



Annual Report
2016-2017



**WHIPPLE
LIBRARY**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of History and
Philosophy of Science



2016-2017 has been a year of comings and goings, both in terms of our collections and staff. We said a fond farewell to Anna Jones at the beginning of August 2017. She became Whipple Librarian in March 2012 and has overseen so many positive changes here. Students and staff from HPS, as well as staff in the wider library community, will sorely miss her. We all wish her luck with her new adventure away from the world of libraries as she trains for ordination in the Church of England.

We saw some changes to our team of evening and lunchtime invigilators. Tillmann Taape continued on the team from last year but sadly left in the early part of 2017. Stephen Courtney joined the team at the start of the academic year and also departed for pastures new at the start of July. We welcomed Katharine Griffiths to our team for a few hours each day, thanks to the Department's generosity. She took up the post of Departmental General Assistant in October 2016 and spent her allocated library time working on the front desk and on various other projects. These included the weeding exercise and cataloguing a special collections acquisition. Katharine left us at the start of August and is now enjoying her life in Italy. We say a big thank you to them all.

In the wider Cambridge library community, we welcomed Dr Jessica Gardner to the post of University Librarian & Director of Library Services from April 2017. She has been very keen to meet library staff across the University and Anna Jones took up the opportunity to do this. We hope she enjoys her new position at Cambridge and look forward to working with her.

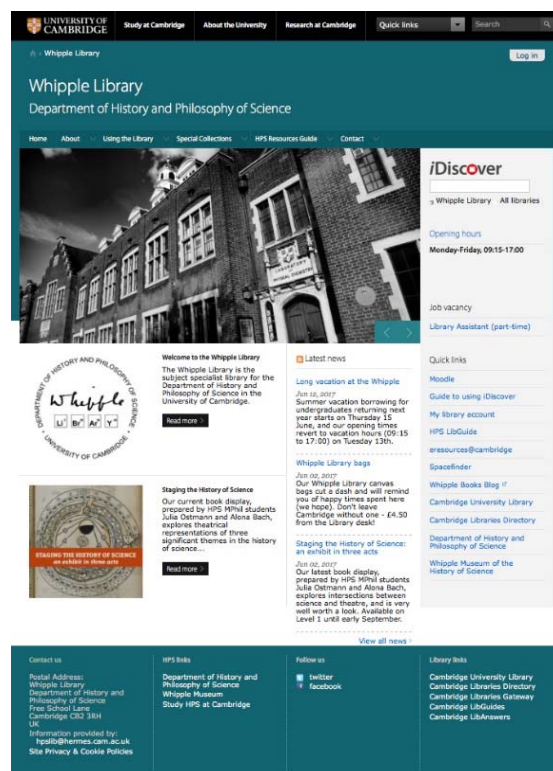
We not only said goodbye to staff but also to parts of our collection. A weeding exercise took place in which a number of duplicate copies in the history of philosophy and modern philosophy of science (sections F-H and IA-K in our classification scheme) were withdrawn. We also removed a few large reference works that are now available in electronic form.

The Whipple launched its new website in January 2017. It uses Falcon, the University's Content Management System, and was meticulously planned in the months previous to its launch by library staff. The website aims to provide a highly usable access point to everything that our library users need, including links to Moodle, iDiscover, LibGuides, and information about our special collections. We hope that the website will continue to develop over time and if anyone has any comments, suggestions, or spots any mistakes, please let us know.

We have had our special collections enlarged with donations from Martin Rudwick and purchases from Jim Secord (see the collections section for more details).

Now a quick look to the future. January 2018 will see the introduction of a new Library Management System (staff will be overheard discussing Alma rather than Voyager). This will have an impact on the first part of 2017-18 as staff will need to attend further training additional to the sessions attended this year.

This follows on from the launch of iDiscover in September 2016, which replaced LibrarySearch, as the new way of exploring the libraries catalogues.



Collections

Our collections have grown this year with around 704 new physical items and 71 new ebooks.

On 22 March 2017 we received a large donation from Professor Martin Rudwick consisting of important items in the history of the geological sciences. Among these are Georges Cuvier's *Recherches sur les ossemens fossiles de quadrupedes*, several editions of Charles Lyell's *Principles of geology*, and Martin Lister's monumental volume of copper-plate engravings of shells, the *Historiae sive synopsis methodicae conchyliorum*. These have greatly enriched our collections in earth sciences and a selection of items will feature in the Library's contribution to Open Cambridge in September.

We also received various books from Professor Jim Secord over the past year. These have included Jane Loudon's *The young naturalist*, Thomas Squire's *A popular grammar of the elements of astronomy*, Richard Newton's *Nature's mighty wonders*, and Eliza Brightwen *Inmates of my house and garden*. All of these date from the 19th century and therefore have become wonderful additions to our collections in this area. We also purchased yet another Reverend J.G. Wood book, this time a 3rd edition of *Common objects of the microscope*, published in 1949 and re-written by W.J. Ferrier.

In addition to books, the acquisition of a collection of pamphlets from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, once belonging to the Board of Education Library, has enhanced our holdings in the history of science education in Britain. We also brought Dawn a new cataloguing challenge in the form of around 100 ornithological postcards produced by the British Museum (Natural History) in the 1920s and 1930s

(<https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2017/04/05/postcards-the-rda-challenge/>)



Staffing

Whipple Librarian: Anna Jones

Library Assistants: Dawn Kingham & Clare Matthews

Invigilators: Stephen Courtney, Meira Gold, Aga Lanucha, Tillman Taape, Annie Thwaite

Training & professional development

All permanent members of staff have attended Falcon training to enable them to edit the website so it can be developed and kept up-to-date. They have also attended demonstrations of the incoming Library Management System, Alma, with the Librarian attending user testing sessions as well. As staff in the UL and Affiliated Libraries are migrating over to Outlook for their email and calendar system, Whipple staff went to brief sessions which described the migration process and allowed those of us who had not used Outlook Exchange before to have a basic demonstration. The Libraries@Cambridge conference took place in January 2017. Clare and Anna attended this event, which asked “Are you a Library Superhero?”, and benefitted from a variety of sessions, including on emergency planning, knowledge management, conservation, and how to cope when things don’t go quite as expected.

Staff have also continued to keep their health and safety training current by attending Evacuation Chair and Stair Climber Refresher courses. We have taken part in online training too, which all University staff are encouraged to do at the start of each academic year, involving fire safety and diversity.

Anna attended a number of training courses over the year, including “Mapping your Workflow” and “Effective Teams”, run by the Library in Training Team. She also attended meetings about Open Access and Scholarly Communications. She continued to be involved in Journal Co-ordination, the E-book group, attended meetings of the UL Events and Outreach Committee, co-organised sessions on Image Copyright and Planning Research Trips (part of combined SHSS & SAH graduate training series), and prepared material on working with special collections (print & MS) for Graduate showcase (March 2017).

Dawn has mainly concentrated on cataloguing this year, by attending the forum RDA: 3 Years Later, a lecture on BibFrame and the training course Specialist Cataloguing-Maps, Music and Kits. She also attended a Webinar in July about OpenAccess.

Clare attended sessions of the Historic Libraries Forum Annual Conference on “Impact: new audiences for historic collections” in November 2016.

Katharine attended a course entitled Software skills for Librarians, which consisted of four sessions in April 2017.

User Education



Science in Print

It was another successful year for Science in Print, with a total of 13 participants. The Michaelmas term saw Roger Gaskell and Anna Jones running 4 sessions on book production in the hand press period, which included a trip to the University Library’s Historical Printing and Rare Books Rooms. The Lent term saw sessions run by Drs. Sarah Bull and James Poskett on book production in the 19th and 20th centuries. These sessions allow graduate students and post-docs in HPS and other subjects to gain some hands-on experience of examining and handling books. The experience also generated a blog post from Anna Gielas, where she has reviewed the sessions from Lent term

[\(https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2017/07/14/reflections-on-science-in-print-ii/\)](https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2017/07/14/reflections-on-science-in-print-ii/).

Induction tours

These ran as normal at the start of the academic year. There were general tours and more focused ones aimed at specific student cohorts. All tours give incomers a chance to have a look round the library and an introduction to the services that we offer. We also provided introductions to the library on a one-to-one basis when required. These usually took place when new student or academic visitors joined the Department.

Outreach & Public Events

Displays

We have had a nice range of book displays in the special cases on Level one. These have been “Writing Science: interpreters, educators, scholars” (November 2016-April 2017), which exhibited material on a wide range of topics by women who were scholars, educators and interpreters of scientific information from the mid-18th to the early-20th centuries, and “...it is not difficult to define a Bird” (April-June 2017), featuring the British Museum postcards and books relating to ornithology.

Our final display of the year “Staging the History of Science: an exhibit in three acts” was prepared by Julia Ostmann and Alona Bach, two of the Department’s MPhil students. The display explores theatrical representations of three significant themes in the history of science - Astronomy, Newtonianism and Radioactivity - by juxtaposing theatrical scripts and memorabilia alongside texts from the Whipple's special collections that expound the related scientific ideas. The display was launched at the beginning of June with a special evening event featuring staged readings from some of the plays.

Online versions of our book displays can be seen on our website: <http://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays>

In September 2016 our theme for Open Cambridge was space travel, and the Old Library saw a display of works dating from the 17th to the 20th century, covering globes and orreries, studies of the sun, moon and planets, and exploring ideas of life on Mars and interplanetary travel. For the Science Festival in March 2017, Clare also represented the Library with a display of some lesser known items in our collections at the “Why is this here?” event, and with a selection of microscopy books for a family activity day, themed “Customised and Invented”, both held in the Whipple Museum.



Schools sessions and visits

Clare and Anna continued to work with the Museum Learning Co-ordinator, Rosanna Evans, to deliver a number of sessions of the now well-developed “Medicine and Anatomy through time” and “Darwin, Evolution and the *The Origin of Species*” workshops. Clare also hosted a session on “Women in Astronomy” for students visiting from Kutztown University, Pennsylvania, in January 2017. Anna welcomed the Graduate Trainees from Cambridge libraries on their annual visit to the Whipple in March, and in July, hosted a group for a “Tea and Talk” session in the Museum on Robert Whipple as a collector.

Blog

Our blog has continued to grow over the year. Although a little behind schedule, we completed the A-Z posts focusing on items from the special collections in December 2016, providing a nice starting point to delve into our collections. Other posts have discussed the cataloguing of the new acquisition of postcards produced by the British Museum, books displayed at the 1951 Festival of Britain and the collection of science education pamphlets. Two posts were related to the work of Robert Fludd: our recent acquisition of his *Philosophia Moysaica*, and Fludd’s influence on Robert Hooke.

