

Language Centre Library Proposals Open Forum

7 May 2019



Format

- Welcome from the Chair, Dr Steve Rayner, Senior Tutor, Somerville College
- Presentation from Academic Registrar (Dr Saira Shaikh) and Language Centre Director (Dr Jane Sherwood)
- Q&A – questions taken in advance and from the floor
- Close by 1.30pm

Improvements at the Language Centre

- Important element of the University's teaching and learning provision
- Part of Academic Administration Division (AAD) for 3.5 years
- Significant update and improvement programme since Oct. 2016 e.g.
 - New Heads of Modern Language Programmes and Academic English appointed
 - New suite of modern language programmes launched
 - New provision in Academic English
 - More secure and substantial contracts of employment for tutors
 - Supporting services updated and de-risked e.g.
 - IT infrastructure & support – with IT Services
 - facilities management of building – with Estates
 - new website – university CMS

A vision for the Language Centre

The University's Strategic Plan 2018-23, Engagement and Partnership
Commitment 4,

‘We will maintain our commitment to in-depth study of the world's societies and cultures, supported by the outstanding breadth of our expertise in languages, ancient and modern’

The Language Centre is the University's hub for all those

- pursuing modern foreign language learning
- developing academic English literacies

Education Committee strategic discussion due MT 2019

Why are these proposals being brought forward now?

- Evolving use of resources by language learners (e.g. Duolingo)
- Leading to low and declining use of the library's physical and online resources
- University services required to make savings and/or generate income as part of cash flat budget settlement for 2019-20
- Language Centre already required to generate over 60% of its income through its activities
- Limited scope for any further income generation with current level of resources

Key facts about the library

- Started in 1980s
- Changed to become a lending library in 2010-11
- 13,717 items overall, of which 7,562 are distinct (i.e. multiple copies are held)
- Books, CDs/DVDs, CD-ROMs, magazines and newspapers
- 18 reader work spaces
- 4 CD/DVD players
- 1 reader workstation PC

Further key facts about the library

- Open 8.45am – 7pm Mon – Fri weekdays in weeks 1-8, and to 5pm in vacations
- One librarian: two assistants share evening cover across the week
- Second floor in building with poor disabled access and no lift
- Poor lighting, heating and ventilation



Library usage data

51% of the distinct items in the collection have not been borrowed since 2010/being catalogued

- Decline in registered users
- Decline in borrowing of audio-visual materials
- Stable borrowing levels of print materials/books
 - Particularly class sets and readers
- Language tutors account for a significant proportion of borrowing
- Most borrowed items: a relatively small number of items are borrowed a lot e.g. class sets of textbooks and readers.
 - These will remain at the Language Centre for use in class

Key proposals

- Existing teaching resources: will remain
- Future teaching resources: will still be bought, based on tutors' recommendations
- Other library holdings will be consolidated into the Bodleian libraries
- Spaces for meetings with tutors, conversation practice, study, rest, in newly refurbished ground-floor and first-floor open plan areas
- Newspapers and magazines will move to the ground-floor open-plan area



- Vacated library space will support tutors and teaching activities

What does consolidation into the Bodleian libraries mean?

- Some open shelf space available for most frequently borrowed resources, which can then be borrowed
- Resources in the Book Storage Facility can be called for consultation to 20 Bodleian reading rooms, usually in half a working weekday
- Resources in the Book Storage Facility can be borrowed from their 'primary owning library', which could be the Taylorian, the Oriental Studies library or the Philosophy and Theology Faculties library
- Film viewing room in Taylorian
- Bodleian reading rooms generally have:
 - better disabled access
 - more staffing
 - longer opening hours

Consultation process 2019

- Business case sent to UCU on 5 February
- Consultation open for 14 weeks from mid February 2019
- Individual emails to key stakeholders
- 2,200+ Language Centre learners emailed twice
- All divisions & departments emailed
- Consultation paper & online survey on Language Centre website, free-form responses invited to comms@lang.ox.ac.uk
- Open Forum 7 May
- Committee paper briefings provided HT & TT incl. College Librarians and Curators of University Libraries
- Notices in *Gazette*, *Bodleian's Outline*, AAD News Alert
- Consultation closes 12 noon Friday 31 May (week 5)

Decision-making

- 1 July – recommendation by General Purposes Committee of Council
- 15 July – decision at Council

Questions and answers



Thank you for coming

Updates will be posted on the
Language Centre website

