The University Librarian • John Bagnall’s Favourites

Favourite City?
Paris, which I first visited in 1964 as a student. I have returned there many times. Prague runs it a close second though.

Favourite Music?
Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis; Handel’s Serse; Ry Cooder and J J Cale.

Favourite Book?
When I was a teenager I loved Evelyn Waugh’s Brideshead Revisited. I admire John Le Carré’s thrillers. I am fond of Dickens, especially Martin Chuzzlewit and the Pickwick Papers. For poets, Tony Harrison, Alistair Elliot, Tennyson, Byron, Yeats, and the mediaeval Latin poets as translated by Helen Waddell. In French, L’Écume des Jours” by Boris Vian and “Les Fleurs Bleues” by Raymond Queneau.

Favourite Building?
The British Museum where I worked for a while. It is a world in itself.

Favourite Piece of Art?
Rouault’s ‘Homo Homini Lupus’.

Favourite Holiday destination?
Greece especially the Peloponnesse, and France.

Favourite Newspaper?
The Independent.

Favourite Film?
Truffaut’s ‘La nuit américaine”; Godard’s, “Pierrot le fou”; Chris Marker’s La Jetée.

Competition Winner

The prize draw for students new to the University was won by Hamish Hugheson, a first year student in Applied Computing. Hamish is pictured here receiving his prize from Iain Gillespie of the University Library.

Have you noticed library staff walking around carrying a clipboard with the JustAsk logo?

JustAsk is a trial ‘roving’ help service. It ran between the hours of 11am and 3pm during Semester 1, and for the first 6 weeks of Semester 2. Over 1,000 questions were answered.

This service was in addition to the static Help Desk on Level 1, making library staff expertise more widely available where it is most likely to be needed - at the shelves or by the catalogue terminals.

Statistics collected during the trial showed that the service was intensively used at the beginning of the session when students were learning to use the library effectively. Demand for the service decreased towards the end of Semester 1, and this trend continued at the beginning of Semester 2.

As a result of the trial, we have decided to run the JustAsk service during Semester 1 and the first half of Semester 2, and follow up support to staff and students during the second half of Semester 2 with lunchtime drop-in sessions called ‘Information Bites’. These sessions will be run by Liaison Librarians on topics such as starting your project or dissertation, finding journal articles and using the ‘e-library’, and will be advertised soon. Look out for ‘Information Bites’!

Who is your Liaison Librarian?
• Subject/Liaison Librarians are assigned to each School in the University
• Pick up a concertina (pictured above) to see who your Liaison Librarian is
• Or go to the A-Z list at Resources for your Subject on the Library Website

What can we do for you?
• Help students
  • we can help you find information for course work and research
  • show you how to use electronic resources
  • help you to search databases effectively
• Help staff
  • we can keep you up to date with the latest information resources for teaching and research
  • provide information skill sessions for your students at all levels
  • work with you to develop resources for inclusion in MyDundee

How can you reach us?
• Ask at the Help Desk or Issue Desk in the Library
• Email or phone with your question or make an appointment

Please get in touch – we’re here to help!
Bridgeman Education Database

Interested in the visual arts? Have a look at the Bridgeman Education resource, http://private.bridgemaneducation.com/. It’s a database that allows access to the visual culture of every civilization from Mesopotamia to Mesoamerica and every period from prehistoric times to the present. With one click, you can search across some 1,600 sources, 8,000 locations and 30,000 artists.

This resource covers UK and USA museums and art galleries, plus a selection of other major European collections.

Simple and easy to use, this resource is constantly updated. It offers an excellent quality of image as well as concise, detailed information.

This resource will be useful to people studying in a variety of different areas including photography, fine art, engravings, sculpture, architecture, archaeology & ethnography, history, science & medicine, decorative arts and artefacts.

For further information contact your Liaison Librarian!

Intute - An Alternative To Google?

Many of you undoubtedly use Google for all your web searches, but the sheer size of the Internet means that Google is becoming less and less able to take you to the information you really need for your learning, teaching or research. A new service called Intute offers a practical alternative to using Google...here’s how!

Intute grew out of the Resource Discovery network (RDN), and it provides a number of subject information ‘gateways’ containing links to websites which have been selected because they are likely to be of use to students, researchers and academic staff in higher education. They don’t bring up as many ‘hits’ as a search on Google would, for instance, but the websites they find will be more relevant and of a higher quality.

Intute has four advantages over Google or other web search engines:-

• it is UK-based and therefore has a focus on UK-based websites
• it is aimed at students, staff and researchers in Higher Education
• it contains websites which have been peer-reviewed to ensure that only high-quality websites are listed
• it provides a manageable number of website ‘hits’ rather than overloading you with more websites than you could ever usefully visit

Intute is aimed at Higher Education and is broken down into a range of gateways covering all the main academic subjects. All gateways operate in the same way, with simple functions like those found on Google. If you are serious about using the web for information to support your studies, your teaching or your research, give Intute a try - visit www.intute.ac.uk for more information or to use the information gateways.

Take the headache out of copyright - Digitise!

The range of online information available to staff and students from the Library has grown enormously in recent years. E-journals and e-books in particular have made access more flexible and immediate.

However, there is still a large range of recommended reading which is not available electronically. This puts pressure on Library stock (particularly where material is out of print) and can disadvantage part time or distance learning students.

Copyright law prevents any published work from being scanned without the permission of the rights-holder. In 2006 the University signed a blanket photocopying and scanning licence from the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) to enable staff to have book chapters and journal articles digitised, without the need to approach rights-holders for permission. This licence is being administered by the Library and allows for:

- Book chapters or journal articles to be digitised and embedded into My Dundee.
- The re-use of files for future intakes of students on the same module.
- The free use of a file that has already been digitised for another module.
- Simultaneous access to core readings for all students on a module.
- The entire process to be handled by the Library on behalf of Schools, including the actual digitisation and uploading of files into modules.

By providing a digitised extract through the VLE, each student can access the reading at a time and place convenient to them. Digitised readings are popular with students who say that they spend more time reading and less time searching. Academic staff feedback has also been very positive, with most indicating that they feel their students are better prepared.

Liaison Librarians are looking to work with academic colleagues on the extension of this innovative service to more modules. If you are interested in finding out more, please see our website at http://www.dundee.ac.uk/library/about/digitisation_intro.html or contact your Liaison Librarian for more details.

Conservation

The Lord Provost of the City of Dundee, John Letford J.P. visited the Book & Paper Conservation Studio in the Library on Thursday 5 October. The Studio has been operating since the 1980s, and that week it celebrated ten years since moving into the purpose built studio within the Library.

Eight conservators now work here, and have preserved and restored everything from Robert Burn’s family bible to the drawings of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

The Studio provides a conservation service for libraries, museums, churches, trusts, archives and private individuals throughout the UK. It has treated many historic items from local collections, some of which were on display during Mr Letford’s visit. These included an important set of prints by J.M.W. Turner from the special collections at the Wellgate Library, some rare early photograph albums donated to the University of St. Andrews by the Playfair family, and a variety of objects from other Scottish Universities.

Some satisfied customers of the Library Digitisation Service

“For my part, the digitised readings certainly made a positive impact on student performance. This was particularly so in seminars, where easier access to core readings made it much easier for students to come prepared. And, of course, students could no longer account for their lack of preparation by complaining that they had not been able to get hold of the readings!”

Dr William Smith, School of Humanities

“The provision of digitised material to our international group of Distance Learning students has been one of the key services that has contributed greatly to their learning process. Through this system the students have access to the most relevant and current academic literature related to the issues discussed in each of the modules that is otherwise only available in hard copy.

Through the years the Centre has received very positive feedback from the students regarding the usefulness of the digitised core reading material and we hope we can offer the same services for years to come.”

Janeth Warden-Fernandez
Distance Learning Manager, Centre for Energy Petroleum Mineral Law & Policy
Postgraduate School of Management and Policy

“While there are increasingly a very large number of materials available through various electronic databases, these are by no means exhaustive as certain core texts/materials are still only available in the traditional print form.

In my experience, digitised materials are the most efficient, accessible and cost-effective means of providing distance learning students with these materials and students have been very satisfied with this arrangement.”

Dr. Engbo Emeseh
Former Distance Learning tutor, CEPLMP
(Currently University of Wales, Aberystwyth)

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