Visitors to the Library: Physical & Virtual

Visits to the Library increased by 6% to 1,634,638. The average visits per FTE student increased to 74 compared with 64 last year. The most frequent visitors are from the College of Social Sciences followed by the College of Arts, however the number of visits from members of the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences increased by 162% on last year.

From Google Analytics, the number of visits to the Library Web Site increased by 3% on last year. During 1,382,680 visits to the Web site, 264,782 unique visitors from 174 countries, viewed 2,491,345 pages.

Borrower Profile

In total, 26,431 readers borrowed 799,999 items of which 68% were self-service transactions and 43% were from the Short Loan Collection.

Use of Information Resources

The increased provision of electronic resources, especially e-books, is reflected in the use of both print and electronic collections. Use of electronic books per FTE student now exceeds the use of print material by 58%.

Glasgow University Guardian online archive

Every student newspaper produced at the University from 1932 to 1935 and 1955 to 2007 is now accessible and reveals a rich record of student life across 75 years. Acting as a training ground for some of the UK’s most influential journalists and politicians, the archive contains contributions from former students including Donald Dewar, John Smith, Andrew Neil, William Boyd, Ian Martin and Professor Sir Neil MacCormick.

www.glasgow.ac.uk/services/archives/guardian

World Changing website

March 2011 saw the launch of the University of Glasgow World Changing website. World Changing celebrates the staff and alumni of the University of Glasgow whose innovations, discoveries or developments in the twentieth century have changed the world. At its launch in March 2011, 112 achievements and 118 people had been assigned world changing status. World changers include Edwin Morgan, National Poet for Scotland, Ian Donald, obstetrician and inventor of the diagnostic ultrasound and prominent nutritionist, Mike Lean.

www.worldchanging.glasgow.ac.uk

The University of Glasgow Story

Interest in this resource has grown, with more than half a million hits per month recorded. This popular website tells the story of men and women who have played a part in the development of the University since it was founded over 500 years ago.

www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk

Archives

Above (left to right) Isabella Elder portrait from the University of Glasgow Story; Mike Lean and Alan Crozier announce their project into the health properties of tomatoes, 1996.
Looking back over the year, there has been a real commitment and enthusiasm from staff, as well as a wealth of new initiatives and developments. Library staff continue to look forward, seeking the best ways to provide information resources and guiding our users to the content they require for study and research.

Enlighten and research management support
The Library was heavily involved in the University’s mini-REF (Research Excellence Framework) exercise which ran between October 2010 and May 2011. A new add-on to the University’s institutional repository, Enlighten, enabled academic colleagues to select their four top publications from within Enlighten and to provide information on impact and esteem. The Library was also involved in a significant exercise comparing journal articles indexed in Enlighten against a journal sample produced by the Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) initiative.

Course Materials
The Online Course Materials Service continues to expand. The team prepared materials for 70 completely new courses and saw a 37% increase in the number of extracts provided. Positive feedback has included comments such as “just back from a History Staff Student Committee meeting, where students were most enthusiastic and positive about the digitised reading resources available to them via the Course Materials.”

Electronic book provision
The total number of e-books available to users is now more than 760,000. A Springer e-book trial proved to be very successful resulting in the library purchasing all English language Springer collections from 2005-2011.

Patron Driven Acquisition
Glasgow is the first Scottish Higher Education institution to undertake a PDA (Patron Driven Acquisition) scheme for selecting e-books. Approximately 1500 titles were selected by users and loaded onto the University website, with automatic purchase made when a title was accessed twice. As a result, almost 300 new titles were purchased and added to the Library collection.

Electronic resources
Work continued throughout the year to make access to our online resources both on and off-campus, as transparent and simple as possible for our users. A positive result was achieved with all Library users now able to log-in to resources with their GUGID (Glasgow User ID) regardless of starting point.

People

Breaking the Renaissance code
To coincide with the Ninth International Emblem Conference held at the University, an exhibition of material from Special Collections; focusing on Renaissance symbolism was mounted in the Hunterian Art Gallery. Amongst the items on display were editions of Alciato, and a 16th century French translation of Petrarch, illustrated with dramatic miniatures (see image below).

Euing Ballads on-line
In the course of the year all 415 Euing broadside ballads were digitised by the Library’s Photographic Unit. William Euing (1788-1874) was a Glasgow insurance broker who assembled a personal library in his home, purchasing the ballad collection in 1866.

http://ebooks.english.ucsb.edu/page/euing

Edwin Morgan
In September the Library received the final transfer of Edwin Morgan papers, following the poet’s death in August 2010. The publication of an official biography, largely based on research in Special Collections, was in part responsible for two subsequent donations of material.

Glasgow Incunabula Project
This project investigating early printed books is now firmly established internationally, attracting considerable critical acclaim. Some 440 incunabula have now been researched. Feedback has been very positive, with a number of enthusiastic comments (such as that from Barbara Scavini of Quarto: “All my congratulations on such comprehensive, analytical and VERY good-looking thing!”). I think there is a good chance that the Glasgow incunabula collection will become a model… for future incunabula projects.

The two copies above of Aesticna provide a nice example of the rare book librarian’s mantra that “no two copies of any early printed book are ever the same”.

Scottish Theatre Archive
The Scottish Theatre Archive celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2011. Founded in 1991, the Archive has grown faster than any other collection, with most of the new acquisitions coming to the Library in the form of donations from theatre companies and individuals. The Archive of the National Theatre of Scotland was placed in the Archive in May.