

The Year Ahead

There's a busy year ahead for the library as we continue to work to improve our services. We plan to move to a next generation Library Management Platform which will offer a single search box for all library resources as well as improved management of electronic resources and easy to use reading list functionality integrated into GCU Learn. This is a major project for the library which impacts on everything we do. It offers an excellent opportunity to review our policies, procedures and workflows to ensure we deliver the best possible services for our users. Our newly formed Collections and Discovery Team will lead on this development. This team is also responsible for our research and educational resource repositories, ResearchOnline@GCU and edShare@GCU and we will work to further develop our support and promotion of these services.

Our Academic Liaison and Library Desk teams are working together to improve support for library users. Staff across both teams are now working to streamline our appointment booking and enquiry handling.

This year will see the completion of the building works on the mezzanine on level 1 of the library. This will open up a bright and highly visible space for our Academic Liaison team to carry out their work with staff and students. Externally a canopy will be put in place at the library's main entrance to enhance its visual identity and to allow us to bring our 24/7 automated book drop into service allowing library users to return books even when the library is closed.

Our self service laptop lending unit is now in place on Level 0 and will soon offer quick and easy access to high quality equipment. We are also creating four bookable private study rooms for use by staff and students on Level 0, a welcome addition to the range of learning spaces the library offers.

Our Archive Centre has been created and our Archives and Special Collections service is thriving in its new space. The service is in discussion on bringing a number of very exciting collections in the area of Scottish culture to GCU and has secured funding to catalogue our renowned resources related to the development of public health education in Scotland from the Wellcome Trust. Work on developing these and other opportunities to enhance our collections will continue in the year ahead.

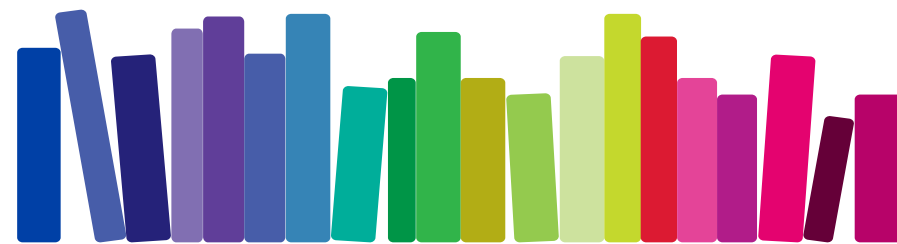
Robert Ruthven, Director of Library Services



University for the Common Good

The Library

Annual Report 2015/16



University for the Common Good

The Library

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The Year in Statistics

In comparison to 2014/15 (where available)



NSS score

92% satisfaction with Library resources and services - Up 2%



Ejournal article downloads

1,466,783 - Down 9%



Ebook chapter downloads

2,736,911 - Up 2.5%



Ebooks available

103,948



Archive productions

6,218 - Down 15%
(Due to closure during building works)



Resources available in edShare

1,164



edShare downloads

3,775



Research Repository downloads

15,857



No. of full text theses in EThOS

337



Library Desk Enquiries

31,568 including enquiries taken by staff on the library floors



Teaching and Support Sessions

2,632 - Down 4%
(Staff turnover led to temporary lack of staff availability)

Support and Teaching

- Academic librarians continued to provide induction and tailored classes from pre-entry to postgraduate level students. Orientation and induction classes provided a welcome to both the physical Library building and to the services provided. Embedded tailored workshops developed student research skills and both students and staff were supported in one-to-one appointments.
- In response to increased demand from the Schools we re-evaluated our resources to refresh the provision for distance learners. We provided guidance to academic staff developing programmes for our partnership with the African Leadership College, collating and developing reading lists and creating training resources for use by ALC staff.
- The librarians liaised closely with academic staff by attending boards, student staff consultative groups and by taking part in subject reviews allowing us to evaluate the library resources and align them with the teaching and learning needs of the University.

Achievements 2015/16

- Launched edShare@GCU, the University's new educational resources repository.
- Removal of the external entrance ramp and installation of the new Saltire level 0 entrance as part of the Heart of Campus project.
- Installation of new library self-service machines on every level of the Saltire Centre. Users can now borrow, return and renew books themselves in one easy transaction, as well as pay fines by cash.
- Library staff available on all floors of the Saltire centre.
- Refurbishment of level 0 with the introduction of new furniture and new flooring.
- Following student feedback, level 3 has become silent individual study.
- Move of the library desk to the new entrance on level 0.
- All print theses are now fully catalogued and discoverable in the library catalogue and via EThOS. There are now 910 print theses available for consultation in our Archives reading room and 401 of these have been digitised and are available via EThOS.
- We have consistently increased our NSS score every year from 83% in 2011 to 92% in 2016.

Library Collections

Through an agreement with JISC collections and various publishers we now have access to 5 new academic databases, crossing a range of different subject areas. These databases range from high quality ebook and monograph collections to comprehensive journal archives to historical news collections:

- Science Classic – users can now browse the journal archive of Science, one of the world's leading scientific journals, from 1880 – 1996 via the library's journal a-z. Science publishes the very best in research across all scientific disciplines.
- Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Daily Reports consists of translated broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, periodicals and government statements from nations around the globe from 1974 - 1996. Users can access the reports via the library's database a-z.
- Migration to New Worlds showcases unique primary source material recounting the many and varied personal experiences of 350 years of migration. Materials include diaries, personal letters, oral histories and journals and other unique primary source material from the 'Century of Immigration' (1800-1924). Users can access the collection via the library's database a-z.
- 19th Century British Pamphlets - This collection of 26,000 19th century British pamphlets provides online access to some of the most significant pamphlet collections held in UK research libraries. The collections focus on the political, economic and social issues that fuelled the great Parliamentary debates and controversies of the 19th century. Users can access this content via JSTOR.
- Digital library of core resources on Ireland - a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary digital library of research materials relating to Ireland, spanning the 18th century to present. This core collection contains 620,000 pages and around 80 key journals, 210 monographs and more than 2,500 manuscript pages of key research material on Ireland's culture and political history. Users can access this content via JSTOR.

Archives and Special Collections

- The creation of our new Archive Centre is a milestone for archives and special collections, increasing our visibility and allowing us to provide our service with confidence and professional integrity.
- Cataloguing started in April 2016 on the Anti-Apartheid Movement Scottish Committee records (funded by National Cataloguing Grants Programme for Archives 2015).
- We housed the pop up exhibition 'Forward to Freedom: the history of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement' for the month of April 2016.
- From May 2016 Library Desk support was given to allow us to develop our Reading Room team and increase our opening hours.

The Common Good

- Hosted a talk by the National Librarian on developments at the Kelvin Hall
- Hosted a Copyright Seminar on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals in Scotland
- Created an exhibition on the Anti-Apartheid Movement in celebration of Black History Month
- Delivered talks and sessions to community groups on the records contained in our Archives
- Contributed to John Pearce Annual Lecture (Scottish Social Enterprise Community)



Preserving the past to inform the future