

# NOWAL Newsletter

## Spring 2018

# NoWAL

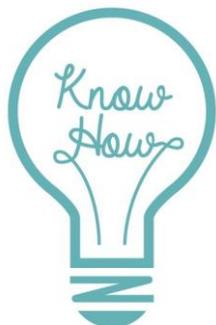
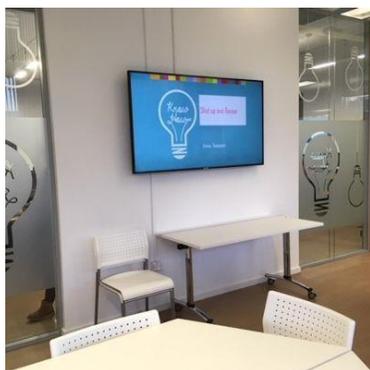
*North West Academic Libraries*

## Liverpool launches academic skills resources & workshops

The University of Liverpool has launched a new centre and online resource for students to help develop and enhance their academic skills. The service, called KnowHow, has been developed in response to feedback which showed that students wanted more easy-to-access learning support, academic skills development, and workshops.

KnowHow complements subject-specific academic skills support within Schools and Departments at the University and is available to all students whatever their level or area of study.

There is a new section on the student intranet and dedicated workshop space on the ground floor of the Sydney Jones Library which will give students easy access to resources as well as face-to-face advice and guidance.



## Lancaster explores the lives and values of students



At Lancaster University, Dr Emily Winter requested permission to observe library users as part of her research for the iGen project.

iGen is a research project led by Lancaster University and Stanford University in the USA, exploring the lives and values of today's students (for example whether people are working individually or in groups, and what forms of digital device they might be using).

In addition to her observations of how library users use the space, Emily ran a survey which elicited more than 500 responses.

The Library has permission to use Emily's findings to help inform space management and future development plans. It has now engaged Emily to do more ethnographic work to inform planning for phase 3 of the Library Refurbishment Project.

## Training & Development Programme

### Library Website Developments

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00 – 1:00

*Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine*

<http://bit.ly/2of1itN>

### Academic Skills TeachMeet

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10:00 – 4:00

*Liverpool John Moores University*

<http://bit.ly/2CzUgUM>

### Reading Lists

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 1:00 – 4:00

*Edge Hill University (Manchester Campus)*

<http://bit.ly/2BGjyUC>

### Academic Engagement

Weds 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 1:00 – 4:00

*University of Central Lancashire*

<http://bit.ly/2Czop3K>

### Impact of Libraries

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 – 1:00

*University of Chester*

<http://bit.ly/2Fl2Uti>

### Mixed Reality & Library Spaces

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> June, 10:00 – 1:00

*Lancaster University*

<http://bit.ly/2BGvlgb>

### Pre-Arrival & Pre-Induction TeachMeet

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 10:00 – 1:00

*Liverpool Hope University*

<http://bit.ly/2BGvlgb>

***We are working on alternative dates for the following:***

### Managing Spaces / Environments

10:00 – 1:00

*Royal Northern College of Music*

<http://bit.ly/2yFeFLg>

### University of Manchester's Off-site Storage Facility

2:30 – 4:30

*Salford*

<http://bit.ly/2zrBFoC>

Check out all our events at [www.nowal.ac.uk/events](http://www.nowal.ac.uk/events)

## Celebrating NoWAL Successes

**Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine** held a charity book sale in the Library alongside a School-wide raffle at Christmas and raised over £950 for the White Chapel Centre for the homeless.

The **University of Salford** Library went through Customer Service Excellence assessment in December 2017, successfully achieving the standard and 6 Compliance Plus elements.

**Lancaster University** Library's phase 2 refurbishment was completed in January 2018, creating 130 additional seats.

The **University of Bolton** Library's Annual Survey returned positive results with improvements in satisfaction in almost all areas.

### Interested in sharing & celebrating your personal or institutional successes?

Send your stories to **Nicky Freeman** for inclusion in the next newsletter or to feature on the NoWAL website.

### UoL's new Heritage and Culture Strategy

Liverpool University's Council has approved a new Heritage and Culture Strategy, the development of which was led by Libraries, Museums and Galleries. The strategy focuses on: making a more active use of our collections, particularly for public engagement; greater partnership working; the University's own heritage; and linking work to the University's academic activity.

The first major exhibition under this strategy will be the Meroe Head of Augustus, (March to June 2018), lent by the British Museum, and supported by a series of public events and symposia, including a public lecture by Mary Beard.

## Salford completes its Library Development Project

The £6.2 million Library Development Project has been completed, following the opening of the new ground floor in January 2018. Clifford Whitworth Library now has 250 more study spaces, 75 more PCs and 10 more study rooms. In addition to adding more facilities, the uplift has transformed the look and feel of the library providing comfortable furniture and improved lighting. The design celebrates the library's central position in the park by bringing the outside inside with deckchairs, green carpets and pavilions.

The ground floor has two PC suites, a space for students to meet with the academic support team, a flexible learning space that students can configure to suit their needs, and a leisure reading collection. The first floor opened in September 2017, with five group study rooms, a mixture of furniture allowing for different types of learning and two multi-use PC and teaching rooms. The second floor opened in December 2016, providing eight individual study rooms, a dedicated Postgraduate Research suite, one silent room and two PC suites.

Art from University of Salford students on the theme of the Library in the Park can be found across the library.

Alison Blackburn, University Registrar, toured the new Library just days after the project was completed and said: "I was so impressed by the new facilities. Students now have far more space and a space that is truly theirs, they can move furniture around, write on whiteboards, book study rooms and study in any way they want. The design has really taken the different learning habits of our students in to account and I'm really happy with the final product."



Photos courtesy of University of Salford Library and Fuse Design

## Manchester Met excels in CSE

In Manchester Metropolitan University's Customer Service Excellence 3 year re-accreditation in September 2017, all areas were fully re-accredited with no partial compliances. The Library was awarded Compliance+ in four criteria, meeting the requirements for either exceptional delivery, outstanding/unusual innovation or evidence of best practice being shared with other organisations. The assessment report highlighted the frequency and pace of improvements that have taken place in all different parts of the service, and emphasized particular strengths such as the general buzz about the place, and library staff members' passion for helping students; and the sophisticated level of understanding of the library's internal customers e.g. university colleagues as well as students.



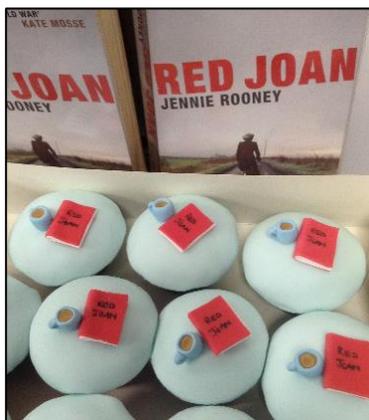
## 'Cheshire Page Turners' book group launched

Inspired by the NoWAL Leisure Reading event in October 2017, staff at the Cheshire campus of Manchester Metropolitan University have created a book group - Cheshire Page Turners.



Attendance at the NoWAL event helped library staff focus on creating their staff book group. Cheshire Page Turners was formed by three library colleagues and a writing tutor from Manchester Met Cheshire, and is aimed at staff from all departments. The group has joined the local Cheshire Libraries book group scheme to borrow sets of books.

The Page Turners held their launch event on Wednesday 10th January, with twelve people getting involved. There was a great atmosphere and everyone was excited, chatty and really keen to get on with the group, sharing the first book *Red Joan* by Jenney Rooney. All present felt that the brief set at the Cheshire Staff and Events group, to give people opportunities to experience new activities and a chance to meet people from other departments, had been met.



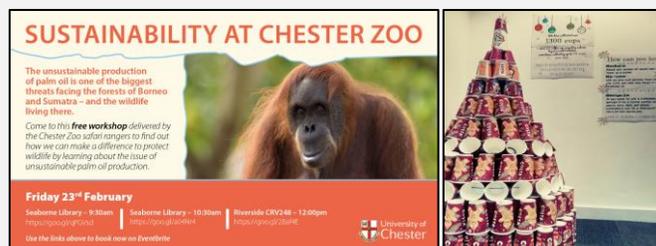
The Cheshire Page Turners even have their own bookmark designed by Manchester Met's library communications team. They would like to thank Gopal Dutta (from Manchester Met) for the inspiration provided by the leisure reading event.

## Sustainability at the University of Chester

Seaborne Library hosted last year's inaugural **Veggiefest** - an annual event aimed at encouraging people to reduce their carbon footprint by trying a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle - which has gained recognition at both local and national levels, winning awards at the University's Green Tie Awards and the NUS Green Gown Awards. This year's Veggiefest is due to take place in May 2018, still with a focus on promoting a reduction in meat and dairy, plus an emphasis on 'growing your own' in partnership with the University Allotment.



**Palm Oil Campaign** - the Riverside Library invited a safari ranger from Chester Zoo to deliver workshops on the topic of Sustainability at Chester Zoo and particularly on the subject of palm oil - part of a wider campaign to raise awareness about the unsustainable production of palm oil and its effects on the environment. The Riverside Library Green Impact Team aims to combat this by educating members of the University about sustainable palm oil production and the ways in which our behaviour as consumers can help protect the environment, wildlife and workers' rights in plantation areas.



The Seaborne Library Green Impact Team have used a micro-grant provided by the Sustainability Unit to set up a **Coffee Cup Recycling Scheme** for disposable coffee cups. The team collects cups from the newly-purchased recycling bins, cleans them out and takes them to local Costa coffee shops, who send the cups to one of the two specialist recycling plants in the UK. Since the start of the scheme in October, the team has collected nearly 3,000 coffee cups - and sometimes up to 140 cups per day!

## Staffing Update



**Lancaster University** Library has appointed Regina O'Brien as Assistant Director: Operations and User Services. Regina was previously Collections Manager at the University of Salford. Hardy Schwamm has been appointed in the newly created position of Research and Scholarly Communications Manager. Josh Sendall has been appointed as Research Data Manager.

The **University of Salford** Library has appointed Alex Heyes as Head of Library Services from the social housing sector where he led on customer facing provision working with diverse communities to meet a range of different needs. Emma Smith has also been appointed as Head of Learning and Research Support.

**Manchester Metropolitan University** has appointed a new Special Collections Manager, Janneke Geene, with a brief to raise the profile of Special Collections within the university and the city. Janneke was formerly Acting Director at the People's History Museum and has a strong track-record of transformational change.

## How NoWAL Operates

The **NoWAL Operations Group** monitors the progress against the NoWAL Plan, oversees all activities of the consortium, manages the progression of the NoWAL strategy and sets the agenda for the Board. The Group meets a month before the Board meetings, usually three times a year, in January, May and September.



The **NoWAL Board** is made up of one representative from each library. This is usually the Director / Head of Service or equivalent, as determined by each institution individually. The Board meets three times a year, usually in February, June and October. At Board meetings, the morning is generally spent following a set agenda, providing updates on activities in member libraries and progress against the consortium's strategic objectives. The afternoon provides an opportunity for members to discuss and share experiences on hot topics and themes. An example of this is the February 2018 Board meeting where Alison Baud, Director of Library & Learning Services at Bath Spa University, provided an update on SCONUL's work on leadership and succession planning.



NoWAL Board, February 2018

## News in Brief

### Bridgewater Canal Photographs digitisation project

The Library at the University of Salford is working with colleagues in the School of Arts and Media and Peel Holdings to digitise photographs from the Bridgewater Canal collection. The project is utilising a new Media Framework (MF) system developed within the School of Arts and Media to facilitate the creation of 'advanced' descriptive metadata for archival material.

### RNCM library staff involved in 'Paris-Manchester 1918'

As part of the Royal Northern College of Music's year-long French Connections theme, Deputy Librarian, Geoff Thomason, and Archivist, Heather Roberts, are involved in putting together a virtual exhibition for 'Paris-Manchester 1918', including wartime letters, concert programmes and photographs. They will also be presenting papers at conferences taking place at the RNCM and the Paris Conservatoire in March:

<https://www.rncm.ac.uk/series/paris-manchester/>

### Hip Hop at the UoM Library

The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre officially marked the start of its Hip Hop Studies Collection project with an event at Central Library. Working with Eithne Quinn, a Hip Hop scholar from the University of Manchester's School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, a brand new library resource is being built, focusing on the themes of Hip Hop, Grime, Spoken Word, education and social justice. The project is funded by the University of Manchester's Social Responsibility in the Curriculum Fund, which allows academics to develop learning opportunities for their students that go beyond the lecture theatre.

### Hope welcomes Talbot library collection

Liverpool Hope University held an official event in December 2017 to formally mark the arrival of the Talbot collection, from the Talbot Library in Preston, which was attended by the Bishop of Lancaster. A volunteer is now working to identify duplicates which are being sent to Betterworld Books to raise funds for preservation of rare and early print books. A small project to record a collection of Irish pamphlets is being undertaken by a student worker and the History department has an intern working on the early print books to identify material on identified themes which could be useful for dissertation students. Further information on the collection can be found on the Bishop's blog [here](#).

### Manchester Poetry Library plans

Manchester Metropolitan University library is involved in planning for the Manchester Poetry Library, due to open in 2019-20 in the new Arts and Humanities Faculty Building, on the site of the old Mabel Tylecote Building. The new building will include a theatre and other performance spaces, as well as TV and radio studios, enabling the university to hold poetry events and to record poetry performances.

### UoM Library Citation Service

The University of Manchester has launched the Library Citation Service. It aims to help the University achieve its strategic goal of improving citation ranking, by ensuring that citation data is more readily available, and raising awareness of how to undertake citation analyses. The citation reports are used to gather information for the REF; support funding bids; assist with international collaborations; and benchmark UoM against other Universities and Faculties.

### Any news to share?

Please contact **Nicky Freeman**, NoWAL Operations Officer, if you have anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter or have any ideas for future NoWAL events:

E: [n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk](mailto:n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk)

**NoWAL**   
North West Academic Libraries