

**RLUK** Research Libraries UK  
Annual Review 2017-18



## GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### EXECUTIVE

#### **Executive Director**

David Prosser

#### **Deputy Executive Director**

Matt Greenhall

#### **Programme Officer**

Christina Kamposiori

#### **Executive Assistant**

Melanie Cheung

### REGISTERED OFFICE

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### AUDITORS

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## 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  
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University of Southampton  
University of St Andrews  
University of Sussex  
Trinity College, Dublin  
University College London  
University of Warwick  
Wellcome Collection  
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

Our purpose is 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 processes of teaching, learning, and research. We also contribute to the health of society through the preservation and sharing of knowledge: one of the pillars of an open society.

## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

We launched Reshaping Scholarship in 2018, which reflects the commitment of our member libraries to achieve transformations in research, innovation in collections and cultural change in our institutions. The strategy focuses on two key strands:

### **Open Scholarship: Creating a new environment for the transformation of research Supporting digital scholarship**

- Support for Digital Scholarship
- Support for open infrastructure
- Licensing and copyright
- Open access monographs

### **A collective approach: reshaping modern research library collections**

- The digital shift
- Special collections
- Subscription costs
- Collaborative collections and physical space

## STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

### OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

The RLUK Open Access Publishers Processes Group met regularly over the past year. They had useful meetings with a number of the largest publishers, providing feedback on proposed changes to publisher workflows around OA and making suggestions on how processes can be improved.

RLUK sat on the UUK Open Access Coordination Group and provided input to the Group's sub-group on Institutional Repositories. We also worked on the advisory group to JISC's Open Access Button project which seeks to make open access material more discoverable.

The handling of research data was seen as a key infrastructure issue over the past year. RLUK was a member of the Open Research Data Policy forum, a cross-profession group that met to provide informal advice on how to meet the growing challenges of managing research data. The group fed into the more formal Open Research Data Task Force that reported into the UK Government. We also sat on Jisc's Research at Risk oversight group and attended Research Data Network meetings as their representative.

Over the year, key copyright reforms were discussed in the European Union. These reforms are proving contentious and RLUK has lobbied to have more library- and research-friendly amendments included, in particular around orphan works and text and data mining. We continue to sit on the Copyright for Knowledge Group, but we also joined the Library and Archives Copyright Alliance and the European Alliance for Research Excellence, a coalition advocating for a broad text and data mining exception. We had a very informative update of the current situation at the 2018 RLUK Conference from Catherine Stihler, a Scottish MEP.

We continue to support the development of the UK Scholarly Communications Licence, which would see UK researchers giving their institutions non-exclusive rights in their scholarly outputs so allowing the institutions to ensure compliance with relative funder open access mandates.

The past year has seen a great deal of general debate about new, tighter General Data Protection Regulations. While RLUK worked to ensure that we are compliant in our own practices, we also lobbied for derogations for archives to be included to support the work of libraries with historic or contemporary collections to continue to fulfil their important function.

We have continued to engage in discussions around monographs. RLUK was invited to be a member of the UUK Open Access Coordination Group Monograph sub-group. We worked with members of that group to develop an estimate of the cost of going open access for the majority of books submitted to the last Research Assessment Exercise. We also sit on the Steering Group for a piece of work being undertaken to look at the challenges and barriers towards a greater shift in acceptance for OA monographs.



## STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

### A COLLECTIVE APPROACH

RLUK continues to attend the Jisc Collections Content Strategy Group meetings, inputting Members' views of the big deal offers made by publishers and helping to set future strategy. We worked with colleagues in the wider UK community to generate strong library position against a new archive pricing model being proposed by one major publisher – so much so they withdrew the suggestion and reverted to the existing model.

We have worked with a number of colleagues to look at the provision of journal articles in the eventuality of a move away from big deals. We have developed a methodology for determining what level of inter-library loan would be required, so making a calculation of the costs or benefits of stepping away from big deals easier to calculate. We have also continued to contribute to the development of open access discovery tools such as the Open Access Button.

RLUK published a report by Christina Kamposiori exploring the role of libraries in the creation, archiving, curation and preservation of tools for Digital Humanities research.

We hosted a series of workshops in support of the Special Collections Programme looking at issues around the assessment and value of collections across different communities of practice and preparing for accreditation.

RLUK has joined the pan-European LIBER Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage Group. The group is building a knowledge network within European libraries with an interest in digital humanities.

We have convened an informal network of funders, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Wellcome, The National Archives, Arcadia, Leverhulme Trust, Arts & Humanities Research Council, Jisc and Arts Council England. The group meets regularly to discuss issues of common interest and to hear updates on RLUK activity. Members of the network also took part in Funders Marketplaces at both DCDC17 and DCDC18 where delegates had the chance to hear funders presenting their schemes, and discuss their ideas and plans with them over one-to-one surgery sessions.



## STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

### RLUK and The National Archives

In July 2017 RLUK renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with The National Archives, setting out the roles of both organisations and how we will work together in the future to achieve our goals - the action plan, including current and future activities was also discussed. A major area of collaboration was the launch of a Professional Fellowship scheme for staff working in both institutions. Up to four Professional Fellowships will be available each year (shared between RLUK and TNA), supporting colleagues to investigate a professional-practice question of their choosing. The scheme is designed to enable colleagues to place their work within a wider professional and organisational setting, to benefit from the expertise of colleagues at TNA, and to shape and support their own professional development. We also worked closely on delivering the DCDC Conference.

### Citation Capture

Working in partnership with Jisc and The National Archives, we published a major research report into how repositories holding unique and distinct collections are referenced within academic citations. This report will be followed by a workshop in early 2019 exploring the implications and recommendations of this research.

### IARLA

We continued to work with international partner academic library associations under the framework of the International Alliance of Research Library Associations (IARLA). Issues discussed included shared values, non-disclosure agreements, net neutrality and copyright. The group provides a valuable forum for knowledge exchange between the contributing organisations.

### Associate Directors Network

The ADN met in April 2018 at the University of Birmingham to discuss the theme of demonstrating and measuring the influence, value and impact of Library Services within the wider institution. There were presentations from Lynsey Hopkins, Assistant Academic Registrar at the University of Birmingham, and Sally Faith, Head of Library Frontline, Planning & Support Services at the University of Sussex. Lynsey's presentation focussed on the department of Academic Services, of which the Library is a constituent part. Sally presented on building a Library contribution to TRAC and FEC, both areas of activity which ADN members are involved with. The second part of the meeting focussed on leadership and impact, with presentations from ADN members who have recently stepped up into Director roles.

Leadership development continued as the theme for the second meeting on in July 2018 at the Imperial College London. The first presentation was on collaborative leadership at the Wellcome Library, by Donne Robertson, Tom Scott and Jenny Haynes (the Wellcome Library ADN representative). This was followed by reflections by ADN members on the challenges of Library leadership.

### Special Collections Leadership Network (SCLN)

We created a new forum, the Special Collections Leadership Network (SCLN) comprised of special collections senior staff from our members. A series of meetings of the Network explored: culture change in our institutions; the digital and digitisation; advocacy and lobbying; impact and public engagement.

The SCLN has developed its profile both within RLUK and further afield. In May the group met in York with the topic of Digital and Digitisation, which was facilitated by John Scally from the National Library of Scotland. The discussion identified challenges faced across the sector, including lack of skills, uncertainty around audiences for digitised content and the need for a joined-up approach across the UK to maximise value and impact.

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## STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

### Digital Scholarship Network

We launched the Digital Scholarship Network at the Reading Members meeting in November 2018. The network brings together colleagues from across RLUK's members working in the development, delivery, and support of digital scholarship services. The DSN represents a major new initiative under Reshaping Scholarship and will be responsible for creating and leading a significant programme of work over its first two years.

### LACA

We continue to be an active member of the Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA), working alongside colleagues from across the library, information, and cultural sector to advocate for a fair and balanced copyright framework. In October 2018 we supported and publicised LACA's "Use it or Lose it" campaign regarding the potential loss of the orphan works exemption following the UK's departure from the EU.

## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### RLUK CONFERENCE

The RLUK 2018 Conference was held on 14-16 March 2018 at the British Library. The theme for this conference was Metamorphosis: the changing role of the modern research library. An excellent roster of keynote speakers included Roly Keating, Chief Executive of the British Library; Dan Cohen, Dean of Libraries and Vice Provost for Information Collaboration at Northeastern University; Julia Black, Pro Director for Research at LSE; Catherine Stihler MEP and Kathleen Shearer, Executive Director of COAR.

We welcomed over 150 delegates from institutions from across the UK, Ireland, Europe and beyond, to discuss how values are shaping our institutions, the research community we support and our professional practices. A strong sense of the importance of openness, diversity and inclusion came through many of the presentations. Panel sessions explored a wide range of topics from the future shape and scope of research libraries, how research libraries are championing social values through their collaborations and collections, examples of how the museums sector is working towards openness and inclusivity, and open access. The speed presentation session showcased a number of innovative activities being undertaken across a range of institutions, with Joe Marshall (University of Edinburgh) delivering the winning presentation.

### READING MEMBERS' MEETING

The 2018 Members' meeting was hosted by the University of Reading. The opening session looked at collaborative collection management activities: Robin Green (Warwick, RLUK) outlined RLUK's plans to understand consortial requirements for collaborative collection management, and presentations by Daryl Yang (UKRR); Chris Banks (Imperial, UKRR), Andy Appleyard (British Library) looked at the potential future of the UKRR service for journals, but also potentially monographs. Theo Stubbs (Imperial) reported on the findings of his survey which sought to understand the sectoral appetite for collaborative management of low-use print monographs. Jane Saunders (Leeds) and Sarah Thompson (York) informed members of the work that White Rose Libraries have been undertaking in the management of monographs using OCLC's GreenGlass tool. Closing the session, Neil Grindley (Jisc) updated the meeting on the National Bibliographic Database.

The second day of the meeting was opened by Liz Jolly, newly appointed Chief Librarian at The British Library, who discussed 'The Library in the Digital Age'. In a session on the digital shift / digital scholarship, the meeting heard from Matthew Nicholls (Reading) about his fascinating 3D modelling of ancient Rome. RLUK announced the launch of the Digital Scholarship Network (DSN), a professional peer network for RLUK members involved in the development and provision of Digital Scholarship services within member libraries. The DSN will act as a forum for discussion, harness RLUK members' collective experience and expertise, and will be responsible for the development of programmes of work in direct support of RLUK's Reshaping Scholarship Strategy.

Rachel Bruce, Head of Open Science at UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) outlined their open access review. The closing session explored open access monographs, with Caroline Warman (Oxford) presenting on her work with open access publisher OpenBook, and Helen Snaith (Research England) gave an overview on the landscape for open access monographs.



## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### DCDC18 CONFERENCE

The 2018 Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities (DCDC) conference brought together around 400 professionals from across the library, archive, academic and cultural heritage communities for its sixth year. The conference took place in November in Birmingham and explored the topic of memory and transformation.

In a wide ranging programme, which included over 70 speakers, delegates explored how recent commemorations and anniversaries have acted as 'punctuation marks from the past'. Debates centred on the important role that commemoration has recently played within society. Jane Ellison (Head of Creative Partnerships, BBC), discussed a number of activities organised in the context of recent landmark anniversaries, such as the centenary of the World War One, and encouraged delegates to reflect on the reasons why commemoration offers unique opportunities for institutions but also on our responsibility to 'remember well'.

Nathan Sentance (Project Officer, First Nations programming, Australian Museum) focused on blogging (his blog: Archival Decolonist) as a vehicle for resistance and highlighted the need to decolonise collections in the GLAM sector and insert plurality into the creation and interpretation of records and other cultural material. The role of community engagement and the importance of cultural heritage collections for today's society were addressed by Nick Barratt (Senate House Librarian), who explored the role of memory organisations in making an impact through their collections and the value of engaging with local communities in the 21st century.

Jo Fox's (Director of the Institute of Historical Research University of London) closing keynote presentation aimed to explore the phenomenon of fake news and discuss the possibilities it offers for historians and beyond.

Throughout the conference we saw a variety of examples illustrating how memory collections form the basis for collaborations and audience engagement that has not only an impact on society and its wellbeing but also on institutional practices and identity. Libraries, in particular, are experiencing a cultural shift with professionals very often reaching out to various communities rather than waiting for them to cross the door of the institution.



## SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 July 2018

	Unrestricted funds 2018 £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	340,400	340,400	340,400
Investment income	673	673	589
Incoming resources from charitable activities	115,518	131,768	151,481
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>456,591</b>	<b>472,841</b>	<b>492,470</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>			
<b>Total expenditure (Charitable activities)</b>	<b>442,300</b>	<b>458,550</b>	<b>546,892</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets		1,151	2,111
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors		33,262	114,033
Cash at bank		440,710	541,203
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)		(80,410)	(276,925)
Net current assets		393,562	378,311
Net assets		394,713	380,422
Charity funds			
Restricted funds		20,000	15,424
Unrestricted funds		374,713	364,998
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>394,713</b>	<b>380,422</b>

## NOTES ON FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

RLUK (Research Libraries UK) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

### 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.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

### Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

### Purpose of Restricted funds

#### The National Archives

This fund represents funds received from the The National Archives in relation to the creation of a fellowship scheme.

#### Special Collections Programme

This fund represents funds received from the Wellcome Trust in relation to the special collections programme.

### 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.





