

NOWAL



North West Academic Libraries

NOWAL
Newsletter

Winter 2020

EHU Library & Learning Services nominations

Edge Hill University Library & Learning Services has been shortlisted for two **Times Higher Awards 2020**:

- **Outstanding Library Team** for its work around developing a comprehensive staff development programme for academic staff. The offer includes sessions around developing digital skills and using the core tools for teaching and learning.
- **Outstanding Support for Students** with the submission looking at the role of Catalyst and front-line support which is provided by the Help Desk team. The Help Desk is at the heart of Catalyst and is managed by Library and Learning Services.

Staff development was at the core of the Library's support to academics during lockdown, providing bespoke sessions to teams, scheduled events delivered via MS teams and also a suite of online packages. In total, for the 5 months of working from home, from March to August, there were over 800 attendees.



Images courtesy of THE and Edge Hill University library

In the same period, the Academic Engagement team provided a fortnightly bulletin to keep academic staff up to date, including the range of resources available; virtual support for staff and students; staff development to develop digital skills; and updates around teaching and learning tools. Feedback from colleagues suggested this was very much appreciated and the bulletin became 'the go to place' for current information.

Over the summer the Student Engagement team worked closely with the University's Student Recruitment team on a 'Getting Started' project for new students. The 'Getting Started with UniSkills' project offered a variety of live webinars and a selection of synchronous and asynchronous learning interventions introducing key University skills including academic resilience, research skills, academic writing and referencing. The library pivoted its support online with 1-2-1s, workshops and embedded classroom-based sessions, all taking place online. Whilst this has been an incredibly challenging time, things are working well on the whole (so far!) and the team has received much positive feedback and thanks from students who are grateful for the support being offered.

The University is also again shortlisted for University of the Year – if successful, it would be a hat trick of wins!

Unfortunately there will be no ceremony in London this year; instead THE is holding a virtual awards presentation on 26th November. Good luck to our EHU colleagues! Let's hope we can report the successes in our next issue.

Training & Development Programme

The NoWAL T&D Programme is about to get underway for 2020-2021, with lots of online events to tempt you (and there are more in the pipeline too):

<https://www.nowal.ac.uk/events> Here are the **November 2020 to April 2021 events:**

Reopening libraries and planning for semester 2

25 November 2020, 10:00 – 12:00pm
Hosted online by University of Manchester

Publishing for Librarians

8 December 2020, 10:30 – 12:00pm
Hosted online by NoWAL Research Group

Delivering Academic Skills Support in an Online or Blended Way in the 'New Normal'

10 December 2020, 10:00 – 12:00pm
Hosted online by EHU

Reading Lists and Engagement

16 December 2020, 10:00 – 11:30am
Hosted online by UCLan

Twist or Stick? Which online innovations in Library teaching will continue even when in person events are safe?

13 January 2021, 10:00 – 11:30am
Hosted online by University of Liverpool

Customer Service & Frontline Support during Covid

14 January 2021, 2:00 – 4:00pm
Hosted online by University of Cumbria

Changes to collection management to support the move to online teaching

10 February 2021, 10:00 – 11:30am
Hosted online by Edge Hill University

Supporting Staff Development

25 February 2021, 1:00 – 2:30pm
Hosted online by Lancaster University

Staff & Student Wellbeing

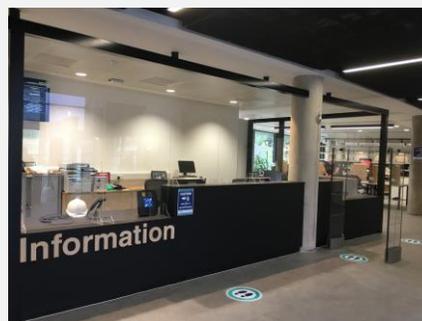
16 March 2021, 10:00 – 12:00pm
Hosted online by University of Bolton

To Select or Deselect? Evidence-based approaches to subscription questions

29 April 2021, 10:00 – 11:30am
Hosted online by University of Liverpool

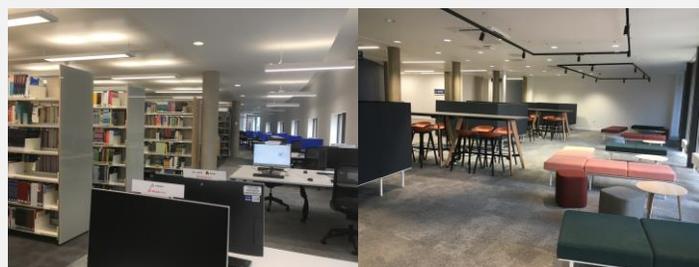
Avril Roberts library refurbishment completed

The newly refurbished Avril Roberts Library at LJMU re-opened on 5th October. The closure of the library due to the original Covid-19 lockdown restrictions meant that it was possible to bring the completion of the whole scheme forward (it was originally planned to reopen in December 2020). It is part of a wider programme of improvements to LJMU libraries, which includes the planned refurbishment of Aldham Roberts Library and Aquinas Buildings.



The ground floor provides space for the delivery of academic, library and IT skills support as well as dedicated space for teams from Student Advice and Wellbeing & Careers. There is also more informal and collaborative space.

There is a dedicated postgraduate study space on the 1st floor; enclosed silent study areas on the 2nd and 3rd floors; 18 group meeting rooms, each equipped with AV allowing screen sharing for group work; a digital classroom; an IT training room; and a large group training room that can accommodate up to 30.



Images courtesy of Liverpool John Moores University

The look and feel of the new spaces reflects that of the pavilion extension at Aldham Roberts and will be repeated when that library is refurbished. It will also be repeated in the new Student Life Building which is currently under construction on the site of the old post office sorting office on Copperas Hill adjacent to Liverpool Lime Street station. This is due to open in the New Year and will include a Learning Commons and further skills development and training spaces.

LJMU's Library Pavilion nominated for award

The Pavilion extension to the Aldham Roberts Library has been nominated for an award in the **North West Regional Construction Awards**, which are billed as 'the most significant celebration of best practice and best value in the region and the only event of its kind that connects every single discipline of construction working towards a sustainable built environment'.



Photos courtesy of Liverpool John Moores Library

The Pavilion opened in November 2019 and provides an additional 170+ study spaces, 74 with PCs, 4 new meeting rooms and a dedicated silent study area, as well as a café area. The Pavilion is being considered in the category 'Sub-regional Project of the Year (Liverpool)'.

The online event will take place on Thursday 26th November from 4.00pm.

'Made in Manchester'

The University of Manchester library has launched an innovative method of engaging with Special Collections and encouraging more teaching & learning using its rare & historic materials.

Made in Manchester offers a series of linked packages of curated digital resources telling the story of Manchester from its industrial past through its late twentieth century post-industrial reinvention.

From politics & industry, to music & theatre, Manchester played a pivotal role in British & world history. This story is richly documented by the collections held in the University of Manchester Library.



Women workers in the Weaving Shed at Swinton Mills & Latchford Lock: construction of the Manchester Ship Canal, 1894

Photos courtesy of University of Manchester Library

Celebrating Manchester Met successes



Manchester Metropolitan University has been named by the Sunday Times as the University of the Year for Student Retention. The award recognises the University's success in supporting students to achieve their ambition and successfully completing their studies through to graduation. It forms part of the annual Sunday Times Good University Guide which is published online in September and also in the special newspaper edition on Sunday. Manchester Metropolitan University has a range of initiatives to ensure its 34,000 students can fulfil their potential while at the University, recognising there is no one-size-fits-all approach to supporting students.

The **library at Manchester Met** also came out top in the university's Professional Services Quality Survey (which surveys satisfaction level with all non-faculty services) with a 98% satisfaction rate. Comments included:

"Library staff are always friendly, approachable and extremely helpful"
 "The support during the COVID crisis provided by the library was outstanding"



Images courtesy of Manchester Metropolitan University

Staff Changes

Maria Mirza has been appointed Director of Learning Services at Edge Hill University.

Julia Martin retired from the **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine** in April 2020. **Sarah Lewis-Newton** has been appointed as Acting Head of Information Services from August 2020 – February 2021.

Laura Dunn, Associate Director Operations and Administration, left the **University of Liverpool** at the end of October 2020.

Thanks to Julia and Laura for their commitment to the work of NoWAL. We wish them all the very best for the future.



Black History Month



Here are some of the activities in NoWAL libraries, supporting Black Lives Matter & Black History Month (October).

University of Salford: The Vice Chancellor has published a set of commitments to anti-racism which are set to drive change across the university, including through PDR objectives for all staff, departmental targets and action plans, inclusive recruitment strategies and staff development. The Library's EDI champions have taken the initiative in response to the BLM movement, with colleagues establishing a new university-wide BLM reading list and reading group. 30+ colleagues attended the first virtual meeting, and they've been asked to adapt the format for students as part of **Black History Month**.

University of Manchester: **Rylands Reflects** is one of the University of Manchester library's responses to the Black Lives Matter movement. It has launched a series of blogs to reflect on the role of Special Collections and in particular the John Rylands Library in encouraging diversity and confronting racism. It has also released a **statement** outlining the actions it intends to take to increase diversity in its collections, workforce and research.

Lancaster University: The Library recognises the importance of Black History Month as a moment in the calendar to mark and celebrate black history and identity. It celebrated Black History Month with a range of activities such as the curating of a **Black History Month LibGuide**; displaying relevant books from its collection in the Library; creating a reading list of Library materials relevant to black history, black scholarship and related topics in all academic disciplines; and facilitating reading groups, reading *Akala's Natives: Race & Class in the Ruins of Empire*.

LSTM: As part of Black History Month and a larger seminar series on decolonisation of global health and inequalities in academia, the **Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine** is holding a **series of online events**. The first event looked at **Liverpool Philanthropy, Slavery and Empire**, hosted by Laurence Westgaph, an independent researcher, community historian, writer, broadcaster, and tour guide. He has a particular interest in Liverpool's role in the slave trade and how its legacies have benefitted the city and impacted its built environment, civic, cultural, and educational institutions. The second event involved a panel discussion entitled, **Black Lives Matter in Health**. Organised by LSTM's BAME network and the University of Liverpool BME network, the panel discussed health inequalities experienced by the BAME population as highlighted by Covid-19, and the impact of structural racism on health outcomes.

Manchester Metropolitan University: The library has brought together a growing crowd-sourced virtual collection of resources that recognise and celebrate the amazing contributions and artefacts created by and impacting Black, African and Caribbean communities in the UK and worldwide. This includes inspirational books titles, films and radio programmes and the library service is keen for this list to be an Open Bookshelf with suggestions welcomed from staff and students. Throughout October, the library asked for nominations to be made through its social media channels for additions to its growing **Black History Month Open Bookshelf collection**.

News in Brief

New collections in the MDC



Graphic courtesy of University of Manchester

Since March 2020, the University of Manchester Library has launched 10 new collections on its new Manchester Digital Collections (MDC) platform, enabling a wider range of in-depth access to its Special Collections.

New logo for UCLan

The University of Central Lancashire released a new logo and brand identity in September, designed by Jeremy Shaw, a 1992 alumni:



Image courtesy of UCLan

UoM online study sessions



The Library is launching a new service to create a space where students who can't get on to campus can study alongside their peers. The idea is to connect people through their use of the Library and help to build the Library and Student community so that people can feel "away but not disconnected". Students will be able to book a place through Zoom with a choice of environments: Silent Study; Quiet Study; Break Space. Customer Services staff will be on hand to manage the session and help with any enquiries. They will be offering sessions 4 times a week, Tuesday (AM and PM) and Thursday (AM and PM). Students will be able to book a space on the current "**Book a space**" page of the website.

Images courtesy of the University of Manchester Library

UoM accessibility audit

The University of Manchester Library has been busy working with the University's legal team to audit all of its public (and staff) facing interfaces and drawing up accessibility statements. Statements are being collated in a **new accessibility section of the Library website**.



Photo courtesy of University of Manchester Library

This section will grow over time: there are currently statements for Library Search and Reading Lists (Primo and Leganto) amongst others. The Library is also tracking down almost 400 statements from all of its third-party content providers.

Salford's UniSkills success

The Library at the University of Salford played a big role in welcoming new and returning students, with regular Welcome webinars and virtual tours. Its UniSkills e-learning course has already helped more students than ever be ready to learn at university. Over 3000 students engaged with pre-arrival elements and figures taken in September showed nearly 400 had already passed the whole UniSkills course.



Photo courtesy of University of Salford Library

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