Director’s review

The last six months has seen exciting developments in the work of the Cadbury Research Library, Director Sue Worrall tells us about the highlights and what the future holds for the CRL.

It has been a busy time as we continue to develop the range of our services to staff, students and external researchers. In December 2012 the complete archive of Mason College, the University’s forerunner organisation, was made available online through our catalogue. Our University Archivist, Dr Helen Fisher, working with Dr Malcolm Dick, has been leading an innovative project with students to explore the early history of the University. See inside for Helen’s article about the day school.

In preparation for the new Library our team has identified over 40,000 items of historic value to be moved to the care of the Cadbury Research Library for long-term preservation. It has been an exciting time of discovery when forgotten gems have come to light.

We continue to develop learning and teaching for UoB students using our collections across a wide variety of disciplines; Martin Killeen leads our work in this area. An example of a recent project has been the History of Art postgraduate exhibition Defining Faces: 20th Century Portrait Drawing, where MA students research and select material to include in their exhibition at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts. We have run a number of new sessions with Archaeology and Antiquity as well as regular seminars with English and Mathematics. Our focus is on developing the teaching offering around the collections so if you are interested in working with us please email Martin, m.killeen@bham.ac.uk.

This summer we are hosting our third year of Cadbury Research Library Internships. The internship scheme has proved really popular and this year we saw a huge increase in applications from students. Please see inside for more information.

We continue to mount a range of taster exhibitions about our collections in the Muirhead Tower atrium and the Main Library foyer. Our William Morris and the Kelmscott Press exhibition was well received and involved partnership working with Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, see our current exhibition Roots of the University until 31 October. CRL items have been on display in exhibitions at far flung venues including the Getty Villa in California and Cleveland Museum of Fine Art. This autumn a substantial number of early Middle Eastern manuscripts are being loaned to BMAG for their Islamic Calligraphy exhibition. If you have missed any of our exhibitions catch up on our Flickr page. To see what’s on take a look at our programme of upcoming exhibitions, talks and events and do join us on 17 October for celebrated playwright David Edgar’s talk.

Editor’s introduction

A warm welcome to our first Cadbury Research Library Newsletter, a twice yearly update on projects, initiatives, exhibitions and events focused on the University’s Special Collections. In this edition we are highlighting recent student activities. The next issue will look at current research on the collections. This September we are delighted to be hosting the joint conference Enhancing Impact, Inspiring Excellence: Collaborative Approaches between Archives and Universities with The National Archives. The one day conference will bring together archivists, academics, and students to discuss the ways in which archives and universities can work together. Please see the back page for details of how to register for a free place.

Sarah Kilroy, Head of Conservation and Programming

If you would like to subscribe to the electronic version of the newsletter please email special-collections@bham.ac.uk with the subject heading ‘subscribe newsletter’
Cadbury Research Library
Heritage Internships

For the third year running the Cadbury Research Library is delighted to be able to fund two internships specifically tailored for University of Birmingham students interested in pursuing careers in the heritage or archives sectors. This year’s successful candidates are Rebecca King and George Dibble, both undergraduates about to enter their final year in History. During the intensive four week programme the interns work closely with archivists, librarians and conservators in the Cadbury Research Library, learning skills in managing heritage collections, including cataloguing, conservation and the opportunity to curate their own exhibition. The internships provide transferable skills for students to take to the workplace or postgraduate training.

Legacy of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies examined through the Archives

Dr Kieran Connell, post doctoral researcher in History, tells us about the joint project between the Cadbury Research Library and the Department of History. Led by Kieran and Professor Matthew Hilton, the project is funded by the AHRC.

2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment by Richard Hoggart of the Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies. Hoggart was appointed Professor of English at Birmingham in 1962, and it was in his inaugural lecture that he signalled his intention to research ‘mass’ culture: advertisements, popular fiction, fashion, and television programmes, subjects that had hitherto largely been ignored by the academy. Two years later, with the arrival of Stuart Hall as Hoggart’s deputy, the Centre was born. Now, an AHRC-funded project in the Department of History, run by Professor Matthew Hilton and Dr Kieran Connell, seeks to reflect on the legacies of the Centre, which played a pivotal role in the establishment of what has become the international discipline of cultural studies.

The project revolves around the creation of an archive of Centre material at the Cadbury Research Library. This not only includes material from Centre staff members such as Stuart Hall, Richard Johnson and Maureen McNeil. The Centre broke down conventional boundaries between academic staff and students, and the latter played a crucial role in establishing the nature of cultural studies and producing its inaugural works. The archive also includes deposits from former students like Tony Jefferson, Dorothy Hobson and David Morley, figures who played prominent roles in the co-authoring of seminal books like Resistance Through Rituals, Crossroads and The Nationwide Project. The Centre archive is testament to the innovative research and learning practices the Centre adopted, as well what was a fundamentally political commitment to the necessity of intellectual work.

Alongside the archive there will also be an exhibition and a conference to mark the formal 50th anniversary in summer 2014. For more information about the project please contact Kieran Connell at k.connell@bham.ac.uk or follow us on Twitter: @CCCS50.
Dr Helen Fisher, Archivist of the University Heritage Collection, writes about a recent initiative to engage students with the University archives.

The University Heritage Archive is a rich resource for research, and we are keen to encourage University of Birmingham students to engage with the collections, as a formal part of their degree course, to enhance their employability skills in the heritage sector, or simply to further their interest in the history of the university.

We have found that running small scale engagement projects is a useful way to introduce students to research possibilities in the archive. Over the academic year 2012–2013 we have worked with Dr Malcolm Dick in the School of History and Cultures to provide opportunities for postgraduate students in the College of Arts and Law to participate in a voluntary basis in a range of activities, working with source material in the university archives. This work built on a pilot project the previous academic year involving undergraduate history students.

Activities were grouped into three areas. Students who wanted to learn about and develop archive skills helped to index materials including photographs and student publications. Others were interested in collecting and creating material to add to the archive. One student made two short films documenting aspects of current student life on and off campus, and others worked together with the aim of gathering items from alumni who graduated in the 1980s and 1990s. The most popular activity involved research using the existing archive. One student looked at the ways in which student life and interests were reflected in articles and poetry published in Mason College Magazine in the 1880s, while another student explored the regulations imposed on students living in the new halls of residence developed on the Vale in the 1960s. An undergraduate history student joined the project in connection with his dissertation research on the causes and events of the 1968 student protest at Birmingham. Some of the students gave well received presentations at a day school organized to mark the formal end of the project in March 2013. Although the research outputs were necessarily limited, the project has demonstrated the broad range of research topics it is possible to explore within the archive, and we are planning further engagement projects in collaboration with academic staff in the future.

Would you like to teach seminars using original archives or rare books?
Please get in touch with Martin Killeen
m.killeen@bham.ac.uk

Dr Malcolm Dick opens the Engaging with Archives day school

Zukile Mijaqwana speaks about his research into the 1968 student demonstrations
What’s on at the Cadbury Research Library

Keep up to date with forthcoming events at www.birmingham.ac.uk/oncampus

Exhibitions in Muirhead Tower Atrium – weekdays 9am–6pm

- Roots of the University: Mason Science College 1880–1900
  Date: 21 May – 31 October
- Artist in Residence: Lawrence Alma-Tadema
  Date: 5 November – 31 January 2014

Exhibitions in Main Library Foyer – open daily

- Women Movers and Shakers of the Early 20th Century
  Date: 23 May – 9 September
- The Incredible Human Journey for GR@B
  Date: 10 September – 6 October
- The Book of the Dead: Egyptian Textiles from the Cadbury Research Library
  Date: 8 October – 4 November
- The Black Country: Etchings by Richard Chattock
  Date: 5 November – 6 January 2014

Exhibitions in the CRL Reading Room – please register as a reader

- Hand-Coloured Art in the Collections, curated by CRL Heritage Interns
  Date: 1–12 July

Catch items on loan to exhibitions at other venues

- Last Days of Pompeii, Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection
  Venue: Cleveland Museum of Fine Art
  Date: until 7 July 2013
- Defining Faces, 20th Century Portrait Drawings
  Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts
  Date: 7 June – 26 August
- The Artist’s Residence as a Total Work, Europe and America 1800–1946
  Venue: Museum Villa Stuck, Munich
  Date: 21 November – 2 March 2014
- Islamic Calligraphy
  Venue: Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
  Date: November 2013 – January 2014

Free talks

For all talks please email to reserve your place special-collections@bham.ac.uk

- Eighteenth Century Science in the Cadbury Research Library Collections
  Martin Killeen, CRL Rare Books Librarian, takes us on a fascinating visual tour of 18th century science.
  Date: 18 September Time: 1–2pm

- Arthur and George
  Internationally acclaimed dramatist, David Edgar, talks about his stage adaptation of Julian Barnes’s novel Arthur and George.
  Date: 17 October Time: 6.00pm

- The Sceptre Press
  Martin Killeen, CRL Rare Books Librarian, sheds light on the little-known Sceptre Press, publishing works of poets Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney and Sylvia Plath.
  Date: 29 October Time: 5.30–6.30pm

- Unpacking Alma-Tadema’s Roman World
  Dr Diana Spencer, Reader in Roman Intellectual Culture, explores the inspiration for many of Lawrence Alma-Tadema’s great paintings.
  Date: 13 November Time: 1–2pm

Flickr

Our exhibitions and many more images from the collections, such as photographs of the campus construction, are available to view on Flickr, just search for Cadbury Research Library on Flickr.