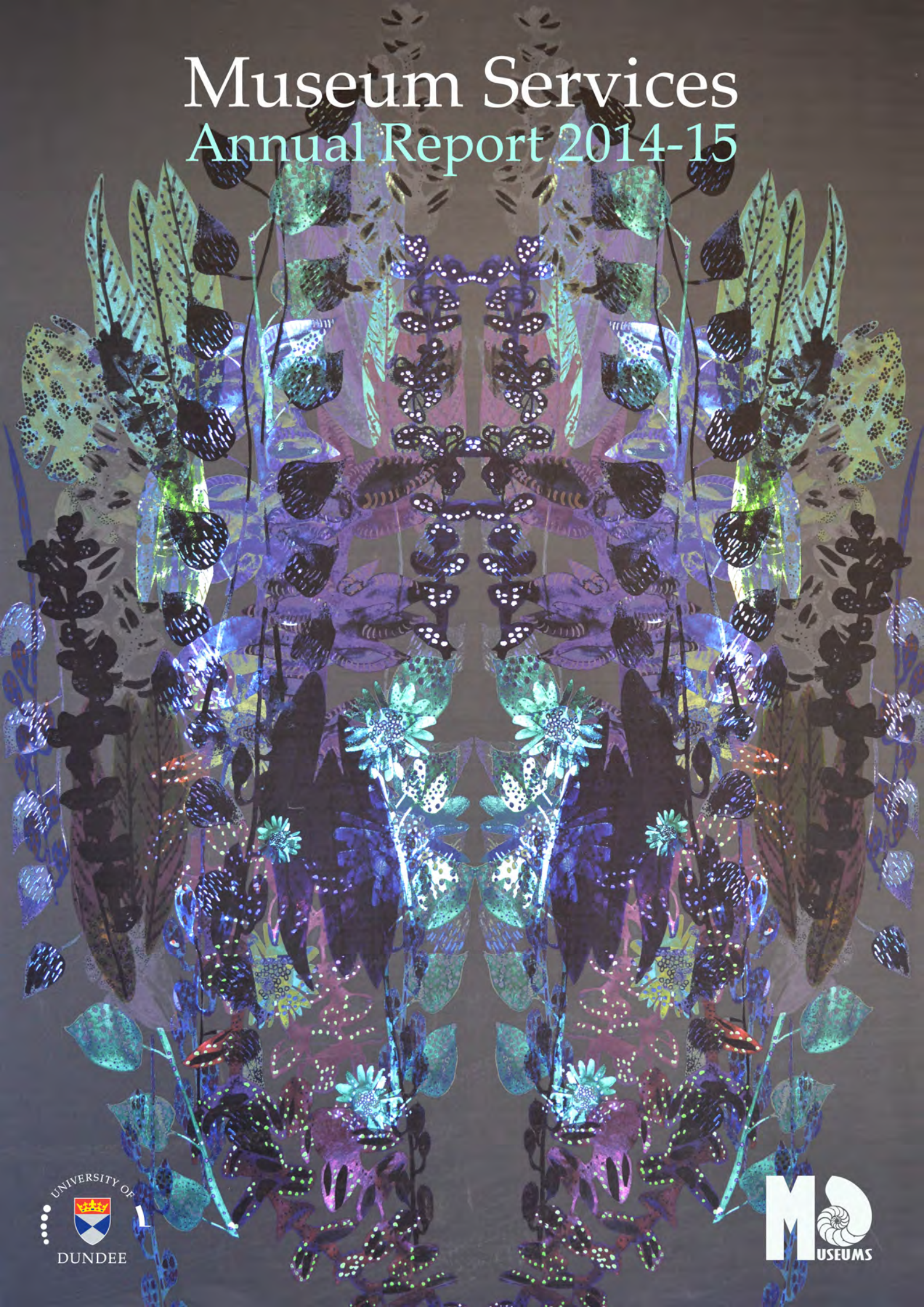
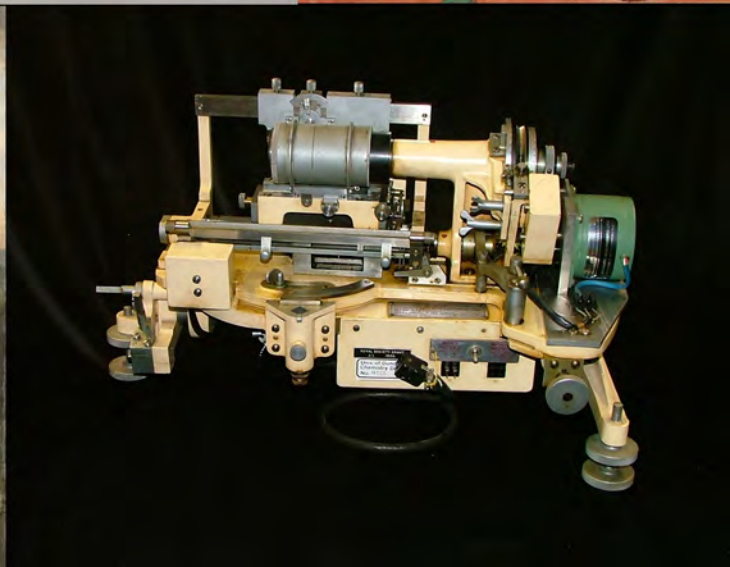
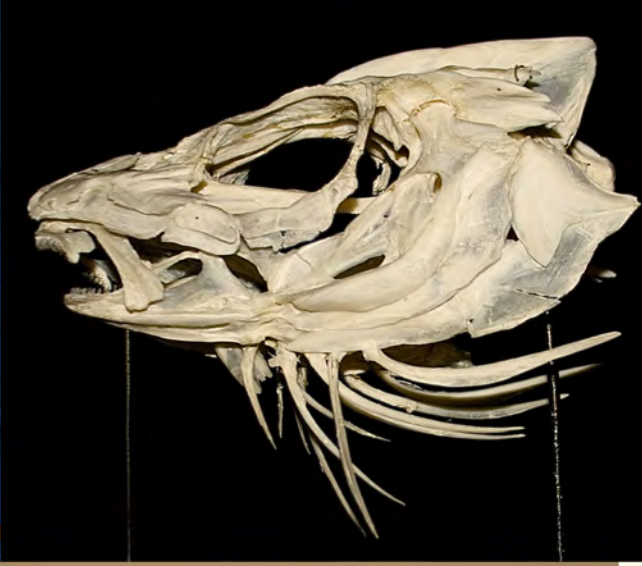


Museum Services Annual Report 2014-15





Introduction

The past year (August 2014 - July 2015) has been a particularly busy one for Museum Services. Thanks to our on-going developmental funding from the Scottish Funding Council and a capital grant from Museums Galleries Scotland, we were able to appoint our former MGS Intern Hope Roberts to a new Assistant Curator post for two years. This is the first time that we have had a second professional member of staff and it has made a significant difference to our activities, particularly in student support and schools outreach. Overall, this year has seen an 87% increase in the number of people making active use of our services, including a 69% increase in student use and a 42% increase in visitor numbers in the Zoology Museum.

Highlights of the past year include our involvement in *Riddles of Form*, a major international word and image conference, and the commemorative activities of the Great War Dundee partnership. In the Lamb Gallery, our exhibitions *Between Tides*, *Mono 68* and *Jim Petrie: Minnie the Minx and More* have been among the most popular we have ever held. We have also undertaken one of our largest permanent displays of art on campus, with over 60 prints and paintings put on show around the School of Education, Social Work & Community Education.

In 2015 we celebrated the 21st birthday of Museum Services. This report reveals some of the activities that we have been doing as we reached our majority. I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Matthew Jarron
Curator of Museum Services
Culture & Information
University of Dundee

www.dundee.ac.uk/museum



Museum Collections - University of Dundee



@UoD_Museums

Front cover image: *Unnatural Botanicals* - wallpaper design by 4th year Textile Design student Emma McCluskey.

"As a textile student, it was imperative to be able to draw from primary sources and Museum Services has a wealth of different collections to study and draw from. I made great use of the Museum during my final year as I was creating a botanical collection and needed a range of plants and flowers to use as inspiration. The Museum provided a fantastic variety of journals of pressed flowers, which I used to great effect to create imagery for my collection."

Emma's collection was shown at New Designers in London where she won the Clothworkers' Printed Textiles Prize.



Exhibitions

“What a wonderful exhibition. It is the story of our lives.”

- visitor to *Mono 68*

One of our main aims is to provide an exciting and inspiring exhibition programme. In the absence of a permanent museum building, temporary exhibitions are our principal method of showcasing the collections. During 2014-15 we put on fourteen public exhibitions, mostly in our regular spaces but also at Dundee Science Centre, Ninewells Hospital and Centrespace.

Three of these exhibitions (*Riddles & Answers*, *The Word is Art* and *Resonate*) were staged to accompany the international word and image conference *Riddles of Form* in August 2014, for which Museum Services was responsible for co-ordinating an accompanying exhibition programme – this also included displays in the Dalhousie Building and the Queen Mother Building. In addition, an informal display of recently conserved paintings from the Duncan of Jordanstone College Collection was also staged in the DJCAD Entrance in June 2015, and we also helped the Scottish Centre for Comics Studies stage a display of art by celebrated comics illustrator Dave Gibbons to accompany his honorary doctorate award at Graduation.

Tower Foyer Gallery

Riddles & Answers (11 August – 25 October 2014) - an exhibition exploring word and image in scientific education

Robert McGilroy: Time/Tide – Moments from Places (1 November – 23 December 2014) - an exhibition of recent work by the DJCAD artist and lecturer

Recent Acquisitions (9 January – 28 February 2015) - some of the newest additions to our collections of art and science

Bodies in Motion (7 March – 2 May 2015) - an exhibition on representing movement curated by postgraduate student Alix Marion

The University at War (9 May – 20 June 2015) – a collaboration with the University Archives revealing the stories of University staff and students during the Great War

A Passion for Print (24 June – 26 September 2015) - highlights from our print collection chosen by artist Jim Pattison, shown as part of Print Festival Scotland

Lamb Gallery

The Word is Art (11 August – 11 October 2014) - an exhibition of text-based art from across our collections

Between Tides: Riddles of Tentsmuir (18 October – 13 December 2014) - an exhibition by Tentsmuir's artist-in-residence Derek Robertson

14
EXHIBITIONS
32,913
VISITS TO THE LAMB
GALLERY

Mono 68 (17 January - 21 March 2015) - photos of Dundee in 1968 by Duncan of Jordanstone graduate Phil Thomson

Colour Decoding (4 April – 23 May 2015) - an interdisciplinary exhibition on the art and science of colour

Jim Petrie: Minnie the Minx and More! (3 June – 26 September 2015) - a memorial exhibition for the artist and illustrator who studied at Dundee College of Art and Dundee Training College



D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

Perceptions of Biology (10 - 15 March 2015) - a site-specific art exhibition by students at Perth College, UHI

Centrespace, Visual Research Centre

Resonate (1 – 20 August 2014) - an exhibition from the artists' book collection Dundee by MFA student Lada Wilson

School of Medicine Information Point, Ninewells Hospital

Ninewells 1974-2014 (23 October – 16 December 2014) - an exhibition celebrating 40 years of the pioneering Dundee hospital

Dundee Science Centre

The Sound of Science (15 July 2015 - present) – instruments and equipment for measuring, understanding and reproducing sound feature in this display to accompany the Science Centre's Music Mayhem show.

Loans

As well as curating our own shows, in the past year we lent 33 items from the collection to other exhibitions on campus, most notably to the *Scales of Life*, *Material Concerns* and *Transmissions* exhibitions in LifeSpace, the new science-art gallery in the Discovery Centre. This exciting new space was opened in October 2014 and is curated by Sarah Cook (DJCAD) and Morag Martin (Life Sciences), who draw regularly on material in our collections.

We also lent 92 objects to other exhibitions around the country, including *Realised*, part of the Royal Scottish Academy's Annual Exhibition; *Doctors in the Making* at the Museum of the University of St Andrews; *Jeepers Creepers: The Works of Eduardo Paolozzi from Dundee Collections* at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum and *Poles Apart* at the Scottish Fisheries Museum.



“Great exhibition! Really makes you think.”
- visitor to *Colour Decoding*

Permanent Displays



The D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum continues to be our principal permanent display, open regularly on Friday afternoons during the summer, and for special events throughout the year. Among the 1,239 visitors welcomed this year (a 39% increase on last year) were many special guests including mathematical biologist L Mahadevan, award-winning writer Jung Chang, artist Roman Signer and prospective students on the Test Drive Dundee initiative.

This year we also secured a grant from Museums Galleries Scotland which will enable us to create new labels and other forms of interpretation for the museum. We have been working on this throughout summer 2015 (over 350 labels produced so far!) and hope to show off the results later in the year.

Unfortunately, the redevelopment of the Tayside Medical History Museum was subject to further delays but the order for new display cases has now been placed and work will proceed soon. In the meantime, we organised three medical history events in the School of Medicine and staged a very popular exhibition in the main concourse at Ninewells marking the 40th anniversary of the hospital, which received considerable media coverage.

As part of our on-going aim to enhance the cultural ambience of the campus, we put up a record 123 works of art on long-term display in eighteen different schools and departments around the University, including Student Services, Finance, Law, Life Sciences, DJCAD and the new Enquiry Centre at DUSA. Most notably, in August 2014 we completed what is probably our largest such undertaking so far – 63 artworks for the corridors and shared spaces of the School of Education, Social Work & Community Education, chosen by school staff in a project called Watch This Space.

“What a hidden gem – the university is lucky to have this museum space.”

- overseas visitor to the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

123
ARTWORKS PUT
ON DISPLAY
AROUND THE
CAMPUS

Collections



During the past year, 389 items were catalogued and added to our museum database, bringing the total number of accessioned items in the collection to 29,747. As with last year, many of these were existing specimens from our Herbarium which had not previously been fully catalogued – this work is now complete thanks to volunteer Richard Blackmore and he has now begun the huge task of photographing every specimen, which will prove a considerable aid to students, professional researchers and us!

With the help of funding from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, we continued to acquire a selection of artworks from the DJCAD Degree Show – this year branching out into textiles, jewellery and other disciplines as well as our usual selection of fine art. DJCAD also purchased various pieces to add to the artists' book collection, abcD. Two DJCAD students were also commissioned to create new artworks for the Law Library; these have also been accessioned into the collections. Other purchases included an etching by D'Arcy Thompson's daughter Molly and prints by renowned Scottish artists Ken Currie and Jim Lambie.

Several donations were made to the collections during the past year. These included more than 100 drawings by the Dundee war poet and illustrator Joseph Lee which had been given by Lee's widow to the artist James McIntosh Patrick, and were donated to us by his daughter Ann Hunter. Several of these will be included in an exhibition we are planning on Lee in 2016. We also received some fascinating mementos of John W Kimber, the first director of the University's Fleming Gymnasium (the predecessor of today's Institute of Sport & Exercise). Kimber served in the Black Watch during the Great War and was killed in 1918. His grand-daughter Dr Ida Kimber (also an alumnus of University College, Dundee) kindly gifted various items including his ceremonial sword and silver cigarette case, all of which were included in our exhibition *The University at War*.

Other donations include an oil by the Carnoustie-based painter James Torrington Bell (donated by Roddy Lewis); a ceramic piece by Fiona Thompson (donated by the artist); and cartoons by Alexander Cullen Brown (donated by the artist's nephew). We are very grateful to all the generous donors responsible for these and other gifts.

The on-going care of our collections remains an important priority for us, and during the past year several paintings from the DJCAD collection have undergone conservation treatment by Egan, Matthews & Rose. These include one of our biggest paintings, *Wedding* by Hugh Bryning, created in 1964 as part of a short-lived class in mural painting run by Ian Eadie. The results of the conservators' work so far were displayed in the DJCAD Entrance over summer 2015.



1,011
PARTICIPANTS IN
29
SPECIAL EVENTS

Audiences

A key aim of the museum service is to extend our reach to allow as many people as possible to enjoy and be inspired by our amazing collections. Our main exhibition galleries are in public spaces with a high foot-fall (nearly 33,000 last year in the Lamb Gallery, for example), but we are always keen to reach out more directly to audiences through special events relating to our exhibitions and collections. In the past year we held 29 public events, including:

Our regular programme of evening events in the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum, which this year included stand-up comedy by BBC Radio 4 star Helen Keen and talks by Jon Hoad, Pauline Schapp, Keith Williams and David Booth

Several activities to tie into the *Bodies in Motion* exhibition, including talks by Prof Nick Wade from Psychology and Phil Vaughan from Animation; a make-your-own-zoetrope workshop; and a guided tour by student curator Alix Marion

A lecture by photographer Phil Thomson and two discussion events to accompany the *Mono 68* exhibition

Two events for Dundee Science Festival – an anaesthetics evening at Ninewells featuring talks and displays of old and new equipment, and an art and poetry workshop run by Derek Robertson and Jim Stewart to accompany the exhibition *Between Tides*

An animal-inspired crafternoon in the Zoology Museum for Festival of Museums

Special openings and tours for Doors Open Days and Christmas Light Night

Exhibition tours by artist Robert McGilvray (of *Time/Tide - Moments from Places*) and Mark Wallace (of *A Passion for Print*)

In addition, a further 205 people attended events which we hosted or participated in, including a Women in Science event in the Zoology Museum, the launch of our Joseph Lee book at Dundee Literary Festival and the annual University Culture Day, which last year was a collaboration with the new Centre for Scottish Culture. As part of Great War Dundee we also helped to organise the hugely popular *World War One at Home* event in Caird Hall and City Square in collaboration with the BBC, which attracted over 10,000 visitors over two days.

Some 645 people also attended talks by the Curator or museum volunteers given at conferences (including the Medical Pilgrims conference in Dundee, a Scottish Society for Art History study day in Perth and a workshop on Digital Cultural Resources in Glasgow) or to external organisations (such as Alyth Literary Society, the High School of Dundee, Abertay Probus Club and Claverhouse Rotary Club).

Numerous societies, professional bodies and community groups also visited our exhibitions and collections during the past year, including the Dundee Naturalists' Society, the Chuckles Club (a community group from Ardler), the Agnes Savill Club from St Andrews, the Society of Biology, the Tayside Museums Forum and University Museums in Scotland.

A notable development spearheaded by our new assistant curator in the past year has been our contact with local primary schools. Various school groups have visited the D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum, and we have also taken specimens from the museum to other local schools with the assistance of Education students. The Zoology Museum also became the University's first accredited learning destination for Children's University, a nationwide initiative encouraging out-of-school learning for 5-14 year olds.

"The visit to the museum really brought our class learning to life. Thanks so much for allowing us to visit."

– primary class teacher

Thank you for showing us around the Zoology Museum and telling us some amazing facts about vertebrae and showing us that huge spider crab! I learnt lots through my visit to the museum, I can now use those facts in my classwork so thanks. I loved learning about how the gorilla skeleton is similar to a human skeleton. And it was amazing to see a real human skeleton! I loved seeing some animal that were extinct.

Students

The University of Dundee is renowned for the quality of its student experience, and as a university museum, supporting our students is one of our most important priorities. In the last year, at least 1,175 students from 17 undergraduate or postgraduate courses at the University made use of our collections and staff expertise as part of their coursework or individual projects:

Undergraduate

Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
Education
Environmental Science
History
DJCAD General Foundation Course
Art, Philosophy & Contemporary Practice
Textile Design
Illustration
Jewellery & Metal Design
Fine Art
Product Design
Time Based Art & Digital Film

Postgraduate

MFA Art, Society & Publics
MFA Arts & Humanities
Secondary Education PGDE
MLitt Comics Studies

plus the
English for International
Students preparatory course

1,175
STUDENTS
FROM
17
COURSES USE THE
COLLECTIONS

This year we have been working closely with the School of Education, Social Work & Community Education to develop the use of our collections in schools and to train prospective teachers to use collections to enhance classroom learning. In conjunction with Children's University we worked with two fourth year Education students, Angela Strachan and Kym Cleary, to run workshops for local primary schools using specimens from the Zoology Museum. Victoria Park and Blackness Primary Schools took part in the project, which proved a great success with the pupils. We hope to develop this relationship further in the future.





We also provided four formal work placements for undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Universities of Dundee, St Andrews and Aberdeen, plus informal work experience for a further 11 students or graduands.

Students from various other institutions also came to use the collections, including Abertay University, Dundee & Angus College, Moray College of Art, City & Guilds and Perth College. The Curator also continued to teach evening classes in film history for Continuing Education.

"I found the school visits to be a very worthwhile, engaging experience. It was a unique opportunity to excite young minds about the wonderful educational museum resources on offer and hopefully inspire some budding scientists for the future!"

– Andrea Strachan, 4th Year B Ed student

"Thank you so much for trusting me with your collections [and] for supporting me during the year... It gave me such a good insight of curatorial work and I've loved every minute of it."

– Alix Marion, MLitt student on placement

"It was a really exciting experience to be able to get in and have a look behind the scenes of the Museum Collections. The staff are so informative and friendly and really encouraged using the collection as a resource for artwork. I was really excited about combining some of the historical artefacts with work I was making at the time. I had created some small sculptural pieces made from broken mirrors, and thought it might be interesting to photograph them with some of the things from the collection. I chose objects that related to the study of light, atmosphere, and environment, and I arranged them on a series of shelves with my sculptures, creating my own Cabinet of Curiosity."

– Joanne Hall, 2nd year Fine Art student [see image, left]



Research

Supporting the local and international research community is an important part of our service. During the past year we answered 276 enquiries on a variety of topics including the artist Patti Jack (the University's first female lecturer); the history of the Dundee Limb Fitting Centre; artistic dress in Scotland 1880-1900; gorilla pathology; and the HMS Challenger Research Project. 137 of these were from University of Dundee staff and students while 139 were external researchers. 134 research visits were made to view material from the collections, 106 from within the University and 28 from external researchers, including PhD students from the University of St Andrews, the Bartlett and Royal Holloway.

The creation and dissemination of new knowledge relating to our collections is also an important aim, and this year the Curator has given a number of public lectures as well as organising a D'Arcy Thompson session at the *Riddles of Form* word and image conference, and organising a study day on *Scottish Art in the Great War* for the Scottish Society for Art History.

Our most notable publication this year has been a new volume of First World War poems by Joseph Lee, which curator Matthew Jarron has co-edited with Caroline Brown from Archive Services. The University holds the largest collection of Lee's work and it is hoped that this new book will help to re-establish Lee's reputation as a significant literary and artistic talent.

Matthew also contributed an essay on *The Early History of Design in Dundee* to the UNESCO City of Design launch programme and has been completing a major publication on *Art in Dundee 1867-1924* which will be published later in 2015.

276
ENQUIRIES
134
RESEARCH
VISITS





Partnerships

As a small service we are always keen to work in partnership with other organisations to maximise the impact and effectiveness of what we do. Some of the activities undertaken in the past year were:

Scottish Word & Image Group – as a member of the SWIG committee, Curator Matthew Jarron contributed to the winning bid for Dundee to host the prestigious International Association of Word & Image Studies triennial conference in August 2014, based around themes inspired by D'Arcy Thompson and Patrick Geddes. Matthew organised a D'Arcy-themed session at the conference and gave the introductory keynote lecture.

Great War Dundee – Museum Services continues to play a key role in this city-wide partnership marking the centenary of World War One. Matthew is a member of the steering group, helping to organise various events including the major two-day collaboration with the BBC in Caird Hall on 1-2 August 2014 and leading on the unveiling of the Post Office Memorial Shrine, a time capsule sealed after the war with instructions that it should be opened on 4 August 2014 (shown above).

Discovery Walk – Matthew is one of the organisers of a public art project aiming to celebrate significant Dundonians through a series of plaques in the new waterfront. After a public consultation the first nine plaques have been chosen and are currently being designed.

Dundee Science Centre – we have continued our long-standing collaboration by staging exhibitions in the centre and loaning objects for their own shows (for example a number of prehistoric fossils to accompany their Dino Dig workshops). Matthew also gave a talk as part of the Café Science Extra series to accompany the centre's *Ice Station Antarctica* exhibition.

Tayside Museums Forum – Matthew completed his final year as Chair of the Forum, during which we welcomed several new members to the group including the Unicorn Preservation Society and the Library of Innerpefferay.

Matthew also serves as Secretary of the Abertay Historical Society and is a member of various other networks and collaborations including the Dundee Cultural Agencies Network, the Scottish Society for Art History, Scotland & Medicine and UMiS (University Museums in Scotland). Assistant curator Hope Roberts is a member of a new UMiS sub-group devoted to student engagement.



Staff

Curator

Matthew Jarron

Assistant Curator

Hope Roberts

Volunteers and Work Placements

Morna Annandale

Hannah Archibald

Lily Barnes

Lauren Beatty

Richard Blackmore

Cathy Caudwell

Joe Derry-Setch

Laura Dowie

Sophie Haddon

Anna Loudon

Caitlin Luke

Alix Marion

Jeni Morris

Kaisha Murray

Gillian Ramsay

Jade Reid-Harper

Jo Simpson

Caroline Taylor

Dasha Tinker

Hannah Vickery

As always, our volunteers are an invaluable resource and the service simply would not be able to function without them. We also receive advice and support for collections held by specific schools and departments from various honorary curators and contacts:

Civil Engineering Collection – Tom Dyer

Comics Art Collection – Chris Murray

D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum – Brian Eddy and Liz Laken

Dental School Collections – Bill Saunders and Sam Cadden

Duncan of Jordanstone College Collection – Calum Colvin

Electrical & Electronic Engineering Collection – David Thompson

Law Collection – Robin White

Mechanical Engineering Collection – Lyall Mitchell

Psychology Collection – Nick Wade

Physics Collection – Rod Gibson and Sandy Fitzgerald

Tayside Medical History Museum – position vacant

Visual Research Centre Collections (including *Artists Book Collection Dundee*) – Adam Lockhart and Hazel McDonald

Although we have not yet managed to find a new honorary curator for the Medical History Museum following the retirement of Dr Graham Lowe, the Curator continues to receive support from an informal museum committee and we are hoping to source funding for a Learning & Outreach post for the museum to help fill this important gap.

Finance

Operating Budget 2014-15: £14,700

Scottish Funding Council annual grant: £11,500

We also maintain the remainder of the Fine Art Fund set up in 1960 for the benefit of the University's art collections. This stood at £3,175.99 at 1 Aug 2014 and £3,456.30 at 31 July 2015.

Grants awarded:

£40,000 (Museums Galleries Scotland grant for two-year Assistant Curator post, commenced in November 2014)

£12,870 (Museums Galleries Scotland grant for new lighting in the Lamb Gallery, to be installed in 2015-16)

£2,157 (Museums Galleries Scotland grant for new interpretation in the Zoology Museum, to be implemented later in 2015)

£4,000 (London Mathematical Society grant for biomathematics exhibition in Dundee Science Centre, opened August 2015)

We were also a partner in a Carnegie Trust application led by Lorens Holm from Architecture, for which the University has been awarded £7,482 to stage an exhibition and events programme examining the contemporary relevance of Patrick Geddes's book *Cities in Evolution*, begun in October 2015.



