

NoWAL



North West Academic Libraries

NOWAL
Newsletter

Winter 2019

Black History Month supported at LJMU

Black History Month recognises and values the inspirational individuals and events from within black communities. It has run every October in the UK since 1987.



Images courtesy of Equaliteach, Memphis Flyer & Blacknet UK

The Library at Liverpool John Moores University contributed to the university's programme of events for Black History Month, and plan to use this as a starting point to raise awareness of the decolonisation debate in Higher Education.

One of the events was 'Meet the Author' with local author Rose Thomas in the Aldham Robarts Library, talking about her 2018 novel, 'Now That I Have Found the Words'. The event was presented in collaboration with Writing on the Wall and was open to the public as well as LJMU students and staff.



Photo courtesy of Val Stevenson via Twitter

In partnership with JMSU, the library also selected 12 black scholars and writers to be featured on posters in the libraries throughout October. The library is looking to ensure BAME authors are well-represented in their Leisure Reading Collections as part of their ongoing commitment to diversifying the library collections.

Manchester Met engagement project

The library at Manchester Metropolitan University has worked with an intern from the university's strategic planning office to investigate the relationship between library engagement (in the form of loans and physical visits) and undergraduate success (continuation to 2nd year, good degree classification and employment status after 6 months).

A complex multiple regression analysis identified interesting patterns and suggested a causal relationship between engagement and success factors at level 4 and 6.

Key positive findings include:

- increased time spent in the library is associated with an increased likelihood of continuation to level 5
- higher levels of loans at level 6 is significantly associated with an increased likelihood of achieving a good degree award

The analysis exposed some key priority groups, all of whom are significantly less likely to achieve a good degree:

- non-users
- BAME students
- students with vocational qualifications

Training & Development Programme

The NoWAL T&D Programme is about to get underway for 2019-2020, with lots of great sounding events which will hopefully tempt you: <https://www.nowal.ac.uk/events>

Here are the **November 2019 to March 2020** events:

Engaging with Academics

29th November 2019 10:00 – 1:00

Edge Hill University - Manchester Campus

Visit to The John Rylands Library

29th November 2019 2:00 – 4:00

Manchester

The Impact of Customer Service

28th January 2020 10:00 – 1:00

University of Manchester

Marketing and Insight

29th January 2020 1:00 – 4:00

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Library Support of the Employability Agenda

11th February 2020 10:00 – 1:00

Manchester Metropolitan University

Visit to Royal Northern College of Music

11th February 2020 2:00 – 4:00

Manchester

Tour of Pavilion & Refurbishment Feedback

27th February 2020 10:00 – 1:00

Aldham Roberts Library, Liverpool John Moores University

Exploring Different Models of Service Delivery for Academic Skills

4th March 2020 10:00 – 1:00

Edge Hill University

Delivery of Off-Campus Training & Supporting Distance Learners

10th March 2020 10:00 – 1:00

Lancaster University

Partnerships Across the University

24th March 2020 10:00 – 1:00

University of Chester

Designing Amazing and Inclusive PowerPoints

27th March 2020 10:00 – 1:00

Manchester Metropolitan University

Visit to the North West Film Archive / Central Library

27th March 2020 2:00 – 4:00

Manchester

Celebrating NoWAL Successes

University of Salford library staff won 2 of the 4 university Professional Services Recognition Awards: Tracy Breheny, Academic Support Librarian, won the 'Registrar's Award' for her work rolling out webinars across the Skills for Learning service; Amy Pearson & Nicola Sales won 'Project of the Year' for UniSkills.

University of Central Lancashire's Korea Corner has received recognition from the National Library of Korea and will be used in their training as a best case study for library use in Korean Studies.

Liverpool Hope University's library team was awarded Platinum in the University's 'I Love My Campus' challenge.

University of Cumbria saw the score for Q19 of the NSS go up by 5% and the PRES library score go up by 10%.

A member of the **University of Chester's** library team has been nominated as a finalist in the Green Gown Awards as sustainability champion, and another member of staff for the 'caring cups campaign'.

Royal Northern College of Music's Library was the top UK conservatoire library in Q19 of the NSS.

University of Central Lancashire's Library NSS score increased to 89%, up 2% - the highest result of any question in the university.

Lancaster University has been named International University of the Year by The Times and the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020.

University of Chester's subject librarians won the 'Outstanding Contribution to Learning & Teaching from Professional Services' award at the university's Learning & Teaching Conference.

Edge Hill University's Library Team has been nominated for University Library Team of the Year at the Times Higher awards. The result will be announced at the ceremony in November 2019.

If you have an achievement you would like to share with the rest of NoWAL, please get in touch with [Nicky Freeman](#).

Increasing the discoverability of research data

The University of Manchester has one of the largest institutional catalogues of research data in UK higher education. Since June 2018, the library has discovered and added more than 6,000 data records to Pure which include over 5,900 links to associated publication records. By doing this, the library has increased the public discoverability of the university's research outputs via Research Explorer and delivered a more comprehensive record of the university's research.



Photos courtesy of My Research Essentials, University of Manchester Library

RNCM's archivist receives Lottery grant

The Royal Northern College of Music's archivist has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of over £60,000 to support a project celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Northern School of Music, one of the founding institutions of the RNCM.



Photos courtesy of RNCM

A 20/20 Legacy: the centenary of the Northern School of Music will tell the story of the school through free public events & workshops and an online archive sharing the memories, experiences, images and records of those who studied and taught there.

Work on Decolonising Collections across NoWAL

Many of NoWAL's member libraries are working hard to make their collections more representative and inclusive, and are actively looking at ways of decolonising them. Here's a few examples of work currently being undertaken:

Manchester Metropolitan University

The library is working with academics to support the diversification of reading lists, including developing online guides to showcase the library collection; creating a methodology for evaluating reading lists; providing training & support for librarians and academics. It is also looking at the possibility of introducing a diversity mark for reading lists, similar to a scheme at the University of Kent.

University of Salford

The library is contributing to an institutional project focused on addressing the BAME attainment gap. A wide range of issues are arising, one of which is the importance of students feeling their curriculum is inclusive and speaks to them. The Salford collections team is starting work on decolonising the collections in the coming months and is making it a theme for staff development.

University of Cumbria

The Library is working alongside the University's equality and diversity officer on a collaborative diversification of reading lists project.

The **NoWAL Conference 2019** was on the topic *Exploring & supporting diversity in academic libraries*. There were many excellent speakers and presentations, not least on decolonising the curriculum. Why not check out **all the presentations** from the day? You can also see the **programme** and the feedback from the staff and student who won the **four sponsored places at the conference**, along with all the activities on the day.

Staff Changes



Dominic Broadhurst has been appointed Head of Content & Discovery at the **University of Salford**. **Josh Sendall** has been appointed as Research Services Manager at **Lancaster University**.

Wellbeing Activities in NoWAL libraries

Here's a roundup of some of the activities going on in NoWAL libraries in support of staff and student wellbeing. If you have something to share on this topic, why not sign up for the **NoWAL Student & Staff Wellbeing event in April 2020** at the University of Bolton.

University of Salford: In response to the growth in demand for student mental health support, the library is focusing on how to enhance their role in supporting student wellbeing. One of the Academic Skills Consultants worked with a Psychology academic to develop new workshops on Academic Resilience. The library is looking at ways of further embedding it across the whole learning support offer.

Liverpool Hope: The library ran a week of wellbeing activities in the library for Welcome Week, ranging from community colouring and dot-to-dot, via blind date with a book, to free spider plants and other giveaways. The library plans to continue wellbeing activities throughout the year to promote good mental health and to help combat loneliness issues amongst students.

University of Manchester: The library has introduced a number of initiatives to support the wellbeing of all their staff and students. Over the past few months they have expanded the group of wellbeing champions, developed a wellbeing framework for the library and delivered PDR wellbeing workshops as part of the My Learning Essentials training programme. All library staff will also be receiving mental health awareness training.

University of Chester: the library has continued to be involved in the university's wellbeing activities in all their libraries at the start of the autumn term. The activities have been popular with students and the library has received lots of comments on its Positive Vibes board.

LJMU: the University has launched a '**Respect, Always!**' campaign, a collaboration between LJMU and John Moores Students Union (JMSU) which aims to get to the heart of what 'respect' means to everyone as individuals and to collectively recognise it across the university. A **charter** has been developed by the university and SU, which both organisations have now signed up to. The library is looking at how it can participate fully.



Edge Hill University: The university has taken out a subscription to '**Big White Wall**', a 24/7 online mental health resource. It includes self-guided courses, personal assessments and peer-to-peer support for those living with depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions – and those interested in exploring resources to support their wellbeing.



News in Brief

UniSkills goes from strength to strength

The University of Salford's online self-directed introductory academic skills course 'UniSkills' continues to be well received and well used. 3,000 students enrolled during academic year 2018-19 and there were 1,000 enrolments in the first month since the relaunch in September 2019.



Graphic courtesy of University of Salford

Lancaster's Ruskin library re-opens

The Ruskin Library, Museum and Research Centre at Lancaster University has re-opened.



Photo courtesy of Lancaster University

It has launched an exhibition to celebrate the purchase by the university of the Whitehouse Ruskin Collection, the largest collection of Ruskin material in the world.



Images

Books



Manuscripts

Letters

Photo courtesy of Lancaster University

'Order a Book' for staff

The Library at the University of Manchester has created a new 'Order a Book' service for staff, making it quicker and easier for staff to order research books. Staff can use a streamlined, one-page form on the library website to order their research books.



Photo courtesy of University of Manchester

Man Met creates new poetry library

The library is working with the Arts & Humanities faculty on the creation of a new National Poetry Library, due to open as part of a flagship A&H building in summer 2020. The library will be responsible for the operation of the library, which presents some interesting challenges, given that public use and lending will be encouraged!

Cumbria creates videos for PGRs

A suite of videos has been created by the library at the University of Cumbria aimed at postgraduate researchers. Named 'Library Research Briefs', the videos are short introductions to, for example, methodical literature searching, open access, RDM and bibliometrics.



Photo courtesy of University of Cumbria

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: n.freeman100@salford.ac.uk