

Annual Report

2015-16

A year in retrospect

On the face of it, 'business as usual' seems a modest way to summarise 12 months in the life of an institution, but when 'business' is as varied as it is for us here at the Whipple Library, then the entertainment value of the annual report has greater promise. We were glad that the breadth of the Library's contribution to supporting the teaching and research work of the Department was recognised in the Teaching and Learning Review in May, and thanks to all who also shared their thoughts on how the service supports their needs and how it might be improved through our snap user experience survey in February, and via the usual Departmental questionnaires. This feedback is crucial to ensuring that 'business as usual' remains fit for purpose and not hampered by inappropriate assumptions.



Thanks to good guidance from colleagues in UIS during the pilot project and cooperation from staff across the Department the full implementation of Moodle as the new online environment to store teaching support materials (including reading lists, lecture handouts and scanned material for restricted distribution) from October 2015 happened smoothly. With a more user-friendly interface than its predecessor Moodle also reports on the number of downloads from each 'course', so we're now able to monitor with slightly more confidence how our practice to scan readings from copyrighted material on reading lists where an e-version is not otherwise available relates to usage as determined by circulation figures. Please see the summary table at the end of this report for further information.

User education

Induction tours for students and visitors new to the Department were offered in the first week of full term in a similar pattern to recent years, including some general drop-in sessions and some targeted to specific user groups, and attended, in total, by 96 people. An innovation was an informal 'Whipple Treasures' session where staff offered brief introductions to notable items from

the special collections as a prelude to the start of year party. This was both well attended and well received, and a reminder of the power of the original to inspire and entertain.

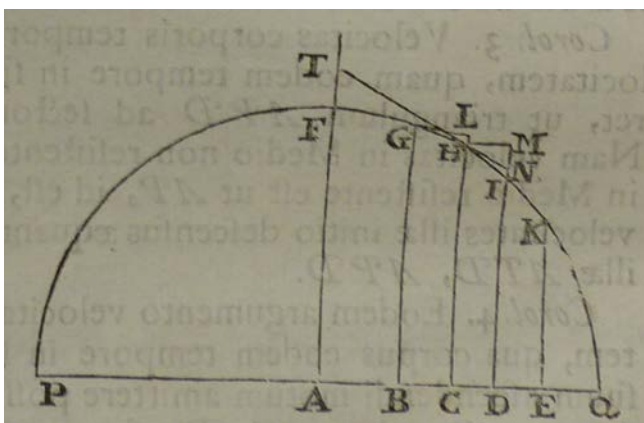
School Teaching Associate Scheme

For the second year running the Library coordinated a programme of study skills sessions funded by a grant from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Teaching Support Fund, and delivered by a variety of experienced graduate students, postdocs and supervisors in the Department. The programme seeks to help students make a smooth transition to HPS from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, and in 2015-16 included separate essay writing workshops for Part IB, Part II and HEM students, a session on effective reading for HPS, and a series of one-to-one writing supervisions for Part II students preparing Primary Source essays in the Lent Term and dissertations in Easter.

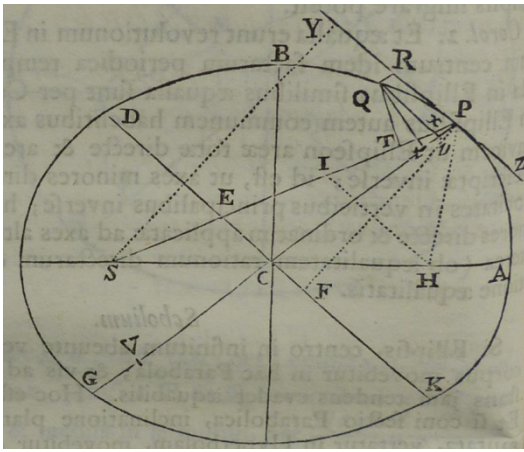


Science in Print

Our popular seminar looking at techniques of book production and why bibliography matters expanded in 2015-16 to become two sub-series, one focusing on the hand-press period (4 sessions in the Michaelmas Term, including one in the Historical Printing Room at the University Library, led by Roger Gaskell and Anna Jones) and one on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (3 sessions in the Lent Term, led by Drs Sarah Bull and James Poskett). Both attracted a healthy 20 participants, limited only by the practicalities of guaranteeing everyone hands-on access to the books on display.



Room capacity very nearly flawed us for the first of two special events offered under the Science in Print banner during the year, a lecture by Roger Gaskell on 'The Scientific Woodcut: A 300 year history'. The promise of a new discovery throwing light on the printing of diagrams in the 1713 Cambridge edition of



Newton's *Principia* kept a rapped audience enthralled until the closing moment when the very woodblocks used for two of the diagrams in the text were revealed, specially couriered for the occasion by the Graduate Trainee at Trinity College Library, where Roger had recently found them in a box of blocks cut to illustrate work by Roger Cotes, the editor of the 1713 *Principia*, and used in the posthumous *Harmonia Mensurarum* (1722). On several counts it was an occasion to remember, and we thank Roger and Trinity College Librarian Dr Nicolas Bell very much indeed for sharing these fresh discoveries with us so generously.

The second extra-curricular treat came by way of a fieldtrip to the Cory Library at the Botanic Garden on 8 June, timed for the convenience of our MPhil members, and affording us all a chance to sample the garden's early summer delights on route to the Lodge. There we were guided through some of the Library's significant but little known treasures of botanical and related works by Librarian Jenny Sargent, providing plenty of contrasts and complements to the material examined from the Whipple and UL collections earlier in the series.



School Graduate Training

In a new initiative organised by the School Librarians for Arts and Humanities, and Humanities and Social Sciences a programme of cross-disciplinary training for graduate students in both Schools was offered in the Michaelmas Term. Anna Jones co-presented with Libby Tilley from English a session on 'Managing Information', which was well-attended by HPS MPhil students, and the other topics covered in the series (Effective literature searching and Managing your online presence) were also promoted during the Whipple induction sessions. Joint ventures such as these to pool professional expertise and maximise the impact of training sessions is one of the specific aims of the Cambridge University Library affiliation project, so we were glad to be involved.

Outreach & public events

Our outreach activities were heavily influenced by two significant anniversaries in 2015-16. We continued to celebrate 350 years since the publication of Robert Hooke's *Micrographia* in 2015 into the new academic year, resuming with a display of microscopy books set out in the Museum's New Gallery for Open Cambridge on Friday 11 September. This was followed a month later by a unique opportunity to host a workshop for the AHRC-funded research project, 'Making Visible: The visual and graphic practices of the early Royal Society', based at CRASSH. Participants enjoyed a full morning's showcase of book illustration with a particular focus on intaglio techniques under the expert guidance of practitioner and historian of engraving, Ad Stijnman, using examples from the Whipple and Trinity College Library collections. After lunch, a select few were able to try out engraving using sections of Hooke's flea as a template – even more difficult than it looks!



600 years of Cambridge University Library

The earliest surviving records of donations to the University Library in Cambridge in the wills of William Loring and William Hunden, both dated March 1416, were the spur to a year of 600th anniversary celebrations at the UL through 2016. The opening of the flagship *Lines of Thought* exhibition on 10 March 2016 marked the public start of the campaign,¹ but Whipple staff had been involved behind the scenes since the previous summer since Anna was invited to curate the history of anatomy section, and the Museum lent some objects for display.



Anatomy became by default the topic of 2016, spurring an event on 'Visualizing medicine', jointly with the Museum for Science Festival on 11 March, and later a book display for the cases on Level 1 on anatomy textbooks in the Whipple collections, prepared by Dawn. In a separate development, Clare worked with Rosanna Evans in her new role as the Museum's part-time Learning Coordinator to compile a session for schools on 'Medicine and Anatomy through time' which uses illustrated material from the Library collections as part of a thought-provoking tour through medical techniques and representations from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

¹ <https://exhibitions.lib.cam.ac.uk/linesofthought/>

Like the session for Key Stage 5 on 'Darwin, Evolution and the *The Origin of Species*', developed the previous year, and offered again in 2015-16, the anatomy session is proving popular, and is a fruitful example of how creative linking of the Library and Museum collections can inspire a variety of audiences.

Besides face-to-face events we also developed our engagement with remote audiences from the summer of 2016 with an alphabetical series of blog posts highlighting well and lesser known items from the special collections.² Special thanks are due to all the members of the Library team who contributed. Our collective enthusiasm turned the project into a larger undertaking than we'd originally planned, since we all found more to say than a few lines for a weekly post. However, while the complete alphabet did spill over beyond the end of the academic year, what we lost in terms of the schedule we gained in terms of the end product, since over the course of the 26 posts we will have a substantial body of writing and images to generate interest in the collections for some time to come.

Visits

In 2015-16 we hosted visits to the Library from participants in the BSHS student conference held in the Department in early January, the annual perambulation of Graduate Trainees from Cambridge libraries in February, and a return visit from Phoebe Harkins and Ross Macfarlane of the Wellcome Library following the Whipple team's staff development day there the previous summer. Anna and Clare also hosted a group from 'Cambridge Celebrates Age' for a show-and-tell session in the Museum Main Gallery looking at highlights from Robert Whipple's original book bequest.

Collections

The Library incorporated 485 items into the open shelf and special collections in 2015-16 through a combination of donation and purchase. Significant among the former was the arrival of 36 books from the estate of the late Professor Sir Robert Edwards on a range of topics related to his research into IVF treatment, and we are grateful to Prof Edwards's executors for giving us the opportunity to select particular items of interest from his personal library.



Significant among our purchases was Grace Chisholm-Young's personal copy of the book she authored jointly with her husband, W.H. Young. *The Theory of Sets of Points* (1906), marked up for a subsequent edition, and secured for the Library with assistance from the Whipple Fund.

Cambridge Philosophical Society archive

In December 2015 the Library took temporary custody of the archive of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. The CPS administration had occupied premises in the Arts School on Bene't Street for several decades, but were required to vacate these as part of major building and renovation work on the north range of the New Museums Site. While most of the CPS's library was moved into dark store, it was important to offer convenient access to the archive in

² <https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2016/04/19/whipple-library-a-z-exploring-the-rich-diversity-of-our-collections/>

anticipation of a new history of the Society to celebrate its bicentenary in 2019, and the Whipple was in the fortunate position to be able to offer good reader facilities to enable this.

Displays

The Level 1 display space was used from February to April 2016 for an exhibition prepared by Clare of material formerly owned by G.H. Darwin, purchased by the Library in 2015 (online version here: <http://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/george-darwin>). An example of a volvelle and manuscript notes from Robert Hooke's copy of Fermat's *Varia opera mathematica* were used as part of Boris Jardine's display of paper instruments in the cases between the Main and New Galleries in the Museum during the Michaelmas Term.

Staff matters

There were a number of comings and goings amongst the Library staff during the year. Dawn Kingham returned from maternity leave in January to work three days a week, and we were glad that Clare Matthews was able to stay on to cover the remaining two days of the Library Assistant post, and a further two days on a temporary basis to work on special collections projects. Rosanna Evans did her last Library lunchtime shift on 29 April before taking up the post of Museum Learning Coordinator, and Aga Lanucha also moved on to a different desk in the Department when she took up the post of Senior Accounts Clerk from 1 August. Our extended term-time hours depend on a dedicated team of invigilators from the HPS PhD cohort, and in 2015-16 this comprised Annie Thwaite, Meira Gold, Tillmann Taape and Riana Betzler. We were glad of additional assistance from recent HPS graduates Dannielle Cagliuso and Sarah Binney to provide lunchtime cover and help with data upgrade projects over the summer.

Training & Professional development

After a year's break the annual libraries@cambridge conference for all staff working in libraries was revived in January 2016 with a day of presentations and workshops at the Computer Laboratory, for which Clare and Aga jointly prepared a poster describing the Whipple's outreach work. Clare and Anna attended a workshop hosted by the Historic Libraries Forum at Christ's College in December 2015 on practical conservation techniques, and Anna participated in the inaugural forum day organised by the new Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning in April 2016. Seeking to spread the method, Anna offered some reflections on teaching historical bibliography using collections to a 'train the trainer' event run for Cambridge librarians in June, and benefited hugely from the first week-long Bodleian Library Printing Summer School in Oxford from 27 June to 1 July, discovering the hard way that type-setting is not as easy as it looks!

Reaching out at the Whipple

This poster is based on recent outreach activities, involving staff from the Whipple Library in partnership with the Whipple Museum and University of Cambridge events. The Library has collaborated with Museum staff and research students in the HPS Department to bring our special collections alive in a variety of ways. The aims were to make connections between the Whipple Library and Museum, and to promote our collections among staff, students and the wider public.

Museums at Night

May 15th 2015

Museums at Night is a national initiative encouraging visitors to engage with collections in different ways. We collaborated with the Whipple Museum to promote a particular aspect of the Whipple's collections - microscopy, to coincide with the 350th anniversary of the publication of Hooke's *Micrographia*.

An exhibition on 'Microscopy in Print' showcased 19th and 20th century books reflecting the popularisation of the microscope.

For the event, we expanded our display space to show a range of items from the Library's collection, including handbooks, journals, children's literature, and specialised studies of the scientific applications of the microscope.

In the Whipple Museum, we also displayed 2 copies of the *Micrographia*, with the Librarian on hand to respond to any questions.

Open Cambridge

September 11th 2015

Open Cambridge was a 3 day celebration of Cambridge's history and heritage in which many of the libraries took part. In the Whipple, visitors could see a display on 'Colour Science', based on research done by one of the HPS Department's MPhil students into the study and analysis of colour. Items on display ranged from works of Boyle and Newton to late 19th century tests on perception and colour blindness, and also included a set of Tintometer slides for the measurement of colour from the Whipple Museum's collections.

In the Whipple Museum, visitors were encouraged to try out the handling collection of microscopes and slides. Some of the Library's books on popular microscopy were displayed alongside these to provide further context for the uses and enjoyment of these instruments.

The Origin of Species

At the Whipple Museum & Library

As part of the University of Cambridge Museums' Post-16 Learning package, the Whipple's Learning Coordinator has developed a session based on Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* and theories of evolution to link with the KS4 'Science in Society' curriculum. Bookings are open to groups of Year 12 students who explore the background and impact of Darwin's theory through activities which encourage them to engage with primary texts and unique objects such as Darwin's microscope.

A range of books from the Library's teaching and special collections are used during the sessions, and Library staff are on hand to help interpret and put them in context.

With thanks to our colleagues in the Whipple Museum.

Benefits & limitations

This was a great opportunity to collaborate with the Museum and to take part in a national event. Library staff had the opportunity to learn more about the collections in order to take on the roles of 'meet the researchers' and in responding to visitors' questions we discovered the interests of people from outside the academic department.

The limitations we found were largely down to the time commitment needed alongside our usual work, both in preparing the displays and in keeping the Library open after hours.

Benefits & limitations

This was a chance to physically connect the Library and Museum collections in both spaces, and to make our collections better known and accessible to those who may not have seen the Library otherwise. We were also able to showcase the research of one of our students through the colour display.

The event did not require a great deal of preparation, but as it took place during working hours, our staff could not be in both the Library and Museum to talk about the collections. Drawing visitors in through the Department to find us was also difficult and relied on well placed signs.

Benefits & limitations

In these sessions, the Library is able to collaborate with Museum colleagues who have access to funds for outreach work, meaning we can achieve more than we could with our own resources. They complement the work we do to promote teaching and research using our special collections within the Department and help bring the material to life for a younger audience—the researchers of the future.

Good preparation and materials are key, but the work of the Learning Coordinator at the Museum and a researcher paid to create the initial materials have meant the sessions can now be easily adapted and the Library staff have little new preparation to do. Scheduling needs to be managed to carefully avoid taking staff away at busy times, but the Learning Coordinator is very understanding and will only agree to convenient dates.

Whipple Library usage at a glance - 2015-16

Moodle usage			Book borrowing ¹			Other				
Moodle course	No. of students ²	No. of scans	No. of views	Borrowing category	No. of active users ³	No. of loans	Total no. of visits	Average no. of readers AM	Average no. of readers PM	Store requests
Part IB History of Science	53	51	597	Part IB	97 (94)	573 (659)	31215 (31107)	16.8	20.3	477 (377)
Part IB Philosophy of Science	54	26	1407	Part II	125 (105)	1414 (1568)				
Part II HPS (8 papers)	31	179	3142	Undergraduate (other)	29 (51)	135 (180)				
BBS History & Ethics of Medicine	5	21	191	Part III	20 (17)	469 (311)				
MPhil/Part III seminar	28/12 = 40	3	175	MPhil	76 (74)	1259 (1254)				
				Postgraduate (other)	15 (24)	42 (204)				
				PhD	87 (81)	664 (643)				
				Visitor	34 (53)	148 (349)				
				Senior Member	99 (85)	547 (535)				
				Teaching staff	19 (19)	385 (323)				
				Totals	601 (603)	5643 (6026)				

¹ 2014-15 figures in brackets for comparison

² No. of students sitting exam. HPS Moodle courses are open to all University members but only those sitting the exam can access material scanned under the CLA licence.

³ Includes members of other departments and faculties beyond HPS.