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French Studies Library Group

Annual Review

Issue 8 (2011-12)

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French Studies Library Group Annual Review

Issue 8 (2011-12)

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The *FSLG Annual Review* is an annual publication, produced for the members of the French Studies Library Group. The aims of the Group are:

- To act as a focus for librarians and others concerned with the provision of library resources and services in French studies.
- To facilitate cooperation in the provision, access, promotion and preservation of French printed and electronic resources.
- To provide a forum for the dissemination of information on these topics between libraries and the scholarly user community.
- To liaise with related library groups.

Membership

Membership is open to any person or institution with an interest in the aims of the Group. To apply for membership please fill in the form at <http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/fslg-application-form.pdf>. Annual membership costs £15 (retired members £10).

Notes for contributors

Contributions to future issues of the *Annual Review* are always welcome. Submissions should be preferably in electronic form (Word or rich text format (RTF)). Please send them to Damien McManus at the email address above.

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Electronic mailing lists

FLSG has its own JISCmail list: **FSLG** (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/fslg.html>)

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Staff and Library News

Following a change of role at the University of Manchester, **Helen Dobson** resigned from the FSLG Committee in June. Many thanks to Helen for her hard work and valued contribution during her time on the Committee.

Lucy Keating, Faculty Liaison Librarian at the Robinson Library, Newcastle University, reports that she has started using 'LibGuides' to help direct students to subject-specific resources, guidance and news. They offer a great deal of flexibility to Lucy and her colleagues and are popular with the students. Lucy's LibGuide for the School of Modern Languages is here: <http://libguides.ncl.ac.uk/sml>.

Gill Turner, Head of Acquisitions at the London Library notes that she has commenced a standing order for *Les Dessins de la collection de la collection Mariette*, published by Mondadori Electa. The series will include six volumes of drawings from the massive collection assembled by Pierre-Jean Mariette (1694-1774). The first two volumes, concentrating on the French school, have appeared; the remaining volumes will include the Italian school, and the Dutch, Flemish and German schools.

Elsewhere, Gill reports that the London Library has seen a few French journal titles cut as part of a library-wide review of journal subscriptions. She also notes that as of February 2012 the library's holdings appear on COPAC.

In July 2012, **Librarie Internationale Jean Touzot** and **Aux Amateurs de Livres International**, two key suppliers of French language material to libraries, announced that they would merge to form a new single company. According to the announcement, addresses and email contacts would remain unchanged pending further communication from the new company.

Culturethèque.com: THE Resource for French

Ophélie Ramonatxo, Director of La Médiathèque, Institut français

In the Annual Review of 2009-2010 we introduced Culturethèque just after it had launched. Since then it has steadily grown, now offering over 10,000 resources in a range of media, all with a link to French culture. The platform's evolution is more than satisfying, demonstrated by the growing number of users and followers of the digital library's social media updates. Indeed, Culturethèque now has more than 4,500 subscribers, over 650 fans and followers on Facebook and Twitter, an average of 10,000 visits per month, and 8,000 subscribers to its bi-monthly newsletter.

During the last two years, Culturethèque has continued to develop and improve. The first big break was the change in subscription, which means that it is now freely available to UK web users (initially, members were set to pay £20 per year or £5 per month).

The 'Read' section offers books by contemporary authors such as Beigbeder, Nothomb, Despentès, classics such as Proust, Molière and Balzac, and a rare books section that is unique to Culturethèque. This same lively section has recently been enriched by a partnership with Izneo, a key provider of digital comics. We now offer 200 comic books on Culturethèque - for free, as ever - and we update the selection every three months.

The 'Watch' section has also grown, with 57 videos added to the Q&A and theatre subsections. The videos are recordings of events that took place at the Institut (this includes Q&A sessions with famous directors and actors such as Daniel Auteuil and Bertrand Blier, and other events such as children's bilingual theatre). This enables those who missed the event or who live outside London to access it online.

The 'Music' section hasn't been forgotten either, with the integration of artist pages, providing multimedia content on French music's most famous ambassadors, from Edith Piaf to Serge Gainsbourg, or the more contemporary group, AIR, as well as interviews with popular French singers and musicians such as Camille. Last but not least, Culturethèque has also made increasing use of social media to bring information to, and interact with, its online Francophile community. This provides an effective way of promoting new and available content, and responding to users' needs and expectations. A team of regular bloggers at Culturethèque's provide daily updates about French cultural events.

Culturethèque has grown enormously the past two years, and it looks like it will continue to grow at the same rate in future. The Institut français in Paris is planning to launch 40 other Culturethèques worldwide before the end of 2012.

Culturethèque is available to access free of charge at <http://culturetheque.org.uk/>.

Review of Cairn.Info

Heather Dawson, Academic support Librarian, London School of Economics Library

Background

Cairn.info is a leading French language e-journal database which is highly regarded for its scholarly content. It was first developed by four leading publishing houses: Belin, De Boeck, La Découverte and Erès with the aim of improving the internet presence and distribution of scholarly journal publications for the human and social sciences. With the additional association of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France from February 2006, and later the support of such organisations as Gesval, a publishing arm of the University of Liège) and Le Centre National du Livre, it is now widely considered as a key database for francophone content in these subject areas.

From the outset one of Cairn's main concerns has been to promote both the printed and electronic output of French language publishers. To this end its website provides users with access to tables of contents, alerting services and full text journal articles; as well as publishers with support on distributing print copies and digitising their content.

Content

Over the years the content of Cairn has expanded from journals to magazines and e-books. The full service currently includes over 300 full text e-journals. These are sub-divided into a number of thematic collections which include law; economics; geography; history; philosophy; psychology and linguistics. Institutions can opt to subscribe to the whole database or a range of sub-sets. Individuals are able to cross search the whole content of the database and retrieve summaries. Access to the full text depends upon subscription. However, some items are offered free of charge (via open access agreements) and there is a facility for individual purchase of selected articles. Coverage within the subject areas is broad and comprehensive. For instance, in terms of political science, it includes over 50 key titles such as *Revue française de science politique*; *Histoire@politique: Politique, Culture, Société* and *Revue française d'histoire des idées politiques*. Contributing publishers include: Presses de Sciences Po, L'Harmattan, and La Documentation française. These encompass many of the main titles for French language political scholarship, including those indexed by leading online bibliographies such as the *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences* and *International Political Science Abstracts*. Most titles cover back issues from 2001 onwards; in many cases larger back files are in the process of being added. In some instances they include titles which are being offered on free open access by the publishers.

From 2010 Cairn has been expanded to offer a growing collection of French language e-books covering the humanities and social sciences in the broadest sense. Country fact files

offering basic statistical data are also included. Key publishing houses involved in this are Belin, De Boeck, La Découverte and Erès. Access to these items requires an additional institutional subscription, although purchases of chapters or complete books can be made by individual visitors to the site.

Searching Cairn

The database offers considerable flexibility in searching. The advanced search form enables searches to be restricted to specific types of material (including articles and book chapters), and supports Boolean operators in combining search terms. Phrases can be entered in speech marks. The searches can be conducted on titles or across full text content. Other features of advanced searching which would be of particular value to researchers include the ability to conduct proximity searches and truncation using wild card symbols. The help section is particularly detailed, offering guidance in a clear question and answer format. The advice offered is geared towards practical search queries and includes links to online introductory tutorials, some of which are provided with English language sub-titles.

Browsing the database

A number of different methods of browsing are currently offered. These include: browsing by subject discipline, alphabetical lists of titles and types of material. The types offered include reviews, magazines, books, encyclopedias and *L'Etat de monde*. The latter are a series of quick statistical fact sheets relating to regions or nations.

Working with results

When a search has been run, the number of results is clearly displayed. It is then relatively simple to refine the results by limiting them to specific types of material (such as book or article), by subject discipline and date of publication. The search engine seems to offer alternative spellings and related search terms to guide the novice user. This could be useful if he/she is searching in a foreign language, although it does not translate any of the text!

The entries for academic titles are classed under *revue*. Each one has a resumé of the history and scope of the title. It also includes a link to the journal homepage. The screens are quite complex on first view as some of the links connect within Cairn, while others go to external pages. I also found it quite difficult to locate the date range of specific titles, especially as the scope of back runs differs from title to title. However it is easy to conduct a keyword search within the content of a single title from the browse search option.

Personalisation features.

In addition to its concentration on scholarly content, one of the main strengths of Cairn is its personalisation features which greatly enhance its value to academic researchers. These are easy to use, even for novices, as full instructions are provided on the detailed help screens. Although registration for a free user account is not compulsory, it is advantageous, as it

enables users to quickly access their search history (last 30 searches). This includes direct links to the documents consulted. It also allows the creation of a bibliography which can then be printed or exported into popular academic bibliographic referencing systems such as EndNote, RefWorks and Zotero. Another key feature is the alerting service. This includes table of contents notifications via email once a title is published, or in 'real time' via an RSS feed to the desktop. Given the breadth of coverage of the database this makes it an ideal starting point for keeping up to date with the latest French language scholarship from the humanities and social sciences.

Other related services

Cairn is only one of a number of growing French language e-journal portals. A closely related service is *Persée* (<http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home>). This also focuses upon electronic publication in the social sciences and humanities and was initiated by Le Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche – Direction générale de l'enseignement supérieur (MESR-DGES) in 2003 and is currently managed at L'Université Lumière Lyon 2. It focuses on free access to historic sets of titles from academic publishers including Collections Numériques de la Sorbonne and L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS). The total number of titles digitised is currently smaller, but includes some extremely prestigious titles. There are more extensive back runs of other titles (including some dating back to the 19th century) and a broader coverage of regional areas outside of Europe.

Another useful service is the OpenEdition site (<http://www.openedition.org/>) which offers the academic community free access to a number of French language services. OpenEdition is run by the Centre for Open Electronic Publishing (Cléo), a unit that brings together the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), L'Université d'Aix-Marseille, L'EHESS and L'Université d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse. It includes three platforms :

- *Revue.org*, which mainly focuses upon back files of academic journals. These usually operate on a rolling wall of coverage with new content being added periodically. Abstracts are provided for more recent content, with the facility for subscribers to access the full text. It currently includes 337 journal titles and 22 book series. These originate from major French university publishers, covering a broad range of social science and humanities subject areas.
- *Calenda* is a handy calendar of forthcoming events such as conferences, courses and workshops. Users can subscribe via RSS feeds to receive continuous alerts.
- *Hypotheses*, which links to academic blogs. Blogs are becoming increasingly important to academic publication so this resource is an excellent complement to the established academic journal articles.

Access

For information on access to CAIRN, and to arrange a trial, contact the publishers direct at <http://www.cairn.info/>.

MLA Bibliography Database: Key Features for French Studies

Nick Hearn, French Subject Specialist (Language and Literature), Taylor Institution Library

The MLA (Modern Languages Association) Bibliography has been in existence since 1926. There was an electronic version as far back as the late 1970s and it became e-only in February 2009. Since 2010 the MLA Bibliography has moved from the WorldCat family of databases to EBSCO. It is part of a stable of resources emanating from the Modern Languages Association including of course the *MLA Style Manual*.

- **Scope and coverage**

Language coverage

The MLA covers European, Oriental and African languages. The only two conditions about inclusion of materials in a particular language are that they should be currently spoken and that they should have scholarly articles written in them and about them. English Language and Literature are covered in just the same way as Chinese or Russian – although crucially there is a great deal more written in and about English language and literature than those two languages and a great many others.

There is no false dichotomy between English and 'Foreign Languages' although that distinction is useful for academic administration. The only distinction is between living languages, which are covered, and 'classical' or extinct ones, which are not.

The directory contains information on 7,100 journal and series titles. Of these titles 4,400 are currently indexed. According to the Directory of Periodicals within the database, the MLA currently indexes 1,183 journal titles where French is one of the languages in which articles may be written, of which 179 are published in France.

Coverage of periodicals

The MLA is not just a bibliography of journal articles but also a directory of periodicals and the two databases are complementary. As already shown, the latter provides information about the range of periodicals covered, as well as detailed information about individual periodicals (useful for researchers who might wish to submit an article to a publication).

Coverage by subject

Further searches reveal 105 actively indexed titles accepting and publishing French-language articles published in Canada, 50 in Belgium, 23 in Switzerland, and one in Tunisia. The

subject coverage is not exclusively language and literature although these are the two dominant subject areas. Of the 179 journals published in France, 121 cover literature, 35 cover Linguistics and one covers Folklore. Printing, publishing and film are also covered in the database.

However, 1,173 journal titles in the entire database cover 'Literature' so French literature is a relatively small proportion of those. On the other hand, there are 315 journal titles covering English literature and 370 which cover American literature so Anglophone literature is dominant (despite the substantial overlap between English and American literature) and this demonstrates a clear and perhaps inevitable bias towards English-language articles about English-language literature which as we shall see has implications for searching.

Coverage by material type

The MLA not only covers journal articles but also book chapters, dissertations and even scholarly websites (about 1,500). It is possible to limit one's search to one or more of these material types and, in the case of journals, to specify if one wants to look at all journal articles or only those which have been peer-reviewed.

Currency

The MLA is very current. Looking at the Advanced Search Screen in June 2012 and scrolling down to the Update Code, one can see that the bibliographical year 2012 has already been updated three times.

- **Search features**

Search types

As is common practice there are two possible searches: Standard Search and Advanced Search. Both allow Boolean searching but the Advanced Search allows greater refinement in subject searching with possibilities for searching a variety of specific index fields.

Index thesauri

Index thesauri may look rather daunting: Folklore topic, Genre, Linguistics topic, Literary Influence. If one types in *Romanticism* as Literary topic, it is then possible to click on a link on the right 'Select from thesaurus', which goes to the index where one can check the approved subject term and either select it for the search, or else look at related terms. 'Literary movements' is given as the Broader term and 'neoromanticism', 'Romantic nationalism' and 'Romantic naturalism' are given as narrower terms, while 'Sturm und Drang' is offered as a related term. Given that one is interested in French literature and that this is a relatively small proportion of the database it would probably not be wise to be too precise in one's searching.

For most purposes the standard keyword search will be sufficient. Indeed, one may question having such a forbidding range of search indexes, given that for most languages and literatures (apart from English) they will not be necessary. This is especially striking when most library systems and databases seem to be going in the opposite direction towards increasing simplicity and intuitiveness. Certainly, the current interface for the MLA is one of its least appealing features and the shallowness of coverage for most areas is ill-matched by a misleadingly precise search interface which may lead to frustration. However, in mitigation, it should be said that the online help is thorough and every single one of the search fields is defined with scope notes and examples (go to the bottom of the search screen and click on MLA Search Fields).

A weakness of the subject indexing is that a richer thesaurus is used post-1981, which means that a particular term may only have been used after this date. It is useful to note that the MLA includes indexing of journals on the language and literature collection of JSTOR, with direct access going back to 1884. What JSTOR has always lacked is subject searching while MLA has always been primarily a bibliographical rather than full-text database. Therefore both resources benefit – an example of electronic symbiosis.

Online help

The online help is thorough, although it is not always easy to find. There is also a step-by-step online tutorial, and an examples and tips page from which one can click through to a useful page of sample searches. However, the sample searches database is difficult to find again (after one has found it the first time), as it is buried in the examples and tips page.

Other features

Boolean searching is possible and follows the usual conventions. It is possible to truncate words to retrieve all the endings of a particular word-stem. Search techniques for the database are explained in a Help section that may be accessed from a tab at the top of the screen. The full range of downloading marked reference to bibliographical management packages including Refworks is catered for. If your institution subscribes to Project Muse or JSTOR there is the possibility of clicking straight through to a particular article.

Conclusion

The MLA is thorough, and has all the features one would expect of a modern database. It has excellent coverage of English language and literature, and varying coverage of other languages and literatures. It is transparent and up front about what it does and does not cover and any possible defects. However, it does have a somewhat inelegant and cumbersome lay-out.

International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS): Key Features for French Studies

Sarah Brain, Subject Librarian, University of the West of England

The International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS) focuses on four major social sciences subject areas: anthropology, economics, politics and sociology. According to Proquest (2012)¹, more than 2,800 journals are indexed, with many dating back to 1951. It also indexes a significant number of books and book chapters – there are around 7,000 of these. In total, there are approximately 2.5 million references in the database currently. Abstracts are provided for around 70% of the titles. The database is updated weekly, and 100,000 records are added annually.

Scope and Coverage for French studies

What makes IBSS unique in comparison to other major social sciences databases is its international coverage. More than half of the journals indexed are published outside the UK and US, and one quarter are in languages other than English. A list of the titles indexed is available on the IBSS website². From this list it is possible to see that IBSS has indexing for more than 446 titles published in France. Of these, 229 are still actively indexed. In order to give a flavour of the kinds of subject areas covered, below is a selection of those that are currently indexed.

Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales	Etat de l'Union européenne	Revue de droit des affaires internationales
Annales de la recherche urbaine	Etudes sociales	Revue de philosophie économique
Annales internationales de criminology	Hommes et libertés	Revue des sciences humaines
Année sociologique	Hommes et migrations	Revue du Marché commun et de l'Union européenne
Annuaire de l'Afrique du Nord	Humanisme	Revue du monde musulman et de la Méditerranée
Archives de politique criminelle	L'Homme: revue française d'anthropologie	Revue française d'administration publique

Archives de sciences sociales des religions	Migrations société	Revue française de civilisation britannique
Cahiers d'économie et sociologie rurales	Monde chinois	Revue française de pédagogie
Cahiers des Amériques latines	Monde diplomatique: manière de voir	Revue française de science politique
Cahiers du journalisme	Mondes en développement	Revue française de sociologie
Cahiers internationaux de sociologie	Mouvement social	Revue international des sciences sociales
Cahiers science, environnement, société	Politique africaine	Revue philosophique de la France et de l'étranger
Cultures et conflits	Politique étrangère	Revue politique et parlementaire
Ecologie politique	Politique internationale	Securité globale
Economie et politique	Politiques et gestion de l'enseignement supérieur	Sociétés contemporaines
Economie publique	Population et sociétés	Travail, genre et sociétés
Espaces et sociétés	Relations internationales	Vingtième siècle

In addition to the French language journals listed above, IBSS also indexes many English language journals covering the area of European Studies. Examples include Comparative European Politics, European Journal of Cultural Studies, European Union Politics and European Urban and Regional Studies, West European Politics, among many others.

Search features

UWE has had a subscription to IBSS on the Proquest platform since summer 2011 (before this the platform was provided by CSA). The interface is user-friendly, with Basic and Advanced search options available. The advanced search option allows for multiple synonyms. The number of rows available initially is three, but it is possible to add further rows if searching for more than three concepts. The search language is English, as this is the language used for the subject terms. The thesaurus is a useful feature and is divided into subject and geographical terms.

When searching for the terms 'Immigration AND France' (using thesaurus fields), nearly 800 results are listed. In general, journal article titles are translated into English, although abstracts are usually given in the native language. From the search results screen, there are several options for further limiting. One of the most useful options for French studies is the ability to limit by language. From the current search, 450 of the search results are in French.

Another useful limiter is 'Subject Discipline', which enables you to limit your results according to the four disciplinary areas on IBSS (anthropology, economics, politics and sociology). Finally, the suggested subject terms that appear at the top of the results screen prove a useful aid in generating further synonyms.

Detailed online help and tutorials are available. Proquest also run regular webinars on using their platform³. The IBSS database guide⁴ contains more in-depth information on the database and what it covers.

Conclusion

Overall, IBSS is a user-friendly database, which is unique in its coverage of French social sciences journals. For students who are looking at any social science subject in relation to France, this database is always my first port of call, and it does not disappoint.

¹Proquest (2012). *IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences Key Facts*.
<http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/catalogs/databases/detail/ibss-set-c.shtml> [Accessed 23 April 2012]

²Available at <http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/catalogs/databases/detail/ibss-set-c.shtml> [Accessed 23 April 2012]

³Available at <http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/support/training/webinars.shtml> [Accessed 27th July 2012]

⁴Proquest (2010). *Database guide: International Bibliography of the Social Science*. Available from:
http://www.proquest.com/assets/downloads/products/ibss_db_guide.pdf [Accessed 23 April 2012]

Rousseau's Tercentenary : An Exhibition at Cambridge University Library

David Lowe, Head of European Collections and Cataloguing, Cambridge University Library

On 6th June 2012 an exhibition opened at Cambridge University Library to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. This exhibition of printed works both by and about Rousseau ranged from the earliest editions of his works to scholarly studies published in the last few months, and occupied 8 exhibition cases. The Library's holdings on Rousseau were greatly enhanced in the late twentieth century by the significant acquisition of material from the libraries of Ralph Leigh and Robert Wokler. The exhibition sought to celebrate the contribution made by these two renowned scholars to Rousseau scholarship and to the Library's collections. Another distinguished Rousseau scholar, Marion Hobson, emeritus professor of French at Queen Mary, University of London, gave a public lecture entitled 'Jean-Jacques Rousseau: 'little cases and great events' in his pages and in his life' to coincide with the exhibition's opening.

Only a small selection of the Library's collection of Rousseau first editions could be displayed. The first edition of Rousseau's most famous political work *Du contract social* was shown in a pristine and unsophisticated copy looking much as it would have done on publication, issued in blue paper wrappers with uncut edges. *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse* first appeared in 1761, and was printed in Amsterdam for Marc-Michel Rey. The printing of this edition, long considered the most popular novel of the eighteenth century, can be followed in minute detail in Rousseau's extensive correspondence with Rey. Cambridge's copy of *Les consolations des misères de ma vie, ou recueil d'airs romances et duos*, the first edition of Rousseau's collected short musical compositions, belonged originally to Daniel Malthus (1730-1800), father of the economist T.R. Malthus, whose name appears in the list of subscribers.

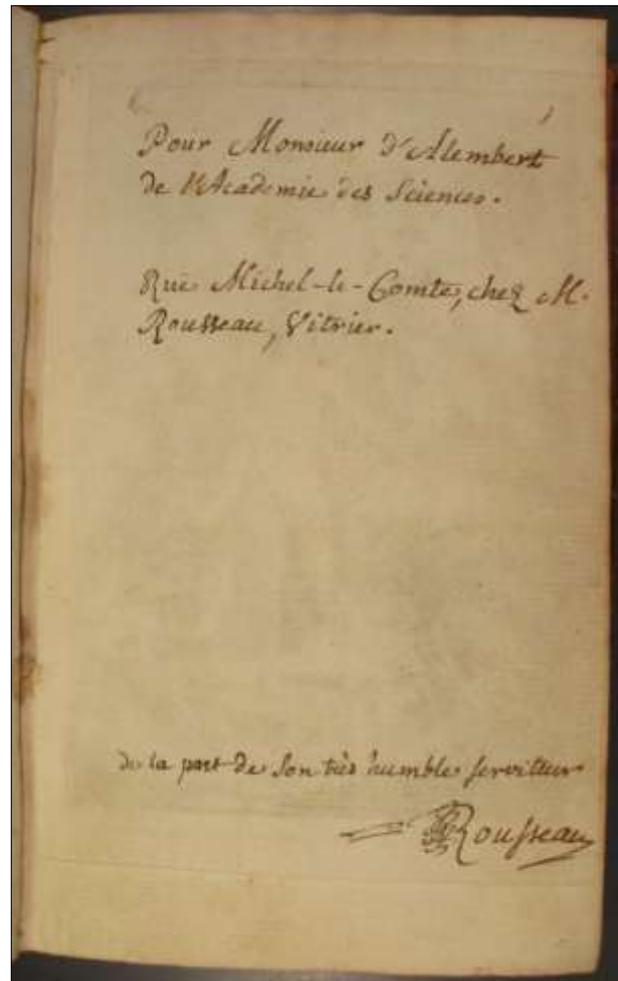
Ralph Leigh's Sandars Lectures in Bibliography, *Unsolved problems in the bibliography of J.-J. Rousseau*, were delivered shortly before his death in 1987, and represent the culmination of a lifetime's study. The complexities of the publication history of Rousseau's works continue to exercise bibliographers and scholars, and the exhibition focused upon editions of *Discours sur les sciences et les arts* to illustrate the complications of Rousseau publication and piracy. This controversial text fell foul of the censors and Rousseau was obliged to publish clandestinely. Although claiming to be printed in Geneva, the work was actually produced by the Parisian publisher Noël-Jacques Pissot early in 1751. The exhibition displayed a wonderful presentation copy, corrected by Rousseau, and inscribed by the author to the mathematician Jean Le Rond d'Alembert (1717-1783). Three other editions of the *Discours* were also displayed. All probably appeared in 1751; two of the printers are unknown. The

edition claiming publication in London 'Chez Edouard Kelmarneck' was probably printed in Paris, and copies the original frontispiece by engraver Pierre Charles Bacquoy.

Rousseau in England

Rousseau enjoyed a great reputation in England from the first, and translations of his works into English followed rapidly upon their first publication. The display case entitled Rousseau in England showed some of these, and also concentrated upon the period in 1766 when Rousseau found a temporary refuge in Wootton in Staffordshire. The epistolary novel *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse* appeared in the English translation of William Kenrick in 1761, the same year as the French original. There were two reprints, including one in Dublin, before the year was out. David Hume had organised Rousseau's installation in Wootton Hall in March 1763, but the relationship between the two philosophers foundered disastrously when Rousseau accused Hume by letter of trying to discredit him. A furious Hume responded in print and had his own account of the affair published by his friends in Paris in 1766

under the title *Exposé succinct de la contestation qui s'est élevée entre M. Hume et M. Rousseau*. The resulting pamphlet war attracted the liveliest interest in both Paris and London. Also displayed were Voltaire's text of 1766, *Le docteur Pansophe, ou Lettres de Monsieur de Voltaire*, in which Voltaire takes Hume's side in an open letter, and *Précis pour M. J.J. Rousseau* of 1767, in which one of his regular correspondents, Mme de La Tour de Franqueville, defended Rousseau in print against Diderot and d'Alembert.



Copy of *Discours sur les sciences et les arts*, inscribed by Rousseau and presented to d'Alembert

Rousseau and music

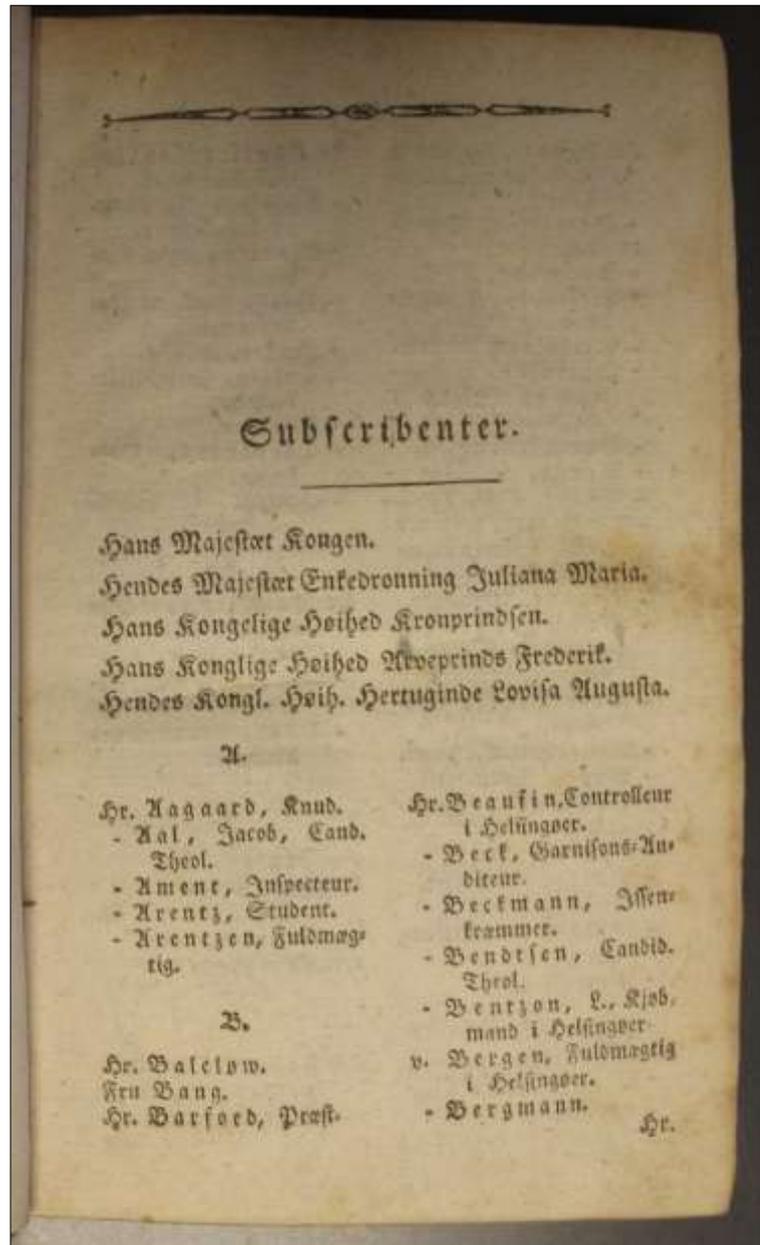
This display case commemorated Rousseau as a theorist and teacher of music, and as an accomplished and popular composer. *Le devin du village*, published in 1753, was his first major operatic success, for which Rousseau wrote both libretto and score. It continued to be performed regularly in Paris until 1829. Rousseau's articles on music in the *Encyclopédie* were critical of Rameau's harmonic system, and caused him to become embroiled in the so-called querelle des bouffons, a long-running dispute over the relative merits of French and

Italian opera. They were later reproduced in his 1768 *Dictionnaire de musique*. Also displayed was the 1775? English translation of this work, open at the article headed 'To beat time' ('Battre le mesure'): "How greatly are our ears disgusted at the French opera with the disagreeable and continual noise, which is made by the strokes of him who beats the time, and who has been ingeniously compared to a wood-cutter felling a tree!"

Rousseau in translation

Cambridge University Library has a large collection of early editions of Rousseau texts translated into a range of European languages, and items were displayed in Danish, German, Italian and Spanish. *Emil eller om Opdragelsen*, the first Danish edition of *Émile*, is dedicated in volume I to Prince Frederik, while volume II carries a list of subscribers headed by the King and Queen – an unusual accolade for a revolutionary work, even 30 years after its first publication.

The German texts on display featured several distinguished translators, though not usually mentioned by name on the title



Page showing the subscribers to the Danish translation of *Émile*

pages – Enlightenment philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, composer Johann Adam Hiller and novelists and dramatists Friederike Helene Unger and Adolf von Knigge. Italian items exhibited include a 1773 translation of Rousseau's *Scène lyrique Pygmalion* and a 1784 translation of a letter from part four of *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse* concentrating on domestic matters, *Il buon governo degli affari domestici del signor Gio: Giacomo Rousseau*. Both Italian items were originally in the library of Robert Wokler, and the latter also has the bookplate of Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald. The first Spanish translation of *Julie, ou la nouvelle Héloïse* was published in Bayonne in 1814. In his preface the anonymous translator admits to publishing the text with "relevant modifications", suppressing passages he

considers "offensive to morality and religion". Cambridge acquired this set in the nineteenth century, but it is held by the national libraries of neither France, Spain nor Great Britain.



Page from *Il buon governo degli affari domestici del signor Gio: Giacomo Rousseau*

Ralph Leigh and Robert Wokler collections

Case six celebrated specifically the Rousseau works acquired from Ralph Leigh and Robert Wokler. Between 1982 and 1985 the Library bought approximately 8,000 volumes from the library of Ralph Leigh (1915-1987), Professor of French at the University of Cambridge, concentrating on French literature, philosophy and history of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and with special emphasis on Rousseau, his circle and his critics. The many items by or about Rousseau and Diderot subsequently purchased from the collection of Robert Wokler (1942-2006) perfectly complement Leigh's library.

Wokler was an expert on political thought of the Enlightenment and author of studies on Rousseau. He collaborated with Leigh on Rousseau's *Correspondance complète*, and helped to complete the edition after Leigh's death. The exhibition exemplified the different collecting aims of the two men. Many of the volumes owned by Leigh are bound in original publishers' paper covers or other contemporary bindings; Leigh was concerned with obtaining and studying the profusion of early legitimate and pirate editions of Rousseau's works. Many of the volumes from Wokler's library, in contrast, possess fine bindings. The

1762 edition of *Émile* which was displayed, for example, was bound in mottled sheep skin with gilt spine and morocco labels.

One of the gems of the Wokler collection is a two volume set of 225 plates extracted from early editions of Rousseau's works. Frustratingly only one opening was possible, of course. The plates selected illustrate a scene from *Émile* by French artist Jean-Michel Moreau (1741-1814). The collection of plates was compiled in the nineteenth century by Emmanuel Martin, and sold with his collection in 1877. It then belonged to Sir David Lionel Salomons (1851-1925), and was later acquired by Dr Wokler.

Recent acquisitions

Although contemporary editions of Rousseau not already held by the Library rarely come on to the market, we are still adding very actively to our holdings of works about him, and acquiring early translations into other European languages. The Pesaro 1780 title *Emilio religioso opposto all'Emilio ateo negative di Giangiacomo Rousseau*, by Joseph Artaud, was purchased just a few weeks



Illustration in *Émile* by Jean-Michel Moreau

before the exhibition opened. It is a refutation of Rousseau's *Émile* and *Du contrat social*, written from a Catholic viewpoint by a Provençal-born writer who became professor of theology at the University of Urbino. The other six items in this case of recent antiquarian acquisitions included the first translation of *Émile* into Dutch, published twelve years after Rousseau's death, a 1792 miniature edition of *Du contrat social* printed by the celebrated Didot l'aîné, and a remarkable early German biography of Rousseau focusing on his important relationships with women, written by Carl Gotthold Lenz and published in Leipzig

in 1792. *Rousseana, ou Recueil d'anecdotes, bon mots, maxims, pensées et réflexions de J.-J. Rousseau*, is an 1811 collection of anecdotes, quotations and table-talk compiled by Charles Yves Cousin d'Avallon.

Rousseau scholarship in Cambridge

The final case of the exhibition looked back to Rousseau scholarship which has been completed in Cambridge, and forward to the research which will be possible in the future due to the modern critical works which are being acquired. *Bibliography of the writings of Jean Jacques Rousseau to 1800. I. Julie, ou la Nouvelle Éloïse* by Jo-Ann McEachern, gives the history of the printing and publication of the first edition of the text, with complete bibliographical descriptions of all eighteenth-century editions in French. The author was the Library's Munby Fellow in Bibliography in 1990-1991. *Rousseau after two hundred years: proceedings of the Cambridge bicentennial colloquium* was edited by Ralph Leigh and published by Cambridge University Press in 1982. At a bilingual colloquium held at Trinity College in July 1978 a dozen specialists were invited to read papers before an audience of about a hundred scholars; this book contains the papers and an abridged account of the discussions which followed.

Containing 8,400 letters and 700 additional documents, Ralph Leigh's edition of Rousseau's *Correspondance complète* was celebrated by Robert Wokler as setting "unprecedented and undreamt of standards of scholarship in the field of eighteenth-century studies". The University Library holds the archive for this edition, including working notes and copies annotated by Leigh and his assistants. A heavily annotated copy of one volume from the 52 volume set was displayed.

The tercentenary of Rousseau's birth has resulted in an explosion of publishing activity in both France and the English speaking world. A new edition of Rousseau's works and correspondence, published by Slatkine, was scheduled for the end of June. By the end of May 2012 the Library had ordered 17 new titles about Rousseau, of which a small sample was used to provide a coda to the Library's Rousseau exhibition.

This article draws heavily upon exhibition captions composed by Katie Birkwood, Will Hale and Ed Potten, all members of the Rare Books staff at Cambridge University Library.

We can and do, however, suggest to each other titles for acquisition. I collect research level or works of interest for research from my countries in all subjects in the humanities, social sciences and history of science. Therefore, collecting contemporary literature in French is a small part of what I do.

I am based in a national library so don't have the benefit of academic expertise; on the other hand, I collect more widely than if I were limited to collecting just for an institution's current teaching and research needs. I carry out the selection in London, but the books themselves are acquired and catalogued by colleagues on our Boston Spa site in Yorkshire, which means that I don't actually see the books.

My selection

In a nutshell, my selection is not based on reading an author's work, but on whether I recognise the name of the author and/or the publisher, supplemented to a limited extent by recommendations from our book supplier and/or book reviews. I also try to pay attention to writers from non-French-speaking cultures who write in French. I endeavour to take into account current research trends in French studies, thus making an effort to collect Francophone literature since this is an important and expanding area of research.

I try to collect according to themes that seem important or interesting, such as historical topics (World War II, Algerian War, Spanish Civil War, Armenian and Cambodian genocides, etc), social issues (e.g. work in industry or offices), family issues (parenthood, bereavement, etc), or even 'faits divers' (two examples include the 2011 rentrée littéraire on 'Le gang des barbares' and the Mont Blanc tunnel accident).

I aim to collect the work of authors across literary genres, e.g. Ananda Devi's new collection of poems *Quand la nuit consent à me parler* (Bruno Doucey, 2011) or Nancy Huston's play (*Klatch avant le ciel*) and her *Démons quotidiens*, a diary for the year with drawings by the artist Ralph Petty.

Finally, I pick up new editions of works that were missed the first time round, for example Serge Doubrovsky 1984 and Eugène Savitzkaya 2003, and previously unpublished works (Roland Topor's *Vaches noires* and *Le locataire chimérique* (1964) that we did not hold). Other examples include André Schwartz-Bart's posthumous *L'étoile du matin* (2009), and purchases to complete sequences of multi-volume works (e.g. Jacques Abeille's *La barbarie* (Attila, 2011) and two middle missing volumes in his *Le cycle des contrées*).

Some topics for discussion

Should we only collect authors who are already the subject of academic research as reflected in monographs, articles, and conference papers, as opposed to also collecting authors we think may be the object of research in the future?

Should we be collecting complete works of authors or are samples of their work sometimes acceptable? What about identifying new authors or, conversely, what about the issue of continuing to collect an author whose work may fall off in quality or who should not have been collected in the first place?

What about genres such as crime fiction? I don't normally cover this unless they discuss historical or social issues (e.g. *néo polar*, Didier Daeninckx) where I'm aware of these. I do acquire critical works and dictionaries.

What about popular literature? I would not acquire formulaic best sellers (e.g. G. Musso, Marc Levy), but do acquire writers such Amélie Nothomb, Philippe Claudel, etc. and indeed Muriel Barbery's *L'élégance du hérisson* (published in the UK by Gallic Books).

According to French book trade source figures, about 400-500 French novels (excluding crime fiction and science fiction) are published each year from late August to the end of October for the *rentrée littéraire* season and an average of 3,800-3,900 French novels are published every year. Therefore, what quantity and quality should research libraries be collecting? In addition to the sheer quantity of what's published in Paris, literature in French is especially complex since it's a world literature.

So, the researcher is unlikely to find a comprehensive collection in any one UK research library. If this is the case, is it acceptable to have distributed collections across research libraries in the UK? Also, should we not take into account the collections of the Institut français network including the library of the Maison française? The Médiathèque of the Institut français in London is more popular in focus and complements the collecting in university and national libraries. And at what point is it accepted that a researcher needs to go to the Bibliothèque nationale de France or the Bibliothèque francophone de Limoges?

- **Nick Hearn: Taylorian approval plans**

We started our approval plan with Erasmus at the Taylorian Institution, Oxford back in 2008. I took over from my predecessor mid-year (January 2008, academic year 2007/2008). The Taylorian has a very narrow profile: French language and literature at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The approval plan I am discussing here is for the Research Collection, i.e. for postgraduates. An approval plan is simply an agreement according to which a supplier or vendor agrees to supply new books within certain subject parameters, and to a certain financial ceiling. The selecting is done 'upstream' by the vendor rather than the librarian or subject specialist, who relies on their expertise and their developing knowledge of the library collection to which they are supplying books. Books may be returned if they duplicate titles already in the collection or if they are 'out-of-scope' but

returns should always be accompanied by an explanation so that the vendor can modify their parameters if necessary.

There should be very few returns if an approval plan is successful – less than 2%. A successful approval plan should take over a progressively larger share of the budget so that it is ultimately supplying all the ‘core’ items within the subject area, freeing up the time of the subject specialist to respond to reader suggestions and to concentrate on building up the library’s special collections.

The ceiling for the Taylorian French language and literature approval plan was initially set quite high – we had an unspent budget and quite a bit of catching up to do by the end of our financial year (end of July). I initially communicated mostly with the director of Erasmus but also with her assistants and the Erasmus book selector. I was given access to the Erasmus website from which I could send in my own orders and also see the new title service. There was some discussion of what the parameters of the approval plan should be. It would seem that French language and literature would be a fairly unambiguous concept. This is far from the case. For instance, it does not include books on literature in general which happen to be in French. It does include Francophone literature. Another part of the preparatory work was to make sure that Erasmus was not duplicating our standing orders with other firms. We also sent Erasmus the Taylorian author list. This is a list of contemporary French authors (poets, novelists and dramatists) who we should make an active effort to track and, if possible, to buy.

We then moved in to the next phase. Every few weeks Erasmus struggled heroically to help us spend our quite large unspent budget. I then became aware that the services offered by Erasmus for their approval plan are not restricted to merely supplying books. We also receive notifications of new titles. These are titles which are within our profile but are perhaps unusually expensive and which the subject specialist may need to be asked for his/her opinion. Quite often these will be parts of collected works or multiple volumes of correspondence, so some checking is required.

There is also a monthly literary selection. The literary selection titles are those most relevant to the theme of our seminar today. The list is compiled by an in-house expert at Erasmus who selects works of fiction which have received good reviews or been honoured with a literary prize or a new title by an important author. These titles will automatically be included in approval plan consignments and so, for much of the time, the subject specialist will be unaware of them. However, if for any reason the approval plan is temporarily suspended, the subject specialist will get these lists so that he/she can keep an eye on what may need to be caught up with later.

Erasmus thus provides a current awareness service which the librarian can make use of by requesting a particular title. However, the main burden of selection falls on the staff at Erasmus, who select titles for Oxford by consulting our library catalogue, to make sure that they do not send duplicates. They also make use of our stop list of standing orders and our author list as well as their own new titles lists, and their experience derived from feedback of working with the Taylorian over a number of years.

Over the years since 2008 our approval plan has matured. At first we were having to send back a few titles from the consignments which we received from Erasmus. Here are some of my comments from those early days. Kevorkian's *Une mémoire arménienne*: 'This is an Armenian memoir and I cannot see that it has anything to do with French literature'. J. B. Poquelin's, *Oeuvres de Molière*: 'We are not usually interested in facsimile reprints unless there is substantial new material i.e. notes, introduction etc'. Pavel Schmidt's *Franz Kafka*: 'This relates more to German literature than to French'. As you can see there were some teething troubles but returns have now dwindled to a level at which they are practically zero.

The secret of a good approval plan is communication. Ideally, the supplier should start to develop a feel for the collection they are working with. The better the supplier knows the collection and the better the communication between vendor and library, the more successful the approval plan. Staff at Erasmus have always been very friendly and helpful and communication has always been excellent.

There has however been one small bone of contention. Back in November 2008 I was evidently getting quite concerned by the large number of novels by authors unknown to me. I am no expert on contemporary French literature so this could have reflected my own ignorance more than the quality of the fiction that we were receiving. I sent an email as follows: "Dear Sir/Madam, Maybe it would be better to stick with our list of authors for a time. I am having doubts about some of the authors that we are getting. I have just seen a historical novel set in Russia by an unknown author entitled *Rouge Nina* (the author was Claude Burneau) and there was also a text by a literary critic who had branched out into literature himself. Now there is no reason why a critic should not branch out into writing himself (or herself) but over the years I have become cynical about such attempts actually producing great writing. I felt that Jean Delabroy's effort *La separation des songes* was highly commendable in terms of willingness to try something new but unlikely to be successful." I finished my email by writing " I am attaching again our list of authors" hoping this would be a strong hint.

Erasmus's reply was as follows, "Thank you very much for sending us the complete list. It will make things easier for us. I can understand your concern – I know it is a problem when dealing with contemporary art or literature. We will stick to this list from now on or consult

you if we have a doubt about sending a particular author. I had a look at your list and noticed that most of the authors on it are now dead so obviously we will not be sending any new novels by them.”

There was a positive sequel to this. On 22nd March of this year the director of Erasmus came to the Taylorian and we had a meeting. One of the subjects that came up was the Oxford list of ‘dead authors’ and the senior representative of Erasmus managed to get me to lift the ban on contemporary French authors. A few days later I got an email from Erasmus, ‘I am writing following my boss’s visit to Oxford. She contacted me to let you know that you had money to spend and to send you novels from living authors – outside your list. This is great news!’

- **David Lowe: Coverage of French contemporary literature in UK academic libraries**

NB. The statistics given below were accurate as at the end of November 2011, but may have changed in the interim.

I’ve been trying to analyse national coverage of French contemporary literature by looking in detail at entries on COPAC, which currently covers the holdings of 74 UK libraries. Most of the specialist libraries included on COPAC are not relevant for this exercise and not all university libraries are represented, but COPAC includes all the major national collections and members of Research Libraries UK. As part of the analysis I look at the coverage of four literary prizes and information supplied by one Parisian vendor, Librairie Erasmus. I also consider very briefly electronic versus print and I want to say a little bit about publishers. As I go along I pose a few questions which I hope might stimulate discussion.

For many years my professional expertise focused on German. I feel that there is a big contrast between coverage of German and Italian in UK academic libraries, which I believe to be fairly consistent and coverage of French, which is not. Why is French different? Partly, I think, because of the greater geographical range, and the range of countries publishing belles lettres material in French. But also, and perhaps more significantly, because there are a range of suppliers offering French language material.

While British libraries all tend to use Harrassowitz for German and Casalini for Italian, for French they use different suppliers. And different suppliers means much greater diversity in the range of authors drawn to librarians’ attention. Each Parisian supplier produces extensive lists of key literary authors. Of course there are many obvious overlaps, but the lists are also striking for the number of names which are not duplicated.

I started by looking at 10 years worth of literary prize winners, covering 1998-2007. I used 2007 as a cut off point, in the hope that my findings would not be distorted by cataloguing

backlogs. It seemed unlikely that after four years libraries would have bought material which remained invisible on COPAC. I considered Prix Goncourt, Grand prix du roman de l'Académie française, Prix Femina and Prix Renaudot. My audience felt that all four prizes were equally significant for library collection development policy, and that I could equally well have considered the Prix Médicis and the Prix Interallié. Certainly I could find no evidence that academic libraries showed a clear preference for the winners of one prize over another.

Coverage by British libraries of all four prizes in my sample was strong. Of the 40 titles I considered, the number of copies held by COPAC libraries ranged between 5 and 23. The most popular title, with 23 copies, was Amélie Nothomb's *Stupeur et tremblements*. Next came Jean Echenoz's *Je m'en vais* (19 copies), Irène Némirovsky's *Suite française* (18 copies), Pascal Quignard's *Les ombres errantes* (15 copies) and Ahmadou Kourouma's *Allah n'est pas obligé* (14 copies). Tying on 13 copies each were Paule Constant's *Confidence pour confidence*, Jonathan Littell's *Les bienveillantes*, Marie NDiaye's *Rosie Carpe* and Nina Bouraoui's *Mes mauvaises pensées*.

It was usual, though not absolutely guaranteed, that prize winners would be translated into English. Of the Prix Goncourt winners from 1998 to 2007, eight had English translations. In the case of British imprints, libraries seemed to be collecting energetically. Not so if the translation was published by an American academic press. Although 13 academic libraries bought the French original of the 1998 Goncourt winner by Paule Constant, the English translation, called *Trading secrets*, is published by the University of Nebraska Press. There seems to be just one copy in the UK.

Much less encouraging is broader coverage. As stated earlier, continental vendors supply information on new belles lettres titles in varying forms. Touzot supplies extensive details of new titles without comment. Aux Amateurs grades each work – three stars for essential and two stars for desirable material. The October 2011 listing from Aux Amateurs had some 71 titles flagged with three stars and another 10 with two stars. Casalini supplies two lists per year of core titles – the autumn 2011 list had 28 novels and five collections of short stories. Librairie Erasmus suggests 20 novels a month which they think are of interest to academic libraries. Such a total used to be a reasonable aspiration for Cambridge. Several years ago the French Department at Cambridge voiced its approval of the Erasmus selection, and I used to buy them all, but with shrinking budgets I can no longer afford to do so. This begs the question of how many French novels a large academic UK library should acquire, out of the 3,800-3,900 published each year, in order to maintain a strong collection?

I looked at the 60 titles covered in the Erasmus lists for January 2008, 2009 and 2010. The maximum number of hits on COPAC for any of the 60 titles is six, and that for just one book. Another four titles were each held by four libraries. Of 26 of the titles there was either one

or no copies. Where there are copies of these 60 titles in the UK they are scattered over a wide range of libraries. Interestingly, these 60 titles include a number of works by authors who are major prize winners. I chose three at random.

Jonathan Littell has the distinction of winning two literary prizes for *Les bienveillantes*. 13 libraries have copies. But his two collections of short stories have been bought by one and three libraries respectively. Four have bought his book on fascism published by Gallimard. No-one has currently bought his book on Francis Bacon or his book on Tchétchénie, also published by Gallimard.

A number of libraries have bought Jean-Christophe Rufin. They include the British Library, Cambridge, Edinburgh, the French Institute, Leeds, University of London, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, St Andrews and Southampton. 11 have his Goncourt winner *Rouge Brésil*, and most have one or two others, but two titles have only been bought by two libraries. It would not be possible to study all Rufin's work at a single location.

Laurent Gaudé was shortlisted in 2002 and won the Goncourt in 2004. There are several translations, and interest in his plays at the National Theatre. Of the 10 plays which feature on his website, no library has three of them, and UK readers are dependent on the French Institute for several others. Novel coverage is patchy.

What is very evident is that libraries are not really building up a corpus of works by a particular author. This led me to pose several more questions, which did not really yield any clear answers from the audience:

- Does it matter if it is rare for a single library to have all the works of a particular novelist?
- Does anyone conduct research these days based on a particular contemporary author?
- Isn't the interest far more likely to be thematic?

As a side exercise I looked at the selection of contemporary literature offered in electronic format by the French Institute on Culturethèque, but here I have done comparison only with Cambridge collecting. I'm quite interested in the question of how the existence of this electronic resource, which is freely available to all, might affect the collecting activity of academic libraries. I looked at a sample of 90 items and compared the authors' names with those on my personal list of French authors. Of the 90 items only 22 were by authors who featured on my list. Am I choosing the wrong people, or is electronic publishing catering for a different clientele?

With Cambridge academics I have developed a helpful approach to collection development by identifying minor publishers who are deemed important, but this tends to be for

disciplines other than fiction (e.g. La fabrique, Présences du réel). A few feature belles lettres (e.g. Al Dante, Nouvelles éditions Lignes). The audience did think this a valid approach and a few other publishers were suggested e.g. Le Dilettante, Zulma and Sabine Wespieser.

For information on further presentations from the day, a conference report is available in the French Studies Bulletin (Spring 2012, vol 33(122), pp13-14).

French Studies Library Group Annual General Meeting and Study Day 2011

Colin Homiski, Academic Liaison Librarian – Arts, Senate House Library

On 5th September 2011 the FSLG held its annual AGM and study day at the British Library's St Pancras site. As part of the day there were presentations by Professor Philip Ford on current issues facing modern language departments, followed by a talk from Ophélie Ramonatxo and Léonore Schick from the Institut français. The day was rounded off by a demonstration of CAIRN and finally a tour the British Library's exhibition *Out of this world: science fiction but not as we know it*. This was led by the exhibition's co-curator, Katya Rogatchevskaia, who provided an insightful presentation on the various parts of the exhibition, with a focus on the French and European exhibits, including a presentation of the first French science fiction film *Le Voyage dans la lune* (1902) by Georges Méliès.

Below is a short summary of the presentations by Philip Ford and the Institut français.

- **Current Issues Facing Modern Languages Departments in the UK**
Professor Philip Ford, Department of French, University of Cambridge

Professor Ford tracked statistically the number of GCSE and A-levels from 1995 – 2009 and examined the patterns. Overall the trends showed a decline in the number of students studying Modern Foreign Language (MFL) at both levels. However, the decline in French and German masked an overall increase in Spanish. For example, GCSE French went from 62% to 49.7% and A-level French from 56.5% to 39.1%, whereas Spanish rose from 7.3% to 17.7% (GCSE) and 9.9% to 20% (A-levels) over the same period.

The impact of falling numbers at GCSE and A-Level is increasingly being seen with the disappearance of modern language departments in several UK universities. For example, in 1992 there were 46 French departments, but by 2008 this had reduced to the low 30s. In some respects this situation is a consequence of the previous RAE with its shift of emphasis from teaching to research. For the REF 2014 there will be just one panel for MFL, with seven sub-panels. Scores will be determined by outputs (65%) and environment (15%), along with a new category of impact (20%). Bibliometrics constitutes a small part of the equation.

Current issues relating to libraries include the Euro exchange rate when purchasing foreign language materials, and an increase in the number of subjects covered by librarians, which means that less time can be devoted to individual subject areas. In addition, there is an

increasing demand for translations and more digital resources, as the expectation that materials can be accessed online continues to grow, in line with changing student expectations in relation to the new fees regime.

Finishing on a more positive note, Professor Ford also noted that the current government is planning on re-introducing language teaching back into schools via the International Baccalaureate, which will hopefully feed into those taking A-levels and further study.

The presentation slides are available to download from the FSLG website at <http://frenchstudieslibrarygroup.wordpress.com/events/>

- **Culturethèque and update on the Institut Français**
Ophélie Ramonatxo, Head of Libraries and Information Services and Léonore Schick, Institut français

The Institut Français (IF) is the official French government centre of language and culture in the UK. It is one of 150 French Institutes worldwide, and one of the oldest.

The IF has 3 components: 1) Language Centre, 2) Cinema and 3) Library. The IF provides access to *Culturethèque*, which is a digital platform providing access to French language podcasts, documentaries, full text ebooks and other materials. After its first year it has over 3,000 members and is free to join (see www.culturetheque.org.uk/read). There are between 8,000-10,000 e-books covering contemporary French literature. Members of the IF can borrow books from the library and access the database Europresse, which contains more than 1,000 newspapers and magazines (with approximately 300 in French). For information on individual and institutional membership see <https://www.institut-francais.org.uk/become-a-member>

A Week in the Life...

Alison Hicks, Humanities Research and Instruction Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder

Perhaps one of the most famous French-American-British encounters occurred during the late eighteenth century when the French forces supported the American colonists to fight for their independence. That didn't end too well for the British- though thankfully this can't be said for all Franco-British encounters on US soil. In 2010, I accepted the position of Romance Language Librarian at the University of Colorado, Boulder (CU). Growing up in rural Somerset, and then studying modern languages at the University of St Andrews, it was one of the last places that I had expected to find myself. However, unlike the British troops, I am enjoying my extended sojourn in the US, and, in particular, working with Romance language students and faculty at CU.

After writing an article for the 2011 FSLG Annual Review on CU's fairy tale collection, I was invited to write a short article detailing my experiences as a language specialist in the US. After accepting, I decided to follow the format of the Library Day in the Life Project, which asks librarians to share details of a typical day working in a library for colleagues and students. (<http://librarydayinthelife.pbworks.com/>) What follows is a brief synopsis of my work as a language specialist at CU. It has been slightly condensed to spare you the boredom of reading about my daily battle with email but will hopefully give you a taste of being a language librarian across the pond.

March 12th-16th, 2012

Monday

8-12: Planning. I've blocked the whole morning off to plan various classes and events that I have going on this week, in particular a focus group with the French graduate students and a visit to a French journalism class. Although there is some duplication between the work I do with each of the language departments, I plan out my week fairly carefully to ensure that I'm dedicating enough time to each department. As the Romance Language Librarian, I am liaison to the departments of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Comparative Literature. French, Spanish and Comparative Literature all have MA and PhD programs too, so I serve about 1500 students and faculty directly (CU has 30,000 students). However, all undergraduates have to study at least a year of a language so these numbers fluctuate greatly! In the French department, I work with about 60 undergraduate French majors, who typically study for four to five years to graduation; 10 Masters students on two year courses; and 10 PhD students, whose programmes last between four and eight years, as well as 8 faculty. Spanish is by far the most popular language on campus, while the French department has a small but dedicated following, supplemented by dual degree French-International Affairs students.

1-2: Usability team meeting. I'm on a committee that carries out usability testing of our website. Usability testing obviously has little to do with language studies, but I greatly enjoy the technology side of things. This was one of the reasons that I chose to go to Texas to do my MSIS instead of staying in the UK. After graduating with an MA in French and Spanish from St Andrews, I worked in Argentina for a year, ending up with a temporary position digitising material at the Universidad Torcuato di Tella library in Buenos Aires. From here I decided to apply to the digital library track at the University of Texas, Austin: such a course was not available at the time in the UK. After graduating from Texas I accepted a library position at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington DC, before the position as Romance Language librarian came up in Colorado.

2-3: Research Desk. As a subject specialist, my job consists of specialised reference, instruction and collection development, but also general instruction and reference shifts. I typically do five hours a week on the research desk and a couple on the IM (instant messaging) service, where students can chat online with librarians and ask library-related questions.

Tuesday

12-2: Email/planning. I'm the late night librarian tonight, staffing the research desk from 5pm to 8pm, which means that I don't start work till midday. When I arrive I spot a reply to my tough reference question from a public library in Lyon. I've missed my window of opportunity for an immediate response though: with the 8 hour time difference, email conversations can get a bit disjointed and very elongated!

2-3: Research class. This afternoon I'm teaching a research session for a third year French language class. I'm trying a new model this year where I'm embedded in their class. This involves following and participating in online discussion fora as well as running a couple of in person sessions. The class is creating a French newspaper, so we're covering finding images and copyright as well as tricks for finding French language research through Google today. As the class is an immersion class, the professor has asked if I will also teach in French. Cue last minute hurriedly looking up key vocabulary terms! The project has been fairly time consuming but fascinating, and I really feel like I've been able to help in several ways- as well as getting to know the students' needs better.

5-8: Research Desk. It's pretty quiet tonight, so I manage to get through a bunch of catalogues from vendors. We order all our French language books from France (approval plan and firm orders) so my deadline for ordering books is the end of March to ensure they arrive by the end of the fiscal year in June. The focus of the French department is on language, literature, film and cultural studies. Other subjects such as French history are taught at the university, but are administered through other librarians. Faculty specialities in

the department are highly concentrated on France and Switzerland, with some very minor interest in Tahiti.

Wednesday

8-10: Email.

10-11: Focus Group. Today I'm conducting a focus group with eight French graduate students. A key part of the French MA programme is the comprehensive exams, where students are tested on core texts in their subject areas and two other areas. This means that key texts are often in high demand in the library. I've recently been hearing several complaints from students about the availability of these texts, and frequent recalls, so I decided to hold a focus group to try and unpack the problems that the students are having and brainstorm some solutions. In February I took a class on Ethnographic Research with Nancy Foster, a library anthropologist at the University of Rochester. Ethnographic research is very trendy in the US right now, especially in relation to the creation or repurposing of library space, but I'm excited to adapt this training to understand perceptions and attitudes towards library services. As I suspected, the focus group revealed that few students understand the fairly complex Inter-library loan procedures we have at CU, so I start thinking about how I can adapt my traditional orientation classes to meet their needs better.

12-1: Learners' Lunch. I help to coordinate campus wide technology brown bag talks at the library through the year. This week I'm teaching a class on productivity tools, especially Evernote, Mendeley and Diigo. I get 15 people attending so I'm pretty happy!

1-3: Lunch/Email/Home.

Thursday

8-11: Weeding, gifts and approvals. Check over the latest shipment of approvals from France. For English language titles we participate in a virtual collection development pilot, which means I'm selecting online only. With the continued economic woes, our budgets have been cut, though not as much as other institutions. However, I'm currently considering participating in a shared purchase plan with a local (and much smaller) university. At CU, we're fairly isolated: there are no other comparable research libraries with a focus on the languages within a roughly 500 mile radius (the nearest being Salt Lake City, Utah; or Albuquerque, New Mexico). We are members of CIFNAL, the Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections based at the Center for Research Libraries and this has been helpful for negotiating consortial agreements for databases and other large purchases. The Western European Studies section (WESS) of the American Library Association is the other professional group that I find most useful, though my participation is mostly limited to

email. Travel funding is tight and I normally attend SALALM, the Seminar for the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials as Spanish forms a bigger part of my daily work.

11-12: IM shift.

1-2.30: Subject Specialist meeting-a meeting of all liaison librarians to discuss shared issues. This week we cover potential shared purchases of databases using end of year funds, DVD cases and tattle taping of foreign books. More and more English books are arriving shelf-ready, which means that it's getting less cost-efficient to process foreign language books, none of which arrives shelf-ready. Thankfully, I manage to secure support to replace the decrepit tattle tape machine.

3-4: Anderson Language Technology Center (ALTEC) event. ALTEC is a centre for language technology on campus and they run frequent workshops. I try to attend as many as possible, firstly because I'm interested in technology, and secondly because it really gives me an insight into language pedagogy and the departments' teaching and learning goals. Language instructors tend to be slightly more marginalised on campus, and often they don't realise that the library can help them with materials, tutorials or other resources. It's also been great for me to understand teaching practices, so I can integrate information literacy more easily into classes. I've run a couple of classes for them on finding digital language resources, and hope to do a new one on open educational resources next year.

Friday

Research Day! My position is tenure track, a slightly odd US tradition that means I am evaluated annually on my librarianship (40%), research (40%) and service (20%). I have six years as an assistant professor, and then I am evaluated to see whether I can be promoted to an associate professor. Research requirements at CU are fairly tough and are centred round the publication of peer reviewed articles. I ostensibly get a regular research day each week, but that doesn't always happen, especially at busy times of the semester. My research focuses on foreign language librarianship and technology, especially information literacy. Today I'm finishing off a literature review and starting writing about a longitudinal Spanish information literacy project. I also start filling in the Institutional Review Board forms for another research project that I want to undertake in the fall.

End of the week! I sip a beer on the back porch and plan the weekend hiking trip in the Rockies. Next week I'm observing/helping with a fairy tale class in Special Collections and I've also got a couple of writing and rhetoric information literacy sessions that I'll be teaching as part of my role as a generalist as well as a language specialist. About 50-70% of my work is foreign language related, while the rest focuses on general reference and instruction duties as well as technology (web page design, outreach) and committee work. As a smaller research library I don't focus on collection development as much as colleagues

in other US research libraries might. However, my experience juggling languages and subjects is fairly typical: the number of positions focusing on languages is definitely decreasing. Most librarians are either part of area studies programs, (ie Western Europe Librarian) or their jobs include other languages.

I enjoy what I do: the job provides a good sense of freedom to develop professionally, as well as flexibility to carry out my work. Budget cuts, staffing cuts and the library reorganisation make it a challenge at times, and the nine hour flight back to Somerset makes it hard to see friends and family. But it's been a great start to my career, and it's given me a wide range of experience that I hope will be useful when I eventually make it back to the UK!

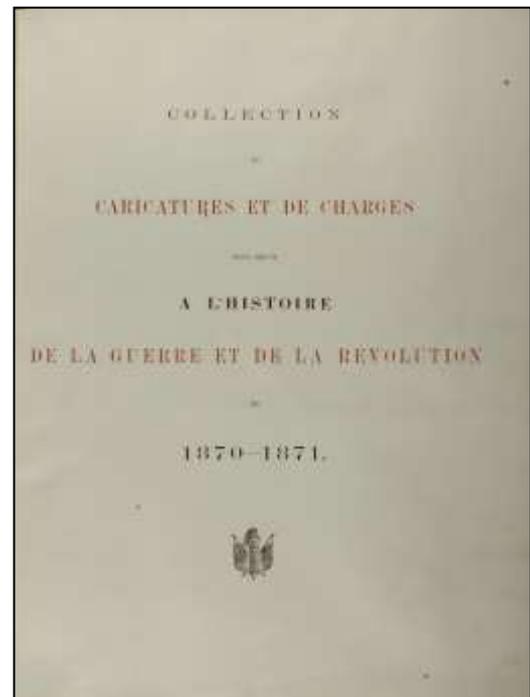
Alison's personal website can be viewed at <http://alisonhicks.weebly.com>

The Collection of French Caricatures in Heidelberg: The English Connection

Bettina Müller, Heidelberg University Library

Heidelberg University Library is currently carrying out a DFG (German Research Foundation)-funded project "Digitalisierung und Erschließung illustrierter Kunst- und Satirezeitschriften des 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhunderts".¹ As part of the project the Library has digitised nine volumes of the "Collection de caricatures et de charges pour servir à l'histoire de la guerre et de la révolution de 1870-1871",² held by the Library since 1885, and has made the images accessible and searchable in its image database HeidICON. This outstanding collection of caricatures was left to the Library together with several volumes of French satirical journals³ of the same period by the German antiquarian Nikolaus Trübner (1817-1884),⁴ who lived and worked in London.⁵

The greater part of the lithographies, most of them coloured, was printed in Paris, but it seems very likely that the caricatures came to London and were bound there. Two issues of *The Athenaeum* appearing in October 1872 probably constitute the earliest source to refer to this collection; the article of 26 October is glued into the front of the first volume of the Cambridge and Heidelberg collections.⁶ It states that the booksellers Messrs. Dulau "had made in Paris [...] a remarkable collection of caricatures". Out of this collection they created "a few grand sets", some of



Title page of the first volume of the Heidelberg collection

¹ <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/Englisch/helios/fachinfo/www/kunst/digilit/artjournals/Welcome.html>

² http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/fachinfo/www/kunst/digilit/artjournals/collection_caricatures.html

³ In addition to this legacy, a 140 manuscripts and over 2300 books were donated by Trübner's widow Cornelia to Heidelberg University Library in 1885.

⁴ N. Trübner was the uncle of Karl Ignaz Trübner (1846-1907), who negotiated the return of the famous Manesse Codex to Heidelberg. The Manesse Codex is now the most famous and important manuscript in the Heidelberg University Library.

⁵ Armin Schlechter (1990), *Gelehrten- und Klosterbibliotheken in der Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg*, Heidelberg, (Heidelberger Bibliotheksschriften, 43), S. 41 ff.

⁶ *The Athenaeum. Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science and Fine Arts*, 26. Okt. 1872, p. 524 f.

which are still in England. It is also known that Dulau privately printed a title-page for them.⁷

This title-page not only connects the Heidelberg collection with Dulau, it also shows that there are a few related and similar collections in England. The collection in the British Library is, with its ten volumes,⁸ the fullest and the best in terms of quality. In addition, the British Library owns related material with more caricatures and texts from the same period. The Department of Prints and Drawings at the Victoria & Albert Museum holds nine volumes,⁹ from which, unfortunately, numerous caricatures were removed in 1971 for the exhibition "The Franco-Prussian War and the Commune in Caricature 1870-71". The excised prints are still at the Museum but stored separately.¹⁰ The V&A also has related material, though with a different title-page, but contents and style of the volume make a Dulau provenance seem very likely.¹¹ Heidelberg University Library has nine volumes.¹² Cambridge University Library owns six,¹³ and the Bodleian Library in Oxford one volume.¹⁴

All these collections are connected via the title-page. With the exception of the volume at the Bodleian, all the sets seem to have received their bindings at the same place. They are half-bound in red leather, decorated with French imperial emblems and gold-tooled.

The Bodleian's collection has the common title-page, but it is of smaller format and bound in a simpler fashion than the others. It is fairly certain that the Library received the collection in the form of single prints of the caricatures along with a title page and that the binding was done at the Bodleian bindery.¹⁵ In Heidelberg, not only the collection of French caricatures but also the French journals from Trübner's estate have a red leather half binding, which suggests that these latter volumes were also obtained from Dulau.¹⁶

On account of the article in *The Athenaeum*, it has been assumed that Trübner bought his collection from Dulau & Co.¹⁷ However, the handwritten dedication in Heidelberg's Volume 1, so far disregarded, makes it more likely that the collection was given to him by Frederick

⁷ op. cit. An earlier notice at *The Athenaeum* (19. Oct. 1872, p. 499) in "Literary Gossip" states that "one copy has been purchased by Prince Bismarck, a second by the British Museum, a third is in the hands of the collectors." To my knowledge there is no information if Bismarck ever owned such a collection.

⁸ Shelfmark: 14001.g.41 (Vols. 1-9) and Cup.1001.l.1 (Vol. 10)

⁹ The Department of Prints and Drawings' Shelfmark: 95 H 62-70 (Vols. 1-9)

¹⁰ Susan Lambert (1971), *The Franco-Prussian War and the Commune in Caricature, 1870-71*, London.

¹¹ Shelfmark: 95 H 61. Title: Paris Siège et Commune. Collection de 127 eaux-fortes en dix séries par MM. Lalanne, Martial, Desbrosses, Yon Pierdon, et De Boret.

¹² Shelfmark: Truebner 1:1-9, digitised version: <http://collection-caricatures.uni-hd.de>

¹³ Classmark: KF.3.9-14 (6 Vols.)

¹⁴ Call number: 17075 b.8

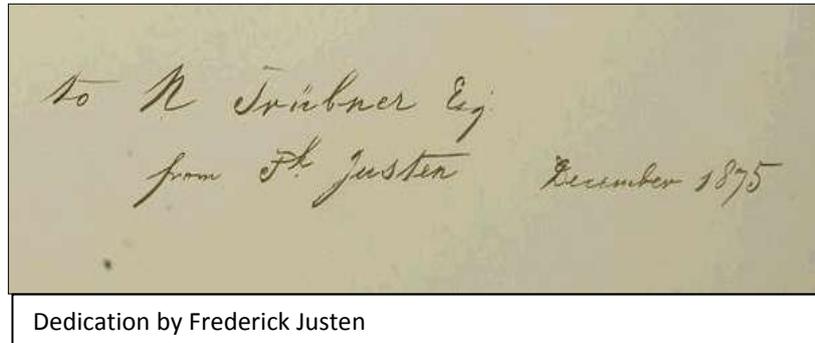
¹⁵ I owe this information to Francesca L. Galligan, to whom I am especially grateful.

¹⁶ Wolfgang Metzger (1999), Französische Flugblätter aus der Sammlung Trübner, S. 266 f, in: *Kostbarkeiten gesammelter Geschichte. Heidelberg und die Pfalz in Zeugnissen der Universitätsbibliothek*, Heidelberg, (Schriften der Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, Vol. 1).

¹⁷ op. cit., S. 266.

Justen (1832-1906). The dedication says: "To N Trübner Esq. from Fk Justen December 1875".

The German-born Justen came to London in 1851, where he first worked as "German Assistant" at Messrs. Dulau & Co and later became the sole proprietor of the company.¹⁸ However, there is a connection not only between Justen and Trübner, but also between the former and the British Library. According to the Library's acquisition records he donated the ten-volume collection to the Library on 9 March 1889, but it is unclear whether he also donated the related material shelfmarked Cup. 648.b.2.¹⁹



The V&A's collection was catalogued in 1962, but the acquisition file has a typewritten note saying that the volumes have been in the possession of the Museum since 1887.²⁰ So far there are no indications of previous ownership or donation for the Cambridge, Oxford and V&A volumes. The Bodleian's volume was catalogued in 1918, but its standard library binding makes a late 19th century dating more probable.²¹

As already mentioned, the British Library has the largest collection with more coloured prints than the other sets. Above all, this collection has many more German, Italian and Dutch prints. The collections at Heidelberg and the V&A are best comparable to the one at the British Library as far as content and format are concerned, while the Cambridge and Oxford volumes differ from them in both content and size. The satirical prints reflect events and personalities of the period before and during the Franco-Prussian War, the siege of Paris and the Commune, and of the initial phase of the Third Republic.

A comparison of the different collections makes it apparent that the British Library and Heidelberg volumes are more comprehensive and contain more complete versions of the

¹⁸ H. W. (1906). Frederick Justen, F.L.S.. *Geological Magazine* (Decade V) 3, pp 576-576, online version: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S001675680011917X> (14.07.2012)

¹⁹ While M. Daniels regards it as uncertain that Justen donated the caricature collection shelfmarked Cup. 648.b.2, W. J. Rhoden thinks it probable and refers to "the significant overlap" between the two collections. Morna Daniels (2005), Caricature from the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and the Paris Commune, in: *The Electronic British Library Journal*, Article 5, p. 2.

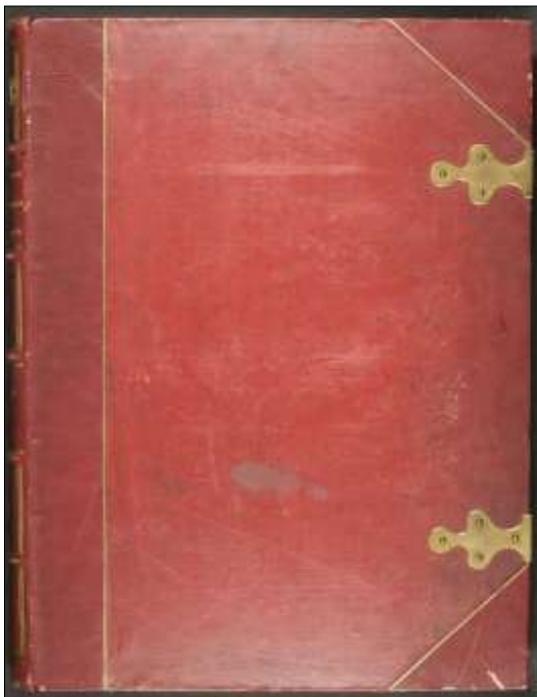
W. Jack Rhoden (2009-10), French caricatures of the Franco-Prussian War and Commune at the British Library, *French Studies Library Group Annual Review*, Issue 6, S. 22.

²⁰ (ref: RP/1962/116) I would like to thank Alex Chanter of the V&A for this information.

²¹ I owe this information to Francesca Galligan from the Bodleian Library.

known series than the others. The Oxford volume consists mainly of series of satirical prints, which have as subject politicians and Paris during the siege. In Cambridge the first four volumes consist of French caricatures, while the fifth volume features issues of the journal *La Charge* in addition to caricatures by Martial and the last volume contains German caricatures.

Noteworthy are the final volumes of the collections at the British Library, the V&A and Heidelberg. These contain some very provocative, even erotic caricatures at the expense of the imperial family, of politicians and of the Church, and were therefore provided with a lock (see image 3). The lockable volumes at Heidelberg and the British Library comprise the same satirical prints, with only one exception. In contrast, the lockable volume at the V&A is less provocative than the others.



Heidelberg University Library volume 9 with lock

This article deals with the well-known collections in Heidelberg, London, Cambridge and Oxford, with the exception of the collection shelfmarked Cup. 648.b.2, which I have had no opportunity to access. These collections do not correspond precisely to the contents of the Dulau collections described in *The Athenaeum* and said to have been acquired by the British Museum, Prince Bismarck and other collectors. Much more collating and research is therefore desirable to complete the picture.

'Pataphysics Collection at the British Library

Annick Mann, Cataloguer, British Library

In 2009 The British Library acquired a collection of pataphysics publications from Heart Fine Art in Edinburgh. This collection consists mostly of internal publications published by the Collège (known from now on as the Collège), the Cymbalum pataphysicum and to a lesser degree the Alumnat de 'pantaphysique. This is a very esoteric collection which I was given the opportunity to catalogue.

Before describing it and the specific aspects of cataloguing it would be useful to outline the notion of 'pataphysics. Alfred Jarry and Raymond Queneau among others provided definitions, and the Oxford English Dictionary describes it thus: “A notional branch of knowledge dealing with that which eludes scientific or metaphysical understanding...the philosophy of the absurd.”

On the 11th May 1948, the Collège was founded by members ranging from artists to writers. It had a complex hierarchy and ran its own calendar starting on the 8th September 1873, Alfred Jarry's birth date and the commencement of the “Ère pataphysique (EP)”, the acronym of which appears on the colophons of most of the publications of the Collège. The pataphysical year consists of thirteen months, all of four weeks of seven days with an imaginary 29th day, known as Hunyadi. Months are given different names such as Sable, Haha, or Merdre. An example of the 'pataphysic calendar is 22 palotin 75, or 11 May 1948.

Sa magnificence le Docteur Sandomir and Jean-Hugues Sainmont were the emblematic characters of the Collège during the period 1948 to 1957, which saw the Collège's major doctrinal texts published. Jarry's influence was omnipresent during that period. After the death of Dr Sandomir and Jean-Hugues Sainmont's retirement through ill-health, the Baron Mollet took over from 1959 to 1965. Artist Boris Vian (1920-1959) was undeniably the major influence in this period even though Jarry was still influential. Other important events at the time were the creation of OuLiPo (Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle) by Raymond Queneau and François Le Lionnais, and the internationalisation of the Collège with the openings of the Institut des hautes études pataphysiques de Buenos Aires, the Institutum Mediolanense, the Institut Romain and later on the London Institute of 'Pataphysics. Finally from 1965 to 1974 Sa Magnificence Opach was represented in Paris by author Jean Ferry (1906-1974).

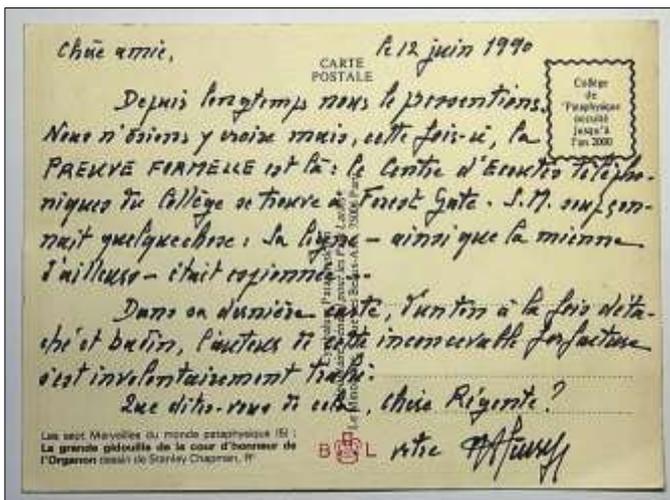
On the 17th December 1974, by the decision of Sa Magnificence Opach, the Collège underwent a period of “occultation” forbidding any publication or 'pataphysical activity by the Collège until 2000. The 'pataphysical calendar was also suspended. It is striking that this occultation coincides with the death of an important generation of 'pataphysicians such as:

Latis, Jean Ferry, Jacques Prévert, Raymond Queneau, Max Ernst, Joan Miro, René Clair and Man Ray. However foreign 'pataphysical institutes as well as the Ouvroirs continued their activities.

The Occultation transferred all 'pataphysical activity and publishing responsibilities to another body, the Cymbalum Pataphysicum. In 2000 the publication of the *Cahiers trimestriels du Collège de 'Pataphysique* was undertaken and distributed by a new body, the Novum Organum. Between 1957 and 1996, the Collège published within the series *Esoterica* a number of secret publications, which are almost impossible to find and identify on different national and international catalogues, and generally not mentioned in reference works about the Collège.

Another complication is the founding of L'Alumnat de 'pantaphysique by a group of artists in Albi. They imitated to its slightest details the Collège's rhetoric and publishing style, to the extent that it is sometimes extremely hard to know from which body a publication emanates. The Collège acknowledged this group which seems to have dispersed in the mid-1970s.

With the exception of one item in Dutch, the collection includes books; leaflets; advertisements; bibliographies; postcards and board games in French. One item was published in the 1940s; the bulk of the collection appeared between the 1950s and the late 1960s (about 20 for each decade). Fewer than ten items are from the 1970s before the period of occultation. A handful of items were published between 1975 and the 1990s. Finally publications from the Alumnat de 'pantaphysique comprise one item published in the late 1960s and six in the early 1970s.



The Collège produced mostly internal serial publications, such as *Cliques & claques*, *Organographes*, and *Collection maramoutéenne*. However, some are individual works: books about art and works of fiction; memorials; structure charts; leaflets; advertisements; bibliographies; and the regular “*Circulaire phynancière*” concerning forthcoming publications. A very small proportion of the books

were published as a multipart such as “*Vies des saints du calendrier pataphysique*” and postcards.

In spite of the esoteric and varied nature of the collection, recurring patterns of bibliographic description soon emerged. In the final section of this article I will describe the difficulties and recurrent patterns the collection highlights. I will first concentrate on the descriptive cataloguing aspects before turning to the difficulties I encountered with the subject analysis.

None of the items contains an ISBN or an ISSN. This would not facilitate retrieval of information and I cannot help wondering whether this is a ploy by the Collège to only give access to its publications to those who know how to find them.



In terms of statement of responsibility I often had the difficulty of deciding whether publications should be entered under their main title or the Collège. The Anglo American Cataloguing Rules' (AACR2) directions to only enter an item under the corporate body if specific conditions apply often complicated matters as I did not always get enough information from items or other external resources. So I quite often had to resort to entering the record under its title, adding an entry for the corporate body. The complicated hierarchy of the Collège made it very hard sometimes to formulate the names of some of its

sub-bodies and to know under which commission they fell.

I found myself confronted with leaflets, advertisements and other material with no title. So I had to devise a succinct and descriptive title of the resource following AACR2. Again, because I knew through my research that some were internal publications and from the presence of the logo of the Collège, I could often assign the main entry point to the corporate body. However this was not always specified on the item in hand. The place(s) of publication were always omitted, and the dates of publication for the great majority of the collection were recorded following the 'pataphysics calendar. From a cataloguing perspective this was somewhat unusual and I had to make sure to record accurately the converted date in our Gregorian calendar after their date.

Because of the varied nature of the collection the physical description was sometimes problematic. More often than not there was no pagination available. The notion of illustration was also questionable in some instances: apart from the logo of the Collège, there were some illustrations which I felt needed to be recorded, as they were important in their own right. Many publications were unusually shaped or proportioned.



Because of the esoteric nature of the collection, and the recurring lack of bibliographic information, the only way to clarify certain aspects of some publications was through the notes field. It also enabled me to quote certain key phrases appearing in the items which would not have fitted in any other descriptive bibliographic field yet which were important for the identification and retrieval of the document. Another richness of this collection is the vast amount of copy-specific information available in most of the documents. There are items signed by the author, or belonging to private collections of specific members of the Collège, or specific

numbered copies of limited editions. The British Library's policy is to record this sort of information in the interest of scholarship.

Finally, last but not least the subject analysis. This was by a long way the trickiest part of the work, as 'pataphysics covers a wide array of disciplines. It can also be interpreted in different ways and it was sometimes hard to decide whether an item was purely 'pataphysics or about 'pataphysics; non-fiction or fiction; or poetry or songs expressed through 'pataphysics. Furthermore the unusual nature of the material, particularly the advertisements and other ephemera were hard to define in terms of subject headings, yet needed to be accurately represented to avoid misleading researchers. However thanks to the Library of Congress Subject Headings' array of topical headings and form headings I was able to reflect the various forms and subjects of the collection.



Cataloguing the 'pataphysics collection for the British Library was a challenging and gratifying experience. It certainly put into perspective the challenges we, cataloguers, encounter when faced with an unusual bibliographic description and how difficult it is to make sure that the resource is going to be made accessible to the user. It would be beneficial if we could continue to collect publications by the *Novum Organum* published in this century to add to this fascinating collection.

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<http://www.college-de-pataphysique.fr/>

<http://www.college-de-pataphysique.org/college/accueil.html>

Alexandre Boutet, *Inventaire et valorisation d'un fonds à partir d'un don d'archives: les publications du Collège de 'Pataphysique à la bibliothèque de l'Arsenal*, ed. . Paris: ENSSIB, 2005.

Les très riches heures du Collège de 'Pataphysique. Paris: Fayard, 2000.

Annick Mann would like to thank Janet Ashton, Teresa Vernon and Mikaël Cloâtre for their help in connection with this article.

1960-2010: African Independence Fifty Years On

Teresa Vernon, Lead Curator, French, British Library

Anne Worden, Faculty Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Portsmouth

In 1960 17 African countries gained their independence, starting with Cameroun on 1st January and ending with Mauritania on 28th November. As 2010 saw the 50th anniversary of these momentous events, various books, articles, and special issues of journals appeared marking the occasion. We have compiled a list of books and special issues of journals relating to Francophone Africa drawing attention to items acquired by UK libraries which readers may find of interest.

Overview

50 ans [special issue of *Cahiers d'études africaines*, pp. 198-200], 2010

50 ans après, quelle indépendance pour l'Afrique? / sous la direction de Makhily Gassama. Paris : P. Rey, 2010

50 ans d'indépendance dans les anciennes possessions françaises d'Afrique noire / Christian Roche. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2011

50 ans d'indépendances [special issue of *Afrique contemporaine*], 2010

<http://www.cairn.info/revue-afrique-contemporaine-2010-3.htm>

L'accession à l'indépendance de l'Afrique équatoriale française : union ou éclatement / Joachim de Dreux-Brézé ; préface de Yvon Bourges. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2010

L'Afrique : 50 ans après les indépendances / Essè Amouzou. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2009

Afrique, 1960 : la décolonisation douce? [dossier 350 from the series *L'Histoire*], 2010

L'Afrique de Sarkozy : un déni d'histoire / Jean-Pierre Chrétien ; avec Pierre Boilley... [et al.]. Paris : Karthala, 2008.

Afrique subsaharienne : coloniser n'est pas civiliser / Soumah Maligui. Paris : Edilac, 2009

Chroniques afro-sarcastiques : 50 ans d'indépendance, tu parles! / Venance Konan ; [préface de Stephen Smith]. Lausanne : Favre, 2011

Cinquante ans d'indépendances africaines [special issue of *Outre-mers revue d'histoire*, pp. 368-369], 2010

Clio et les grands-blancs : la décolonisation inachevée / Jean-Pierre Biondi. Paris : Libertalia, 2010

Les conditions économiques de l'indépendance à l'ère de la mondialisation : mythes et réalités en Afrique de l'Ouest : actes du colloque de San Pedro, [Côte d'Ivoire], 10-14 mars 2010 / [organisé par la Commission nationale d'organisation du cinquantenaire de la Côte d'Ivoire] / sous la direction de Pierre Kipré et Aké G.-M. Ngbo. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2011

Conflits régionaux et indépendances nationales en Afrique de l'Ouest : actes du colloque d'Abengourou, [Côte d'Ivoire], 26-28 février 2010 / [organisé par la Commission nationale d'organisation du cinquantenaire de la Côte d'Ivoire] / sous la direction de Pierre Kipré et Aké G.-M. Ngbo. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2011

'De Gaulle and Sub-Saharan Africa : from decolonization to French development policy, 1958-63' / Guia Migani, in *Globalizing de Gaulle : international perspectives on French foreign policies, 1958-1969* / edited by Christian Nuenlist, Anna Locher, and Garret Martin. Lanham, Md. : Rowman & Littlefield, 2010

De Gaulle, Pompidou et l'Afrique, 1958-1974 : décoloniser et coopérer / Frédéric Turpin. Paris : les Indes savantes, 2010

Décolonisation de l'Afrique ex-française : enjeux pour l'Afrique et la France d'aujourd'hui / coordonné par Alexandre Gerbi. Paris : L' Harmattan, 2010

Un demi-siècle d'africanisme africain : terrains, acteurs et enjeux des sciences sociales en Afrique indépendante / Jean Copans. Paris : Éditions Karthala, 2010

Francophone Africa at fifty / edited by Tony Chafer and Alex Keese. Manchester : Manchester University Press, 2013 (forthcoming)

Histoires nationales et/ou identités ethniques : un dilemme pour les historiens africains? / N. A Goeh-Akue et N. L. Gayibor (eds). Paris : L'Harmattan, 2010

Un humanisme de la diversité : essai sur la décolonisation des identités / Alain Renaut. Paris : Flammarion, 2009

Indépendance et néocolonialisme en Afrique : bilan d'un courant dévastateur / Pierre Ndoumaï. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2011

Iron cages : paradigms, ideologies and the crisis of the postcolonial state / Alison Jones. Scottsville, South Africa : University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2010

Petit précis de remise à niveau sur l'histoire africaine à l'usage du président Sarkozy / sous la direction de Adame Ba Konaré ; préface d'Elikia M'Bokolo ; postface de Catherine Clément. Paris : La Découverte, 2008

Sortir de la grande nuit : essai sur l'Afrique décolonisée / Achille Mbembe. Paris : La Découverte, 2010

Trustee for the human community : Ralph J. Bunche, the United Nations, and the decolonization of Africa / edited by Robert A. Hill and Edmond J. Keller. Athens : Ohio University Press, 2010

Wissenschaft und Dekolonisation : Paradigmenwechsel und institutioneller Wandel in der akademischen Beschäftigung mit Afrika in Deutschland und Frankreich, 1930-1970 / Felix Brahm. Stuttgart : Steiner, 2010 [Pallas Athene ; Bd. 33]

Countries A-Z

Burkina Faso

Qu'avez-vous fait de vos 50 ans? 2. Burkina. *Jeune Afrique* 2565, pp. 38-41, 2010

Cameroun

Cameroun : combats pour l'indépendance / Marie-Irène Ngapeth Biyong. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2009

The end of French rule in Cameroon / Martin Atangana. Lanham, Md. : University Press of America, 2010

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