Librarian’s report for 2017–2018

The Meyricke Library currently holds 32,997 [last year: 33,243] books. During this academic year, 1,185 [1,417] books were added, including 70 [117] gifts and 167 suggestions from students. The average number of readers present was 41 [41].

The Celtic Library holds 8,488 [8,743] books and journal volumes. There are 43 [45] registered readers. This year, 92 [82] books were added to the collection.

6,049 [5,891] loans were made from the Meyricke and Celtic Libraries, of which 10% [8%] were to postgraduates. Of 582 [565] students, 396 [376] (that is, 68% [66%]) borrowed from the Libraries at least once.

Three e-books were purchased at our request, and are now available to all University members, through the new CLeF (College Libraries’ e-Book Fund) administered by the Bodleian Libraries.

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. Peter Arengo-Jones (1951) gave 10 rare books on rowing and Philip White (1958) gave 8 compact disc recordings of 18th-century operas.

There were 16 [12] visits to the Fellows’ Library by researchers from outside College, with 12 [17] enquiries answered by email. A specialist cataloguer from the MEI (Material Evidence in Incunabula) database created online descriptions for 45 books printed before 1501.

Staff offered tours of the Fellows’ Library to groups including the Friends of St Cross Hospital Winchester, the Meissen Commission, and OSCAR (the Oxford-Suzhou Centre for Advanced Research), as well as mounting a display for current College members each term, in collaboration with the Archivist. There were 349 [456] names listed in the visitors’ book.

Twelve [10] authors were permitted to reproduce images from our manuscripts. MS 29, a compilation of Middle English poetry, was lent to the Bodleian Libraries’ exhibition Designing English: Graphics on the Medieval Page.

The Oxford Conservation Consortium repaired damaged bookbindings including the Second Folio of Shakespeare, supervised exhibition loans, and provided high-quality photography of library artefacts.

Oliver Miller was this year’s graduate trainee. For his trainee project, he transcribed a seventeenth-century booklist found during the Fellows’ Library restoration in 2007/8.

Owen McKnight
Librarian