

LILA members updates from March 2022 Meeting

RUSI, Jacqui Grainger

The management of Open Athens and EBSCO has now been handed over to the Library from the Publications department. Publications began to development research support, and took out these subscriptions, during my furlough period. As I reported in the last update, my working hours were halved, and I now work 0.4fte. I was clear that giving me extra responsibilities at the same time as cutting my working hours may well incur a staffing review in the future.

I have been notified that the contractor's undertaking the refurbishment of 61 Whitehall, the RUSI headquarters, have stated they will hand the building back on 6 Feb 2023. I am currently planning the return of the collections and will be advertising for fixed-term project staff soon.

I have been awarded a Bodleian Visiting Fellowship for the next academic year. I will be the Byrne-Bussey Marconi Fellow for the History of Science and Communication 2022-2023. My project will be the on the founding networks and objects of the RUSI Museum and the primary sources I will be using are the archive of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and a thesis that examines the first major disposal of the museum, 1857-1858, that will help me retrospectively plot a catalogue for the museum's early collections.

The King's Fund, Nikki Smitton

As of 14th March 2022, we have re-opened our physical library space. We are still operating a booking system for those who want to visit - there's a link to this on the Library page of The King's Fund website and we've also been advertising this on Twitter but will continue to look at other ways to spread the word about this and our other services.

Some of our work this year is working with colleagues for the 125th anniversary of The King's Fund. We are using our digital archive (<https://archive.kingsfund.org.uk/>) to celebrate key points throughout the history of the Fund. We are also working towards something for our annual conference to be held later this year as well as a new online exhibition/timeline around the theme of health inequalities. Linked to this, we also hope that we will be able to resume our in person walking tours.

We've also been looking at our collection and library database from a diversity and inclusion point of view. The first piece of work which came from this is looking at the terms we use to catalogue resources on the database although we've also been looking for relevant open source material.

We are also working on a review of our off-site storage facility.

The Energy Institute, Claire Cortis

The Energy Institute (EI) library is now open to the public on Tuesdays by appointment only. Visitors are being limited to 2 at a time and EI members will be given priority. The Knowledge Team continues to focus on our digital information offerings. A review of our Knowledge website that houses the EI's information resources is being carried out with improvements hoping to be made in the second half of the year. We continue to grow our eLibrary collection and have just purchased some more eBooks on the topics of hydrogen, offshore wind, decarbonisation and smart grids. We are focussing on promoting the eLibrary heavily this year, including on social media and in our newsletters. Our annual Energy Barometer Survey which captures insights from our members to inform the energy debate will be sent out to members for responses soon. We are also working on producing an Energy Management and Carbon Guide. Our Energy Institute magazines are no longer being printed in hardcopy and on 16 March our new online only magazine New Energy World is being launched

The Royal Society Library, Rupert Baker

The Royal Society Library is now open again to pre-booked readers, maximum 3-4 per day in the reading room. We've also started running public tour groups again - ten people max per group rather than the previous 20, to allow us to get back into the swing of things and keep the numbers down in the limited reading room space. Staff are working on a hybrid home / onsite basis, generally onsite two days per week.

We're starting to plan Library contributions for various Royal Society events such as the Summer Science Exhibition, Open House London, history of science conferences and our autumn 'Lates', all of which are moving partly or fully back to in-person after being virtual the past couple of years.

We're having our book collection valued at the request of our finance team for insurance / audit purposes, and have a team from an antiquarian book dealer onsite looking at our early collections in detail.

Our 'old' public-facing catalogues on Axiell's DServe platform are being switched off shortly, so we recently revisited all our history of science blogposts pre-September 2020 and updated the links so that they now point to the CalmView platform installed at that time - a lengthy 'manual' task as there was no automatic link updating software for the job.

Egyptian Exploration Society, Stephanie Boonstra

The Egypt Exploration Society Library has reopened by appointment only to EES members and students. While it hasn't been particularly busy we are having visitors fairly regularly. In the meantime, we continue our online offering of our back catalogue of our magazine for free, the full run of our academic journal for subscribers, and a whole host of events and courses (both free and paid). We recently received funding from the government (as a part of their Kickstart scheme) to hire a Library and Collections Assistant for 6 months, whom we hope will start at the end of this month and work on creating a Lending Library for our members as well as continue working on the formation of our Special

Collections of old and rare books. As mentioned in the latest LILA meeting, the EES are in the early phases of working with an architect and fundraisers to undergo a capital campaign to raise funds for the redevelopment of our property (which is sorely needed). For the collections, this will mean a period of time that they are in external storage but we hope to keep them as accessible as possible during that time (with recalls, etc.).

Geological Society, Antony Loveland

Negotiations with Elsevier took an unexpectedly welcome turn before Christmas. After an unpromising start, Elsevier tabled a generous offer which included access to their Government Edition package of 2,200 journals, along with two ebook packages: one on Earth Sciences and another on Environmental Sciences. As part of the deal, we were also able to purchase the backfiles for 6 titles. Whilst some of the content is undoubtedly extraneous, the deal was on the whole considered to be very advantageous. Since its launch, we have seen a considerable increase in usage.

The lease situation regarding Burlington House is ongoing. There are no significant updates to report.

The Society has received a request from Lyme Regis Museum to borrow the pastel portrait of Mary Anning. It is currently being considered.

St. Bride Library, Sophie Hawkey-Edwards

Last year was the 125th anniversary of the library, which featured online talks, exhibitions and events. The exhibition is on until June 2022.

After a successful Crowdfunder for the anniversary we have used part of these funds for a pilot digitisation project, focusing on our early type specimens. We should receive the scans this month and will be adding them to the Internet Archive.

We have just completed a month of collections work, whilst closed to the public. We have rationalised our collections, weeding duplicates and items that do not fit our collections remit. We are working on a cataloguing strategy for our archives and special collections, conducting a survey of the collections and prioritising them for cataloguing.

We have brought back the majority of our volunteers and are bringing back our conservation volunteers this month.

The foundation is in the process of undertaking Stage 1 of a redevelopment project, working with the architects Witherford Watson & Mann to make our spaces fit for purpose. The first stage will redevelop the building adjoining SBF. We are currently looking at how to build our fundraising capacity and knowledge in order to undertake stage 2.

We continue to run our learning programme including workshops, tours and talks. Going forward we will have hybrid talks, both physical and live streamed, to ensure we keep the international audiences we developed through online programming during lockdowns.