

Annual Report

2014-15

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The Whipple happily combines an internal and outward focus in the communities it serves, and there were several opportunities to develop our activities in both areas in 2014-15. We began the year in buoyant mood with the launch of the Library's new logo, which soon began to turn heads in the Department and beyond when sported on the generously proportioned Whipple Library canvas bag, which we commissioned in time for the October intake. Bags soon reached across the globe (see below) and the first batch sold out during the year. (If you missed out, fear not, more stock is available in 2015-16!) Sincere thanks to Dr Ruth Horry for her help in realising the logo in a form that worked not only for screen printing, but which we've been able to use in many other contexts throughout the year.



A major theme for libraries in Cambridge at large in 2014-15 was 'library anthropology', a movement inspired by the application of adapted ethnographic techniques to examine how people use library and other work spaces with a view to developing services that better suit their current needs and habits. The ultimate aim is a further shift away from libraries as, primarily, repositories of collections in favour of fashioning creative work spaces where people engage with a range of technologies and resources in their pursuit of learning. The Department's loyalty to Whipple's original vision to integrate historical material into modern teaching and research means that the gap between our collections and the needs of those studying History and Philosophy of Science has never seemed large. However, the context of this wider debate has been instructive as we've further developed our user education and outreach activities and looked at examples of good practice elsewhere, and we were pleased to receive good feedback after hosting a site visit by a team from the first international 'UXLib' conference held in Cambridge in March 2015.¹

¹ <http://uxlib.org/>

User education

The reform of the Department's Graduate Induction programme for October 2014 brought a welcome opportunity to integrate information about library and other academic-related services at the Whipple and UL into the welcome meetings for new MPhil and PhD students in the first week of term, and the Library benefited from increased engagement with the large MPhil cohort in particular throughout the year as a result.



Building on the success of its first iteration in 2013-14, the Library's 'Science in Print' series was offered again in slightly revised form in the Michaelmas Term, presented by Roger Gaskell, Anna Jones and Jim Secord. Over the course of the five sessions we looked at a wide range of material from the Whipple and University Library collections, visited a replica hand press, and considered how to apply the study of the physicality of books in other contexts.

Once again places were booked up quickly, with a good balance of academic stages and backgrounds, and participants went on to use the experience they'd gained in examined work and elsewhere.



The Library was pleased to assume responsibility for organising a pilot programme of study skills sessions during the year with funding from the School under its Teaching Associate Scheme. The sessions were targeted at undergraduates during the pilot, and in addition to general advice on essay writing for students new to HPS (including those studying History and Ethics of Medicine in the BBS Tripos), we also experimented with one-to-one writing support for students seeking help with stylistic issues when writing longer pieces of work such as the Part II dissertation. Feedback from the sessions was positive, and we look forward to developing the offering in future years.

IT & other initiatives

In a major project following in the wake of affiliation to the University Library in 2013, Whipple Library staff machines were transferred to the UL network over the summer of 2015, enabling us to collaborate more effectively with colleagues at the Main UL over shared projects. A display screen was installed on Level 2 to enable us to promote new events and activities in attractive ways to people passing through on their way to the Reading Room, and a dedicated 'Non-Print Legal Deposit' terminal was installed on Level 4 to provide access to academic content deposited at the British Library by publishers in e-only format, following the e-Legal Deposit Act of April 2014.

Library staff took a joint role in transferring the Department's teaching sites formerly hosted on CamTools to the new University Moodle environment over the spring and summer in time for its launch in the new academic year 2015. The result is a more user-friendly environment that can accommodate a wider range of file formats than its predecessor, and that encourages online discussion between course members. In further joint ventures between librarians across Cambridge, an online 'LibGuide' for 'History and Philosophy of Science' was prepared to provide collection-level information (encompassing hard copy and online material) for those new to the subject,² and the Whipple was delighted to submit an entry to the new 'Spacefinder' mobile site which describes work spaces around Cambridge according to their primary characteristics to enable people to find their preferred environment.³

Staffing, activities & development

The main staffing news of the year centres around the happy tidings of the birth of Jax Kingham to Dawn Moutrey (Library Assistant) and her husband Simon on 20 January 2015. Dawn began her maternity leave at the start of the month, and we look forward to welcoming her back in January 2016. We were delighted to welcome Clare Matthews to the team as Library Assistant in the meantime, and Clare has made a significant contribution to the Library and Department through her efficient grasp of Moodle and her enthusiasm for promoting the collections in interesting ways, inspired by her voluntary work for University of Cambridge Museums. Permanent staff Anna Jones (Librarian) and Agnieszka Lanucha (Library Assistant & Senior Clerical Assistant) were also joined by a lively and committed band of lunchtime and evening invigilators who are invaluable in enabling us to sustain extended opening hours during full term: Leah Astbury, Riana Betzler, Andrew Buskell, Rosanna Evans and James Hall.



In the absence of a libraries@cambridge conference in 2015 the team arranged its own development day with visits to the Wellcome Library and the Royal College of Physicians in London on 3 July. This proved an excellent opportunity to make connections with staff working with other collections of interest to the history and philosophy of science and to learn from the

² <http://libguides.cam.ac.uk/hps>

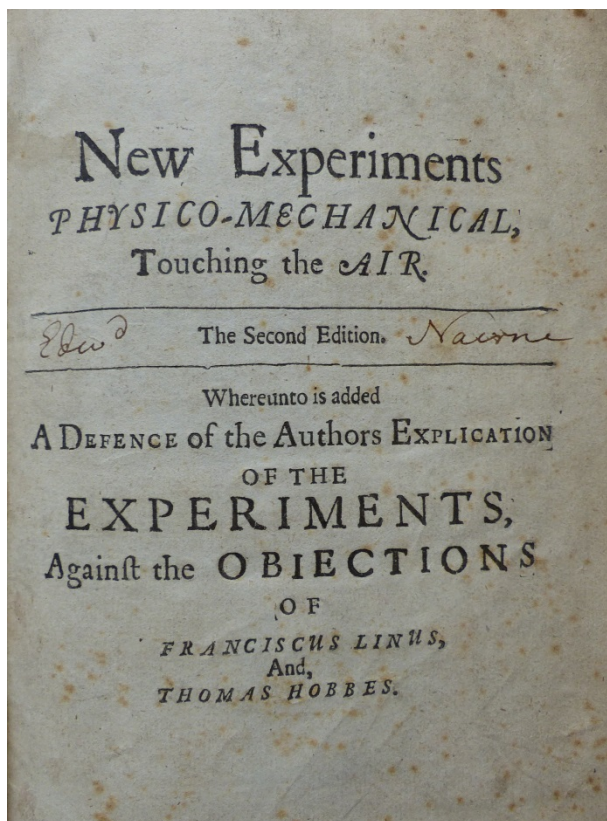
³ <https://spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk/>

example of their use of space (notably the Wellcome Collection's 'Reading Room'⁴) and exhibition planning (notably the forthcoming John Dee exhibition at the RCP⁵). Thanks to Ross Macfarlane (Wellcome Library) and Katie Birkwood (RCP) for their time and warm welcome.

The Librarian represented the Whipple as a delegate at the following conferences during the year: the Historic Libraries Forum annual meeting on fundraising for special collections projects at Brunel University on 20 November 2014, 'From Cabinet to Internet: Digitising Natural History and Medical Manuscripts' at the Linnean Society, 27-28 April 2015, and 'Archival Afterlives' at the Royal Society on 2 June 2015. Within Cambridge she contributed to the Acquisitions work package as part of the 'Cambridge Libraries Connect' project to select a new library management system for University for implementation by September 2016, and was elected as a staff representative to the Cambridge University Library Syndicate for 2 years from January 2015. Other members of the team enjoyed visits to the University Library, Central Sciences Library and Zoology Library, and attended training on Moodle (VLE), Falcon (content management system), RDA/AACR2 (cataloguing), and using special collections material in exhibitions.

Acquisitions

604 printed items were catalogued and added to the collections in 2014-15, and a further 71 ebook titles were purchased by the Whipple for the use of all current University students and staff. We were fortunate to make a number of significant additions to our special collections during the year due to a combination of donation and purchase:



- Medical books from Prof. Karl Figlio
A generous donation of 11 medical titles (in 19 volumes) from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to be catalogued when binding and conservation work is completed.
- Historical science books from the estate of Mr Michael Clarke
The Library was offered its choice from the library of the late Michael Clark, a former chemistry teacher and collector, and was pleased to accept 15 titles that significantly enhance our existing broad collections, including a copy of Thomas Sprat's *History of the Royal-Society of London* (1667) with frontispiece, and a second edition of Robert Boyle's *New Experiments Physico-Mechanical Touching the Air* (1662), signed by Edward Nairne.

- Collected works of Laplace and Lagrange, and annotated books from the library of G.H. Darwin

⁴ <http://wellcomecollection.org/readingroom>

⁵ <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/events/scholar-courtier-magician-lost-library-john-dee>

Thanks to the diligence of members of the Department the Library was able to take advantage of the sale of two immaculate late-nineteenth-century sets of the collected works of eighteenth-century mathematicians Pierre-Simon Laplace (1749-1827) and Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736-1813), and a selection of annotated books on a range of topics owned by the astronomer George Howard Darwin (1845-1912). The latter will be the subject of a future book display in the Library.

- Robert Fludd's *Philosophia moysaica* (Gouda, 1638)

We are grateful to the Whipple Fund for generously funding the purchase of Fludd's *Philosophia moysaica* from the library of the late historian of medicine, Walter Paget, which we hope will be of use in teaching in due course.

Events & outreach activity

We were pleased to be able to increase our offering of public events and outreach activities in 2014-15, thanks in large part to assistance from our colleagues in the Museum. Building on the success of our first effort in 2013, we offered another drop-in event as part of Open Cambridge on Friday 12 September, attracting 43 visitors, and participated in a combined leaflet highlighting library-related events over the weekend. This was followed in May by the Library's first involvement in 'Museums at Night', an evening event for adults where visitors are invited to 'meet the researchers' who've worked on various of the objects on display. Clare Matthews prepared and was on hand to interpret a comprehensive display of books on microscopy from the Turner Collection, and Anna Jones introduced New Gallery visitors to Robert Hooke's *Micrographia*, which celebrated its 350th birthday in 2015.

In a joint venture with the Museum's Learning Coordinator, the Library became involved in the UCM Post-16 learning programme to develop an education session for schools using material from the Whipple collections to illustrate topics linked to the National Curriculum for Science at Key Stage 4 (ages 17-18). Our 'Origin of Species' session, which considers the wider context of Darwin's publication, was offered twice in 2014-15 (once to a Year 12 school group and once to the Mature Students' Open Day) and can be repeated for future bookings on demand.

Clare helped maintain the tradition of in-house Library displays with a special feature of printed accounts of previous solar eclipses to coincide with the solar eclipse over the UK in March (better than the real thing which was largely covered by cloud), and a summer display of books on microscopy from the Turner Collection. Clare also collaborated with 2014-15 MPhil student Claire Sabel to produce a thought-provoking display on 'Colour Science', including a set of tintometer slides borrowed from the Museum, and the fruitful extension of an idea first developed by Claire in an MPhil essay. A Whipple Library 'treasures' event on the afternoon of the students' end of year party in June provided a last opportunity for those who hadn't managed to use items from our printed special collections during their time in the Department to see some of the best examples before they left Cambridge.

In addition to the annual visit of Graduate Trainees from Cambridge libraries in July, we also hosted a visit from the UL Readers Services Entrance Hall team in August in a welcome effort to help improve their understanding of the services offered in affiliated libraries.

Anna Jones
Librarian