



Information Services Edinburgh Bits



The University of Edinburgh Library



This issue of BITS focuses on the many faces of the Library, and the multiple services it provides from its place in Information Services. For some – primarily students – the word ‘Library’ means the building in which they study, and the building which houses and lends books. For many in the University, who rarely visit library buildings, it is about the Digital Library with its array of electronic journals, e-books and databases delivered directly to the desk or laptop. The Library is also the place to turn to for help, through the new Information Services Helpdesks.

The Library also offers some specialised and emerging services. It is about putting research outputs and data in digital repositories so that they can be seen by other researchers all over the world. The Centre for Research Collections looks after and makes available the University’s rare books, archives and manuscripts, of particular importance to researchers and visitors.

This issue of BITS covers all these facets of the Library, and more. Yes, we do celebrate the redevelopment of the Main Library, and we also look at new resources in the Digital Library, new methods of accessing these, at new exhibitions of our iconic special collections, and at the Library as publisher.

Please get in touch with me (Sheila.Cannell@ed.ac.uk), or with the authors of the articles, if you want to pursue any of the topics in this special library edition of BITS.

Sheila Cannell (IS)

Inside

Ian Rankin reopens Main Library

Acclaimed writer recalls his student days here

Publishing to the world

A new repository service will be a showcase for Edinburgh research

Masterpieces and Darwin

The University shows off some of its most precious possessions

Imagine yourself in the Library Forum

Giant display screens could showcase your work

What to do with research data?

The University is reviewing how best to manage a precious resource



Ian Rankin reopens Main Library

Friends and users of the Main Library packed into its transformed Ground Floor in September to hear acclaimed crime-writer Ian Rankin describe his impressions of the Library during his undergraduate and postgraduate days at the University. He had found it a daunting place in the 1970s, and was surprised and pleased to see how the architects had managed to open up the Ground Floor, to make it feel much airier and lighter than it had been.

The Principal too was most enthusiastic about the great advance made in the Library's ability to support research and learning in the 21st century.

There are many features of the redevelopment which appeal to users, staff and visitors alike. The main Forum is a dramatic space which gives due honour and credit to the values and aspirations of academic work. The entrance is bright and light, and the mechanical turnstiles have been replaced with discreet glass barriers. The new Helpdesk at the rear is a one-stop service point for all library, IT and eLearning enquiries. Leading off the Forum are a purpose-built and sophisticated exhibition room, the High Use Books (HUB) collection, a variety of study spaces, and the Library cafe. Hovering above the Helpdesk are giant holopro screens which show still and video images.

The HUB brings together the Library's most popular books, making it quicker and easier for students to find the reference material they need. Neighbouring spaces offer a range of facilities to suit the variety of ways in which modern students work, alone or in groups, quietly or conversationally, with or without computers.

This reopening marked the half-way stage of the Main Library's redevelopment. The First Floor is due to reopen next Spring with a range of study facilities and a new training and videoconferencing suite. The Centre for Research Collections is already open on the Fifth and Sixth Floors and has proved to be immensely popular with researchers. The intervening floors will be transformed to the same high, modern standards over the coming years.

You can watch an interview with Ian Rankin at www.youtube.com/watch?v=W76P0IDTv90.

Sheila Cannell (IS)



Special Collections Projects at New College Library

In 2005 American alumnus Mr Robert Funk donated \$1,000,000 to the School of Divinity, spread over ten years, specifically to benefit the facilities for Special Collections at New College Library, and safeguard their future. A range of 'Funk funded' projects is now well under way, building on continuing investment by the University and additional financial support from the Church of Scotland.

Our headline project is the Pamphlets Cataloguing Project, a two-year project to complete the online cataloguing of the New College Library Pamphlets Collection. This contains over 30,000 items, the earliest dating from the 15th century, of which a large number came from ministers' libraries. The content is of great historical and literary value as well as being of theological interest. The project's progress can be followed at www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resbysub/funkproject

A new glass-enclosed reading area in the Library Hall dedicated to Special Collections use provides a secure environment in the direct sight-lines of service desk staff. A new service desk is being built to a high specification to match the existing historic library environment, part-funded by the Church of Scotland. Behind the scenes, new flooring in the stack areas helps to create a cleaner and lighter working environment, and a museum-grade 'book hoover' is tackling years of dust and dirt.

In the last few years the University has invested in safety and security for New College Library with the installation of swipe access, fire refuges and new fire escapes. The Funk Donation has allowed us to make strategic additions to enhance the secure environment for Special Collections, including a new security gate and a second fire safe in the Library Hall. In 2008 the Church of Scotland generously funded the installation of CCTV monitoring for the Special Collections reading area.

In 2007 funds from smaller donations and legacies enabled us to catalogue a new archival acquisition, the papers of Professor John McIntyre – a major figure in both the University and the Church of Scotland. Now in 2009 work is beginning on archival listings for the papers of Professor James Whyte, Professor Alec Cheyne and Tom Allen, funded by a major bequest of £25,000 received from the estate of Alec Cheyne.

Christine Love-Rodgers (IS)

New acquisitions in the Centre for Research Collections (CRC)

CRC has had a very active Summer, with lots of readers, particularly from overseas, and numerous enquiries and digitisation requests. We have launched the AHRC-funded Carmichael-Watson project to open up our key collection on Gaelic folklore. Planning has started for our *Masterpieces* exhibition (see later article).

Among all this activity we have managed to add several hundred new items to the collections through donation and purchase. We now list purchases on our website, at www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/collections/crc/services_information/Purchases

One particularly outstanding recent purchase is a collection of Scottish charters and documents, 1402-1699 (E.2009.33). These charters and documents – in Scots and Latin, many with fine seals – give a fascinating record of Scottish legal transactions, land ownership and religious affiliation from the medieval period to the end of the 17th century. It forms an excellent complement to our central manuscript collection, the David Laing manuscripts, which we plan to open up for research and discovery.

Highlights of the collection include:

- The earliest item, a charter in Scots dated 21st August 1402, with the seal of one Katherine Paxton; information about prominent women recorded in Scots is scarce in this early period.
- Item 14, a charter of Archbishop John Hamilton of St. Andrews dated 1556, a vast document which illustrates the power of the church in Scotland immediately before the Reformation.
- Item 57 – one of several with a Catholic recusant connection – a will in Scots, dated 1679, which gives instructions for arranging Mass for the deceased. As with several other documents, there is a Roslin connection.
- The legal document at no. 60, involving Archibald, Lord of the Isles, which is a staggering 4.57 metres long.

There are also royal charters of James VI, Charles I and William II. The areas covered range from the Borders to the Highlands, and many prominent Scottish family names appear – Hay of Yester, Sinclaire of Roslin, Scott of Harden. There are numerous possibilities for exploration here.

Joe Marshall (IS)



Main Library: group study pods

The redeveloped Main Library ground floor study space has 18 group study pods with another 12 to follow on the first floor in the Spring. These pods are semi-enclosed spaces where groups of between three and seven students can work together.

Nine of the pods are equipped with a computer, and have audio kit so that students can listen to the same sound output. At the moment the pods are first-come first-served, but we are monitoring their use to see if we should allow them to be booked.

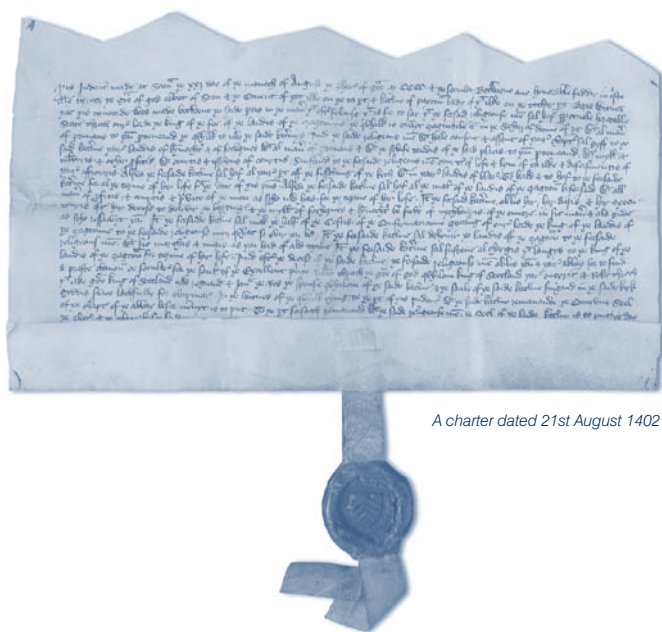
Group use we have encountered so far includes peer tutoring, MSc Chinese Studies students using the pod to use and discuss multiple sources (print and online) in a critical review exercise, first-year Medicine students working on a problem-based learning task, and senior Honours English and Classics students working on the text of *Troilus and Cressida*.

All these students commended the provision of the pods which, for them, fill a gap in terms of physical provision.

We hope that academics will recommend students use these study pods, and think about how they could be used for new styles of learning.

During the year, we will be evaluating their use closely with the help of Brian Martin and Hamish Macleod in the School of Education.

Sheila Cannell (IS)



A charter dated 21st August 1402

Presenting Edinburgh research **to the world**

From January 2010 the Library will offer the Research Publication Service (RPS) – a new service for researchers, to support the implementation of the University's new Open Access Publications Policy.

The Research Publication Service unites two existing University repositories (closed and open access) to promote a consistent deposit process for research outputs. The Publications Repository (PR) is a closed repository for use only in the University of Edinburgh, and is an internal University tool for research output management. The Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA) is a public open access repository, making content available through global searching mechanisms such as Google and thus increasing the visibility of our research.

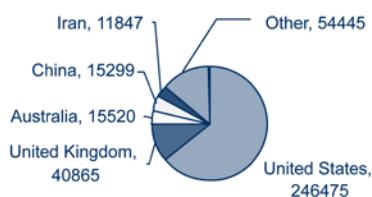
The University of Edinburgh Open Access Policy encourages the deposit of a full-text electronic copy of non-peer-reviewed research, particularly where this may be used for national assessments. Researchers (or their proxies, such as research administrators) will put their research outputs in the Publications Repository, and provide information about whether the research output can be made publicly available in ERA. The Library cataloguers will check for data quality and copyright clearance.

The major advantages of the Research Publication Service are:

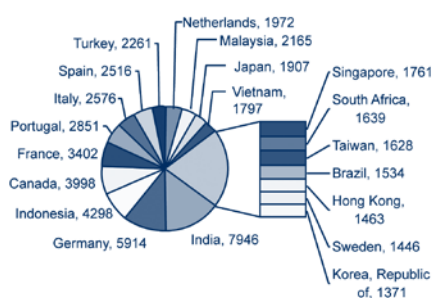
- it collects the University's entire research output into a single repository.
- it will ease the management of the successor to the RAE, and enable better direction and mentoring of research careers and overall outputs.
- it provides extensive reporting tools for both the closed and open access repositories to produce a variety of statistical presentations which can be easily incorporated into standard reports.
- it enables researchers to generate a publications list automatically for their own or their departmental web pages, built from the metadata records of items deposited in the closed access repository. This list will be dynamically updated.
- it digitally preserves all deposited items.
- it increases global visibility of both researchers and the University (see diagrams summarising the countries looking at Edinburgh's research outputs).

Eugen Stoica (IS)

Top 5 countries downloading content from the Edinburgh Research Archive during 2008



Other countries downloading content from the Edinburgh Research Archive during 2008



Open Access Week

Open Access Week is an international event to highlight the benefit to researchers and academics of depositing research papers in institutional repositories.

The University of Edinburgh will be participating in this event, with staffed displays around the University – at the Main Library in George Square, at the Swann Tower at The King's Buildings, and at the Chancellors Building at Little France.

Open Access Week runs from **19th to 23rd October**.

Further details are available in MyEd, and on the official website at www.openaccessweek.org/about-the-week

Philip Hunter (IS)

First reactions to the redeveloped Main Library

The quotes sprinkled through this issue of BITS – such as the one below – are some of the many comments the Library has received in similar vein in response to the new CRC and Ground Floor.

Those credited to *The Journal* are taken from the article at www.journal-online.co.uk/article/5801-a-room-of-ones-own

Nick Stroud (IS)

“In the past the library has been a hard library to love, even to like, but I suspect that is going to change in the future.”

The Journal

ERIS

ERIS is Enhancing Repository Infrastructure in Scotland, a two-year, JISC-funded project in which the University is leading a collaboration of nine primary partners from across Scotland to enhance repository activity.

Taking a different perspective

The ERIS project traces its origins back to the IRIScotland project, which took a 'top-down' approach across Scotland, focusing on repository managers and decision-makers to promote the adoption of open access policies in their institutions. The project also looked to provide options for Scottish HEIs who were not well placed to manage their own institutional repository.

ERIS aims to develop a more 'bottom-up' set of user-led and user-centric solutions (operational and technical) that will continue to promote the benefits of open access and will motivate researchers and academics to support open access policies. This will help improve deposit of their works in institutional repositories and facilitate the integration of repositories in research and institutional processes. This should further develop the IRIScotland outputs into a set of trusted cross-repository services, together providing access to a critical mass of Scottish research output.

To achieve this overall aim, ERIS will pay particular attention to the requirements of research pooling – an innovative cross-institutional way of conducting research widely credited with making a substantial contribution to Scotland's RAE 2008 successes.

At present the project is in its early stages, gathering information and establishing user communities that will influence the outcomes of the work. Technical development work starts in October, and we are undertaking a number of communications exercises across Scotland to report progress.

If you would like to know more about the project please contact James Toon (tel 513850, email james.toon@ed.ac.uk). The project has a blog which contains more information, details of events and latest news, at <http://eriscotland.wordpress.com>

James Toon (IS)

Library becomes publisher of Open Access Journals

Following a joint pilot project between the Library and the School of African Studies, the Library has launched a service which allows Schools to create, manage and publish open access journals.

The School of African Studies' new journal was launched in May 2009. The notice of the announcement and the journal itself can be accessed at www.criticalafricanstudies.ed.ac.uk/index.php/cas

The service is based on Open Journals Software (OJS), an open-source product which is already used to create 2,000 journals worldwide. OJS assists with every stage of the publishing process, from submissions through to online publication and indexing. All content published via OJS is indexed by Google which increases the potential use and readership of the material.

The Library would like to gauge demand for this kind of service. If you would be interested in publishing a journal this way, please email online.journals@lists.ed.ac.uk for more information.

Morag Watson (IS)

United Kingdom Research Reserve

UKRR is a collaborative collection strategy which saves HE libraries having to store and preserve low-use print research journals by guaranteeing long-term access via British Library Document Supply services and reading rooms. The full picture is provided at www.ukrr.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Library has been accepted for Phase 2 of the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) programme. This follows the success of the 18 month pilot Phase 1, which proved the concept in eight participating libraries.

The first UKRR Workshop was held in August, its purpose being to cover practical aspects. This included British Library matching procedures, the process of awarding de-duplication funds, scarcity checking, and an opportunity to meet the UKRR team and colleagues from the partner libraries.

The fifteen HEI members for Phase 2 are spread across the UK. The intention in Edinburgh is to begin with journal titles already identified as low use – those held in the former CASS (Collaborative Academic Store for Scotland) or the Library Research Annexe. JSTOR print-equivalent titles will also be submitted.

We see UKRR becoming one of the buttresses of the UK's research infrastructure, a 21st century way of giving researchers direct and timely access to the information they need to stay at the forefront of their field.

Margaret Dowling (IS)

“an institution that competes with the best of its peers”

Masterpieces – the University's particular treasures

The Library is organising a small but spectacular exhibition to celebrate the transformation and re-emergence of its Exhibition Room.

Masterpieces will be exactly that – 17 of the most significant and iconic items from the heart of the University's Special Collections.

In early November two very large exhibition display cases will be installed in the Ground Floor Exhibition Room. These have been designed specially for the University by Goppion, the Italian exhibition case manufacturers. The cases are made of steel and glass, and measure 4.5m x 2.3m x 1.1m – a fabulous new resource for the University.

The opening exhibition will feature a range of themes each illustrated by a small number of beautiful objects. For example, the *Scottish Firsts* theme will have an 11th century psalter which is the earliest surviving Scottish book; the Aberdeen Breviary which is the finest surviving copy of the first substantial Scottish book; and the only copy in Scotland of the first book to be printed in Gaelic, a Gaelic Liturgy which came to us from the Clement Littil collection.

Other themes will include *Edinburgh and its University*, *Around the World*, *Great Books of the Renaissance*, and *The Book Beautiful*. One of the exhibits, the bronze statue of a horse, has never been seen before in the Library.

Masterpieces opens on 11th December 2009 and runs for three months.

Jacky MacBeath (IS)

"We have something that is not just state of the art, but a place that will make students more creative, happier, and more productive in their work."

Darwin in Edinburgh

The newly-refurbished Talbot Rice Gallery celebrates this Darwinian year with two prestigious exhibitions which open this month.

A metallic wall has been specially constructed for *Darwin's Edinburgh* in the Georgian Room of the Gallery. Sixteen metres long and three metres high, it is constructed with a revolutionary new material for an exhibition – an aluminium composite sheet with a silver finish.

This remarkable wall will contain a sequence of paintings, photographs and other objects to illustrate Darwin's progress from his arrival in Edinburgh to study medicine, through a range of highly significant influences, to the publication of *Origin of Species* and his status as one of the greatest scientists the world has ever known.

Darwin in Edinburgh leads through to the second exhibition, *An Entangled Bank*.

Charles Darwin came to Edinburgh in 1825, aged 16, following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps to study medicine at the best medical school in Britain. However – and perhaps happily! – he found the lectures dull and the clinical aspects (operations without anaesthetics) distressing. During his

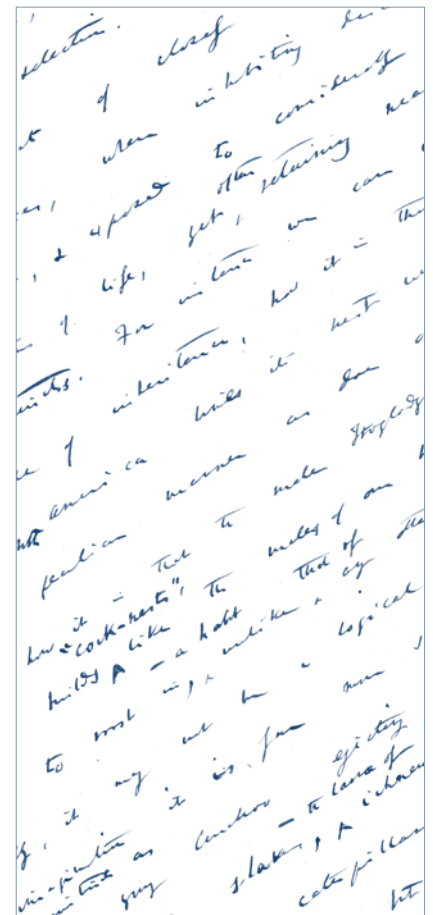
second year he was therefore increasingly diverted by his interests in natural history, and his membership of a student group called the Plinian Society. In 1827 he abandoned his medical studies and left Edinburgh for Cambridge.

In those two years, however, Edinburgh had a tremendous impact on Darwin. Apart from his long seaside explorations with marine life expert Robert Grant, he was impressed by some of his lecturers, by the Edinburgh landscape, by the student societies he joined, and by the University's natural history museum, at the time second only to the British Museum in the quality of its collections. He also relished the intellectual freedom he found in Edinburgh, which was rather more liberal than Oxford or Cambridge.

The exhibitions reflect all these influences, which moved Darwin away from medicine and towards natural history and his permanent place as one of the greatest minds in science.

The exhibitions open on 24th October and their final day is 12th December. The Gallery is open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

Laura Macpherson (IS)



You can add to the **artistic impact of the Main Library Forum!**

One of the most striking new features that people see as they enter the Main Library is the panel of giant 'holopro' display screens suspended above the Helpdesk.

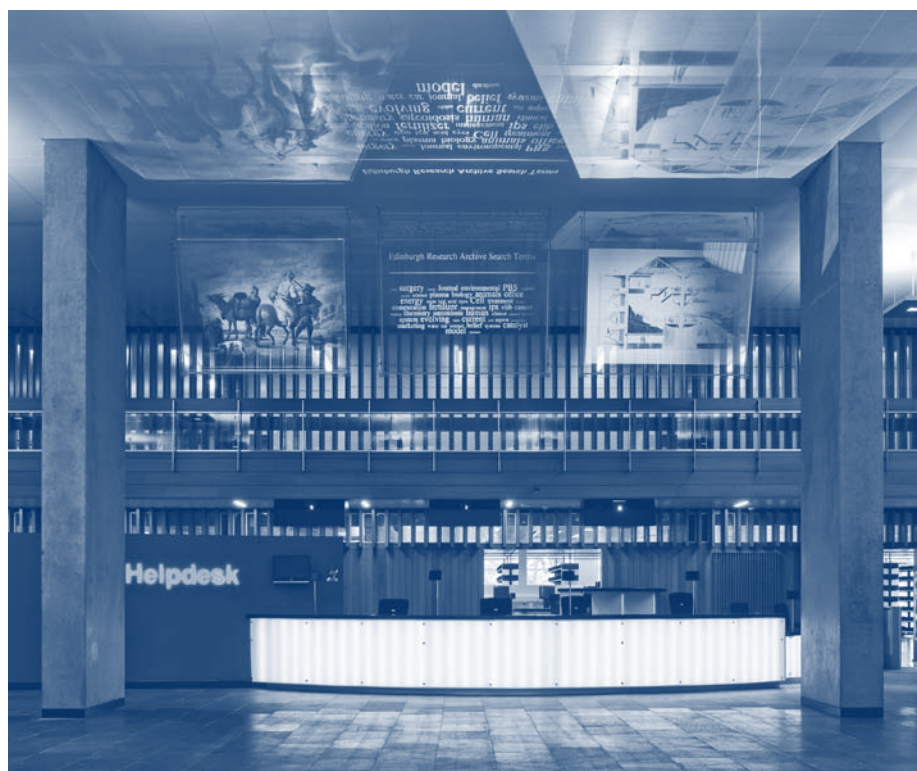
Since the Ground Floor reopened we have been showing still images of objects from the University's Special Collections on these screens, along with innovative word clouds captured dynamically from searches in the Library Catalogue and Edinburgh Research Archive (see page 9), and video from the Summer Graduation ceremonies.

We would like the University to regard these screens as an open resource. Do you have any original still or video images which you would like to show off to the general Library audience? Our aim is to use this stunning facility much as one uses an art gallery, to show off work of which the University can be particularly proud, and which highlights aspects of its innovative teaching and research.

We definitely exclude advertising and openly-promotional material, and there is no audio facility (this is a Library!), but within those restrictions if you have images to show – or requests for particular displays – please email N.Stroud@ed.ac.uk.

We plan to hold a competition in December to encourage students to create imaginative content for these screens.

Sheila Cannell (IS)



“CRC’s seminar and reading rooms provide a state-of-the-art setting for research and teaching. It is well on its way to becoming an internationally-recognised centre for advanced scholarship and learning.”

Art in the **Main Library**

Several art projects were incorporated in the redevelopment of the Main Library.

There is one new commission, *Interleaved*, by Alec Finlay. This takes the form of a series of short poems or ‘mesostics’ inspired by 100 books found in the Main Library. The poems are on the shelf-ends in the High Use Book collection (the HUB) and on a series of bookmarks that you may come across in books borrowed from the collections; if you find one of these please feel free to keep it!

The most prominent mesostic is at the entrance to the Library (see front page), and is based on the phrase “Thair to reman”; this is the inscription in all the books given to “the toun of Edinburgh” in 1580 by Clement Litill, which formed the nucleus of the Library when the University was founded in 1583.

We have displayed a number of paintings from the University’s art collections in the Forum, including some of the original portraits, and some paintings dating from the time when the Main Library building was opened in 1967.

There is information about these art projects at www.is.ed.ac.uk/mlrp/latestprog/newsarticles/Art.html

Fiona Boyd (IS)

“WOW – this puts EUL in the Premier League!”

“every element exudes calm and space”

New e-Resources at Edinburgh University Library

The Library's collection of electronic resources has increased substantially across all subject areas during the last year. Additions range from individual electronic books, through large databases, to e-journals, including backfiles. They are too numerous to give a complete listing here, but the following gives some idea of the scope – and they can all be found in the Library Catalogue.

e-books purchased or licensed include:

- The full-text of all Royal Society of Chemistry books and book series published in 2009
- Aitken's Diseases of sheep (4th ed, 2007)
- Andrew's Bovine medicine (2nd ed, 2003)
- Oxford handbook of tropical medicine (3rd ed, 2008)
- Oxford textbook of surgery (2008)
- Pickard's manual of operative dentistry (8th ed, 2003)
- Referex Engineering e-books collection

As well as very many individual e-journals titles, we have purchased the Lippincott Williams & Wilkins online journal backfile upgrade, the Wiley backfile for some Informatics journals, the Environmental Science backfile from Elsevier, and the Journal of Fluid Mechanics Archive.

New databases include:

- Patrologia Latina, a key tool for researchers in Classics and early Church History.
- The Making of Modern Law, the world's most comprehensive full-text collection of British Commonwealth and American legal treatises from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- ARTstor, a digital library of nearly one million images in the areas of art, architecture, the humanities and social sciences, with a set of tools to view, present and manage images for research and pedagogical purposes.
- CAB Abstracts, a database which indexes journal articles, conference papers and book chapters in the areas of agriculture, animal and veterinary sciences, environmental sciences, human health, food and nutrition, leisure and tourism, microbiology and parasitology, and plant sciences. The CAB Abstracts database now includes full text of material which can be hard to find and which is not usually available online.
- State Papers Online (part 2), a collection which covers the Tudors: Henry VIII to Elizabeth I, 1509–1603: State Papers Foreign, Ireland, Scotland, Borders and registers of the Privy Council.

Frances Abercromby (IS)

eJournals@Edinburgh

The new eJournals service was launched in July, and subsequently refined in response to feedback; work on this will continue.

The eJournals portal offers title-level searching, and a number of options to browse title lists – by title, subject, journal publisher or aggregator service. There are two options for displaying the results:

- the default 'table view' includes links to information about date coverage, and to the full text.
- the alternative 'detail view' breaks out the information about holdings, as well as including links to full text.

You can switch between these, depending on your preference.

The titles listed in the portal appear in the Library Catalogue and in Aquabrowser. Searching the Catalogue will provide information about both print and electronic holdings of a title, from one search.

findit@edinburgh facilitates access to journal articles, linking to the full text of an eJournal from article references in citation databases (such as Web of Knowledge). We will be enhancing this service to offer alternative sources for articles: the University has extensive holdings of eJournals, but cannot carry every single one. Where a title, or an individual volume, is not held electronically, **findit@edinburgh** offers the option to search the Catalogue to discover if a print version is available, or to submit a request for an inter library loan.

You can access the eJournals service at www.lib.ed.ac.uk/resources/collections/serials/ejintro

Liz Stevenson (IS)

Scott's Waverley novels in pictures

A new website contains almost a century's worth of images from some of Sir Walter Scott's most popular works. 'Illustrating Scott: A Database of Printed Illustrations to the Waverley Novels, 1814–1901' is at <http://illustrating-scott.lib.ed.ac.uk>

The site contains over 1,500 records of illustrations to Scott's fiction that appeared between his first novel, *Waverley*, and the close of the 19th century.

Funded by a grant from the British Academy in a project led by Prof Peter Garside, the database was produced through the Centre for the History of the Book in association with Edinburgh University Library. Almost a quarter of the records have the actual image supplied through the Library's Corson Collection and the Walter Scott Digital Archive maintained by Special Collections.

Andrew Grout (IS)



The continuing redevelopment of the Main Library

The redeveloped Main Library First Floor will reopen in early Spring. This will provide more study space, 12 more pods, 15 accessible study rooms, a renewed Learning and Resource Centre called uCreate, and a Meeting Suite with seven rooms and extra breakout space for training courses and meetings. Progress is charted at www.is.ed.ac.uk/mlrp

A new mezzanine has been created above the Library entrance, which has stunning views in to the Forum and out to George Square Gardens. This will provide a relaxing and contemplative environment adjacent to the current journal and new book displays.

Subject to final approval, work on the Second Floor will begin as soon as the First Floor is completed, and we will start clearing it as soon as this semester's exams are over. The music collections will move to the Third Floor, the map and reference periodical collections to the Lower Ground Floor, and the older Dewey reference collection to the Library Research Annexe.

Fiona Boyd (IS)

SHEDL Scottish Higher Education Digital Library

Since January 2009 the University has benefited from the first SHEDL agreements, which provide Scottish universities with a greater range of materials at a manageable cost, and encourage collaboration between institutions. The twin aims are to improve access to content to support research and teaching, and to ensure that institutions achieve better value for money.

The first phase covers three academic publishers – the American Chemical Society, Cambridge University Press, and Springer – and the agreements deliver access to over 1,500 ejournals, across all Scottish universities. For Edinburgh this has brought access to a further 100 titles from Cambridge University Press.

Discussions are under way with further publishers for 2010 and beyond. At a time when budgets are under increasing pressure, this landmark collaborative initiative provides an opportunity to improve services, to reduce costs, and to help maintain access to key research and teaching materials for the academic community.

Liz Stevenson (IS)

Words up in the Clouds

Have you noticed the wordcloud on the centre display screen above the Helpdesk in the Main Library?

This is a 'proxy representation' of the intellectual activity in the Library, developed by the Digital Library Section. The word clouds are formed from recent searches on the Library Catalogue and the Edinburgh Research Archive.

Our system extracts the last 2,000 search terms specified by users searching these Library services, so the word clouds reflect the information users are looking for at a particular point in time.

The word cloud display has attracted a lot of attention from visitors to the Main Library, and at a recent presentation at an international conference. Several universities – including St Andrews, Monash, Helsinki, Princeton and Philadelphia – were very complimentary, and some asked permission to use it in their libraries to promote their own services. The underpinning software will be released as open source to facilitate this.

Morag Watson (IS)



Classic? or Alternative? the evolving library catalogue

The University's Library Management system 'Voyager' celebrates its tenth birthday this year. The system has evolved steadily since its implementation in 1999, continuously improving the service to Library users.

Voyager was upgraded to the latest application release in July, to support the new automated book-return facilities and sorting of library materials. The upgrade offers opportunities to revamp the traditional Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) module. The Digital Library Section will be examining this, alongside a review of our alternative catalogue interface 'Aquabrowser'. For the last year, we have been running the two interfaces side by side. Aquabrowser doesn't provide all the functionality of the Voyager OPAC, but does offer an experience comparable to results from search engines and commercial suppliers such as Amazon. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it has been well received, but we want to look at the evidence more carefully over the coming year, and also explore the wider issue of digital library discovery services, as technologies continue to evolve and new products come to market.

We would be very interested to hear your opinions about both the Voyager OPAC and Aquabrowser (please email Morag.Watson@ed.ac.uk).

The Library Catalogue is available via the OPAC at <http://catalogue.lib.ed.ac.uk>

Aquabrowser is at <http://aquabrowser.lib.ed.ac.uk>

Colin Watt (IS)

Book cover images

The Library has recently licensed content from Syndetic Solutions to enhance records in Aquabrowser and the Library Catalogue.

At present this content consists of images of book covers and tables of content. Not all items will show this content, but when available the book covers and links to tables of content will appear alongside existing records for books in the Library Collections.

We hope this additional content will help you identify the most relevant books for your studies or research.

Morag Watson (IS)

Research data storage and management: review of options

There is intense interest – at international, national and local levels – in how to manage the rapidly expanding volume and complexity of research data. Concern is both for the shorter term – ensuring competitive advantage through secure and easy-to-use access; and for the longer term – ensuring enduring access and usability for the research community into the future.

The UK government and research funding bodies are debating with the HE community how best to address this large and complex problem, and have funded various initiatives to explore options (such as the United Kingdom Research Data Service, Digital Curation Centre, UK Data Archive). It is clear that there will be no magic external solution that will save individual universities having to provide storage and management procedures for their own research data.

Solutions for the University of Edinburgh will only be successful if they come from a partnership of individual researchers, Schools, Colleges and Information Services. Each has expertise and resources that can be brought to bear for the benefit of all. A Review is therefore being established in that spirit, as a collaborative exploration of the current state of play in Edinburgh and of options for short term and long term actions.

The Review is overseen by the newly reinstated IT Committee and the Library Committee, and will have twin tracks to look at Research Data Storage and Data Management, curation and preservation. The first track is being led by Peter Clarke, the second by Sheila Cannell. The Review will look at current practice in the University of Edinburgh, review what is known about current practice in peer universities and internationally, and develop options which will include costs, feasibility, and a risk analysis of actions or inactions in this field.

If you would like to participate in the Review, and perhaps contribute to workshops, please contact Jean Ritchie (Data Storage, email Jean.Ritchie@ed.ac.uk) or Sheila Cannell (Data Management, email Sheila.Cannell@ed.ac.uk).

Jeff Haywood (IS)

Library service quality: LibQUAL+ survey

During November, Information Services will be taking part in a survey to measure the quality of its library service. The LibQUAL+ survey was developed by the Association of Research Libraries, and since 2000 more than a thousand libraries in North America, Europe and Australia have participated.

The survey allows libraries to measure their users' perceptions of service quality, and identifies gaps between desired, perceived and minimum expectations of service. We participated in the survey in 2003, 2005 and 2007, the results being available at www.lib.ed.ac.uk/about/info

We will be contacting a random sample of the University's academic and research staff, postgraduates and undergraduates during the week beginning 2nd November, to invite participation in a web-based survey. Participation is optional, and all responses are confidential; no personal data is passed to the survey organisers. The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete and consists of some basic demographic data and a range of questions on service quality.

The results go directly to the LibQUAL+ team in the United States; they do the analysis and compile reports for each participating library. Libraries can compare user perceptions against expectations, and identify the improvements needed by their own users. They can also compare their service quality with that of peer institutions.

LibQUAL+ is just one tool amongst many which allow libraries to evaluate the quality of their services to ensure that they meet the needs of their users. There is further information about LibQUAL+ at www.libqual.org

Richard Battersby (IS)

Extra weekend hours at New College Library

Saturday opening hours at New College Library changed from Saturday 26th September 2009. The new hours are 12 noon to 5pm – a 43% increase over previous semester Saturday opening.

For full information on all of our libraries and opening hours see www.lib.ed.ac.uk

Pam Clouston (IS)

Reclassification Project completes its work

Main Library staff have spent the past three years transferring borrowed books into the Library of Congress classification system. Readers find this system easier to use than the older Dewey system, and it has the great advantage that the majority of active books on a particular subject are now shelved together, instead of in two different places.

By the time the project finished on 31st July, 182,071 books had been reclassified. Full details of the project are provided at www.lib.ed.ac.uk/projects/reclassification

Elize Rowan (IS)

“depth of thought and consideration exerted by the designers”

The Journal

Ian Mowat Memorial Bursary

Last month Information Services welcomed Milica Cvetkova and Ana Marija Dodigovic to spend three weeks with the Library supported by the Ian Mowat Memorial Bursary Fund.

Milica is from the Matica Srpska Library in Novi Sad, Serbia, where she is a Librarian in the Department for Cataloguing and Bibliographic Work; during her stay she worked in Acquisitions and Metadata Services. Ana Marija, who worked with the Library's eResources team, is from the National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia, and an Information Specialist in the Central Information Services Department and Reference Collection.

The Ian Mowat Memorial Bursary Fund was set up in memory of Ian Mowat, former Librarian to the University. Ian was passionate about the development of new professional librarians, and had particular links with eastern European libraries.

The Fund established in Ian's memory has enabled nine eastern European librarians to spend up to a month working in the University Library, and to visit other libraries in Central Scotland.

There have been four sets of visits to date, and sadly this year's is the final one, since the Fund has come to an end. We are indebted to Mrs Margaret Mowat for her generosity in enabling this final visit to go ahead, and her valued support of all the visits.

We hope this was a useful and memorable experience for Milica and Ana Marija, as previous visits have been for the other Ian Mowat Memorial Bursary Fund recipients. They took back what they learned to their respective libraries and we, for our part, certainly learned much from them.

For more information on the Ian Mowat Memorial Fund please visit www.lib.ed.ac.uk/news/090601memorialfund

Alason Roberts (IS)



Milica, Margaret and Ana Marija

Data Library news

European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS)

The Data Library has recently purchased the EU-LFS [time series 1983-2007], a valuable quarterly sample survey covering the population in private households in the 27 Member States of the European Union and two countries of the European Free Trade Association. It provides annual and quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as persons outside the labour force. Access conditions apply; contact the Data Library (email to datalib@ed.ac.uk).

HEIDI

Past users of HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency) datasets may be interested in HEIDI (Higher Education Information Database for Institutions), to which the University now subscribes. HEIDI is a web-based management information service, designed and maintained by HESA, which provides quantitative data about UK higher education.

New acquisitions from the UK Data Archive

- HealthACORN Postcode-Level Directory for Great Britain, 2007 – an analysis of the diet, health, exercise characteristics and demographic attributes of communities in every part of Great Britain.
- Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, 2007.
- Scottish Environmental Attitudes & Behaviours Survey, 2008.
- Survey of Sugar Intake among Children in Scotland, 2006.

Full details of all of the above are on the Data Library catalogue at www.datalib.ed.ac.uk/catalogue.html

Anne Donnelly (IS)

Binding services

After over 40 years providing a first-class service, the University Library's Bindery closed at the end of July – partly because of the rapidly increasing use of digital resources, and partly because of the prohibitive cost of moving its specialised equipment for the Main Library Redevelopment Project.

There are several other ways to get documents bound, notably for theses. The Copy Centres at The King's Buildings and in the David Hume Tower basement can do softback binding. Several commercial companies accept electronic documents for hardback binding to University standards, and – following a competitive tendering process – a company in Falkirk has won the contract to bind journals, repair books and reinforce paperbacks.

Full details of all these services are provided at www.lib.ed.ac.uk/services/bindser.shtml

Margaret Dowling (IS)

The University of Edinburgh 2010 Calendar



For this, the fourth in our series of calendars, the theme is Treasures from Special Collections. The University has always been global in its outlook, and our staff and students have travelled the world studying and documenting its people and natural wonders. The calendar contains a small sample of images from an extensive collection which reflects both the generosity of benefactors and academic endeavour throughout the centuries. Together these provide a wealth of resources for use in today's teaching and research. All the high-quality photography was performed by our own Digital Imaging Unit. Proceeds from the sale will help support the conservation and care of our wonderful collections.

Size: 30 x 30cm

Individually shrink-wrapped

Price: £10

Copies may be purchased from:

- Main Library (Helpdesk and Centre for Research Collections)
- Blackwell Bookshop, South Bridge
- University Giftshop, Bristo Square

And by mail order at www.giftshop.ed.ac.uk

Andy Grout (IS)

"It's beautiful; and it's ours. To those responsible: thank you."

The Journal

Edinburgh BITS

Editor:

Nick Stroud, Information Services

Design and Layout by:

IS Multimedia Team
www.ed.ac.uk/is/design

Published by:

Information Services, The University of Edinburgh

Contributions:

Email: BITS@ed.ac.uk
Telephone: 0131 650 3345

Distribution queries:

BITS is distributed through School offices; please notify changes in requirements to Carla Zaccardelli:

Email: C.Zaccardelli@ed.ac.uk
Telephone: 0131 650 4999

Printed by:

University of Edinburgh Printing Services
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/printing

BITS on the Web:

www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/bits/

BITS RSS feed:

www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/bits/bits.rss

Some acronyms explained:

www.ucs.ed.ac.uk/ucsinfo/acronyms.html

NB: if you fail to access a URL shown in BITS, or if you need information from it in a different format, please email BITS@ed.ac.uk

Contributions to BITS are welcomed.

Copy deadline for November BITS:

Friday 16th October

If you require this document in an alternative format (e.g. large print, Braille) please contact Nick Stroud, Information Services, University of Edinburgh, Main Library, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LJ, or by email to BITS@ed.ac.uk.