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French Studies Library Group

Annual Review

Issue 7 (2010-11)

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French Studies Library Group Annual Review

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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 Sarah Brain or Damien McManus at the email addresses 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 news

Amanda Peters retirement

Nick Hearn, *Slavonic and East European Subject Specialist (Language, Literature and Culture)*, Taylor Bodleian Slavonic and Modern Greek Library, Oxford
French Subject Specialist, Language and Literature, Taylor Institution Library, St Giles, Oxford

Amanda Peters, Librarian-in-charge at the Taylor Institution Library and one of the first members of FSLG, took early retirement on 31st March. Amanda had an association with modern languages for many years. At her leaving party on her last day she gave an amusing and witty account of how she came to work at the Bodleian. She had been surprised to be told that she had got the job and even more surprised when she realized that the starting-date – April 1st, 1984 was a Sunday!

In those days, the Bodleian Library was organised along rather different lines from today. As Head of Modern French, Italian and Greek collections she selected and catalogued material in all subjects published in the countries of these languages. Amanda was an extremely effective communicator and able to establish an immediate rapport with her colleagues.

As far as FSLG was concerned, her most notable (and lasting) achievement was the setting up of the FSLG email list. During her time at the Taylor Institution she oversaw two major mergers, firstly the Modern Languages Faculty Library with the Taylor Institution Library and secondly the Slavonic and Modern Greek Library with the Bodleian Slavonic section, which was also administratively merged with the main Taylor.

However, perhaps the greatest of her achievements were two-fold. By a certain elegance of appearance and articulateness she did much to overturn negative stereotypes of librarians. Secondly, her kindness and charm did much to foster a pleasant working environment at the Taylor Institution.

Change of responsibility at Leeds University Library

Following Ann Farr's early retirement from Leeds University Library last August, Maureen Pinder has taken over from her as the Faculty Team Librarian responsible for French. Maureen has worked at Leeds for nine years looking after a range of other mainly language subjects. Maureen's contact details, and photograph, can be found at:

Maureen Pinder
Faculty Team Librarian (Arts and Social Sciences Team)
The Brotherton Library
University of Leeds
LS2 9JT

Obituary: Michael Howarth

1942-2011

Michael Howarth, who was a member of the University of Bristol Library staff from 1972 to 2004, died in Exeter Hospice at the end of February, after being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

David Hughes, former subject librarian and Head of Public Services at the University of Bristol, provides an overview of Michael's career.

Michael studied Modern Languages at Oxford and excelled at colloquial French. After a spell in teaching, he started his librarianship career at the University of York. Michael came to Bristol as part of the then embryonic team of subject librarians, with a well-established reputation for linguistic ability and a high level of bibliographic expertise. His areas of specialism included French, German, Italian and Spanish. He familiarised himself with Portuguese and Catalan and later devoted three weeks to studying Russian, after which he felt "equal to any Russian text with the help of a dictionary". For Michael, mastery of a language was the only level of competence worth having. On one occasion he was clearly but quietly proud of the fact that the Library's principal Paris book dealer had complimented him on being by far the most fluent of his English customers.

Later, when an opportunity arose for him to extend his range of languages to include the classics, Michael brushed up his Latin and set about learning Greek from scratch at an awesome pace. He devoted many holidays to improving his linguistic knowledge through travel or attending courses. He reserved a special affection for the language of his native Cornwall and he had been especially pleased to be elected a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd. His enthusiasm and professionalism set standards for Bristol's subject librarians and he helped to define the role of the newly established posts. He particularly recognised the need for thoroughness and accuracy in library work and he carried out his duties with meticulous care. He was, perhaps, conscientious to a fault. He relished the challenge of penetrating into arcane bibliographic enquiries on behalf of readers and scholars, took delight in solving problems, and earned the gratitude of many academic colleagues for his willingness to share his expertise.

Following his retirement from the University Library, Michael took up an appointment in the Library of Exeter Cathedral, a role especially suited to his skills and interests. He took great pleasure in his surroundings there, both the collections and the ambiance, and in serving the readers.

Jill Kempshall, former Faculty Librarian, University of the West of England, remembers collaborating with Michael on organising national and international conferences.

In 1994 Michael and I shared a work exchange at the University of Cologne Library. We each spent a fortnight in Cologne and the following year hosted our exchange partner for two weeks in our respective libraries. On that occasion it was Michael's knowledge of Bristol landladies and who amongst them was accustomed to housing foreign lodgers which proved very useful. The return visit turned out to be somewhat challenging for both of us at times, largely due to the slightly erratic nature of our partner and it was good to be able to compare notes. Knowing that even Michael was experiencing a few difficulties was very reassuring!

We also worked together on organising the 1995 German Studies Library Group Annual Conference in Bristol. It was a pleasure to collaborate with Michael on such a project because he was so efficient and reliable. He played the major part in organising the event because the conference took place at Bristol University, while the conference dinner was held in a restaurant which was well known to him and proved a great success.

Damien McManus, successor to Michael at Bristol, recalls his memories of Michael.

Michael's passion for subject librarian work was apparent from the outset: when I took up my post at Bristol Michael insisted on travelling from his home in Exeter to provide me with several days of introductions to the job even though he had retired. For each subject I took over, he had provided notes covering exactly one side of A4. Not one word was extraneous. It was clear from our conversations that the French collections and his relations with the Department of French and its academic library representative, the late Professor Michael Freeman, were of particular importance to him.

Michael was meticulous in his approach to book purchasing. Publishers' catalogues were carefully scanned, and he would consult an astonishing range of resources in the quest for interesting and beneficial acquisitions. His knowledge of the printed collections at Bristol was comprehensive, and this, combined with a keenly inquisitive mind and sharp intellect, meant that he was ideally placed to observe Ranganathan's fourth law of library science, 'Save the time of the reader', which to him was of paramount importance. On the other hand, he felt it vital that students should develop an appreciation of the importance of reference resources and a keen sense of curiosity when using its collections.

Michael missed subject work terribly when he retired. His association with Bristol did not end, however. Until his health declined, he regularly attended a weekly Ancient Greek class which he approached with his customary enthusiasm and dedication. He would occasionally call in to see me, and would offer sound advice if I asked for it. If it was tempting for him to offer opinions about how things were being done, he never did.

The future of the Virtual Training Suite and Informs

Angela Joyce, Online Information Specialist, Institute for Learning and Research Technology; Subject Librarian, Economics, Finance and Management, University of Bristol

JISC funding for the Virtual Training Suite ended on 31 July 2011. The current tutorials are available for download as standalone units from the Virtual Training Suite website and via the JORUM repository. Thanks to a creative commons licence, the UK teaching, learning, and research communities will be able to use the resources free of charge.

The Virtual Training Suite will continue to be developed after July 2011 thanks to an agreement between the University of Bristol and the software house TutorPro Ltd. TutorPro will not only retain the existing content but will also significantly enhance and develop the Virtual Training Suite tutorials, adding new material and making them available through mobile apps.

The Informs service will continue to be run at Mimas until December 2011. Mimas will investigate running Informs on open source software, so that anyone will be able to install and use it in their own institutions.

We would like to thank all FSLG members for their support of the Virtual Training Suite and Informs over the years.

Virtual Training Suite: <http://www.vtstutorials.co.uk/>

JORUM: <http://www.jorum.ac.uk/>

Informs: http://www.informs.intute.ac.uk/informs_perl/login2.pl

Mass digitization French style: the Bibliothèque nationale de France's online library Gallica in 2011 and beyond

Teresa Vernon, *Head, French Collections, British Library*

On 21 March 2011 Bruno Racine, chairman of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF) and Arnaud Beaufort, Deputy Director General, gave a presentation at the Paris Book Fair on developments in the BNF's online library Gallica for 2011 and beyond.

Bruno Racine outlined the Library's policy on the mass digitization of printed collections for books published after 1750 (publication date) up to 1940 (for authors who died before 1940). For the period 2007-2010, funded by the Centre National du Livre (CNL) at a cost of 24 million Euros, there was a focus on history, literature, law and science. From April 2011 to 2014, again funded by the CNL at 6 million Euros per annum, the emphasis is on both regional and émigré publications (e.g. produced by the Polish and Russian communities in France), and on history, philosophy and the humanities in general, with a special focus on World War One, Tocqueville and Napoleon. Items from partner libraries and some pre-1750 books will be included.

This phase will see higher definition, colour, 400 dpi, OCR at 98.5% accuracy for 80% of the material, and at 99.9 % accuracy for the remaining 20% which will be more costly. Special collections digitization projects, funded from the BNF's own budget, include *Europeana Regia*, Christine de Pisan manuscripts, rare books, posters, ballets russes items, the clandestine press from the French Resistance in World War Two and the De Vinck Collection (a collection of prints and other materials illustrating French history from Louis XVI to the 1871 Commune).

Arnaud Beaufort said that Gallica was now embedded in social media: on Facebook (20 million French people have Facebook accounts), and on Twitter <http://twitter.com/GallicaBnF> (accessible even without a Twitter account). There is also a monthly e- newsletter. Gallica has a new viewer, with a more powerful zoom (<http://blog.bnf.fr/gallica/?p=997>). Manuscripts and rare books from the Réserve are downloadable as PDF documents.

Gallica includes 40, 000 items from partner libraries. These have a pictogram to show provenance (e.g. Bibliothèque des Arts décoratifs http://gallica.bnf.fr/Search?n=15&p=1&lang=fr&adva=1&adv=1&t_provenance=partenaires&sel_provenance_Part=lesartsdecoratifs.fr). Gallica also links to the sites of 15 e-distributors including Gallimard and La Documentation française (http://gallica.bnf.fr/partenaires_edistributeurs). For example, Tardi's comic strip *Adèle*

BlancSec links to the e-distributor site Izneo, then to options to 'Access/leaf through this document/Buy this document'

<http://gallica.bnf.fr/Search?ArianeWireIndex=index&p=1&lang=EN&q=adele+blanc+sec>

Forthcoming 2011 projects include a new search engine for Gallica (Gallica's current search engine is Lucene used by Wikipedia). Following a recent tender, from the end of 2011 the new search engine will be Exalead (now part of the French firm Dassault). Further information may be found on the Exalead press release of 16 May 2011 (in English):

<http://www.exalead.com/software/news/press-releases/2011/03-16.php>. Direct access to the Exalead search engine is available at <http://www.exalead.com/search/> or via the link on the bottom left of the home page.

The BNF also announced a non-exclusive joint print-on-demand agreement with Hachette Livre. From September 2011, an initial 15, 000 out of copyright titles selected from Gallica will be sold through bookshops at 12 to 15 Euros sourced via Lightning Source France (in 2009, Hachette Livre France and US firm Lightning Source set up a joint venture to offer print on demand services to the French book market).

Bruno Racine talked about the *Adoptez un livre* initiative launched by the Amis de la BNF. From March 2011, individuals may select books for digitization according to set themes initially (women, 19th century, natural history, and important French firms), and in a second phase, on demand from the BNF catalogue. In return, the donor's name is recorded for 10 years on Gallica.

My life in libraries: an interview with Susan Harrow

Damien McManus, *Subject Librarian, University of Bristol*

Susan Harrow, Professor of French at the University of Bristol, took time out of her schedule to talk with Damien McManus about how libraries have influenced her and helped to shape her academic career. Susan is a specialist in nineteenth and twentieth century French literature and visual culture. She is Deputy Head of the School of Modern Languages at Bristol, with particular responsibility for research. She is currently President of the Society of French Studies, and is a past President of the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes. She has recently been awarded the grade of Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques by the French government.

Susan's earliest library-related memory is of accompanying her mother to the local public library, Loughborough Road Library in Kirkcaldy, Fife. Aged around three, Susan would be tethered to a stool while her mother went to the stacks to choose books. That was a lengthy, frustrating wait for the non-reading child! A late revival of the chained library, perhaps. A vivid memory from a later period was that 'juvenile readers', allocated two little cardboard tickets, were obliged to borrow one factual book for every work of fiction, so that pleasure was balanced by instructive utility. Thus Susan became a reluctant expert on the history and engineering of the Forth Railway Bridge.

Fife was always educationally and culturally well provided for, and the main library and art gallery in Kirkcaldy was no exception, containing among its collections works by Scottish impressionist painters such as William McTaggart and S.J. Peploe, some of which were bequests from a local linen manufacturer. From an early age Susan was a voracious reader, and by the age of 10 she was devouring, as well as the classics, works by Noel Streatfield and Carolyn Keane's 'Nancy Drew' detective books.

It was at Kirkcaldy High School that Susan's love of the French language was born. She was taught by an inspirational Francophile, Mrs McPhee, who stressed the importance of the spoken language. '*Fauteuil*', a word presented as 'difficult' for many Anglophone speakers, and a benchmark of proficiency for Mrs McPhee, presented no problems for Susan. There was the inevitable learning of grammatical rules, but also a strong emphasis on learning using audiovisual aids, courtesy of the *Longman Audio-Visual French*, which included a *son et lumière* element, an ancestor of PowerPoint and YouTube, perhaps. She and her classmates were told about the French educational system, and especially the *École normale supérieure*, the door of which, their teacher suggested, they would never darken.

Susan's first experience of France was as an *assistante* in Burgundy (Côte d'Or), as part of her undergraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh. It was at Edinburgh that she first became familiar with the University's major research library designed by Basil Spence, on George Square. Initially she mistook it for the university's swimming pool, owing to the vast glass front and the turnstile entrance, but once inside she was captivated by the building's architecture and extensive collections. Susan stayed at Edinburgh to complete her doctorate, where she spent much time at the National Library of Scotland building on George IV Bridge. Fondly remembered are the library's deep, luxurious almond coloured carpets, vast leather-topped desks, and excursions to Victoria Street for coffee with fellow postgraduates.

Her doctoral research took her to Paris as an *élève étrangère* at the École normale supérieure (rue d'Ulm), where, *avant la mixité*, she was one of the very few female students. This was an intensely exciting and formative period in Susan's career. Susan assisted in the completion of a cataloguing project at the rue d'Ulm library; and as a result of this work she spent a memorable evening at the family home of Pierre Boulez. Of particular interest during this time was the Bibliothèque Littéraire Jacques Doucet, next to the magnificent Bibliothèque Ste. Geneviève, which includes in its collections many manuscript materials by Guillaume Apollinaire, the subject of Susan's doctorate. The Bibliothèque Nationale (BN), on the rue de Richelieu, was, not surprisingly, a centre of research. Susan recalls the striking, almost aquatic, *salle de travail*, which was frequented by forbidding elderly gentlemen who recorded their thoughts in tiny jotters in copperplate script using expensive fountain pens.

To order a book from the closed stacks, it was necessary to consult the card catalogues which were located in subterranean marble chambers, complete a request *fiche*, and hand it to a terrifying member of staff, who would scrutinise it for errors. The slightest mistake provoked the comment *Mademoiselle, vous avez gaspillé un franc!* and necessitated the humbling completion of another request form.

Susan contrasts the atmosphere of the former BN with its successor the Bibliothèque Nationale de France's (BNF) new building on the quai François-Mauriac, which in her opinion offers a far more reader-friendly experience. The BNF is sometimes disparaged by some French researchers yet, she feels, that its staff compare extremely favourably in terms of their willingness to assist readers. A bitterly cold Parisian winter provides the backdrop for a memorable quai François-Mauriac experience. Ice had made a wooden *parvis* lethal, and Susan and some fellow researchers who had stayed till closing time were reluctant to use it as it had earlier caused another reader to slip and break a wrist. Their group included a heavily pregnant woman, and they pleaded with an officious security guard to exit via a safer staff walkway. *Impossible* under any circumstances, came the reply. *Mais nous étions*

aux barricades en '68!, one of the older members of the party protested, and at this point the guard relented.

So what should libraries offer for researchers now? Adequate collections, printed and online, are of course a must. One of the most valuable assets in the university sector is the link which a subject librarian provides with the academic department. The building and strengthening of relationships between the librarian and the researcher is vital to ensure that resources are well matched to developing research and teaching needs, and that staff and students are aware of how to access and use research resources at their disposal, particularly in an era of easily accessible information which is often of dubious quality.

In our conversation, Susan touched several times on the importance to her of libraries' architecture and physical surroundings. She feels strongly that there needs to be a balance, particularly in terms of space, between resources for undergraduates, who demand social spaces, group working areas and easy access to core texts; and adequate resources for researchers, who need readily available research materials and who tend to relish quiet working space. This, she feels, is one of the most significant challenges facing research libraries at the moment, and a challenge that is not always easy to meet in an era of reduced budgets across the library sector.

WESLINE 2010: Keeping calm and carrying on - level-headed librarians in a time of financial trouble

Conference report written by Anne Cobby, Anne Worden, Teresa Vernon, Christine Anderson and Sarah Brain

Session 1: Phil Sykes (Librarian, University of Liverpool): Persuasion with sense and sensibility

The conference opened with a stimulating and thought-provoking paper from Phil Sykes who told us that the coming years would call on our persuasive resources and skills to an unprecedented degree.

Under 'Sense' Phil advised us to try to get into the heads and the world-view of the people we are trying to persuade, and see how what we are proposing helps them achieve what is important to them. When writing a proposal for a meeting we should anticipate and answer likely objections at the start and make the central argument very clear because people will not spend long reading it; for this reason, what we say about the paper at the meeting may be more important than what we have written. We should avoid professional jargon (e.g. 'friendly' is more memorable than 'customer care'), and ensure that the arguments we stress are adapted to the specific audience.

'Sensibility' is needed because sub-rational aspects influence the outcome: we need to address people's views of us and get them on our side before the meeting; treating them generously (e.g. building a 'favour bank' or not demanding an apology even if entitled to one); trying out our proposal on someone in advance. The style of both writing and delivery is important but not necessarily in classic ways: authoritativeness may be less helpful than appearing decent and likeable.

Session 2: Anne Worden (Faculty Librarian, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Portsmouth): Building alliances with faculties to get best value for money

Anne's main themes were 'Communication strategy', 'Hitting the committees', 'Gathering usage data', and a report on a range of current strategies. In communicating with individuals it is essential to choose the right person or group for each purpose, building strong working relationships with academics so that they have confidence in what we recommend.

Strategies here include workshops for new staff so they are one step ahead of the students, contributions to departments' online newsletters, mailings via various key staff groups and speaking on a topic at the annual learning and teaching conference.

In Anne's faculty the Library Committee is not the primary method of communication: other committees and boards reach more academics or provide a more strategic forum for communicating matters or raising issues that require discussion and action. As a base for

this communication, and to get across how what happens in the library affects the students in the classroom, usage data is essential, and must be packaged in a readily comprehensible format.

Session 3: Dr Joseph McGonagle (French Studies, University of Manchester): France and Algeria: visualising (post) colonial relations since 1954

During October 1961 demonstrations were organised by the French arm of the Algerian Front de libération nationale (FLN) to protest against French policy in Algeria. On 17 October 1961 20–30,000 Algerian men, women and children gathered in central Paris after the 8pm curfew. The police, led by Maurice Papon, responded violently to the demonstration, killing and injuring many demonstrators. Dr McGonagle's talk focused on how portrayal of the demonstrators had changed over time from a threatening and disruptive rabble to tragic victims. He emphasised the role that photographs play in shaping our understanding of events and how their representation and meaning change over time. He also discussed whether and why certain images come to dominate reporting of an event.

He mentioned *Paris Match*, which described the event as a 'nuit de troubles' with reports emphasising threat, disruption and ultimate return to order as a means of reassuring the French public. Our attention was drawn to the prominence of the body in the reporting of 17 October, with the male body being placed at the heart of the event (the participation of women and children tending to be forgotten). Dr McGonagle showed us the front cover of House and MacMaster's 2006 book *Paris 1961* noting how the cover photograph had been used at the time to reassure the French that the threat had been contained, but that it is now used to show that the Algerians were victims.

Session 4: Dr Patience Schell (Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, University of Manchester): What's love got to do with it: friendship and science in 19th century Chile

Dr Schell's talk addressed the importance of friendship networks in 19th century Chile to compensate for the absence of university chairs or museums to support professional scientists. Her talk focused on the crucial role of foreign-born naturalists in exploring the country, setting up scientific institutions and training native Chileans.

She began with Charles Darwin and Captain Robert FitzRoy on the *Beagle* expedition. Darwin, initially on board as a friend of the captain, took over as the expedition naturalist when the ship's surgeon (who traditionally would also serve as the expedition naturalist) left in Brazil. The ship's officers helped Darwin form his collection and the navy shipped his personal collections home. So Captain FitzRoy's wish to have a friend on board gave Darwin a key break in his career.

The Frenchman Claudio (Claude) Gay (1800-1873) arrived in Chile a few years before Darwin. He and Darwin did not get on and this had a deleterious effect on Darwin's scientific contacts in Chile. The Chilean government contracted Gay to explore and map the country,

and publish his findings. He went on to found the National Museum of Natural History in Santiago. Gay's friendship with prominent statesmen such as Manuel Montt (a government minister and eventually president) ensured lifetime funding (without Montt, the Chilean government would surely have cut off support).

Rodulpho Amando Philippi (1808-1904), a German refugee from the failure of the 1848 revolution in Prussia, became director of the museum that Gay had founded and turned it into the best museum for research in South America. He was a better scientist than Gay and the pair quarrelled, with Gay refusing to promote exchanges of collections between Chile and Paris, with the result that Philippi used German networks instead.

Sources used in Dr Schell's research include personal correspondences already published, for example between Gay and Montt or the Darwin correspondence available online, as well as other sources in French, Spanish and English. Philippi's letters have not been published and are in German dialect, so these had to be transcribed and translated into Spanish for Dr Schell to be able to exploit them.

Session 5: Ed King (Head of Newspaper Collections, British Library): British Library newspaper strategy – the way ahead

Ed King gave an informative overview of the British Library's newspaper strategy to date. Currently, an average of 30,000 readers per year use British Library Newspapers in Colindale (North London), necessitating a special trip to the North London site. The BL's newspaper strategy aims to secure the future of the collection by moving the hard copy collections from the current building at Colindale to a purpose-built storage facility on the BL's Boston Spa site in Yorkshire. Access to the collection will be provided via microfilm and digital copies made available at the main St Pancras site in London.

Ed began by outlining the reasons for the change: poor storage conditions at Colindale; surrogates should be accessible at the BL's St Pancras building alongside other collections; insufficient storage capacity at Colindale (which will be full by 2012), and the aim of concentrating the BL's estate on two sites.

The BL's vision for newspapers is to provide access to newspapers in microform or digital formats at St Pancras and store hard copy newspapers at Boston Spa. The target is that 80% of access by 2018 should be via microform or digital formats accessed via a dedicated newspaper reading room at St Pancras. The BL holds approximately 15,000 titles from overseas, including 200 current titles. For space reasons, the move from hard copy to microform has already been made where possible for overseas newspapers. Where necessary, access to the hard copies held at Boston Spa may be provided: this is under discussion and is yet to be confirmed.

Much UK material has already been digitized: the Burney Collection of 17th and 18th century newspapers (in partnership with Gale Cengage), the JISC-funded British Library 19th Century Newspapers project, and the new ongoing partnership with the online publisher Brightsolid (a subsidiary of DC Thomson) for the mass digitization over ten years of up to 40 million newspaper pages. The project will digitize the whole text of full runs of national and regional newspapers, and will include a focus on certain themes such as the Crimean War and the Boer War. The agreement covers out-of-copyright (in this context pre-1900) material. In addition, the BL and Brightsolid hope to digitize a range of in-copyright material, and the partnership is currently in discussion with the relevant rights holders.

**Session 6: Dr Matthew Philpotts (German Studies, University of Manchester):
Periodical Studies: beyond the discipline**

Dr Philpotts had recently completed, with Stephen Parker, a history of the influential East German literary periodical *Sinn und Form* (1949 to present). This periodical, notable for its longevity, success, and as a regime showcase for international consumption, and featuring such contributors as Bertold Brecht, Christa Wolf, Heiner Müller, Pablo Neruda and Romain Rolland, offers a fascinating cultural-political history of the GDR.

The book also examines the periodical's composition, looking at the arrangement of articles in individual issues, and draws on Bourdieu's sociology of culture, and in particular key concepts such as 'habitus' and 'field'. At the publisher's request, all source material is translated into English, with the advantage that the material is accessible to non-German speakers. This, together with the literary and sociological analysis underpinning the project, makes the book relevant to the wider field of research into cultural journals from a comparative perspective. A suggested example was the comparison of *Sinn und Form* with the Soviet journal *Novy Mir*. Finally, Dr Philpotts suggested that Jean Paulhan, the editor of the *Nouvelle Revue Française*, might be the most successful journal editor to date.

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Parker, Stephen and Matthew Philpotts, *Sinn und Form: The Anatomy of a Literary Journal* (De Gruyter, 2009).

Latham, Sean, and Robert Scholes, "The Rise of Periodical Studies." *PMLA* 121 (2006), 517–531

Modernist Journals Project (Brown University and the University of Tulsa)

<http://www.modjourn.org/>

Session 7: Dr Guyda Armstrong (Centre of Digital Excellence Project) and Carol Burrows (Project Manager at Special Collections): Manchester Dante Project

Manchester's Special Collections include 750,000 printed items and 1 million archival items in over 50 languages. There are 35 Special Collections staff (16 in collections teams).

Current projects include the JISC-funded CHICC (Centre for Heritage Imaging & Collection Care) project which was set up to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Centre of Digital Excellence covering the north of the country and based at the John Rylands University Library of Manchester. Other projects include the Mary Hamilton Papers Project (a cataloguing project) and the Aldines Project (John Rylands has the largest collection of Aldines in the world, holding 120 out of the 127 authenticated editions produced by Aldus Manutius's Aldine Press in Venice from 1495 to 1515 as well as an almost complete collection of all the publications of the Aldine Press from 1515 to 1598).

Dr Guyda Armstrong, Lecturer in Italian and Principal Investigator on the British Academy funded Manchester Digital Dante Project, spoke on the use of e-books and other digital texts in teaching.

Dante Studies is one of the strengths at Manchester. The JRULM holds 14 of the 15 editions of the *Divine Comedy* printed before 1500, and in all, 39 of the 44 editions printed in Italy before 1629. In addition, it holds editions of other works by Dante from this period. Digital texts have been provided with Sony e-book readers for two modules.

The Manchester Digital Dante Project is a collaborative project between JRULM and the Italian Department and is funded by the British Academy. Complete digital facsimiles of three editions of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, all held by JRULM, are to be digitized and a dedicated project website launched by the end of November 2010. The three editions are the 1477 Venice, 1478 Milan and 1481 Florence editions. There is a project blog which includes images and technical information at <http://manchesterdante.wordpress.com/>

Carol Burrows spoke on the Centre of Digital Excellence Projects. These include:

- The Genizah Project: an AHRC-sponsored project to digitize and catalogue the John Rylands Genizah (the original Genizah collection was divided up, some going to the U.S., some to the Bodleian and Cambridge). Nearly 15,000 fragments are to be photographed recto and verso; , and catalogue descriptions created and made available as an online collection
<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/collections/specialprojects/genizah/>
- The Manchester Middle English Digital Library: *In the bigynnyng* – a JISC-sponsored project <http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/inthebigynnyng/>

All digitization projects begin with two major questions, what to digitize and how to fund the project. Manchester has two workshop areas and a specialised team to work on such projects. From the outset there was a decision to collaborate and seek project partners,

which include Chetham's Library, the Brotherton Library, National Trust Historic House Libraries and Manchester Museums.

Session 8: Close-up session in Special Collections and tour of John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Library was founded in memory of John Rylands (1801 -1888), a textile millionaire, by his second wife, the Cuban-born Enriqueta Augustina Rylands *née* Tennant (1843 – 1908). After his death, she commissioned the architect Basil Champneys to design the gothic John Rylands Library building, and it was built according to the highest standards.

Mrs Rylands used her inheritance to acquire books, collections and manuscripts for the library, and intended the library to be open to the general public. As the Lancashire cotton industry declined, so did the value of the investments left by John Rylands, and in 1972 the library merged with the Manchester University Library.

The John Rylands Library was refurbished between 2003 and 2007, with the addition of a newly built entrance wing to house facilities such as a café, shop, and toilets for visitors, as well as a new Special Materials Reading Room. Major conservation work was undertaken in the historic building and 8,000 glass roundels in the windows were replaced. On the ground floor of the historic building, new exhibition galleries were created. Funding for the project was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, and many other donors.

Session 9: Stef Hundsberger (JRUL): Language-learning in Second Life

The final day began with a presentation from Stef Hundsberger from the John Rylands Library about how Second Life (SL) is being used for language learning. SL is a virtual world where it is possible to 'live' via an avatar that an individual sets up when he or she first registers. Avatars can carry out activities that reflect real life, such as working, studying and even getting married and having children! The average number of concurrent users logged on at any time around the world is 70,000.

The relevance of SL to language learning is that it contains a worldwide online community of native speakers. It is possible to register for foreign language classes, some of which are free. The multimedia aspect of SL is used to its full potential in the way in which languages are taught within it.

Hundsberger gave a resumé of advantages and disadvantages of using SL for learning a language. Advantages include that it is low cost, reduces performance anxiety, lends itself well to distance learning and provides virtual language 'travel.' Disadvantages include the need to multitask whilst in SL (which can be difficult for beginners – both to SL and to

learning a language!), the need for some technical knowledge in order to use it and a lack of body language as an interactional cue.

There are various projects piloting the use of SL for language learning, including AVALON, NIFLAR and Virlantis. There is also a report on the Arcadia project carried out at Cambridge, which is available at www.aracadiaproject.lib.cam.ac.uk

The session was concluded with a demonstration of SL, including visits to the Goethe Institut; a commercial company offering language courses; a 'launch pad' for teachers who want to start using it; and ending up in Italy!

The talk was an illuminating insight into the way in which web 2.0 technology can provide a fresh perspective on language learning in the twenty-first century.

Session 10: Reports from JRUL Manchester

Dr. Stella Butler (Deputy Librarian and Associate Director, John Rylands Library) gave a thought-provoking talk on some of the issues faced by university and academic librarians today. They include the need to provide researchers with the resources they require in order to succeed, including access to reference management software and open access repositories. She also highlighted the role of the librarian as a guide through the wealth of information that is available and the importance of ensuring that our skills remain relevant in today's rapidly changing environment. Finally, Stella highlighted a challenge that many of us grapple with, that of striving to be better than Google. Many students and academics use Google Scholar as a source of information and the challenge remains for us to ensure that the information we are providing is easier to find and access than that which is found through Google.

Martin Snelling (E-learning Support Manager, John Rylands Library) followed with an update on Manchester's new reading list management system Aspire (developed by Talis). The new version makes use of web 2.0 and will be incorporated into Manchester's Virtual Learning Environment, giving academics more control over the system.

The session provided a good overview of developments at Manchester and enabled us to discuss issues that are common to us all.

Session 11: Prof. Stephen Milner (Italian Studies, University of Manchester): Library Liaison – an academic perspective

Professor Milner talked about library liaison from the perspective of an academic. One of the most important aspects that came through was the need to ensure that there is a sense

of working together. This in turn highlighted the necessity of two-way communication and keeping academics informed about new developments in the library and new resources.

Professor Milner underlined the fact that the distinction between librarians and academics has become blurred over the years, as librarians have become more academic and academics have become more involved in the library.

The need to promote the library as a virtual as well as a physical environment was also highlighted, particularly as many resources are accessed remotely without the knowledge that they have been provided by the library. On a related topic, Milner identified the importance of information skills training for students, particularly in their first year.

Finally, as a means of promoting what we do as librarians, Milner made the interesting suggestion that librarians might want to consider presenting to disciplinary conferences. Possible contributions could be: highlighting the resources we have available, particularly if our library has materials that are rare and important to research; talking about specific projects that may be relevant to the discipline – for example preservation and digitization projects of original source material.

It was refreshing to hear about library liaison from the academic perspective and reassuring to know that many of our concerns as librarians are shared by, and important to, our academic colleagues.

French secondhand purchases

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

Before the days of the internet, librarians tended to feel that if they failed to acquire a book before it went out of print, it was a matter of pure chance whether they could subsequently add it to the collections. With the advent of databases such as Abebooks and Chapitre, the situation has changed. Of the approximately 50 reader recommendations Cambridge University Library receives each month for French titles, perhaps 25% are for out-of-print items. Recommendations from our users about significant gaps in our holdings, with an indication of a vendor from whom we can buy the item, are particularly valued.

The downside, of course, is that although it is much easier than it was to fill gaps, such purchases impose ever greater strains on a shrinking budget. If we have missed a major exhibition catalogue or a specialist academic monograph, we may be able to find a copy, but sometimes at twice or three times the original list price. There is no substitute for acquiring material while it is still current.

Language specialists used to spend a significant percentage of their time working through secondhand catalogues. That happens much less often than it did, partly because language specialists have more and different claims upon their time, and partly because the volume of printed vendors' catalogues has drastically shrunk. But it is still sometimes a worthwhile activity.

Recent work on one such catalogue shows the value of this approach in developing the Library's collection. But it is a time-consuming business, and only worthwhile if one can be reasonably confident that the material won't have been sold to another customer. Being quick off the mark is essential.

In this particular case we acquired 21 of the 25 titles which we requested. These were solid mainstream academic titles, none of which were particularly expensive. *Réflexions sur "Don Juan" de Molière* by Jean-Marie Teyssier was present in 17 COPAC collections, but not in Cambridge. On the other hand, the National Library of Scotland was the only location for Raymond Bellour's *Mademoiselle Guillotine : Cagliostro, Dumas, Oedipe et la Révolution française* before Cambridge bought a copy for 11 Euros.

Even more surprising, given the Library's specialism in Montaigne, Rousseau and Goethe, and the great richness of our collections, the catalogue yielded up a critical work on each of these authors. It was astonishing that we didn't have the 1992 Amherst conference *Montaigne and the gods : the mythological key to the Essays*. But such surprising discoveries, and the opportunity to plug gaps, are part of what makes the language specialist's job so satisfying.

Books on French cinema 2009

Teresa Vernon, *Head, French Collections, British Library*

With thanks to John Foxall and Daniel Spencer for help with compiling the list.

Since film and media studies are a growth area in French studies research in the UK, we have compiled a bibliography drawing attention to items available in UK libraries. The list below comprises books published in 2009 acquired by the British Library's French Collections published in France, Belgium and Switzerland. The list is therefore not exhaustive, but it does give a good indication of the range of publications available, and we hope that it will prove useful for both research and teaching purposes.

Actors and Stars

Qu'est-ce qu'une star aujourd'hui?/ collectif coordonné par N.T. Binh et Luc Delisse: textes de Luc Besson, Patrick Brion, Alain Corneau...[et al]. Monaco: Editions du Rocher, 2009. 9782268068374

Jean-Paul Belmondo / Gilles Durieux. Paris: Le Cherche Midi, 2009. 9782749106953

Belmondo l'incorrigible / Bertrand Tessier. [Paris]: Flammarion, 2009. 9782081221284

Bernard Blier, un homme façon puzzle / Jean-Philippe Guérand. Paris: Laffont, 2009. 9782221110454

Louis de Funès, grimaces et gloire / Bertrand Dicale. Paris: Grasset, 2009. 9782246636618

La bande à Gabin / Philippe Durant. Paris: Sonatine, 2009. 9782355840074

Jean Gabin: le monument du cinéma français / Christian Dureau. Paris: Carpentier, 2009. 9782841676149

Jean Poiret, Michel Serrault: la cage aux rôles / Jean-Jacques Jelot-Blanc. Monaco: Alphée-Jean-Paul Bertrand, 2009. 9782753803718

Les insoumis : Maurice Ronet, Pascal Jardin, Jean-Pierre Rassin, Paul Gégauff, Dominique de Roux/ Eric Neuhoff. [Paris]: Fayard, 2009. 9782213623252

Directors

Présences: écrits sur le cinéma / Olivier Assayas. [Paris]: Gallimard, 2009. 9782070123452

Poétique du cinématographe : notes / Eugène Green. Arles: Actes sud, c2009. 9782742785452

Le lièvre de Patagonie : mémoires / Claude Lanzmann. [Paris]: Gallimard, c2009.
9782070120512

Notre Alpin quotidien; entretien avec Emmanuel Burdeau et Jean Narboni / Luc Moullet.
Nantes: Capricci, 2009. 9782918040057

Paul Carpita: cinéaste franc-tireur / entretiens avec Pascal Tessaud. Montreuil: L'Echappée,
2009. 9782915830231

Le cinéma de Leos Caraz: l'expérience du déjà-vu / Alban Pichon. [Latresne]: Bord de l'eau,
c2009. 9782356870247

Jean Cocteau: le cinéma et son monde / Francis Ramirez, Christian Rolot. Paris: Non Lieu
Editions 2009. (Cahiers Jean Cocteau 7)

Guy Debord: de son cinéma en son art et en son temps / Guy-Claude Marie. Paris: Librairie
philosophique J. Vrin, 2009. 9782711622214

*De la cage au grand écran : entretiens avec Alejandro Jodorowsky et analyse de son univers
cinématographique* / Jean-Paul Coillard. Paris: K-inite, 2009. 9782915551099

Danièle Huillet et Jean-Marie Straub: "objectivistes en cinéma" / Benoît Turquety. Lausanne:
L'Age d'homme, c2009. 9782825138519

Sembène Ousmane (1923-2007). Paris: L'Harmattan, 2009. [Issue of the periodical]
Africultures, no. 76 (2009). ISSN 1276-2458

Jean Painlevé, le cinéma au coeur de la vie / Roxane Hamery. Rennes: Presses Universitaires
de Rennes, c2009

Jean Rouch: cinéma et anthropologie / textes réunis par Jean-Paul Colleyn. Paris: Cahiers du
Cinéma, 2009. 9782866425432

Baroque cinématographique: essai sur le cinéma de Raoul Ruiz / Richard Bégin. Saint Denis:
Presses Universitaires de Vincennes, 2009. 9782842922351

Jacques Tati: deux temps, trois mouvements...: un livre; textes et entretiens de Stéphane
Goudet; [commissariat de l'exposition Macha Makeïeff et Stéphane Goudet]. Paris: Naïve:
Cinémathèque française, 2009. 9782350211763

Tati / Marc Dondey; avec la collaboration de Sophie Tatischeff. Nouv. éd. Paris: Ramsay,
2009. 9782841149759

Agnès Varda: le cinéma et au-déla / sous la direction d'Antony Fiant, Roxane Hamery et Éric
Thouvenel. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2009. 9782753508156

Studies and Criticism

Les vacances de M. Hulot, de Jacques Tati / Jacques Kambon. Nouv. éd. Crisnée: Yellow Now, 2009. 9782873402402

Analyse d'une oeuvre : "Casque d'or", Jacques Becker, 1952 / Eric Dufour. Paris: J. Vrin, 2009. 9782711622191

Autour de Farrebique de Georges Rouquier: suivi de l'album de Farrebique / Dominique Auzel. Biarritz: Séguier, 2009. 9782840495819

Etranges étrangers, un film de Marcel Trillat et Frédéric Variot: histoire d'un film, mémoire d'une lutte / Tangui Perron; avec les contributions, analyses et témoignages de Fanny Doumayrou, Laure Pitti, Jean Bellanger... [et al.]. Paris: Scope; Bobigny: Périphérie, 2009. 9782912573339

Comme au cinéma / Vladimir Cosma; entretiens avec Vincent Perrot. Paris: Hors Collection, 2009. 9782258081185

Nickel stuff: scénario pour le cinéma / Bernard-Marie Koltès. Paris: Minuit, 2009. 9782707320803

La vie passera comme un rêve / Gilles Jacob. Paris: Laffont, 2009. 9782221087398

Sociologie d'une institution cinématographique: la SRF et la quinzaine des réalisateurs / Olivier Thévenin. Paris: L' Harmattan, 2009. 9782296094574

Tribulations festivalières: les festivals de cinéma et audiovisuel en France / Christel Taillibert. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2009. 9782296069374

Lanterne magique et film peint : 400 ans de cinéma. Exposition présentée à la cinémathèque française, à Paris, du 14 octobre 2009 au 28 mars 2010 / Laurent Mannoni, Donata Pesenti Campagnoni. Avant-propos de Francis Ford Coppola. Paris: La Martinière; Paris : Cinémathèque française, 2009. 9782732439938

Musée Gaumont: morceaux choisis. [Paris]: Gallimard, 2009. 9782070126729

Cinéma de France, 1894-1918: une histoire en images / Jean-Jacques Meusy; en collaboration avec Georges Loisel et André Milcot. Paris: Arcadia, 2009. 9782913019614

Archives secrètes du cinéma français (1945-1975) / Laurent Garreau. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2009. 9782130574866

La nouvelle vague: portrait d'une jeunesse / Antoine de Baecque. [Nouvelle édition]. Paris: Editions Flammarion, 2009. 9782081221635

50 ans de cinéma maghrébin / Denise Brahimi. Paris: Minerve, c2009. 9782869311220
Le cinéma et la guerre d'Algérie: la propagande à l'écran (1945-1962). / Sébastien Denis.
Paris: Nouveau monde, 2009. 9782847364217

Le court métrage documentaire français de 1945 à 1968: créations et créateurs / sous la
direction de Dominique Bluher et Philippe Pilard. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes,
2009. 9782753507982

1969-2009, les archives françaises du film: histoire, collections, restaurations /
CNC]. Paris: CNC, 2009. 9782912573421

Plaidoyer pour l'avenir du cinéma d'auteur / Michel Reilhac; entretiens avec Frédéric
Sojcher. [Paris]: Archimbaud-Klincksieck, 2009. 9782912573339

Le corps du cinéma: hypnoses, émotions, animalités / Raymond Bellour. Paris: P.O.L., 2009.
9782846822794

Le cinéma et l'imaginaire: propositions pour une théorie du cinéma narratif / Michel
Serceau. Liège: Ed. Du Céfal, 2009. 9782871302704

Le siècle du jazz: art, cinéma, musique et photographie de Picasso à Basquiat / sous la
direction de Daniel Soutif. Paris: Musée du quai Branly; Skira Flammarion, 2009.
9782357440029

Femmes et critique(s): lettres, arts, cinéma / [édité par] Muriel Andrin, Laurence Brogniez,
Alexia Creusen...[et al.]. Namur: Presses Universitaires de Namur, 2009. 9782870376225

Arts: la culture de la provocation, 1952-1966 / [textes réunis et présentés par] Henri
Blondet; [articles de] Jacques Laurent, Roger Nimier, Jean-Luc Godard ... [et al.]. Paris:
Tallandier, 2009. 9782847344813

Pour le septième art: textes inédits sur le cinéma / Elie Faure. Paris: Ramsay, 2009.
9782841149834

Filmer l'acte de création / Sous la direction de Pierre-Henry Frangne, Gilles Mouëllic et
Christophe Viart. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2009.
9782753507838

Penser la création audiovisuelle: cinéma, télévision, multimédia / Association française des
enseignants et chercheurs en cinéma et audiovisuel. Aix-en-Provence: Publications de
l'Université de Provence, 2009. 9782853997171

Le cinéma français et l'homosexualité / Anne Delabre, Didier Roth-Bettoni. Paris: Danger
Public, 2009. 9782351231692

Dictionnaire du cinéma populaire français des origines à nos jours / sous la direction de Yannick Dehée et Christian-Marc Bosséno; deuxième édition établie sous la direction de Yannick Dehée. Paris: Nouveau Monde, 2009. 9782847364606

Policiers et criminels: un genre populaire européen sur petits et grands écrans / sous la direction de Raphaëlle Moine, Brigitte Rollet et Geneviève Sellier. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2009. 9782296081925

Fictions d'images: essai sur l'attribution de propriétés fictives aux images de films / Emmanuel Siety. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2009. 9782753507623

Fictions patrimoniales sur grand et petit écran: contours et enjeux d'un guerre intermédiatique / sous la direction de Pierre Beylot & Raphaëlle Moine. Pessac (Gironde): Presses Universitaires de Bordeaux, 2009. 9782867815591

L'Antiquité au cinéma: vérités, légendes et manipulations / Hervé Dumont. Paris: Nouveau Monde; Lausanne: Cinémathèque Suisse, 2009. 9782847364767

Siècle classique et cinéma contemporain: actes de la section 5 du Ve congrès de l'Association des Francoromanistes allemands, Martin Luther Universität Halle/Wittenberg, 26 au 29 septembre. Tübingen, Narr, 2009. / édités par Roswitha Böhm, Andrea Grewe et Margarete Zimmermann. (Biblio 17, vol. 179)

L'écran des Lumières: regards cinématographiques sur le XVIIIe siècle / sous la direction de Martial Poirson et Laurence Schifano. Oxford, Voltaire Foundation, 2009. (SVEC, 2009/07).

Filmer le 18e siècle / sous la direction de Martial Poirson et Laurence Schifano. Paris: Desjonquères, 2009. 9782843211188

Camera politica: dialectique du réalisme dans le cinéma politique et militant (Groupes Medvedkine, Francesco Rosi, Peter Watkins) / Emmanuel Barot. Paris: J. Vrin, 2009. 9782711622184

Cinéma contre spectacle: suivi de technique et idéologie, 1971-1972 / Jean-Louis Comolli. Lagrasse: Verdier, 2009. 9782864325871

Entre cinéma et jeux vidéo, l'interface-film métanarration interactivité / Marida Di Crosta. Bruxelles: De Boeck, 2009. 9782804114725

Jean-François Lyotard, questions au cinéma: ce que le cinéma se figure / Jean-Michel Durafour. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2009. 9782130576983

Quatre ans de cinéma: 1940-1944 / Lucien Rabatet; textes réunis, présentés et annotés par Philippe d'Hugues; avec la collaboration de Philippe Billé...[et al]. / Grex-sur-Loing: Pardès, 2009. 9782867144417

Le cinéma au prisme des rapports de sexe / Noël Burch et Genviève Sellier. Paris: J. Vrin, 2009. 9782711622221

Espion, résistant, terroriste: figures du cinéma. Avec un hommage spécial à Francis Jeanson / [textes issus des colloques "Cinéma et Histoire" (2007-2008) organisés par le laboratoire RECITS de l'UBTM]; textes réunis par Laurent Heyberger. Belfort: Université de Technologie Belfort-Montbéliard, 2009. 9782914279444

Review of the database Electronic Enlightenment

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French Subject Specialist (Language and Literature), Taylor Institution Library, St Giles, Oxford

Background

The Electronic Enlightenment (EE) project began 10 years ago. In 2010 it won the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS) Digital Prize. It is a unique, wonderful and growing full-text database in which 17th, 18th and 19th century letters are liberated from collected correspondences of leading literary and scientific figures. It can be read in isolation or in relation to letters liberated from other collected correspondences. Although many of the writers are eminent, recipients may be from a much broader spectrum of social, work, professional and subject backgrounds. Thus the 'liberation' of letters and the democratic approach of the database can be seen as reflecting the ideals of the enlightenment itself!

The EE project's institutional home is the Bodleian Libraries and the digital product is published by Oxford University Press. Much of the present article is based on a talk given by the director of the project Dr Robert McNamee at Oxford in Michaelmas Term 2010. In 2005 Dr McNamee and Dr Peter Damian-Grint also gave a talk to a joint FSLG/GSLG conference held in Oxford so this short article may serve as an update to that.

Searching the EE

It is possible to search by writer, recipient, date, subject keyword and location, and explore all the myriad web-like connections that may lead you from writer to recipient to the recipient's correspondence with others. You can move from person to person, backwards and forwards in time. The correspondence is in a variety of languages with a large number in English and a substantial number in French. The time-frame is considerably broader than the title of the resource might lead one to suspect and extends from about 1610 until 1870.

Each writer and each recipient has a unique identifier. This is useful if a person's name changes or when there are different forms of the same name. Ann Richardson (the friend of William Cowper) becomes Lady Austen after her first marriage and then marries a second time Count Claude Tardiff du Granger. Library cataloguers (in a fine example of collaboration between scholars and librarians) have been consulted about how to deal with different forms of personal names and place names based on AACR2 rules.

There are two ways of using the database. It is possible to browse by decade or to search for a particular name, subject, location or date or any combination of these. The result of the search will usually be a letter or series of letters and for each letter the name and age of the writer is given as well as where it was written and where it was sent to. There is no thesaurus of subject terms as yet so attempting a search such as Rousseau and *enfance* will not always produce anything of significance. However, a thesaurus is planned in the future.

Dr Robert McNamee's interest in correspondences had its origins in the history of science stemming from his own background after which he went on to study literature at Oxford. His own interdisciplinarity echoes that of the database. The letters of another scientist, Robert Boyle, have just been included alongside the letters of Rousseau and Voltaire. Thus the database bridges the divide between humanities and sciences in a way which is perhaps startling to a modern sensibility used to seeing the two as almost hermetically sealed off from each another.

Aims

What are the aims of the Electronic Enlightenment project? First of all to create a database of correspondence using the best available critical editions and then to build upon that by adding other letters. In 2011 the EE Project team took off in a new direction; by starting to add letters which have never previously been published. One example of this new direction is the 2500 known unpublished letters of Bernardin de Saint-Pierre (1737-1814). Bernardin de Saint-Pierre travelled widely in Mauritius, Poland, Russia and Austria and lived through the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. Through the letters one can see him develop from a young writer into a best-selling author. The letters are being edited by a team of experts headed by Malcolm Cook from the University of Exeter and then will be added to the EE.

Not only can the letters be used to trace the development of the writer. The EE project will enable Bernardin de Saint-Pierre to be recontextualized and placed within the web of correspondence of major and secondary figures of the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. The letters of Bernardin de Saint-Pierre will potentially be of interest to literary critics, historians, sociologists and linguists.

Collection highlights

The Besterman edition of the correspondence of Voltaire was a landmark edition and a breathtaking achievement to have been undertaken by one man, Theodore Besterman (1904-1976). It came out between 1953 and 1965 in 107 volumes published by the Institut et Musée Voltaire in Geneva. The second edition, published between 1968 and 1977, was the 'definitive edition' worked on by the Voltaire Foundation and made available digitally through the EE database.

However, 13 unknown letters (mostly from Voltaire but including several to him) were only recently discovered in New York Libraries (the New York Public Library, the Morgan Library and the Columbia University Library). The discovery of these letters has resulted in the need for 19 substantial revisions of existing letters. The newly discovered letters are currently being edited and will be available soon on the EE.

12 hitherto unpublished letters from Voltaire and his associates were published recently in the *Revue Voltaire*. The journal is not available online and has a small circulation. However, the publishers have allowed the EE project to digitize the letters. They include the last letter written by Frederick the Great to Voltaire (15 April 1778) and the only private letter known to have been sent from Voltaire to the Scottish philosopher David Hume (12 November 1763). The former is likely to be of interest to historians and the latter to philosophers. The letters will be put on the EE later in 2011.

If the letters are growing in number so is the number of correspondents. Voltaire had 1200 known correspondents but that number will grow as more are discovered. One of the striking features of the EE is that the 'main occupation' of each and every correspondent is recorded.

There is indeed an extraordinary range of occupations. This is particularly noticeable for the female correspondents - being an 'academy member's wife' is never going to be as convincing an occupation as that of being an academy member *tout court*. One also wonders about 'aristocrat'. Is it possible to be a professional aristocrat? We are on surer ground with 'calico maker' and 'café owner'. However, it is perhaps surprising that the occupation of 'café owner' should yield only one correspondent, a woman named Charlotte Bourette (1714- 1784).

Charlotte Bourette, we discover, was the owner of the Café Allemand in Paris. It seems somehow appropriate that her numerous pieces of verse were published in *La muse limonadière* (1755). This information can be found in the biographical article that accompanies her letters. There are biographical details for each of the 7,000 people whose letters are available on the database. Such information would, more often than not, be lacking in printed editions. Furthermore, many of these people would simply not have been important enough for reference works such as the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

The EE consists of two parts. There are the letters (currently about 60,000 documents) and the biographies. However, the second half of the database consists of a wealth of ancillary information that makes this resource not just a full-text database but an 'environment'.

The ancillary information includes a monthly miscellany (in the 'Print House' section) which is written by Robert McNamee and in which his enthusiasm for the project shines through. It is in effect a hybrid form of communication - part diary-entry, part blog, part exegesis in which typically Dr McNamee starts off from a topical story and looks for letters from the database which foreshadows or throws light on it from an unusual quarter. Serendipity is valued and delighted in, as one thing leads to another and all kinds of unsuspected links are found. The enthusiasm is infectious and various gems are uncovered.

In early 2011 the banking crisis prompts Dr McNamee to look up the thoughts of Jeremy Bentham on the subject which somehow leads us to the discovery that there was a school at Hazeldean near Birmingham in 1816 the chief aim of which was 'to leave as much as possible, all power in the hands of the boys themselves'.

The eruption of the Eyjafjallaloekull volcano in 2010 leads us to a delightful passage in one of Voltaire's letters in which he compares the eternal calm of the Alpine mountains that he can see from his house in Ferney to the hot-tempered little men of Vesuvius and Etna (17 June 1773). The miscellanies provide a model of how the mind of a researcher might work on the material contained in the letters and how it can be used to set off a train of thought which could develop into a research project. It also mirrors an almost childlike delight in discovery that is perhaps an indispensable feature of any true scholar's mind.

However, in a further move, users of the EE are invited to contribute their own 'miscellanies'. This is an approach which fits well with the new ways in which digital media are being used. One only needs to think of Wikipedia in which people collaborate and pool their knowledge to create an encyclopaedia, or Librarything in which people catalogue books (their own or books in libraries) and cataloguing becomes a social activity.

Gallica, on the other hand, seeks to showcase its collections with a more didactic but still interesting approach. Every month it issues *une lettre de Gallica* which follows a particular pattern – a topical theme is explored using scanned images of pictures and text from books in the collections of the Bibliothèque nationale. In June 2011, this was, unsurprisingly, tennis. Anniversaries are illustrated using material in the collection. In other sections there is more practical advice – recent additions to the collection, new technical enhancements and there is also a blog.

However, the Gallica showcase is rather formal and allows no space for the participation of the library users themselves. This is of course perfectly appropriate for a large institutional database with a huge and disparate readership. It has to be said though that producing 'miscellanies' is time-consuming and those in the EE seem to have tailed off in recent months with little evidence of anyone else contributing a miscellany.

Other ancillary features of the EE include the 'coffee-house' which complements the 'miscellany' by looking at more formal aspects of scholarly communication. Here can be found announcements of forthcoming seminars. There will be a colloquium on 19th November 2011 on 'Epistolary quarrels: matter and manner'. The first colloquium took place in 2010 and was entitled 'Enlightenment correspondence: letter-writing and reading in the 18th century'. There is also an EE classroom with lesson plans in which the reader is presented with an introduction to a selection of texts and a series of questions for discussion and further reading. Here one can explore the great inoculation controversy of the 18th century and the very different approaches adopted in France and England. There is also a selection of looser and less structured 'talking points'.

The future

In the future there are plans to open the EE up as far as possible to the wider educational community, including contributions and collaborators from people outside the subscription wall. The material cannot be opened up entirely for general use as the copyright and non-copyright material is intermingled. It is hoped that an interface can be devised which will make it easier for unpublished letters to be submitted. Students may be involved in translating letters in foreign languages into English as part of their course-work.

In future it will be possible to go from the text to an image of the letter itself. Much meticulous work has already been done on mapping different calendars so that precise equivalents can be established for Gregorian, Julian and French revolutionary dates. Now it is planned to provide a thesaurus for place-names so that there will be a single name for a particular town even though its name may have changed over time. It will then be possible to link up on a map the place where a particular letter was written and where it was sent to. It should be possible to link place-names in letters to 18th century street-maps of Paris and to maps showing 18th century postal routes. The generic silhouettes that currently accompany the biographies could be replaced by actual portraits of the people whose lives are described.

This then is a resource with ambitious plans for the future. It is also a resource which contains within it a certain conflict. On the one hand, it seeks collaboration and participation. On the other, it is constrained by the publishing model it is currently adopting. Ambitious plans need to be followed through and in places one detects that the sheer scale of input required is sometimes too much for a small project team. This is evident in the tailing-off of the 'Miscellanies' feature and the apparent long gap between the publication of the newsletters. The training feature in which the user is offered a slightly out-of-date PowerPoint presentation is infelicitous. Priorities need to be established in order to identify which are the features that will most enhance the resource rather than those which are merely desirable. It is possible that improved subject-searching and the provision of links to

digital images may be more important than providing links to contemporary maps. These are minor criticisms though of a thought-provoking resource which is founded on a solid bedrock of meticulous scholarship and which has huge potential for enhancement and expansion. A free trial may be sought by clicking on the following link

<http://www.oup.com/online/freetrials/>. Another resource which might complement the EE is <http://collections.stanford.edu/supere/>

Spreading the magic of fairy-tales throughout Colorado and beyond

Alison Hicks, Romance Language Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder

“Once upon a time” is a phrase that must be near-universally recognised, whatever a person’s age, culture or nationality. What may be less well known, however, is the world of difference between the original cannibalistic and violent traditional European fairy-tales and the cleaned up, sparkly versions that form part of 20th/21st century culture. This prior familiarity with at least some parts of the fairy stories though, as well as the trans-cultural appeal means that the study of fairy-tales is a popular topic at the University of Colorado, Boulder (UCB). And the student’s classroom experience is greatly enhanced by the excellent collection of fairy-tales held in the University Libraries’ Special Collections.

The Collection

Spanning a three hundred year time frame, the archive encompasses rare European, American, and Asian tales. With the main focus on French, German, English, and Italian fairy-tales, the collection gems include a large number of 17th–20th century editions by Perrault, Madame d'Aulnoy, and Madame d'Auneuil, as well as the Brothers Grimm and the Italian Straparola. The two stars of the collection are, undoubtedly, a 1700 Dutch edition of Charles Perrault's *Histoires ou Contes du temps passé*, and the unique 1697–98 first edition volume one of Madame d'Aulnoy's *Contes des Fées*.

The collection also contains several other 17th and 18th century masterpieces; notably, Perrault's 1695 *Griseldi*; Madame d'Aulnoy's beautifully illustrated *Histoire d'Hypolite* (1764), important because it includes the first literary French fairy-tale, *L'île de la Félicité*; and the first edition of the 41 volumes of the *Cabinet des Fées* (1784–89). Italian and German fairy-tales are well represented too; the collection possesses Straparola's *Le Tredici Piacevolissime Notte* (1608), as well as the Brothers Grimm *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* editions of 1857 and 1886. The beautiful and evocative fairy-tale illustrations are not overlooked either. The work of the 19th century illustrator Arthur Rackham features highly in the collection too, as does the work of Walter Crane, Edmund Dulac and Gustave Doré among others.

Highlights from the 20th century artifacts focus more heavily on English and American literature. Fairy-tales produced predominantly for children are a feature, as are modern illustrators such as Adrienne Segur and Kay Nielsen. In juxtaposition with these portrayals of fairy-tales as innocent pleasures for the young, however, some 20th century editions draw attention to the constantly changing nature and role of fairy-tales. These include early examples of privately printed and distributed Victorian “novels for gentlemen” as well as

fairy-tale books with fake covers that were produced in order to avoid censors. More chillingly, the collection also includes several 1930s Italian editions of Pinocchio in North Africa that served as distinctly fascist propaganda of the era.

Special Collections has been building this collection since the 1920s. Many of these volumes form part of the Emily Wood Epsteen Collection of 19th and early 20th century children's fiction and nonfiction. Epsteen was a faculty member at UCB in the 1920s and 1930s and the Dean of Women in 1923. Several other books, including many of the older editions, have been donated by Jacques Barchilon, Professor Emeritus of French and Italian at UCB, who is one of the important pioneers of French fairy-tale scholarship. Founding Editor in 1987 of the scholarly journal *Marvels and Tales*, originally *Merveilles et Contes*, Barchilon also edited several collections of fairy-tales.

2009 Exhibition

It was in honour of Professor Barchilon that in the autumn of 2009, a special exhibit was held to celebrate his long involvement with the study of fairy-tales at UCB, as well as his assistance in helping to build what is now one of the most pre-eminent fairy-tale collections in the United States. For over six months, Special Collections resembled a fairy grotto as students, faculty and community members pored over old favourites and rare European gems alike. In recognition of the wide interest in fairy-tales, a digital exhibit was also conceived to complement the physical exhibition. Several editions of *Puss in Boots* and *Sleeping Beauty* were digitized in the in-house lab and these images were added to the UCB digital library. Exhibit captions, which were written by Professor Barchilon and his colleagues Professor Ann Schmiesing of the German department and Professor Suzanne Magnanini of the French and Italian department, were added to a public blog.

Grant: Colorado Humanities

In 2010, due to the success of the physical and digital fairy-tale exhibit, Alison Hicks (Romance Language Librarian) and Holley Long (Digital Initiatives Librarian) applied for a grant from Colorado Humanities, a local funding agency that is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue digitization of the growing collection. The grant also enabled them to provide outreach and promotion of the fairy-tale collection to the University of Colorado community and beyond.

Digitization consisted of over 50 rare fairy-tales from the collection, many of which needed special treatment due to weak or tight bindings. Scanned in the UCB digitization lab according to the most up-to-date and widely recognised standards, the digital images were subsequently added to the University of Colorado Digital Library, where they form a permanent yet freely available online collection of images. As one of the first major

digitization of fairy-tale projects in the world, this will help share our collection as well as preserving a digital record of these works for future generations.

This online collection of fairy-tales also served as the inspiration for the autumn 2010 film and lecture series. Featuring recognised experts in the field (Jacques Barchilon, Ann Schmiesing, and Suzanne Magnanini, among others) and hosted in the library's newly renovated Learning Commons space, the events were full to capacity, attracting students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the wider Colorado community. From the Goddess of the Mountain's number of (equally dreadful) costume changes (*The Stone Flower*, Alexander Ptushko, 1946), the four year old boy who was transfixed by the chicken legs (*Father Frost*, Alexander Rou, 1966) and the audience giggles when yet more people got stuck to the Golden Goose (*Siegfried Hartmann*, 1964), it was thrilling to see the 200+ attendees aged from 4-90 return and enthusiastically participate in the discussions week after week. The talks were also recorded and are available as streamed video on the fairy-tale web page.

The final outreach consisted of working with two local public libraries. Targeted at state curriculum literary objectives, this lively one hour programme centred round the work of renowned children's author and professor of philosophy at UCB, Claudia Mills. Participants were introduced to some of the collection's 19th century books, as well as more modern computer based "fractured fairy-tales" where participants could personalise fairy-tales with their own characters or events. Bookmarks and colouring books featuring illustrations from the digital collection were also presented to attendees and can be downloaded from the fairy-tale web page.

Use of the collection

The study of fairy-tales has always been important at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the library's collection is used as part of several undergraduate classes in the College of Arts & Sciences. Over the semester, and in the worldwide context of popular tradition, students look at how historical events, cultural circumstances, and literary movements have changed the fairy-tales over time. Tales are studied from a variety of critical perspectives, including sociological, psychological and feminist (or not) interpretations. Later in the semester, these classes visit Special Collections to study the original versions in detail and class presentations then focus on a specific aspect of the collection.

Nonetheless, with their simple language and our common fairy-tale heritage, the success of the library's outreach programme shows that the appeal of fairy-tales reaches far beyond the scholarly environment. The study of fairy-tales has often been neglected or devalued as tales become "Disney-ified" and lose their original commentary on social values. The digitization of the UCB collection, however, and the ability to see and search the original

texts from the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as UCB academic scholarly and critical discussion will provide a way for scholars and non-academics to share, promote and expand the study of fairy-tales around the world. This project also illustrates the varied ways in which digital humanities projects can engage the library with the local community and beyond. By building on our shared social experience of fairy-tales and harnessing modern technologies, librarians and scholars alike can bring our cultural heritage to life.

Links

Finding Aid:

[http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/specialcollections/collections/Fairy Tale Collection.htm](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/specialcollections/collections/Fairy_Tale_Collection.htm)

Digital Library: <http://bit.ly/cufairy-tales>

Lecture series recordings, promotional material: <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/fairy-tales/index.htm>

2009 Exhibition: <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/past/fairy-tales.htm>

2009 Blog: <http://ucbfairy-tales.wordpress.com/>

The London Library French Collections

Gill Turner, *Head of Acquisitions* and Alice Edwards, *French cataloguer (retired)*, *The London Library*

The French collection at the London Library is one of the larger foreign collections with something in excess of 50,000 volumes on the history and culture of France and all other French-speaking areas including Belgium, Switzerland, Canada and former colonies in Africa, Asia, the West Indies and the Pacific. There are a number of periodical titles to which the Library actively subscribes, as well as many that are retained although no longer current. Many French works across the collection have been translated into English and these are usually bought to increase access to works amongst the readership.

It is not clear whether there has ever been a native French speaker responsible for the collecting of material and there does not appear to be a history of how the collection has been developed. However, much of the foreign language collection at the turn of the 19th century up to World War Two would have been selected by Sir Charles Hagberg Wright, Librarian for 40 years. There are no well-known specific strengths in the collection (unlike for example the 17th century *Siglo de Oro* plays and sueltas we have in the Spanish collection, or the *Nozze* in the Italian), but the building of the stock has been long and steady. The principle since 1840 has always been to acquire major and minor works by significant authors as primary material in the literature collections, as well as works by a great many major French writers on their subjects across the other areas of the collections here. The Library has also tried to acquire key reference and standard works across the spectrum of French output but again within the constraints of the collecting policy and the budget.

The rest of this article contains some highlights from the print collection. At the end there is a link to the complete guide which includes further subject areas and information about the electronic resources available.

Literature

The emphasis in the literature collection is on primary texts, with critical works and commentaries being acquired to a lesser degree. The earliest works of literature are anonymous and are mainly romances and epic poetry. The first named authors appear in the 13th century with the arrival of Jean de Meung and Guillaume de Lorris with the *Roman de la rose*. In the 15th century there are the poets Marot and Villon, followed by the first well known writer of fiction Rabelais, with his novel *Gargantua* in the 16th century. In the classical period of the 17th century there are many famous playwrights, including Corneille and Racine for tragedy and Molière for comedy. In the Enlightenment of the 18th century there are the *philosophes*, including Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau, and Montesquieu, all of whom

wrote novels as well as philosophy and political science. The names come thick and fast in the 19th century with the Romantics, including Hugo, Balzac, Zola, and Stendhal for novels, and Rimbaud, Baudelaire, Nerval and Vigny for poetry. In the first half of the 20th century we have Proust, Mauriac, Gide, Céline, Colette, followed by Camus, Sagan, Beauvoir, Sartre, Malraux, not forgetting the Belgian Simenon, all established novelists, plus the surrealists Breton, Aragon, Apollinaire, Eluard. More recent authors include Houellebecq, Ben Jelloun, Maalouf and Bouraoui. All these authors are well represented in the literature collection, as well as many more that are continually added to.

History

French history is generally covered in two or three major shelf marks. It is second only to French literature in size and in numbers of books in the French language; about half the works are in French with the rest mostly in English although there are also works in German and Italian. There are many older works from the 18th and 19th centuries, often with more recent works on the same period revealing different views and new developments in historiography.

The largest section covers the general, political and diplomatic history of France. Highlights include the revolutions of 1789 and 1830, and other events such as the Dreyfus Case (which revealed anti-Semitism in France at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century), the Affair of the Diamond Necklace (a scandal involving Marie Antoinette which was instrumental in the collapse of monarchy in the French Revolution), the Napoleonic wars and other events in French military history.

Biography

There is an extensive collection of biographies about French subjects and these may be in French as well as English (or possibly a third language). There are a great many volumes of *Correspondance* in the Pleiades series with many collections and selections in both English and French. There are also many 18th and 19th century multi-volume works available, many of which have not been reprinted since. Subjects include artists, politicians, philosophers, literary authors, historical figures, scientists and composers, including any notable – and possibly notorious - individuals in French life.

Philosophy

The emphasis of the Library's philosophy collection is on primary texts. There is no section on French philosophy per se nor on different aspects of philosophy, rather, all works are in one collection arranged by author and followed immediately by criticism and commentary on that author.

A quick scan of the philosophy section reveals French language items on almost every shelf, but French philosophy is not restricted to works in French. Works by the major writers have been collected from the start and there are many 19th century and earlier editions held as well as a selection of later works in French and English.

The most important French philosopher in the collection is Descartes, with more than a hundred volumes of his works and works about him in French and English. Descartes is 17th century and around this time there were many well-known French authors who are now considered philosophers who did not describe their works in this way. Montaigne (16th century) wrote his *Essais*, Pascal and La Rochefoucauld (both 17th century) wrote *Pensées* and *Maximes* respectively and these works have found their place in French Literature. The 18th century *philosophes*, Voltaire, Diderot, D'Alembert, Montesquieu and Rousseau also appear mainly in the French literature section. Some philosophers express their philosophy in works of fiction or plays. These include Voltaire, Diderot, Sartre, Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir.

Art

Art is divided into over 40 sub-collections, all of which contain some works in French. The library has many works, starting in the 17th century with Poussin and Lorrain, moving on to the 18th century with Watteau, Boucher and Fragonard. David the history painter straddled the 18th and 19th centuries. The realism of Corot, Courbet and Daumier followed in the early 19th century before Impressionism came along with Manet, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Pissarro, Cezanne and many more. With post-Impressionism came Seurat, Toulouse Lautrec and Gauguin. At this time and well into the 20th century Paris was the artistic centre of Europe and many artists from other countries came to work in France. This included Picasso, who, with Braque and other artists developed Cubism. The collection is continually added to with works in both English and French.

To access the complete guide to the London Library's French collections go to <http://www.londonlibrary.co.uk/collections/guides.htm>

For further information about the London Library and details of how to join visit the website at <http://www.londonlibrary.co.uk/join/index.htm>

If you have any queries about the French collection please contact gill.turner@londonlibrary.co.uk

Chair's report to the FSLG, 2009-2010

Teresa Vernon, Head, French Collections, British Library

This year's AGM sees the departure of two Officers from the Committee. Martin Hodgson, our Treasurer since 2003, decided to take voluntary redundancy from his post of Information Specialist (Arts & Humanities) at King's College London and left the College at the end of April 2010. Happily, Martin is currently working at Senate House Library covering Sarah Burn's post, which does not involve languages, while Sarah is on maternity leave. We are very grateful to Anne Cobby who has volunteered to take over the post of Treasurer.

On 27 August, Ann Farr, our Secretary since 2004, left her post as Faculty Team Librarian (Arts and Social Sciences Faculties Team) under the University's voluntary leavers' scheme. The departure of Ann and Martin is a great loss to the FSLG. A short tribute to them may be found in Issue 6 of the *FSLG Annual Review* (pp.5-6).¹

Christine Anderson, a Committee member since 2006, is standing down from the Committee as she is no longer responsible for Romance Languages at Senate House Library. In her place, we are pleased to welcome her successor Colin Homiski. In March 2010, Caroline Long, who joined the Committee in 2009, moved to a new role at the University of Aston which does not cover languages and has resigned from the Committee. We extend heartfelt thanks to Ann, Martin, Christine and Caroline and wish them the very best for the future.

The 6th issue of the *FSLG Annual Review* is now available on the WESLINE and FSLG websites. It was a bumper issue at 56 pages, with a good mixture of in-depth articles and shorter pieces. Sarah Brain formally assumed sole editorship for the 6th issue, and once again brought huge professionalism and efficiency to her dual editorial and production roles. A big thank you is due to Sarah for all her hard work and of course to all our contributors as well.

FSLG (and WESLINE) was well represented at the EUROLIS international seminar 'Doom or Bloom' on reinventing the library in the digital age held at the Institut français in October. FSLG members also attended two one-day academic events at the Institut français: *France in the British Mind, 1910-2010* in May and *The London French: a Temporal and Spatial Mapping of the French Presence in the British Capital from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day* in July. On the debit side, there was no representation this year at the AUPHF one-day event in Bristol in May, or at the Society for French Studies Conference at Swansea in July.

¹ <http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/AnnualReview-Issue6.pdf>

The fourth (2009) WESLINE annual conference was held in the splendid setting of Durham. Highlights of the conference included Professor Richard Gameson's 'show and tell' of manuscript treasures from the Cathedral Library and the visit to Ushaw College where the Revd Fr Dr Michael Sharratt displayed and explained for us significant print and manuscript holdings from this undeservedly little-known library.

The future of WESLINE and its relationship with the individual language studies library groups has yet to be resolved, though the solution surely lies in a model which enables us to pool as many resources as we can, while retaining the discipline-specific focus of the individual groups. Decreased funding and overstretched resources is likely to make it increasingly difficult to sustain four full committees plus the WESLINE umbrella structure. Useful ways forward, suggested at the 2009 AGM by Caroline Long (FSLG) and Maureen Pinder (GSLG, COSEELIS and MELCOM), have yet to be followed up.

Finally, on behalf of the FSLG, I should like to express a big thank you to all on the Committee for their work during the year.

Teresa Vernon
Chair, FSLG
31 August 2010

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