

Librarian's report for 2020–2021

The libraries were closed from January to April for the COVID-19 lockdown, with limited remote services.

The **Meyricke Library** currently holds 33,088 [*last year: 33,005*] printed books. During this academic year, 872 [*661*] books were added, including 56 [*134*] gifts and 127 [*161*] suggestions from students. The average number of readers present, under social distancing, was 32 [*46*].

The **Celtic Library** holds 8,469 [*8,361*] books and journal volumes. There are 40 [*50*] registered readers. This year, 209 [*58*] books were added to the collection.

2,997 [*4,412*] **loans** were made from the Meyricke and Celtic Libraries. Of 645 [*575*] students, 444 [*393*] (that is, 69% [*68%*]) borrowed from the Libraries at least once.

Nine [*2*] **e-books** were purchased at our request through CLeF (the College Libraries' e-Book Fund) and are now available to all University members.

Gifts included a number of early printed books from Old Members and others associated with the College, a bequest of books on T.E. Lawrence and on Wales, and funds to buy books in chemistry, law, and Celtic. Fellows and Old Members continued to present complimentary copies of their books, as listed in the *College Record*, and the Librarian is grateful for their generosity.

Eleven [*4*] authors were permitted to reproduce images from our **manuscripts**. Governing Body agreed that digital images from the libraries' collections can be made available to all under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) licence, so formal permission will no longer be needed. Existing photographs of the Red Book of Hergest are already being used to illustrate Wikipedia articles on Welsh literature.

The libraries entered partnership with **Digital Bodleian**, which was already hosting legacy images of the College's medieval manuscripts. Existing photographs of T.E. Lawrence's undergraduate thesis on Crusader castles are now available online for the first time.

There were 2 [*9*] visits to the **Fellows' Library** by researchers from outside College, with 7 [*8*] enquiries answered by email. The easing of COVID-19 restrictions made it possible to offer a tour of the Fellows' Library at the end of Trinity Term for students who would otherwise have left without the chance to see it.

The **Oxford Conservation Consortium** continued working on our 1674 Bodleian catalogue, and restored a folio volume of Foxe's Book of Martyrs in the expectation that it will return to use in seminars, in addition to their ongoing advice on environmental conditions.

The **John Wellingham Organ Studies Library** moved to the Chapel, in a custom-made cabinet.

Owen McKnight
College Librarian