

# NoWAL



North West Academic Libraries

NoWAL  
Newsletter

Winter 2018

## Chester's Academic Library of the Future

The Library at the **University of Chester** organised an away day for all Learning Resource Assistants over the summer, the aim of which was to think about how the library could add value to the student experience.

As part of the event, staff were split into different teams and asked to build from Lego what they thought would be the academic library of the future. Staff at Chester took inspiration for their session from the workshop, facilitated by Kate Holmes (then at the University of Manchester) at the 2017 NoWAL Conference.

In particular, staff were asked to look at space in the library and how staff would be interacting with their users of the future. The teams were asked to document their models using Padlet walls which were then uploaded to the library training webpages.

Following the success of the event, future training events will run each term with a dedicated annual away day for all Learning Resource Assistants.



Photos courtesy of the University of Chester

**Note from NoWAL** – *it's great to see a workshop at the NoWAL Conference directly influencing the work of our members!*

## NoWAL Community of Practice success

Neil Sprunt heads up NoWAL's newly formed **Copyright Community of Practice** and has very helpfully provided some insights into his first few months 'in office'. In his interview, he provides lots of great examples of how to make a CoP work, including what he thinks are the benefits of working collaboratively in a cross-institutional group.

You can read Neil's interview in full [here](#) or on the [NoWAL website](#).

### Did you know...?

NoWAL now has 3 other [Communities of Practice](#):

- **Academic Skills**
- **Buildings & Space**
- **Technology**

Contact [Nicky](#) if you would like to join any of the CoPs or are interested in finding out more.

## Training & Development Programme

The T&D programme for 2018-2019 has loads of interesting events lined up. Use the events page on the NoWAL website to keep on top of what's planned for next year, book on events and see how you can get involved:

<https://www.nowal.ac.uk/events>

Here's our **November 2018 to March 2019** Events:

### Tour of Catalyst Building

Friday 23 Nov 2018 9:15 – 9:45

*Edge Hill University*

### Strategic Marketing - Ned Potter Workshop

Friday 23 Nov 2018 10:00 – 4:30

*Edge Hill University*

### Research Support - Open Access / REF-Ready

Thursday 29 Nov 2018 10:00 – 1:00

*University of Manchester*

### Tour of the Victoria Gallery & Museum

Tuesday 4 Dec 2018 10:30 – 11:30 / 12:00

*Liverpool*

### Supporting Student Wellbeing

Tuesday 4 Dec 2018 1:00 – 4:00

*University of Liverpool*

### Promoting Library Resources

Wednesday 6 Feb 2019 1:00 – 4:00

*University of Cumbria (Lancaster Campus)*

### TeachMeet - Playful Learning

Thursday 7 Mar 2019 10:00 – 1:00

*Edge Hill University (Manchester Campus)*

### Understanding & Dealing with Change

Thursday 14 Mar 2019 10:00 – 4:00

*Liverpool Hope University*

### Acquisitions

Tuesday 19 March 2019 10:00 – 1:00

*University of Chester*

### From Strategy to Operations

Wednesday 27 Mar 2019 1:00 – 4:00

*LJMU*

## Celebrating NoWAL Successes

PTES and PRES survey results at the **University of Central Lancashire** have shown improvement in all Library related areas.

**Liverpool Hope University** library was awarded Team of the Year at the end of year University's Green Impact Awards.

**Royal Northern College of Music** library won a Teaching Award, enabling it to research and develop an IL package that can be incorporated across all years & courses.

**University of Bolton** Library has seen a great improvement in the 2018 NSS results, up 6 points to 82% in Q19.

**University of Central Lancashire** has been shortlisted in a record 5 categories for the Times Higher Awards.

Jennie Blake from **University of Manchester** Library has been recognised for an outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession by being named as National Teaching Fellow for 'My Learning Essentials'.

**Manchester Met University** Library hosted a successful CSE monitoring visit and is hoping to retain its 4 compliance+ awards plus another 4 compliance+ given.

**Royal Northern College of Music's** collaborative project 'Paris-Manchester: 1918' which incorporated RNCM archival materials, has been nominated for Best Event in the 2018 Manchester Culture Awards.

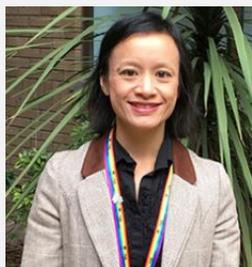
**Liverpool John Moores University** Library has been awarded 16 Compliance+ awards.

**Edge Hill University** has won 2 Blackboard awards: 2018 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Inclusive Education and the Catalyst Award for Training & Professional Development for their innovative use of Blackboard technology.

**RNCM's** Archivist Heather Roberts was given an award under the Principal's Recognition Scheme for outstanding contribution to the work of the College.

## Viv's exhibition success

Viv Bell, an Academic Skills Consultant in The Library at the **University of Salford**, has recently seen her hobby recognised in two major exhibitions. Viv saw a post on social media from artist Sarah Greaves, who was putting together an exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery, '*The Other in Mother*'.



Viv Bell - photo courtesy of University of Salford Communications team

The exhibition explored how motherhood changes women both physically and emotionally, and Greaves asked mothers to contribute images which they felt summed up life as a mum. Viv's work featured in 'The Library of Objects', for which contributors submitted photographs of things that meant something to them. Viv's contribution was a flannel "because I just feel like I'm constantly washing and wiping and cleaning up after the children".

Viv wrote an accompanying poem "about the different ways that you're occupied once you become a mum; how your needs come last as you try to put your child first, all the washing and changing".

The *Other in Mother* ran at the Mosley Street gallery for three days at the end of September.



Photo courtesy of Viv Bell

Viv also has a piece in the 160th Anniversary Exhibition at Stockport's Vernon Park Art Gallery. The gallery put out an open call to artists, asking them to submit art on the theme of the gallery's anniversary, or related to 1858, the year the park opened. Viv's submission was an acrylic painting of a flamingo (pictured below), which was a popular animal for artists to depict in Victorian times. The exhibition runs until Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## Drawing the Modern exhibition opens

**Manchester Metropolitan University Library** has opened an exhibition entitled 'Drawing the Modern: the Work of Gordon Hodkinson and Post-War Architectural Education in Manchester'.



**The work of Gordon Hodkinson and post-war architectural education in Manchester**

Graphic courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan University

The exhibition draws on the archive of Gordon Hodkinson (1928 - 2018), a student of architecture at Manchester Municipal School of Art in the 1940s - 1950s.

It explores post-war architectural education through a selection of Hodkinson's drawings including sketches, gouache rendered plans and construction details, as well as project briefs and lecture notes.

The exhibition can be seen in the Special Collections Gallery until 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## Rathbone commemorations



Photos courtesy of Victoria Gallery & Museum

A joint **University of Liverpool Special Collections & Archives (SCA) / Museums & Galleries** exhibition on women's rights campaigner and MP Eleanor Rathbone (1872-1946), opened at the Victoria Gallery & Museum in October, using material from the Rathbone archive.

The exhibition 'Eleanor Rathbone – An Independent Woman, Suffragist, Politician & Social Reformer' runs until Saturday 6th April 2019.

Liverpool's SCA will also be opening a related exhibition in the Sydney Jones Library 'A gift from Greenbank: reconstructing the Rathbone Library' between October 2018 and January 2019.

## Manchester's Big Book Move

The **University of Manchester Library** reorganised 775,000 books over the summer vacation – here's Why and How!

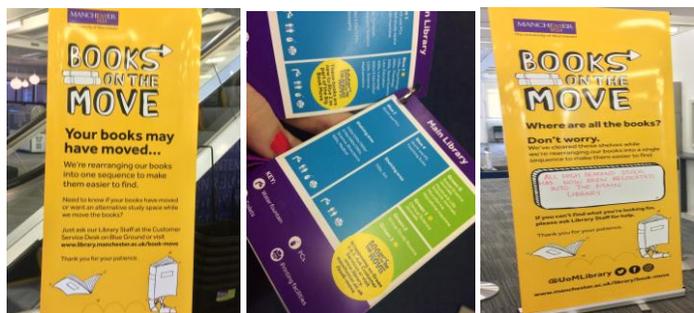
**Why?** The Knowing Your Customer (KYC) tracker report 2017, alongside ethnographic studies conducted by the Library, identified that 19% of students couldn't find the books they were looking for; 16% found the experience difficult; it could take up to 30 minutes for some students to find a book.



The Big Book Move project was launched in February 2018 as a result of customer feedback suggesting that improvements in this area would make the single biggest difference to their Library experience.

**How?** Over the summer vacation the Library and book moving specialist Harrow Green, relocated over 775,000 books – that's 21 kilometres!! – into a single, user friendly Dewey sequence. Many of the books needed to be moved more than once before reaching their final location.

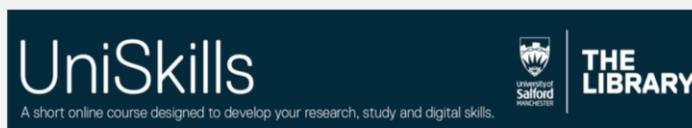
High Demand books were also integrated into the new sequence with an extended three day loan period. Signage was updated and improved and the locations of books were updated on Library Search.



An ambitious target was set to complete the moves during the summer vacation to minimise disruption to students and staff and to remain open throughout this process.

The Library is planning to conduct follow up ethnographic studies in February 2019 to measure the success of the project. Customer feedback so far has been positive: "Loving the new revamp, very easy to navigate".

## Salford's UniSkills a great success



UniSkills is the **University of Salford library's** new online learning programme which a massive 1803 students have enrolled on in the first few weeks!

It offers a short self-paced online learning course that focuses on learning at university, finding information and studying effectively and ethically.

As well as offering self-guided learning, UniSkills also allows students to collect digital badges while they progress through the course with the following digital badges awarded so far:

- Learning at University = 727
- Finding Information = 665
- Studying Effectively = 617
- Overall UniSkills = 589

Feedback gathered from the students has been really positive, with 94% saying they'd recommend it to a friend, and 92% saying UniSkills positively changed how they plan to approach their studies.

Amy Pearson, The Library's Content Developer, is pleased with the feedback so far: "UniSkills aims to give students the knowledge and skills they need to transition to university level study and help them take ownership over their learning. From the feedback so far, it is clear they value this."



Nicola Sales and Amy Pearson - photo courtesy of University of Salford Communications Team

Nicola Sales, Academic Support Librarian, is delighted at how popular UniSkills has been: "It's great to see the positive response from academics and students. We hope that UniSkills is a valuable addition to the extended induction activities within schools."

## Project Management achievement at Cumbria



**PRINCE2PRINCE2PRINCE2PRINCE2PRINCE2**

James Stephens, Library Resources and Research Manager at the University of Cumbria, shares his recent positive experience of using PRINCE2 Project Management (PM) Techniques to deliver a major review of Cumbria's library resources allocation model, library resources management policy and reading list strategy. James previously had experience of contributing to projects employing PM methods but the Library Resources Review (LRR) was his first experience of managing a project using the techniques.

One of the main lessons James learnt from the project was the importance of enlisting the support of key influencers from the start of the project. He also feels it's imperative to keep stakeholders informed at every stage.

He also felt having a project sponsor was crucial, someone to chair the project board meetings, to ensure objectivity and keep the project within scope. As James states: "Even with clear aims, scope and objectives it is all too easy for project managers to become so immersed in detail that their perspective is compromised".

Read James' [full article](#), including his hints and tips for successful project delivery.



James Stephens - photo courtesy of the University of Cumbria

## Staff Appointments



Sarah d'Ardenne; Thomas Shaw; Simon Bains

**Sarah d'Ardenne** has been appointed Head of Library Services at the **Royal Northern College of Music**, replacing Anna Wright who retired at the end of September after 30+ years at the College. Sarah also joins the NoWAL Board as the representative for the RNCM.

**Thomas Shaw** has been appointed Assistant Director: Digital Innovation and Research Services at **Lancaster University**. Tom is joining Lancaster from the University of East London where he was Head of Learning & Resources.

**Simon Bains**, Head of Research Services and Deputy Librarian, is currently Interim Librarian and Director at the **University of Manchester**.

The **University of Bolton** has appointed **Lorna Dawson** as Academic Librarian.

**Mike Robinson** has been appointed as LTD Manager at **Edge Hill University**.

## NoWAL Goodbyes

**Jan Wilkinson** has now retired as Librarian and Director at the **University of Manchester**.

**Christine Smith**, Collections Development Manager, has retired from the **University of Bolton** library.

**Lynne Leader**, Head of Collections, Content & Digital Innovations at the **University of Salford**, has left the university after 33 years of service. **Maggie Barker**, Library Services Manager, and **Ian Johnston**, Archives & Special Collections Coordinator, have also left the University.

### NoWAL Operations Group

**Susan Murray (Chair)**  
Liverpool Hope University

**Julia Martin (Vice Chair)**  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

**Julie Hitchen (Treasurer)**  
University of Central Lancashire

**Heather Thrift (T&D Lead)**  
Liverpool John Moores University

**Sandra Bracegirdle (Procurement Lead)**  
University of Manchester

**Ruth Jenkins (NC Link)**  
Manchester Metropolitan University

Nicky Freeman NoWAL Operations Officer - [n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk](mailto:n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk) – 0161 295 6768

## News in Brief

### New heatmaps in use at Salford

A member of the **University of Salford's Library** staff has developed a system for automatically translating data on space usage into a heatmap of the library, which is continually updated. The in-house initiative is already proving useful and will enable the library to plan for future space development.

### New archive at LSTM

During the summer, **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine** hosted a lunch and formal handover of Prof. R.M. (Tim) Gordon's archive, an academic from 1919 - 1958. The archive includes several humorous, tropical medicine inspired Christmas cards drawn by his wife Joy Gordon who he met and proposed to at LSTM. As a sign of gratitude LSTM took on the design, production and private publication of the book 'The lives of Tim & Joy Gordon, seen through the eyes of a malaria carrying mosquito', written and compiled by Peter Gordon, one of his sons.

### Salford celebrates Walter Greenwood

The **University of Salford Library** held an event, entitled 'Not Just Love On The Dole: Walter Greenwood and Working Class Writing', in collaboration with the Working Class Movement Library. The event marked the publication of a book on Walter Greenwood by Chris Hopkins, and coincided with the 80th anniversary of the publication of 'Love on the Dole', also marking 115 years since Greenwood was born. There were academic talks and an accompanying exhibition at the Working Class Movement Library, followed by a reception for the book launch at the University Library.

### Skills@LJMU Launched

Skills@LJMU is a dedicated skills development programme which includes seminars, drop-in advice sessions, one-to-one guidance and online resources at **Liverpool John Moores University**.

Formally launched in September 2018, it boasts a new suite of web pages and online tutorials. It is delivered by the Academic Liaison Librarians, the Academic Achievement Team and the IT Support Team.

The web pages include a training calendar and the ability to book appointments with liaison librarians, IT co-ordinators and skills tutors.

More info is available at:

<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/microsites/library/skills-ljmu>



### Ruskin Library refurb completed

The refurbishment of the Ruskin Library at **Lancaster University** was completed over the summer. The Library will shortly be announcing a programme of activities including a re-launch exhibition towards the end of November. This will be accompanied by the launch of a new Ruskin library website.

**Any news to share?** Please contact **Nicky Freeman**, NoWAL Operations Officer, if you have anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter or have any ideas for future NoWAL events:  
[n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk](mailto:n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk)

### 'Women Who Shaped Manchester' Exhibition

This new exhibition at the **University of Manchester's John Rylands Library** runs until mid-March 2019, and focuses on a group of women active in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Manchester. It includes women engaged in politics, scientific debate, culture and work in the cotton industry and captures the passion and strength of these pioneers.