

Librarian's report for 2022–2023

The **Meyricke Library** currently holds 32,918 [*last year: 31,675*] printed books. During this academic year, 1,054 [733] books were added, including 175 [142] gifts and 66 [91] suggestions from students. Withdrawing printed law reports relieved pressure on shelf space.

The average number of readers present was 32 [35]. The opening of the study spaces in the Cheng building relieved pressure on the Meyricke Library.

The Library was able to purchase one of Harold Wilson's prize books awarded while he was an undergraduate at Jesus, namely *A Short Fiscal and Financial History of England*, using the Bernard Miller Fund.

The **Celtic Library** holds 8,722 [8,668] books and journal volumes. There are 50 [49] registered readers. This year, 247 [188] books were added to the collection, including 33 gifts and 5 suggestions from students.

The small Basque collection (around 30 books) was withdrawn from the Celtic Library attic. Those titles not held elsewhere in Oxford were offered to the Taylor Institution Library.

Gifts accepted included 24 recent books on modernist literature from Dr Joshua Phillips (JRF in English). Dr Geoffrey Thomas (Kellogg College) donated several Welsh novels from his father's library along with funds to buy books for the Celtic Library. 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.

Ten [6] **e-books** were purchased at our request through CLeF (the College Libraries' e-Book Fund) and are now available to all University members.

4,680 [4,121] **loans** were made from the Meyricke and Celtic Libraries. Of 694 [580] students, 386 [392] (that is, 56% [68%]) borrowed from the Libraries at least once.

There were 6 [7] visits to the **Fellows' Library** by researchers from outside College, with 8 [10] enquiries answered by email. Tours were given to groups including the Heads of Houses' Partners' Group, Utah State University, and the Woodstock Probus Club.

Dr Andrew Dunning continued to add full descriptions of our **manuscripts** to the Medieval Bodleian catalogue. With the addition of MS. 29, there are now 18 manuscripts available on Digital Bodleian.

The **Oxford Conservation Consortium** completed their long-running work on our early Bodleian catalogues. Nikki Tomkins gave a lecture to the Oxford Bibliographical Society about the project in the new Digital Hub. The Consortium also commenced a trial of dust monitoring inside the Fellows' Library.

There are 353 scores and books in the **John Wellingham Organ Studies Library** in the Chapel.

Grace Exley was this year's Graduate Library Trainee.

Owen McKnight
College Librarian