

University of Sussex Library



Annual Report

2000-2001

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University of Sussex Library Annual Report

2000-2001

Introduction



Deborah Shorley
The new Librarian

This has been a year of unprecedented change for the University of Sussex Library.

Adrian Peasgood retired as Librarian at the end of September after 13 years in the post. Adrian, who had spent virtually his entire career in this Library (except for a brief spell in Fiji), was greatly respected by colleagues throughout the University for his total commitment to the University. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the Library provided the best possible service within the resources available to him. Most notably, in latter years he saw the Library extension project through to completion. Despite the many hitches inevitable in such a complex project, by the time he left the original Library building had its much needed extension – an admirable complement to Spence's original magnificent design.

The flood at Lewes

I took up my post on 1 October. Ten days later the River Ouse burst its banks during exceptionally high rainfall and the Library store at Lewes was seriously flooded. The store (which housed approximately 40,000 items of lesser used material) was under water for several days and the salvage operation could not begin until over a week later. This catastrophe took us all by surprise. Careful disaster planning helped ensure that the most precious material was salvaged first. Subsequently everything else was packed on pallets and sent to cold storage while we decided what to do next. Fortunately the University's insurance cover was excellent, and many months were spent preparing a detailed claim for our insurers. Dr Robert Howes took the lead on this, and his painstaking work should ensure that we receive the highest possible settlement. I am grateful to all the staff whose dedication ensured that the Library continued to provide a first class service to users throughout this difficult period.

We are unlikely to replace most of the damaged material in its original paper form. (To restore it all would cost over £6 million and take at least five years.) Instead we shall use the money we receive in settlement of our claim to provide information for users in other ways, particularly concentrating on electronic resources.



The Lewes store after the flood

Structural Review

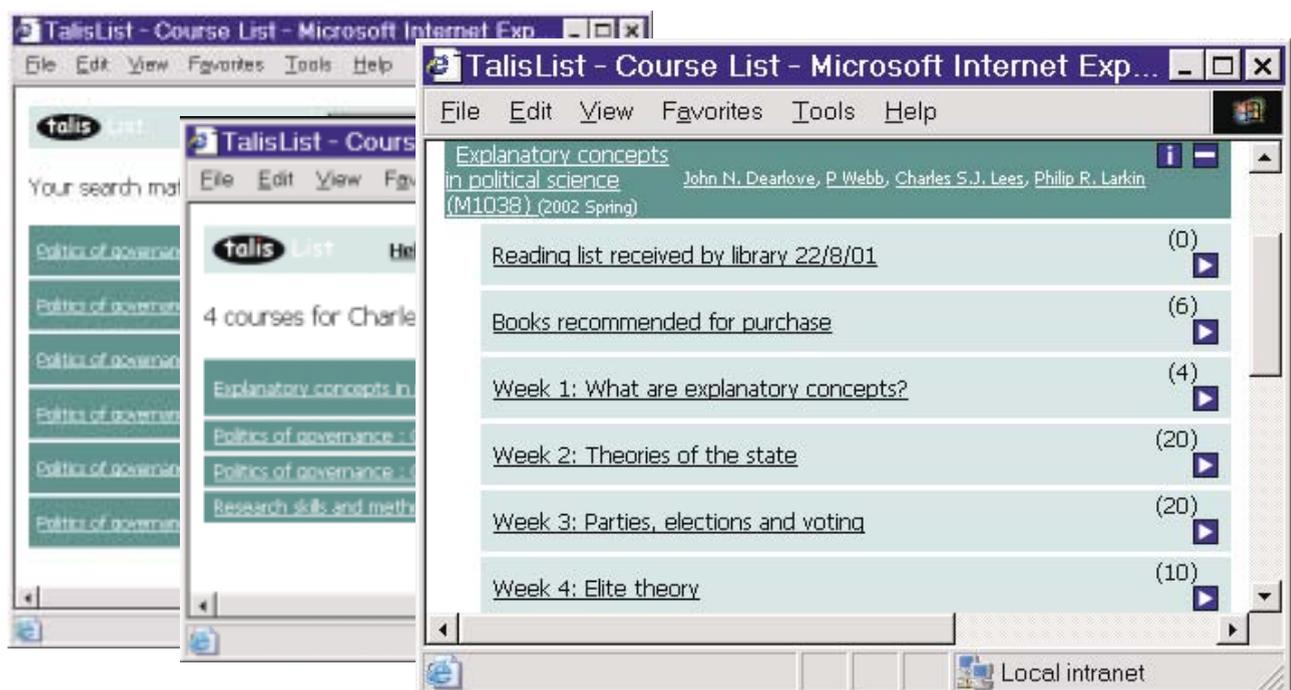
My first strategic task as Librarian has been to review how the Library delivers its service. We need to be certain that we give our users the first class support they need in their learning, teaching and research. So in January I began an operational review of the Library and its services. Following consultation with the wider University community and staff within the Library, I published in July an initial review with recommendations for radical structural change. This is not an easy process but I am confident that we are now making slow but steady progress towards ensuring that the University of Sussex Library is fit to serve the University in the years ahead.

I am grateful to everybody in the Library for their welcome and support for me as their new Librarian. I greatly look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

Stephen Shorley

The new library system: TALIS

The new TALIS library system went live successfully in August 2000. Priorities this year have been gaining familiarity with its functionality, reporting capabilities, including Business Objects software, and associated administrative tasks. Some teething troubles were encountered in setting up the range of notices for overdue, reserved and recalled items and in the use of the Acquisitions module. The display of item usage data, a development requirement, has been functioning well and final acceptance of the system was agreed in February 2001. A data reconciliation project to match Library Borrower records with those held by the University's central administration has been completed and will facilitate the exchange of data between systems.



Delays in migrating data from the original **Sussex Reading List System** into TalisList, a new development by Talis Information Ltd in conjunction with Library staff, prevented full implementation until February. However, thanks to the hard work of staff in Teaching Support, users were only minimally affected. The new Reading List Management System has been well received by users, and Library staff have been involved in discussions with developers at Talis and with users about requirements for a second version.

Services

Comments and suggestions from users

As part of a programme for improving communication with users, the old-style suggestions book was replaced just after Easter by a new Suggestions Box at the Library exit. Users are invited to make their comments on a printed suggestion form which they then place in the box. To encourage constructive criticism, only signed forms receive a reply. The suggestions with the replies are displayed on a public noticeboard. Users may request a personal rather than a public reply and about half of the users who used this service requested this option. Standard answers to frequently asked questions are displayed to avoid repetition. The Suggestions Box has proved popular and highlights current key concerns and needs of Library users.

Enquiries

The closure of the Documents and Periodicals office counters in Summer 2000 has resulted in enquiries relating to these publications being re-routed to the main Enquiries/Help Desk on the first floor. Reference stock was re-located and intensive training programmes ensured that all staff working on the Help Desk were able to handle basic enquiries. Interlibrary requests have risen by 9% this year and a new facility in the ordering process now means that many requested photocopies are sent by the British Library directly to the requester's home address. Over 90% of the items were received within five working days.

The Enquiries team increased their provision of orientation and induction tours, training sessions and introductions to on-line services for student groups at all levels.

Archives and Manuscripts at Sussex

The Mass-Observation Archive and the Manuscript Collections were amalgamated into a single service in September 2000, sharing public facilities and a common store and strong rooms. Several other special collections have since been added including the rare book collections, the Eugene Schulkind collection of material relating to the Paris Commune, the University's art works and the University's own archives. The research service is now offered by a Special Collections integrated staff team on the top floor of the Library.

See www.sussex.ac.uk/library/speccoll

Mass-Observation website

A generous award from a member of the Archive Friends group, Dr Rhea Sheddon, made it possible for the Mass-Observation Archive website to be re-designed during 2001 using professional web designers, Jack Latimer and Amanda Stones. The image of an eye which appears on the home page as a logo is taken from the Mass-Observation Archive clock created for the Special Collections reading room by Brighton sculptor, Cath Arlidge. The website not only provides information on the activities and holdings of the Archive but also acts as a method of recruiting new writers to record their everyday life for the continuing Mass-Observation Project.



* Sketch in pen and ink by Rudyard Kipling, illustrating 'The Elephant's Child' in the *Just So Stories* (1902).
From Special Collections: Kipling Papers



<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/massobs/>

Developing collections

Electronic Resources

During the year we purchased a number of new electronic resources and upgraded our subscriptions to others. These included Agence Euro (a CD Rom which holds the text of the *Daily Bulletin*, a daily report on the European Union, together with two other series, *European Library* and *Europe Documents*), and JSTOR, a full-text resource of over 200 electronic journals, particularly strong in Arts and Social Sciences. Our ABI-Inform subscription was also upgraded to full-text (economics and business studies).

Spanish language and literature

A new undergraduate degree in Spanish was launched in October 2001. In the run up to the launch, new suppliers in Spain were identified and intensive work was undertaken to enhance stock in Spanish literature, cinema, art, history, architecture, geography and language to support the new course. The recently acquired material complements resources already in the Library including videos of films and television programmes and a substantial published microform collection (57 reels) of documents relating to the Spanish Civil War (The Spanish Civil War Collection).

Frank Muir and Denis Norden Archive

This year we celebrated the acquisition of over 600 comedy scripts written for BBC Radio by Denis Norden and the late Frank Muir. Denis Norden himself joined us for a lunch hosted by the Librarian in October. Mr Norden was accompanied by members of his family and Frank Muir's son, Jamie Muir, a BBC television producer who had originally suggested that the collection be donated to Sussex. The scripts relate to programmes broadcast between 1948 and 1979 and include several popular series: 'Take it from here', 'Bedtime with Braden' and 'The Glums' with Jimmy Edwards. The collection, which is now part of the Library's Special Collections, has a particular value for students of media studies and twentieth century popular culture. The handlist can be viewed at www.sussex.ac.uk/manuscript/nordintr.html.



Denis Norden in Special Collections

Contributing to academic excellence

Supporting Law students

The Library played a key role in a School of Legal Studies Project to make electronic legal resources available to first year students on the Law of Tort course. The purpose was to give students direct and unrestricted access to the online legal information they need. This highly successful initiative was supported by funds from the University's Teaching and Learning Development Unit and carried out in partnership between the Library and the Project Coordinator, Mark Davies.

The three systems made available at the core of the project were Lawtel, Lexis and Westlaw. All three are specialist legal databases and are available for use on or off-campus, 24 hours a day, via username/password authentication. The three complement one another and contain full-text in some form. In subsequent evaluations students using all three systems commented very positively on them.

Quality assurance

During the year, there were QAA visits to three Subject Groups: International Relations and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. The Library, whose contribution was led by Cynthia Barnes, was consistently praised by subject assessors for its excellent user support, and for its innovative use of management information about the exploitation of its collections.

In the assessment reports the close liaison between subject librarians and their subject groups was particularly commended. There were also favourable comments on the Library input at all stages of course design and monitoring which was made possible by full Library participation on academic audit committees.

Enhancing access

This year was the second year in which the Library benefitted from funds made available through the Research Support Libraries Programme (RSLP). The aim of the RSLP is to support those academic libraries which provide a service beyond their immediate users to members of the UK research community and is particularly designed to improve access to research resources. To date, the award to Sussex has been used to increase staffing levels in Special Collections and, in order to produce auditable records of Library use, to install an entry management system which will go live in 2002. Plans for other projects are currently under discussion.

Regional initiatives and links

SASLIC: Surrey and Sussex Libraries in Co-operation

May 2001 saw the launch of the website for SASLIC, a co-operative of libraries of all kinds throughout Surrey and Sussex, including those of the principal commercial and industrial firms; the Universities of Surrey, Sussex, Brighton, and Kingston and other further and higher education colleges; various government departments; and public libraries of the three counties. SASLIC was established in 1968, and was deliberately constituted with no central headquarters. The emphasis has always been on mutual help and the organisation continues to flourish on this basis. Mike Lewis, who represents the University of Sussex Library on the SASLIC committee, manages the website which gives links to member libraries in the region.



<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/saslic/>

ADBiB: Art and Design books in Brighton & Hove

The Brighton & Hove area has a long connection with the arts. Architecture is represented by Regency terraces, Victorian churches, piers and the Pavilion; Brighton is the birthplace of Aubrey Beardsley and is now home to a thriving community of graphic and web designers; Hove can claim to be the birthplace of British cinema; Brighton's museums include a collection of non-western art, as well as fine and decorative arts, and the two Universities of Brighton and Sussex have thriving art-related departments. The History of Art Subject Group at Sussex is one of two in the country to receive a 5* rating at the last RAE, while at Brighton there are over 50 research students in the Faculty of Art and Design, many working on new hybrid PhDs, which combine research with practice.



www.adbib.ac.uk

The libraries of the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and of Brighton & Hove City Council are commensurately rich, particularly for the study of twentieth-century art and design. It was this that led their respective librarians to put forward proposals for a guide to these collections. Funding was obtained from the Research Support Libraries Programme (RSLP) for a web site and printed guide to art-related collections in the city. Mary Nixon, who was appointed research officer to the project in July 2001, is based in the University of Sussex Library and hopes to complete the Project later in 2002.

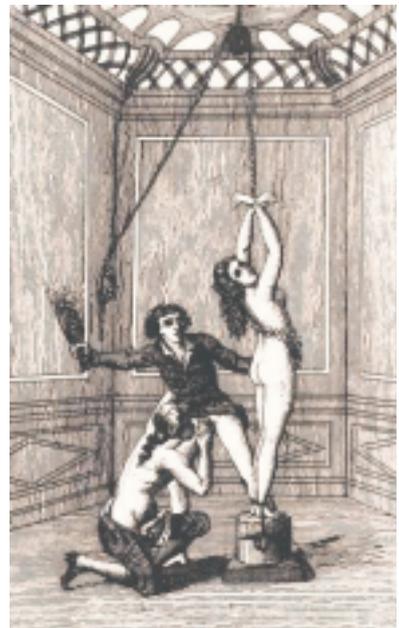
Censorship and Subversion

Once again the Library contributed to the Brighton Festival in May. Using materials from our own collections, the exhibition explored the role of libraries in censorship and subversion. Tim Graves who curated the exhibition writes:

“The seeds of the display on ‘Subversion and Censorship in Libraries’ were sown when I read in the newspapers that the police were attempting to prosecute the University of Central England under the Obscene Publications Act for loaning out a book of photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe.

As I thought over the affair, it began to dawn on me that providing access to materials deemed to be ‘subversive’ was actually the most important function that libraries perform. Can you imagine our intellectual evolution if the censors had enjoyed their way and deprived us of such notorious ‘subversives’ as Descartes, Erasmus, Joyce, Milton, Swift, Voltaire and everyone else whose views have been deemed dangerous over the centuries?

The question of whether librarians should be the stooges of mainstream ideology or the defenders of freedom of information was debated with interest by visitors to the display, and in the press. Ironically, the most critical judgement of the subject matter came in the *Library Association Record*, in which one writer said that, when it came to some of the items included, she ‘would be happy to censor...[them]... out of existence’.”



SADE, D.A.F. (1966) *Oeuvres complètes*.
Paris: Cercle du Livre Précieux.

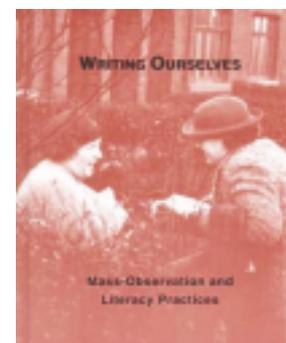
People

A number of long-serving members of library staff retired during the year: Bet Inglis had worked with the University’s manuscript collections for over 25 years. Her detailed knowledge, particularly of the Bloomsbury and Kipling collections, was unparalleled. Jenny Marshman, head of Acquisitions at the time of her retirement, had played many roles in the Library but will be especially remembered for her expertise in art history. Judith Rankin, Jenny’s deputy in Acquisitions, organised the essential physical care of the book stock and managed the team who prepared materials for the shelves. Two younger members of Library staff left to take care of their families full-time: Janice Parlett (who managed the Audio Visual section) moved to Wales and Becky Boardman to the Middle East. Another long-serving colleague, Anna Chattock, retired from her post as library assistant in Reader Services in August 2000.

Conferences and visits

In April, the Librarian, Deborah Shorley gave a presentation at the launch of the Blue Shield initiative at the British Library about the impact of the Lewes flood on the Library. She also participated in the first Colloquium of art library societies held in Berlin.

Dorothy Sheridan, Head of Special Collections, visited Australia in August to promote her new book on Mass-Observation: *Writing Ourselves*. The trip included fraternal visits to archives and university departments in Sydney, Newcastle, Canberra and Melbourne. In November she gave a paper at a conference on life writing and archiving at the Nordiska Museet, Stockholm.



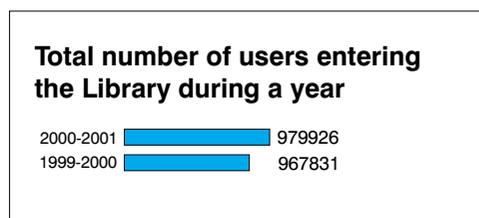
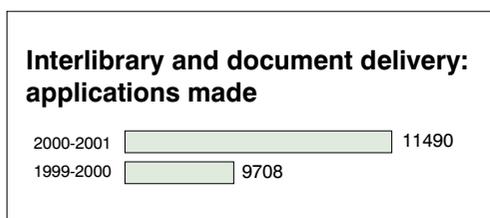
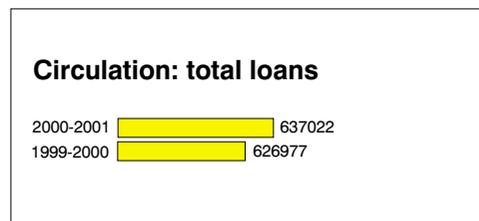
Writing Ourselves
(see Staff publications)

Staff publications

- Goddard, Sean (2000) 'The Petworth Primary School Clog Dancing Team. The History of a Clog Dancing Team' in *English Dance and Song* vol. 62, number 2.
 (2001) 'We'll Wassail Bees, and Apple Trees. Apple Howling in Sussex' in *English Dance and Song* 63 (1).
- Howes, Robert H (2000) 'Apresentação' in The British Library National Preservation Office. *Preservação de documentos: métodos e práticas de salvaguarda*. Tradução de Zeny Duarte de Miranda Magalhães dos Santos. [Introduction. Preservation of documents: safeguarding methods and procedures]. Salvador: EDUFBA.
- Sheridan, Dorothy (2000) 'Documentare la vita quotidiana' in *Vita di Carte* eds Q. Anonelli & A. Iuso; Rome: L'ancora.
 (2000) *Writing Ourselves: Literacy Practices and the Mass-Observation Project*, Hampton Press, Cresskill, NJ. With B. Street and D. Bloome.
 (2000) 'Reviewing Mass-Observation: the archive and its researchers thirty years on' in *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung* Vol. 1:2 (ISSN 1438 5627) <http://qualitative-research.net/fqs/fqs-eng.htm>
 (2001) 'Charles Madge and the Mass-Observation Archive' in *New Formations* No. 44 (Special issue on Charles Madge).
- Shorley, Deborah (2000) 'Controlling Northern Ireland publications: a new initiative' in *Assignment* 18 (1).

Statistics

Library stock	
Total catalogued book stock:	813,721
Metres of archives and manuscripts:	1,426
Additions to stock 2000-2001:	
Books & pamphlets	13,764
Periodical Titles (hard copy and electronic)	3,949
Metres of archives and manuscripts received	39



* Kipling sketch reproduced with the permission of the National Trust.

The Library Staff

2000 - 2001

(* = part-time)

Librarian Adrian N Peasgood, BA (Cantab), Dip Lib, ALA (to 30 September 2000)
Deborah Shorley, BA (Durham), Dip Lib, (from 18 September 2000)

Sub-Librarians

Margaret M Fieldhouse, MSc (Kent), BA (N London)
Robert W Howes, MA, PhD (Cantab), ALA
Linda G Newman, MA (Sheffield)

Assistant Librarians

William Alexander, MSc (Kent), Dip Lib
Cynthia Barnes, BA (Sussex), Dip Lib
Rebecca Boardman, BA (NCLP), PGCE (Sussex), Msc
(Loughborough) (to 27 October 2000)
Ian D Budden, BA (Oxon), Dip Lib
*Jacqueline F Edgell, BA (Bristol)
Timothy C Graves BA (Manchester), MA (Northumbria at Newcastle)

Analyst Programmer Stephen R Lee, BSc (Sussex)

Librarian's Secretary Patricia A Ringshaw

Executive Assistant Sheila J Shardlow

Senior Library Assistants

Anne Baker-Smith
Sean P Goddard
Patricia A Greenwood
*Vicky L Hardy
*Patricia I Kidd, BA (Open University)
*Barbara H McAllister
Louise L Mayers
Annette E Moore
*Lynn Nicholls

Senior Archive Assistants

Joy C Eldridge, BA (Sussex)
Fiona P Arthur, BA (Durham)

Library Assistants & Clerical Assistants

Julie F Applin BA (Sussex)
*Riet M T G Boland
*Linda Y L Booth
Simon M Carey, MA (London)(to 14 September 2001)
Roger C Chandler
*Jill D Clinton
*Margaret Cooper, BA (Sussex)
*Jane Coutinho, BA (Wales)
Eleanor M Craig, BA (Wales)
Gayemarie P Crane
*Esme Crick, BA (Reading) (from 27 November 2000)
*Manus J Doherty
*Diane P Ellis
*Elizabeth A Epsom, BSc (London)
*Veronica A Farmery
Anita Gazzard
*Louise Gladwin
*Florence J M Grant (from 22 April 2001)
*Diane B Gurr
Tim Hailay
Fiona J Harris, BA (Portsmouth)
*Melanie J Hempleman
Peter C. Hignell, BA (Nottingham) Cert Ed (Nottingham)
Hilary Holt
Sheila M. Howell
*Deborah Hull
*Joanna Hutchings, BA (Sussex) (to 30 April 2001)
*Christopher L Jones (from 11 December 2000)
Corinne S Jones

Archive Assistants

Helen Betteridge BA (Leeds Metropolitan) (to 21 September 2001)
*Judy F Pickering

Library Porter/Security Attendants

Brian Bass (Senior Porter/Security Assistant)
*John C Evans (to 30 June 2001)
*Arthur Catchpole
Brian L Donaldson
Michael Jacomb
Ian F Johnston (to 28 December 2000)
Jon A Travis (from 2 July 2001)
Carl N Webb (from 20 November 2000)

Head, Special Collections

Dorothy Sheridan, BA, MA (Sussex), MBE

Cherry Horwill, LLB (Southampton), MA (Sheffield)
*Shirley P Kirby-Turner, BA (Leicester), MA (Sheffield)
Michael G Lewis, BA (Birmingham)
*Dheirdre M J Mitchell, BA (East Anglia), ALA
*Janet S Pickles, BA (London), MBCS, Dip Lib
*Helen M Swyer
Clare Whiston, BA (Toronto), Dip Lib

Building Manager Derek C Cole

Reprographics Manager *Nicholas A Warr BA (Staffs), MA (Brighton)

*Karen M Penner, BA (Nottingham)(Cert Ed (Leicester) (to 31 July 2001)
Andrea J Rainger, BSc (Leicester)
Rita J Randall
*Marlene A Taylor
Fay Thomas
Margaret Thomas
*Anne G Tolman
Ros M Van Kruyssen
Rosemary B Wells

*Sandra C KoaWing, BA (Sussex) (from 26 October 2000)
Maria J Lea
*Susan McKim
Sandra D Matthews
Michelle Murphy, BA (Oxford Polytechnic) (to 19 August 2001)
Christine Nash
Victoria Newth
Heather M Nightingale
*Diana M Pate (to 14 June 2001)
Marineh Paton (to 30 April 2001)
*Valerie W Pennock
*Victoria M Pigott
*Michael A Pluckrose
*Julia N Poore (from 30 October 2000)
Jo Rees-Davies
*Lalida Richardson, BD (Aberdeen) (from 27 November 2000)
*Amparo Scolding
Margaret Scroggins
*Jill Sinclair
*Lindy Smart
Maria A Smith
*Dawn Stacey
*Jane Standing
Elaine Stephen
Heather J Tollemache
*Lisa Towner
Tina Vallier
*Susan E Westwood (to 27 June 2001)
*Helen Wright
*Anita L Yardley

Library Cleaners

*Sheila K Carter
*John Gorton (to 30 June 2001)
*Roy W Hawkins
*Beryl M. Reeves
*Sandra Weedon
*Tracey A White (to 12 May 2001)