A word from the University Librarian

"The focus of the 2016/17 academic year has been supporting the University’s single strategic priority, the development of Industry Collaboration Zones, by delivering an excellent student experience, enhancing our support for research and engaging with community and cultural organisations. In this report I want to outline some of our key achievements this year.

We found new and innovative ways to support our students and academic colleagues. The Library opened the B’Hive space in the Allerton building and, opened the first phase of the transformation of the Clifford Whitworth Library to our students and started the second phase.

The re-development of the Clifford Whitworth Library is delivering high quality, technology enabled, flexible spaces that will have significant impact on student learning. Every effort has been made to minimise disruption to students and to ensure students have access to the full range of library spaces, facilities and services during critical assessment periods. The impact of the development of these learning spaces is reflected in the continued improvement in our NSS results, as well as the positive feedback we have received from our students. We have worked with our students and academic colleagues to deliver improve our services and their experience.

Our #SalfordSmart campaign helped to make exams a little bit easier for many of our students. We introduced a new laptop loans service in response to student feedback. Students are able to take our laptops out of the library and roam around the campus, using them in lectures, cafes or even in Peel Park.

We launched a popular reading collection, including around 600 items of fiction, non-fiction and children’s books. The collection was set up to encourage students to read more widely and has proven popular.

The level and ambition of our activities in support of research excellence has continued to develop. Our open access week events explored the benefits of keeping research open. Dr Erinma Ochu and Dr Caroline Magennis challenged us to consider researchers' motivations for opening up their research publications and research data and the benefits of openness for audiences beyond academia.

Our activities have extended beyond the campus, engaging local communities by opening the Library of Fake News at Media City and through Dear Library, an initiative celebrating the importance of libraries. Dear Library is an initiative conceived by Chancellor and writer-in residence, Jackie Kay, and has seen us working with Salford Community Leisure and the Working Class Movement Library to champion libraries.

The University of Salford Library sorted fact from fiction at their Library of Fake News at the Manchester Science Festival. Visitors to the library learnt how and why fake news is created, picked up fact-checking tips and played games to test their ability to spot fake news. The Fake News Library proved to be a great success, receiving lots of positive feedback from visitors and colleagues across the University.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues, along with our students and academic and professional service partners across the University, for their support of the Library. I hope you enjoy reading about our achievements in the past academic year and the difference we are making for everyone who uses our services and collections."

David Clay, University Librarian
The penultimate stage of the library’s £6.2 million development project has been delivered with the re-opening of the first floor.

The work has transformed the space, offering bright, fresh study areas with new furniture, lighting and additional PCs and power sockets - changes which were made in response to student feedback.

The re-designed first floor also adds five group study rooms fitted with TVs, whiteboards, projectors and charging stations to the library’s offering.

Additionally, there are two rooms that will have the twin purpose of acting as a teaching room for study skills and research skills training by the library team and as drop in PC suites when teaching is not taking place, as well as a large open space that blends books with PCs.

Zamzam Ibrahim, President of the Students’ Union, is delighted with the various learning opportunities that the library now provides.

She said: “It looks amazing. I can’t wait for you guys to come and check it out. There are loads of spaces for you to study in groups and individual study rooms upstairs. I’m really happy with the way everything has turned out and I think you’re going to love it too.”

The space is not built solely for study though as there are a number of comfortable seats, benches and diner booths for students to sit back and relax.

Sam Grogan, Pro Vice Chancellor Student Experience, recently visited the library and commented. “The whole redesign has a much lighter, more spacious feel to it, whilst at the same time retaining the opportunity for students to find a cosy quiet corner to work.

“I was struck by the way the areas were being used by students – individual students using the same spaces very differently and yet happily co-existing without disrupting one another.”

The Library Development Project, which will bring 250 additional study spaces, 75 additional PCs, eight new individual study rooms, nine group study rooms, improved lighting and much more, will complete with the opening of the refurbished ground floor in early 2018.
Our new leisure reading collection has gone down a storm as more than 70% of the books have now been borrowed.

The collection, which is made up of 600 books, was launched last year in response to research which showed that reading for pleasure boosts academic performance.

After the idea was suggested at a staff forum, a survey was sent out to students to measure how likely they were to use the leisure reading collection with 80% saying they were either ‘extremely likely’ or ‘somewhat likely’ to use it.

Students went on to choose 100 books for the collection with the rest of it selected by staff, who set out to create a varied collection. An additional 100 books were also donated by Manchester Science Festival.

Once the collection was in place, it was successfully promoted through a social media campaign and a number of events; one of these saw Andrew Michael-Hurley read from his debut novel ‘The Loney’ to a packed room.

The library is now working to engage students that don’t use the library with the collection.
New study space opens

The number of study spaces outside our main library grew to five this March, when we opened the B'Hive. A joint project between ourselves, the School of Health and Society, and Estates, the B'Hive addressed our students’ need for more collaborative and group study spaces in the Allerton building.

In addition to the group working spaces, there’s also a relaxation room fitted with beanbags, a space for practising presentations and a television for when people need to unwind.

Laptops become truly portable

Our laptops are now truly portable with students able to take them anywhere they like.

Students told us they wanted to take our laptops to their preferred study spots and we made this a reality earlier this year when our new laptop lockers were installed.
The University of Salford Library sorted fact from fiction at their Library of Fake News at the Manchester Science Festival on Saturday 21 October and Sunday 22 October.

In their MediaCityUK library, visitors learnt how and why fake news is created, picked up fact-checking tips and played games to test their ability to spot fake news.

In addition to this, they had a timeline of fake news throughout the ages proving that Donald Trump did not invent fake news, a tombola of truth, video interviews, a confessional box for people to deposit their personal fake news – lies they had told others about themselves – and students from their ‘Comedy Performance’ course playing the role of liebrarians.

The Library of Fake News proved to be a great success, receiving lots of positive feedback from visitors and colleagues across the university.

The University of Salford is the lead educational sponsor of the Manchester Science Festival and hosted ‘Gamelab’, a weekend of activities at MediaCityUK, which the Library of Fake News was part of.
Jackie Kay partners with us to celebrate importance of libraries

Jackie Kay, the national poet of Scotland and University of Salford Chancellor, joined forces with us, our Arts unit and Salford Community Libraries to create “Dear Library”, a jam-packed calendar of events which celebrate libraries and their impact.

At the launch event on Thursday February 22, Jackie read poems that she had created following a visit to the archives, which are owned by the library, and invited students, who she had previously ran a workshop with, to do the same.

Our staff were also involved when they encouraged teenage pupils to get into reading at a local high school in collaboration with Salford Community Libraries.

The latest event saw Jackie read a poem that she had specially written for ‘Dear Library’ at the Salford Museum and Art Gallery.

Jackie also read out people’s fondest memories of using libraries, which had been collected across Salford’s libraries on specially made postcards. Forthcoming ‘Dear Library’ events will be announced soon.
Open Access Week explores benefits of keeping research open

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2017
"OPEN IN ORDER TO..."

We organised two events in October to mark International Open Access Week, with the theme of “Open in order to….” The theme was designed to explore the benefits of making research openly available, which includes things like: encouraging citizen science, stimulating research in developing countries and making the process of scholarly research more transparent.

These events were open to staff, students and the general public and aimed to showcase good examples of open research happening at the university, and the researchers’ motivations for making their research open.

Dr Erinma Ochu, Lecturer in Science Communication, spoke about a number of fascinating research projects that she’s been involved in and how making the research data from these projects openly available has helped her to get the public involved in her research.

Dr Caroline Magennis, Lecturer in English Literature, talked about her involvement in the #Agreement20 project and her work with the Open Library of Humanities, a charitable organisation that aims to make open scholarly publishing fairer and more accessible.

The events, and the library’s Open Research Twitter account, were also used to promote the launch of the Open Research Network. This is intended to become an informal network of staff and students who are interested in open research and other developments in scholarly communications.
We started a £6.2 million refurbishment in June last year and while we carried out work overnight and during the least stressful times for students, we still put in place a number of contingencies to ensure our students continued to receive a good service.

As part of our contingencies, which were worked out in partnership with the Students’ Union and student representatives, we transformed one study space into a pop-up library by installing PCs, printers, information desks and roving staff.

We directed students from our main library to the redesigned space and installed huge signs on the windows of the pop-up library, which we kept open until 10PM every day.

In addition to this, lots of work was carried out to ensure that students still had access to all of our resources. We purchased Stackmap, which allowed people to digitally pin book locations, and gave out updated maps when books were moved.

Students have been patient and understanding throughout the project and we’ve given out free cake and drinks to thank them on two separate occasions.

The refurbishment finishes in January 2018 when the ground floor re-opens.
In June this year, we won Gold in the annual Green Impact environment accreditation scheme as a result of our work to improve the environmental impact and sustainability of our library.

University of Salford students carried out the accreditation and scored us well above the University average in most areas. They said: “We can see that a lot of effort has been put in to the projects and supporting 'greening' the library.”

Our project to create a wildlife area in our courtyard was also recognised with a special Environmental Improvement Award, while our student representative Lauren Moore took home the Student Leadership Award for her contribution to the team.

Work will continue on this designated wildlife area when we complete the library refurbishment.
Our Statistics

Numbers of books loaned in 2016/17: 86,061

Number of times students accessed e-books: 1,150,112

Number of students that attended workshops: 3,925

Number of times students accessed e-journals: 1,316,452

Number of books in the library: 336,133

Contact details:

David Clay, University Librarian
d.p.clay@salford.ac.uk, 01612952224

Lynne Leader, Head of Collections, Content & Digital Innovation
l.leader@salford.ac.uk, 01612953078

Nicola Haworth, Head of Library Services
n.a.howarth@salford.ac.uk, 01612950022

For more information go to: http://www.salford.ac.uk/library

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