

Hellenic and Roman Library
Institute of Classical Studies Library
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2019/2020

This session was clearly divided by the impact of the global pandemic. The first half of the year proceeded largely as expected. The library's book security system was converted from the old magnetic strips to an RFID (radiofrequency identification) system. This involved an external team retagging every single book and periodical in the library, a huge task that they managed to achieve in just two weeks in August. The hardware was then installed: new security gates and tag readers, and a scanning wand that can read the tags. The benefits of this have been a streamlined issue and return process, increased book security, and the tagging process acted as a form of stocktake. The scanning wand also allows library staff to very quickly record which books are on the shelving trolleys each day. This will allow us to build up an evidence base to inform decisions around which books to take off the open shelves when we run out of space.

New shelves were installed in the library outside the Archaeology room. This enabled us to move the start of the archaeology sequence to this shelving, and staff embarked on a gradual moving of stock throughout the room to fit the existing books on the shelves.

The digitisation project funded by the Leventis Foundation continued, although there was an unavoidable break to the project during the national lockdown, as the building was closed to staff. Digitisation progress now stands at 144 volumes digitised. This is 77,411 pages, and 2.24TB of data.

Once again the library participated in History Day in November, with library staff taking turns at the table in Beveridge Hall in Senate House. It was a lovely opportunity to advertise the library and the Societies to a wider group.

The library made use of the display cases in the lobby of the 3rd floor to hold two small exhibitions this year. One focussed on classical monsters and their reception, and the other on Troy.

We ran the library survey again in May of this year, despite the national lockdown. All participants in the survey completed the questionnaire online, and we had a record number of responses. Satisfaction scores were broadly similar to previous years, with an overall satisfaction score of 3.78 out of 4, unchanged from last year. 98% of respondents rated the library as a 3 or 4 out of 4.

In March the realities of the global pandemic struck us rapidly, and we moved in the space of a few days from thinking about reduced capacity and opening hours to realising that it would be necessary to close completely. Accordingly, the library closed to readers on the 19 March, and Senate House closed even to staff on 20 March. Library staff focussed their energy on making available electronic resources wherever possible, negotiating extra remote access to some resources, and signing up to the various temporary offers from publishers. We created a web page identifying available open access resources (<https://library.ics.sas.ac.uk/open-access-resources>), and soon found this page appearing in similar lists from other libraries and institutions. For the period of April to June we provided as much remote support as we could, making use of an international scanning collaborative to obtain some scans, and conducting online research support where we were able to. From 6 July, library staff were at last able to get back into Senate House. We resumed our postal loan and scanning services for our members, and from 13 July offered a 'click and collect' service three days a week for loans, in conjunction with Senate House Library and based on the ground floor of the North

Block. All of these services were quickly taken up by our readers: in the partial month to the end of July we received requests for 147 books by post, 180 books for collection, and 141 items to be scanned. We were also able to resume receiving shipments of books from our suppliers, and to start working through the backlog of acquisitions and cataloguing.

Work also began on making the library Covid-secure, in preparation for eventual reopening to readers when we are able to do so.

Library staff

The Winnington-Ingram Trainee for this session was Emer O'Hanlon. Emer came to us after completing an MA in Byzantine Art History at the Courtauld Institute. During her year with us, in addition to the usual trainee duties and managing and growing our social media accounts, Emer volunteered to take on the responsibility for creating and managing our open access resources page during lockdown, getting this set up so quickly and comprehensively that many other organisations made use of it as well. Emer will leave us to start a PhD in Dublin.

During this session our student volunteer Celeste Foo continued to work with us. We extend our thanks for the generous gift of her time. We were also fortunate to host an Erasmus trainee, Paraskevi Platanou, who came to us for two months from the University of Patras. Paraskevi worked with us on a range of library work, as well as producing detailed descriptions of some of our archive holdings, and doing some work with the Institute of Classical Studies publications department.

As ever, we benefitted from the services of our Casual Assistants who helped us out with morning shelving, late evening and Saturday opening: Gaetano Ardito, Steven Cosnett, Barbara Roberts, Rosario Rovira, Mary Ruskin, Louise Wallace and Matthew Ward. In this session we said farewell to Gaetano Ardito and Steven Cosnett, and welcomed Barbara Roberts, Rosario Rovira and Matthew Ward. To all of these we extend our customary thanks.

Collection development

The library continued to benefit from the kindness of The Classical Association in regularly passing on books not required for review in their journal, *Classical Review*. We also received a significant gift of books this year from Dr Walter Loebel. We are greatly obliged to all donors for their generosity.

We are also indebted to the following donors of books, pamphlets and periodicals:

Dr María Ángeles Alonso; Dr Anastasia Bakogianni; Dr Caroline Barron; Dr Gabriel Boddard; Professor David Breeze; Lawrence Brown; I.R.E. Clark; Dr Robert Collins; Dr Helen Cockle, from the Library of the late Dr. Walter Cockle; Dr. Dr. Victor Cojocar; Dr Soteroula Constantinidou; Allan Cook; Professor Michael Crawford; Dr Michael Ford; Professor Andrzej Gillmeister; Oliver Gilkes; Dr Adrian Goldsworthy; Prof. J.R. Green; Dr Daniel Hadas; Paul L. Jackson; Dr Dorothy King; Dr Pietro Maria Liuzzo; Dr Walter Y. Loebel; Dr Fiachra Mac Góráin; Professor Francisco Marco Simón; Dr Lisa Maurice; Professor Dr Enrique Melchor Gil; Professor Dr Mehmet Önal; Dr Cameron Pearson; Professor Merlin Peris; Šime Perović; Dr Michał Podrazik; Alan Pye; Dr Richard Reece; Dr Alessandro Rolim de Moura; Silvia Rosenberg; Dr Ulrike Roth; Professor Philip Rousseau; Dr Celia Sanchez Natalias; Professor Alistair Small; Dr Anthony Spawforth; Richard Stein; Professor J. Tatum; Julie Taylor; Dr Paul Tyers; Graham Whitaker; Professor Greg Woolf.

The Classical Association; The Classical Review; Charles Ede Ltd; Institute of Classical Studies; Institute of Modern Languages Research; Journal of the Classical Tradition; Museum of London

Library; Paul-Francis Jacquier; Royal Collection Trust; Senate House Library; Spink and Son; The Warburg Institute.

Statistics

Acquisition and usage figures below. Last year's figures (2018/19) in parentheses.

Expenditure on collection development:

Institute: Books: £17,649 (£18,466); Periodicals: £4,084 (£4,477); E-resources: £7,425 (£7,189).

HARL: Books: £19,433 (£21,075); Periodicals: £7,175 (£5,145); E-resources: £260 (£3,820).

Total estimated value of combined Institute and HARL acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts and bequests): £93,657 (£161,151).

Books and pamphlets added: Institute 258 (341); HARL 1,815 (2,651); Total: 2,073 (2,926); Net gain, allowing for replacements: 2,052 (2,926).

Current periodicals: Institute 178 (178); HARL 523 (524); Total: 701 (702), of which 465 (466) were acquired by exchange, and 236 (236) by gift or purchase. There were 81 (78) Institute and 78 (78) HARL exchanges for books and dissertations; and (8) more exchanges were made on behalf of other libraries.

Expenditure on binding (books and periodicals): Institute: £9,339 (£9,428); HARL: £8,739 (£11,048).

Books bound or rebound: Institute: 62 (75); HARL: 32 (36); Total: 94 (111). Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: 9 (45); HARL: 213 (284); Total: 222 (329).

Usage: Borrowers: 2,006 (2,090); Books borrowed: 5,255 (7,887). Library swipe-cards issued (current only): Institute: 1,705 (1,946); Societies: 3,367 (3,409). Turnstile count: 28,044 (51,478) entries; Temporary visitors: 46 (127). Book parcels sent: to members: 244 (258); to reviewers: 44 (104). Scans made: 6,398 (9,694) for 181 (142) members and institutions.

Joanna Ashe, Librarian, September 2020