

RLUK Research Libraries UK
POWERING SCHOLARSHIP
Annual Review 2015-16

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RLUK CHAIR

John MacColl (University of St Andrews)

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Executive Director

David Prosser

Executive Assistant

Melanie Cheung

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Phil Sykes (University of Liverpool)

Jan Wilkinson (University of Manchester)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Senate House Library

Senate House

Malet Street

London

WC1E 7HU

AUDITORS

Dains LLP

15 Colmore Row

Birmingham

B3 2BH

RLUK MEMBERS

University of Aberdeen
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
The British Library
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
Durham University
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
Imperial College London
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
Senate House Libraries, University of London
London School of Economics
University of Manchester
National Library of Scotland
National Library of Wales
Newcastle University
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
Queen Mary, University of London
Queen's University Belfast
University of Reading
Royal Holloway, University of London
SOAS, University of London
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of St Andrews
University of Sussex
Trinity College, Dublin
University College London
University of Warwick
Wellcome Library
University of York

WHO WE ARE

Research Libraries UK (RLUK) is a consortium of the leading and most significant research libraries in the UK and Ireland.

Our strength comes from the distinction and influence of our member libraries, and our partnerships with leading organisations in the research and higher education communities.

Since our formation in 1983 we have led and supported a vast number of initiatives and services that are helping to fulfil our vision of realising the modern research library.

OUR MISSION

We work with our members, our partners and the wider research community to shape the research library agenda, and contribute to the wider knowledge economy through innovative projects and services that add value and impact to the process of research and researcher-training.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

We launched Powering Scholarship in 2014, which outlined the five key strategic areas that we believed would be of the highest priority for research libraries over the next few years:

- **A collective approach:** reshaping the modern research library collection
- **Open scholarship:** creating a new environment for the communication of research outputs
- **Nothing hidden, nothing lost:** exposing and exploiting our collections
- **Mapping a changing research landscape:** the role of libraries in research and researcher training
- **A creative community:** nurturing leadership, innovation and skills throughout our libraries

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

SHARED PRINT MANAGEMENT

Investigating the feasibility of an above campus solution to the management of print monographs is one of the key objectives in our current strategy.

National or even regional initiatives have potential savings for HE as a whole, in terms of space and overheads: where shared print holdings can be identified as the basis for common stores, library space can be redeployed e.g. for improved teaching and social learning spaces for undergraduates. Researchers will also benefit from the ability to pinpoint unique collections more easily, and to see where thematically related collections are held.

In the Spring of 2015 RLUK held a well-attended workshop to scope both the policy and practical developments of a shared print management system for both RLUK members and the wider HE community.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OCLC

RLUK signed a partnership agreement with OCLC which gave RLUK members the opportunity to load their bibliographic metadata into WorldCat, the most comprehensive global network of data about library holdings and services. This data will be used to facilitate better understanding and visibility of these resources for both RLUK as a group, and for individual members of the consortium.

OCLC Research will conduct an analysis of the collective RLUK bibliographic data, which will help us to identify key strengths across collections and will be a vital step in moving towards a shared collection management system. Two OCLC working groups consisting of staff from RLUK member libraries were established to explore the collection analysis project and an OCLC collection management software trial.

A blog series focused on the work stemming from this partnership was established on the RLUK website.

OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Two working groups were established to oversee and take forward our strategic work on open scholarship. The Ethical and Effective Publishing Group (EEPG) is mandated to pursue the interests of RLUK in relation to the purchasing of scholarly information content and services from publishers and others. It also acts as the main liaison point between RLUK and Jisc Collections. The Open Access Publisher Processes Group (OAPP) is responsible for working collectively with publishers to resolve problems, improve processes and achieve a better understanding of how best to support researchers and funders.

RLUK continues to inform debates around scholarly communications and guide the direction of travel for the UK. David Prosser, Executive Director of RLUK, sits on the Electronic Information Resources Working Group (EIRWG), which advises Jisc Collections on big deal negotiations with publishers. He is also part of the Organising Committee for the series of CERN Workshops on Innovations in Scholarly Communications with the latest meeting being held in the summer of 2015. RLUK is also represented on the Universities UK Open Access Group.

RLUK is committed to supporting external organisations whose missions align with our objectives in this area, and where we have recognised that a more formal partnership may prove beneficial for our members. As such we became a consortial member of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and a patron member of the Association of European University Presses.

RLUK was a signatory to the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) statement against Elsevier's sharing and hosting policy that impedes open access and sharing of scholarly articles, and to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment.

RLUK has also contributed to Jisc's *Unpicking the open access lock* guide to help institutions implement open access, and a Jisc thought-piece on academic journal markets.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS NETWORK

The Associate Directors' Network (ADN), which was established to encourage succession planning within research libraries and to provide an environment within which those aspiring to be Directors can network and learn, has continued to thrive since its inception in 2011. Two new convenors were elected at the November 2014 Conference: Tracey Stanley (Cardiff) and Mike Wall (Bristol). The energies of the ADN during this period have focused on developing a revitalised mentoring programme, which could expand beyond Director and Associate Director level, and on exploring the role of the research library in digital humanities.

The ADN holds two independent meetings per year. Members of the ADN have been formally assigned to all of RLUK's strategic working groups to contribute and channel their own expertise and experience and those of their colleagues, helping to facilitate a more open and fertile dialogue between RLUK's Board and Members.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RLUK's partnership working with The National Archives (TNA) was formalised through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations. The MoU sets out our shared interests and priorities and provides a framework for collaborative projects, which during this year has included a published guide on instigating and sustaining long-term collaboration between archives and HE institutions, and brief secondments of the RLUK Deputy Director and a Board Director to TNA.

The RLUK and TNA partnership began in 2013 with the first in a collaborative conference series that aims to encourage discussion on a wide range of issues concerning the engagement with, preservation, digitisation and promotion of special collections.

Since then we have jointly commissioned a *Guide to collaboration between the archive and higher education sectors*, are exploring further joint research studies and programmes for staff exchanges and continue to work collaboratively on the 'Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities' conference series.

SERVICE STANDARDS

The RLUK Working Group on Service Efficiency investigated the extent to which a core set of performance measures could be shared across RLUK members. Led by Tracey Stanley (Cardiff), the intention was to establish whether it would be possible to share a knowledge base of performance measures, reducing duplication of effort in devising and defining service standards across RLUK members, and enabling some benchmarking on process and service efficiencies between institutions.

The first collection of data took place in the autumn of 2014, with a workshop held at the end of the academic year to gather feedback on improvements of data collection and establish the standards as an RLUK 'kitemark'.

NEW MEMBERS

RLUK was delighted to welcome Royal Holloway, University of London and the Universities of Leicester, Reading and Sussex to the consortium in 2015.

RLUK Chair, John MacColl, commented, 'All four of our new member libraries were able to demonstrate their commitment to the values of RLUK, and we are sure that they will improve our existing organisation. They will bring new insights to the challenges we face both institutional and collective, delivering innovative research support services, and refreshing our approaches to the enduring task of building and caring for collections.'

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

As RLUK evolves with the adoption of the new strategy, changes to staffing within the Executive Team and a growing membership, the RLUK Board wanted to ensure that RLUK remained focused on the needs of its members. Late in 2015 a membership survey was sent out to assess the priorities and concerns of member institutions.

The responses received were a significant topic for the RLUK Board at their strategic retreat in December and will feed into the future direction of RLUK's strategic activities and communications with members.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

DCDC CONFERENCE

The third 'Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities' Conference was held at The Lowry, Salford Quays in October 2015. This conference series is held jointly with The National Archives and the 2015 event welcomed almost 450 delegates from a wide range of organisations across the archive, library, museum and academic communities, to come together to explore how collection holders are engaging with audiences in the digital age.

Keynote presentations were given by Simon Chaplin (Wellcome Trust), Valerie Johnson (The National Archives), Simon Tanner (King's College London), and Lucie Burgess (Oxford).

The conference will return to The Lowry in October 2016.



LEEDS MEMBERS' MEETING

The 2015 Spring Members' Meeting held in Leeds focused on two emerging areas of interest for the modern research library:

Susan Gibbons (Yale), Sue Mehrer (Cambridge) and Penny Hicks (Manchester) discussed how ethnographic research and marketing methodology can be used to gain a greater understanding of library users, and how library strategy, services and design are being shaped by such user intelligence.

A session on new platforms for research and discovery saw Alex Humphreys (JSTOR) describe how JSTOR Labs are approaching digital innovation through user-driven development. Andrew Dudfield (BBC) introduced the Research and Education Space, an online platform that will hold documents, data, images, TV and radio for developers and publishers to use in building new products, tools and services.

WARWICK MEMBERS' MEETING

RLUK joined with the University of Warwick Library in the autumn of 2015 to help celebrate the University's 50th anniversary.

The Library hosted a symposium on the future of the academic library, with an international roster of distinguished speakers, including Jim Neal (Columbia), Anja Smit (Utrecht), David Groenewegen (Monash), and RLUK Chair John MacColl.

Chris Banks (Imperial) and Simon Bains (Manchester) led a workshop outlining the development of a UK Scholarly Communications Licence, and the meeting was also an opportunity for members to hear from Lorcan Dempsey about OCLC Research's work to analyse the RLUK collective collection.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 July 2015

	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	312,800	312,800	312,800
Investment income	344	344	2,332
Incoming resources from charitable activities	74,700	74,700	28,535
Total incoming resources	387,844	387,844	343,667
Resources expended			
Charitable activities	429,660	429,660	379,655
Governance costs	53,500	53,500	56,810
Total resources expended	483,160	483,160	436,464
Total funds at 1 August 2014	554,755	554,755	647,552
Total funds at 31 July 2015	459,439	459,439	554,755
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		1,691	1,241
Current assets			
Debtors		105,023	40,661
Cash at bank		508,808	645,481
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)		(156,083)	(132,628)
Net current assets		457,748	553,514
Total assets less current liabilities		459,439	554,755
Total funds		459,439	554,755

NOTES ON FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' published in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 2006. A summary of the principal accounting policies which have been applied consistently, except where noted is set out below.

Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee and having no share capital; the liability of the members is limited to £1.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the company has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of Trustee meetings and cost of legal advice to Trustees on governance and constitutional matters.

Support costs are those associated with administration, IT and establishment that are charged centrally. These are then apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of the resource. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Related party transactions

Due to the nature of the charitable company's activities and the composition of the Board it is inevitable that transactions may take place with organisations in which a member of the Board may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the Board may have an interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the respective organisations' normal procurement procedures.

