**Special Collections**

I have been spending some time recently studying the various manuscript holdings in Glasgow. The project is founded on previous work by Jack Balaban, a former Keeper of Special Collections who has returned to lead this project. It aims to improve the entries currently on the catalogue and to bring scholarly focus to the distinctive, copy-specific characteristics of these historic objects - binding, decoration and illumination, annotation, and marks of early ownership.

Research has already been completed on some 120 incunabula, and already there are important findings, particularly with regard to earlier owners.

**Manuscripts Catalogue**

Significant enhancements to search methods, virtual presentation of hands and individual catalogue records were successfully launched online in early 2009, making it easier to understand the information presented and to navigate around it. Another former member of staff, Peter Asplin, continues to offer volunteer support in the area of manuscript cataloguing.

**Book of the month**

Special Collections book of the month showcased subjects such as Robert Burns poems, Homer’s Iliad and The Rosarium Philosophorum. A full list of Book of the Month exhibitions can be seen online.

**Virtual Exhibition**

A virtual Exhibition, ‘Dancing with Death’ highlighted the books in the Gemmell Collection.

**Course Material Pages**

Research Resources in the University of Glasgow for Adam Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment! This resource list was compiled for the Adam Smith conference held at the University in April 2009. It highlights resources from Special Collections and Archives.

**Digitation of manuscripts**

The year has seen significant development in the digitisation of medieval manuscripts as a result of collaboration with international partners.

**Accessions**

Significant manuscript accessions 2008-09

Papers of Betty Low - we received this papers of the Scottish painter Betty Low (1904-2007). Held in high regard by her artistic peers, Low exhibited widely and played a significant and varied part in the cultural life of Glasgow and the Scottish artistic scene. Generally, her papers include correspondence, material relating to the exhibition and sale of her work, some sketches, photographs and material relating to her work with Unity Theatre, the Compass Charing Cross Gallery (she was a co-founder) and the Compass Gallery. This collection complements our existing, and recently expanded corpus of Kahan papers.

**Library Review 2009**

The total loans increased by 1.5% in 2008-2009 to 1,866 of which 73% (1,377) were self-service transactions and 45% (888) were from the Short Loan Collection.

**Borrower Profile**

Visitors to the Library: Physical & Virtual

There were 1,911,443 visitors to the Library in 2008-2009, which comprised 1,080,165 and 831,278 visits, translating a 3% increase on last year.

The number of virtual visits to the Library has previously been measured as the number of visits to the Library homepage which increased 4% on last year to 1,403,238.

**Number of visits to the Library home page**

**Facts and figures**

**Membership**

The number of external registered borrowers continued to grow, increasing by 3% to 3,971 on last year and those registering under the SCONUL Access reciprocals lending scheme increased by 52% to 558.

**Library Stock**

The total loans increased by 1.5% in 2008-2009 to 1,866 of which 73% (1,377) were self-service transactions and 45% (888) were from the Short Loan Collection.

**Special Collections**

The number of items consulted in Special Collections increased by 11% in 2008-2009, the Special Collections Department increased 1% to 15,183.

**University of Glasgow Library**

Charity number SC004401

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Highlights and achievements of the year

Review of the year

• The Library achieved a score of 92% in the NSS (National Student Survey), up from 91% last year, keeping us top in Scotland and 4th among peers in the UK.
• Launched in January 2009, the Library’s redesigned website has greatly enhanced our online presence, leading to increased usage of our information resources.
• A number of initiatives were launched, using social networking tools, including the Library blog and the development of Library content on YouTube and Flickr.
• A new café and social learning space was developed in the annex area on level 3 of the building.
• The University’s participation in the REF (Research Excellence Framework) pilot, led jointly by the Library and Research and Enterprise, concluded successfully in May 2009.
• Another success was the conclusion of the project to digitise the first 50 years of the University Guardian, the main campus newspaper. This was resourced by an award from the Chancellor’s fund.
• The Glasgow Iconbuchla (pre-1500 printed books) Project was launched.
• An exhibition of the Library’s collection of William Blake works was held at the University of Glasgow, the main campus newspaper. This was resourced by an award from the Chancellor’s fund.

From Icunubara on Flickr to ‘How do I find journal articles’ on YouTube, library staff are forging ahead on many fronts to support students and researchers. If you want to get involved then become a Fan on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, or join the Friends of the Library on Facebook.

Research Support
As a result of the launch of the new EThOS Online Service from the British Library, there has been a 100% increase in e-prints deposited, together with an increase in e-theses deposits. There are now more than 1000 theses in the Glasgow Thesis Service (http://theses.gla.ac.uk), of which over 869 have freely available full text. The download statistics for our theses are very high – the most popular thesis has been downloaded more than 37,000 times.

Enlighten
Through the University’s institutional repository Enlighten, research publications will be made as widely and freely available as possible. The University has introduced Publications Policy in September 2009 to make maximising the impact of University research publications. Meetings have been held with academic departments to establish how they can best use and work with Enlighten. In addition, presentations on Enlightenment and the Publications Policy have been delivered to a number of departments. An Enlighten training day was delivered for administrative staff depositing publications on behalf of academic staff.

Presentations on this activity were also given to a group of Russian Librarians at a workshop in St Petersburg in December 2008 and to a republication Winter School at New Lanark in February 2009 which was attended by colleagues from a wide range of UK institutions.

REF Pilot
The submission of data on 1358 publications across 27 Units of Assessment was successful and has been carried over to the 2010 REF exercise.

Library staff have built quickly on the new ‘Library on Demand’ service, with the roll-out of Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection software, to coincide with a Faculty of Science, Mathematics, Computing and Technology seminar, Creative Writing workshop, with a variety of seating, and a new coffee bar, Food in Creative Writing.

There is growing demand for usage, with a 33% increase in usage over the year. A new ‘Library on Demand’ service is now being widely used in the library, both from academic staff and students in many departments. An extension of the service to include lecture halls is now looking much smarter. The work that has taken place on the annex is the latest development in a wide-scare programme of redevelopment of the Library carried out over the last 10 years. The next focus for redevelopment is level 2 and the main part of level 3.

Library Materials to support Research and Teaching
Overall, the number of electronic journals provided rose by 8% over the year to 31,371 titles. The reduction of print only and electronic subscriptions increased by 12% over the year to 31,371 titles. Usage figures have risen rapidly as electronic delivery of undergraduate material expands.

Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) SHEDL was launched in January 2009, following successful negotiations in autumn 2008 with the publishers of the Scottish Higher Education Digital Library (SHEDL) and several publishers of Elsevier, Springer, Cambridge University Press, and Wiley, enabling online access for the next three years to almost all of their current journal content for Scottish HEIs.

Further work on the annex is the latest development in a wide-scare programme of redevelopment of the Library carried out over the last 10 years. The next focus for redevelopment is level 2 and the main part of level 3.