclesiastical Estate, Ipswich, c. 1291. This roll records the rental income from tenants of one part of the estate of the Augustinian Priory of Holy Trinity, Ipswich. Over four metres in length, it lists the names of more than 350 tenants, providing a vivid snapshot of late 13th-century Ipswich and of the origins, statuses and occupations of its inhabitants.

- Giovanni Boccaccio, *Il decamerone* ... (Florence, 1516). A beautiful humanist edition of Boccaccio’s most famous work and one of the earliest with illustrations. This copy has remarkable annotations by the Elizabethan spy William Herle (d. 1588/9), who worked for William Cecil and Francis Walsingham in the Low Countries. Purchased with the assistance of the Friends of the National Libraries.

- Guillaume Bude, *De contemptu rerum fortuitarum libri tres* (Paris, c. 1520–26), bound with *Epistolae* (Paris, 1520). A volume of two works with excellent local provenance. The binding is by Nicholas Spierinck (d. 1546), which places the two works together in early 16th century Cambridge, and the title page of the first item bears an inscription by Bishop John Moore to his associate William Wotton. Moore’s books came to the Library in 1715 as the collection now known as the Royal Library. There are ownership and marginal annotations in numerous early hands, making a volume with great research potential.

- Yuishinken kadensho. A 16th-century illustrated manuscript scroll with ink and colour on paper, one of the earliest extant examples of a Japanese guide to flower arranging. Its two colophons, dated 1536 and 1544, record the secret transmission of the art from Saibō Yuishinken to Sukejirō [or Sukekurō] to Sōgen. Purchased with the assistance of Art Fund and Arts Council England/Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund.

- Michel de Montaigne, *Les essais ... avec des notes ... par Pierre Coste* (Paris, 1725). This copy was owned and annotated by the scholar Louis-Aimé Martin (1782–1847), and is a unique witness offering an insight into the reading of Montaigne by an erudite commentator, lecturer, professional editor and bibliophile at a critical time in the history of the reception of the philosopher’s thought, between the Enlightenment and Romanticism.

- Nicolas Bergasse, *Théorie du monde et des êtres organisés suivant les principes de M... [Franz-Anton Mesmer]* (Paris, 1784). Bergasse was a central member of the philosophical circle led by Franz-Anton Mesmer. This work, printed in an edition of 100 copies and engraved throughout, is of exceptional significance, not only for the history of animal magnetism, but for cosmology and the Enlightenment more generally.

- Album of watercolour views, costumes and trades in the vicinity of Karachi, c. 1840s. 21 watercolours, three pen and ink or pencil images, and one later albumen print of an unidentified location. From the style of costume and the activities the subject matter is clearly in the centre of a Muslim population and very probably in or near Karachi.

- Manuscript maps from 19th-century Burma (now Myanmar). Two maps, one of Ava (Inwa) entitled ‘Golden land victorious over enemies’, the other of a palace complex in the north-east corner of Ava at the junction of the Irawaddy and Myitnge rivers, one dated 1886. The maps date from the year the British annexed Burma, with Burmese placenames
rendered into English in pencil. They are orientated with East at the top, with paths delineated in red ink, both traditional Burmese cartographic conventions.

- Archive relating to the publication of John Nicholas Price Wood's *Travel and sport in Turkestan* (London: Chapman & Hall; New York: D. Appleton, 1910). It comprises a heavily revised and annotated draft typescript, photographic negatives, photographic prints, and copper half-tone plates, together with correspondence with Wood's editor, the publisher, printer, binder, cartographer etc, as well as the photographic half-tone blocks for the plates, packed with printer's waste including matrices and proof pages from contemporary works. A rare survival of all aspects of the composition, production and publication of a book in the early 20th century.

- Ludwig Schröder (ed.), *Der Kamp-Spiegel. Wochenschrift für die Kriegsgefangenen in Australien* [The Camp Mirror. A Weekly for Prisoners of War in Australia] (April 1916–7 April 1918). A rare complete two-year run of this journal, produced by prisoners in the internment camp at Holdsworthy (now Holsworthy, near Liverpool in Sydney's west), the largest of the camps built to house prisoners of war from the Central Powers, as well as naturalised migrants and Australian citizens whose origin or ancestry aroused suspicion of disloyalty. Purchased for the Library by the Anstruther Literary Trust for Rare Books.

### Modern Collections

#### Online resources

- Bloomsbury Law Archive and Frontlist collections up to the end of 2017
- Bloomsbury Professional Online
- Brill ebook collections 2017 (12 Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences subject collections)
- Brill International Law Collections (2014–2017)
- Cambridge University Press: 772 titles purchased as part of the Evidence Based Scheme (funded by credits)
- Chicago Manual of Style (funded by ebooks@cambridge)
- De Gruyter: 892 titles purchased as part of the Evidence Based Scheme
- Donetsk and Luhansk Newspaper Collection
- Duke University Press ebooks 2017
- Early American Newspapers Online (funded by Kaplanoff Fund)
- Manchester Medieval Sources Online (funded by Connell Funded, ebooks@cambridge & Seeley Historical Library)
- Niva
- Open Book Publishers
- Open Library of the Humanities
- Oxford Handbooks Online 2017 (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Law subject collections)
- Oxford Scholarship Online: 122 titles purchased as part of the Evidence Based Scheme
- Rosenné's Law and Practice of the international Court: 1920–2015 (Brill)
- Routledge: 343 titles purchased on Taylor & Francis eBooks platform
- Routledge Handbooks Online: 124 (funded by Connell Fund and South Asian Studies)
- Springer Biomedical and Life Sciences Collection 2015–2017 (EBA scheme ending early 2018)
- Stahl Online (funded by credits)
- The Collected Letters of Thomas Hardy (Intelex Past Masters)
- Vestnik Evropy

#### Printed works

- *Officiolum di Francesco da Barberino* (Roma: Salerno, [2015]). A full-colour facsimile of a manuscript conceived of by Francesco da Barberino and produced in Padua between 1304 and 1309. The manuscript is currently owned by the private collector Guido Rossi, of Milan.
- 10 volumes of Antiquariat Tenschert catalogues on illuminated manuscripts and books, purchased to complement the donation of 23 volumes of Tenschert catalogues by Professor Nigel Morgan in October 2017.

### Significant Donations (Collections)

#### Special Collections

- Diary in the form of 24 letters, some from Royal Naval vessels in the Mediterranean, 1805–1808. 1 volume. MS Add. 10140. From the estate of the Rev. Cyril Tomkinson, through the Rev. Nigel Hancock, former Senior Under-Librarian.
- John James, further literary correspondence and papers, 20th and 21st centuries. 1 crate. MS Add. 10019 (addl.).


Papers of Professor Peter Mathias (1928–2016), economic historian (MS Add. 10158).

Papers of Professor Alexander Stuart Watt (1892–1985), biologist (MS Add. 10164).


350 volumes of books on Quakerism bequeathed by the late Deputy Librarian David Hall. These include many scarce early titles not previously held in the Library collections.

John Calvin, Commentarii in Isaiam prophetam (Geneva, 1559). Presented by David Parker on behalf of his late father T.H.L Parker.


22 volumes of scarce 19th-century geology titles. Presented by Professor Martin Rudwick.

A collection of some 180 items of erotic literature, assembled and presented by Mr Patrick J. Kearney, an historian of erotic literature. Many of the editions are unrecorded in UK libraries and a number bear significant marks of ownership by eminent collectors of erotica.

Modern Collections

- 91 titles on Spanish colonial art. Presented by Richard Boyle in honour of his wife Marlene de Block.
- 150 French titles presented by the Institut français.
- 233 books on art history from the library of Professor Jean-Michel Massing. Items in a wide variety of languages: 113 in French, 61 in German, 30 in English, 16 in Dutch, and so forth.
- 59 books presented by Professor Nigel Morgan. 10 of these are in Spanish on illuminated manuscripts; 49 are on the art and architecture of Eastern Europe in languages including Albanian, Armenian and Georgian. Most are parallel texts and are also in English.
- An additional donation of approximately 450 books on art history. Presented by Professor Jean Michel Massing.
- 220 books in English, French and German on the history of the materials and techniques of painting and on the history of painting restoration. Presented by Ann Massing.
- 220 history titles, 150 in English, the remainder in a variety of European languages. Presented by Nigel Worden, former Professor of History and head of the Historical Studies department at the University of Cape Town.
- Books and pamphlets published during and after the Portuguese Revolution of 25 April 1974; Portuguese colonial wars literature; Portuguese LGBT literature; LGBT literature in Spanish, from both Spain and Latin America. Presented by Professor Robert Howes (Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies, King’s College London).
- 67 volumes to be added to the Japanese collection plus additional volumes that are duplicates to be distributed to other UK Japanese collections. Presented by the Morita family in Devon.
- Various academic books presented by Professor Peter Kornicki and Professor Richard Bowring.
- 9 boxes of duplicate books for the Korean collection. Presented by The British Library.