

## Collections and Academic Liaison (CAL) – Michaelmas 2021 update

It has been two years since the last of the termly CAL newsletters. And what a time it has been... Normally the CAL newsletter talks in some detail about our recent collecting activities. In this one, we have just got a few headlines, rather than trying to catch up for lost time too exhaustively.

For anyone new or in need of a refresher, CAL staff lead on the provision of ebooks to support teaching and learning through our [ebooks@cambridge](mailto:ebooks@cambridge) team and we also work on print books and ebooks to support research, acquiring titles from all around the world in English and other European-root languages. Our newsletters standardly end with a list of our staff – as this one does – so that colleagues can know who to contact about what. This newsletter's contents are:

- [Ebooks for students and researchers](#)
- [Print collections and their cataloguing](#)
- [Collection development policies](#)
- [List of sections and staff in CAL](#)

### Ebooks for students and researchers

The work of our teaching-focused [ebooks@cambridge](mailto:ebooks@cambridge) team is probably the part of CAL's work that faculty, departmental, and College library staff are most familiar with! We are so grateful to all of our colleagues across Cambridge libraries for their help with teaching and learning-related ebooks work during Covid, from financial support to practical support and moral support. Thank you! The monthly new titles lists have shown time and again how significantly Cambridge's ebook collection has grown. To these we have also added a great deal of ebook packages, some on subscription and some as permanent purchases.

While the ebooks team chiefly focus on teaching and learning materials, they also take responsibility for troubleshooting for ebooks across Cambridge and for setting up and promoting trial access to teaching and research ebook resources. If you have any ebook questions, do always get in touch at [ebooks@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ebooks@lib.cam.ac.uk).

You can read about new developments and summaries of [ebooks@cambridge](mailto:ebooks@cambridge) work [on our ebooks blog](#) (recent examples include an interesting insight into [Cambridge ebook usage statistics](#) and the announcement of trial access to the [Al Manhal library](#)), and you can follow these and service updates via [our Twitter account](#).



Featured titles from a [blog post](#) about the new wellbeing ebooks collection.

The primary focus of extra funding provided for ebooks during Covid was teaching and learning, seeing huge numbers of individual titles acquired as well as packages. Packages have included outright purchases such as Bloomsbury's Education Around the World, Manchester's Studies in Imperialism, and the Knowledge Unlatched Routledge African Studies collection (this last one co-funded by African Studies, CAL research, and central teaching ebook funds). There have also been new subscriptions to big collections such as ClinicalKey, Law Trove, ScienceDirect All Access and Freedom Collection, and the big EBSCO and ProQuest packages.

During Covid, CAL research budgets (which are administered by the English and language specialists in the department) have also been put towards individual ebooks and towards packages and products that support research. The following resources are among those newly introduced on the research side of the department.

- A very exciting new [DDA from JSTOR](#)
- BiblioRossica's [Leading Russian Scholarly Presses](#) package
- [Amalivre's new platform](#) for individual French ebook purchases
- [Schöningh and Fink](#) German ebook packages

We have also continued our English and German De Gruyter EBA, Ebook Central DDA, Oxford Scholarship Online EBA, and access to the latest Duke UP and Brill titles.

While on ebooks but moving to cataloguing in the next section, we'd like to take the chance to promote the amazing work that Clara did in early lockdown to improve the catalogue records for [Open Access ebooks published in Latin America by SCOLMA](#).

### **Print collections and their cataloguing**

Print books remain an enormous part of CAL's work and intake. While the digital shift has grabbed the headlines particularly during Covid, print often provides the only version of a great deal of material that our readers need and will benefit from. In 20/21 alone, CAL bought over 7,500 individual print monographs and 1,000s of multi-volume sets or parts.

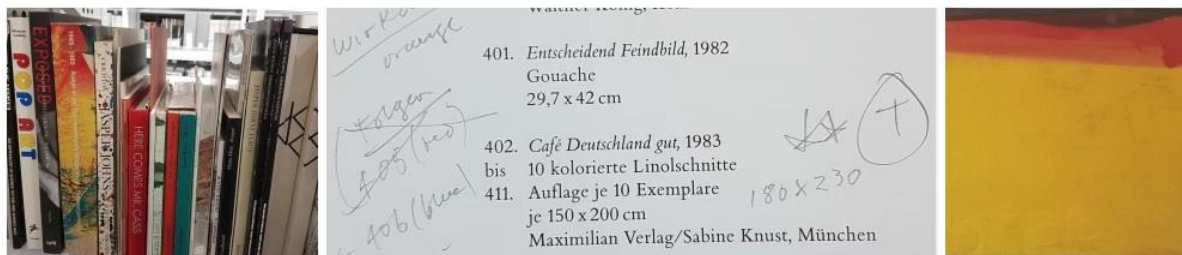
Throughout much of 2020 and 2021, we have had to keep our presence in the physical UL to much reduced numbers. In order to try to mitigate the impact of this on our readers, we came up with a workflow that allowed those in the office to process new arrivals really quickly and saw copy cataloguing happen at home so far as this was possible. This [blog post](#) describes the basic process.

What this has meant is that we have managed to keep on top of all new bought print arrivals despite some periods of 100% working from home and – when we first started to come back – having our weekly presence in the building at 2.7% (!) of the weekly CAL norm.

The eagle-eyed might notice that we specified 'bought' arrivals above. CAL also deals with donations, both large donated collections and individual donations arriving in the post. We had to focus on bought material for much of the Covid period, but have managed to make really good progress with donations more recently.

As with so much work, this has been a team project, but it's worth pointing out a couple of major specific efforts. The lion's share of individual donations are in English, and Rebecca has magnificently, in just a few days in the office, dealt with a backlog of over 400 titles that

arrived during Covid. We have also been able to make good headway with cataloguing the collection donated by Professor Sir Alan Bowness, who sadly passed away earlier this year, particularly with the help of Emily Perdue.



Images from a [blog post](#) by Emily about her Bowness work.

We also introduced in lockdown a [decolonisation-related retrospective cataloguing project](#) to improve metadata for parts of the UL Official Publications collection, focusing on African, Asian, Eurasian, and Caribbean material.

It is also worth pointing out here some research projects that CAL staff are involved in that relate to our collections: Irène has been involved in [activities celebrating and promoting a huge set of caricatures](#) relating to the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune and is also the library supervisor of a PhD looking at the [Liberation Collection](#); Christian will be the library supervisor for a PhD currently being advertised which will focus on the [Stefan Heym Archive](#); and Sonia is an adviser for a 20/21 digital humanities project looking at the [Spanish chapbooks collections](#).

### Collection development policies

Some of you have heard (a number of times and over quite a long period...), that Mel is going to be working with faculty and departmental library staff on subject-specific collection development policies to capture how Cambridge University Libraries support these subjects in their acquisitions. This work is even more important than ever, and Mel will be approaching this collaborative project both with her CAL hat on but also the hat of convenor of the [CUL Decolonisation Working Group](#). FDL colleagues who haven't been contacted about CDPs recently – please watch this space.

### Guide to Collections and Academic Liaison (CAL)

So to finish – a recap of what we do! CAL is responsible for the selection and acquisition of physical books and ebooks in English and in European languages, from across the world. We also deal with donations coming into the UL, we do a large amount of cataloguing, and we promote the modern and historical collections for which we are responsible through various means including our two blogs: <https://ebookscambridge.wordpress.com/> and <https://europeancollections.wordpress.com/>. We currently work a variety of hybrid and home-based patterns, so do get in touch via email or on Teams. If you're not sure who to contact, try Mel first ([hlgb2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hlgb2@cam.ac.uk)).

**English collection development** : [engcc@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:engcc@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Rebecca Gower, assisted by Amber Rockwell

**ebooks@cambridge** : [ebooks@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ebooks@cam.ac.uk)

Jayne Kelly, assisted by Suz Edgar and Emily Perdue

**French** : [french@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:french@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Irène Fabry-Tehranchi, with a new assistant due to start in January!

**German, Dutch, Scandinavian** : [german@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:german@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Christian Staufienbiel, assisted by Katharine Dicks (also our Senior Library Assistant) and Anne Lacour

**Italian** (plus French cataloguing) : [italian@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:italian@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Bettina Rex

**Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan** : [hispanic@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:hispanic@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Sonia Morcillo, supported by Clara Panozzo and Chris Greenberg

**Slavonic/East European, Modern Greek**: [slavonic@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:slavonic@lib.cam.ac.uk)

Mel Bach (also Head of Department), assisted by Ula Dench and Olenka Syaivo Dmytryk (also at MMLL)