

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester Library  
National Research Library *in the North*

**IMAGINE2030**

A Library Redefined



# A LIBRARY REDEFINED



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Originating in 1824, The University of Manchester Library is the third largest academic library system in the United Kingdom, at the heart of the country's largest single-site University. Comprising over 10 million physical items, The University of Manchester Library is the largest non-legal deposit library, the only National Research Library in the North and holds the most extensive digital collections of any academic library in the UK.

Imagine2030 is The University of Manchester Library's vision and priorities for the next period of its development. It is intended to engage and inform our many communities of researchers, students, visiting scholars, staff and public visitors. An operational plan underpins Imagine2030 and delivers our ambitions for a comprehensive library estate strategy, internationalisation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, a collections-led core business, an ideas-led workforce and on our critical role in support of the University's core goals of Research and Discovery, Teaching and Learning and Social Responsibility. Imagine2030 is the Library's response and contribution to the University's new Strategic Plan, 'Our Future.' This is available at [www.manchester.ac.uk/strategic-plan](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/strategic-plan)

From leading-edge learning spaces and digital environments to the gothic masterpiece that is The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester Library provides students, researchers and the public with unique collections, spaces and professional expertise in disciplines across the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Engineering, Health and Medicine.

In redefining the role and purpose of our Library, Imagine2030 engages our staff, our University and our civic, national and international partners in a transformative body of work guided by seven enabling themes:

- Research Innovation
- Engaged Students
- Valued Services
- Open Principles & Equality
- Manchester Collections
- Creative People
- Remarkable Spaces

## THE THEMES WILL BE DELIVERED THROUGH THREE STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES:

### Our Library

- For Manchester staff, students, alumni and communities

### National Research Library *in the North*

- Vital to UK research

### University of Manchester Library Global

- A renowned international partner

Imagine2030 is one of the most significant bodies of activity undertaken by The University of Manchester Library in its long history. As The University of Manchester moves into its third century during the course of Imagine2030, the University will reimagine and confirm its status as the home of one of the world's great libraries.

#### Christopher Pressler

John Rylands University Librarian  
& Director of The University of  
Manchester Library



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# THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER LIBRARY

The University of Manchester Library Executive Team is organised into five directorates, each of which delivers strategic vision and planning for one of the most complex academic library systems in the United Kingdom.

## **Directorate of the John Rylands University Librarian**

### **Christopher Pressler**

At the heart of the Library, the Directorate of the John Rylands University Librarian oversees the strategic, people, marketing and communications and financial areas of our work.

*Business Partner for Professional Services*

## **Directorate of Collection Strategies**

### **Sandra Bracegirdle**

Collection development, collection management and strategic space planning are core activities for the University and delivering on the Library's role as National Research Library *in the North*.

*Business Partner for the Faculty of Humanities*

## **Directorate of Curatorial Practices**

### **John Hodgson**

Manchester holds one of the acknowledged great special collections of the world. The Directorate looks out to multiple audiences and curates, conserves and transforms our collections in every format.

*Business Partner for the Cultural Institutions*

## **Directorate of Faculty and Student Partnerships**

### **Katy Woolfenden**

The UK's largest student population studies within one of its most research-intensive institutions. Our Library builds positive relationships with faculties and students in order to design and deliver great teaching, valued services and unparalleled modern collections of the highest quality.

*Business Partner for the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health*

## **Directorate of Research and Digital Horizons**

### **Lorraine Beard**

Digital work and digital life are at the centre of the Library's ambition to redefine our services, capabilities, global presence and our response to profound changes in open research and publishing.

*Business Partner for the Faculty of Science and Engineering*

Underpinning the strategic role of the Library Executive Team, the Library Leadership Team works across all directorates and leads on the Library's Operational Plan.

The University of Manchester Library has a presence across the University, city, region and around the world through its on campus and online collections, services and people. As National Research Library North it has a further special role as a key part of the United Kingdom's research infrastructure.

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# IMAGINE2030

## ENABLING THEMES



### RESEARCH INNOVATION

Our Library supports transformative research



### ENGAGED STUDENTS

Our students are partners in our ambition



### OPEN PRINCIPLES & EQUALITY

Our inclusive ethos is to open knowledge to society



### MANCHESTER COLLECTIONS

Our collections are amongst the greatest in the world



### VALUED SERVICES

Our services are a key part of university and city life



### CREATIVE PEOPLE

Our people are trusted, collaborative and diverse



### REMARKABLE SPACES

Our Library offers boundless variety and inspiration

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME

# OUR LIBRARY

For Manchester's staff,  
students, alumni and communities



## PROGRAMME MISSION

The Our Library programme will deliver on the legacy and potential of The University of Manchester Library to provide memorable, rich and dynamic services to our staff, students, alumni and communities. The Library also plays a key role in the University's social responsibility activity.

## LEAD PRIORITY AREAS

### **Main Library Redefined**

The University aims to either refurbish or rebuild the Main Library in order to deliver world-leading environments for research, learning, student development and engagement with our print and digital collections. The project will allow us to consider the total student and staff experience of our Library, learning spaces and supporting services in line with scholarship, new technologies, shared service cultures, the importance of wellbeing on campus and social responsibility.

### **Our Students**

Manchester provides world-leading depth of content for students via its eTextbook portfolio. Our award-winning teaching and learning programmes support students, PhD candidates and researchers on campus and through digital delivery with rich curricular engagement to ensure that anyone studying at Manchester is working in a great learning environment. Imagine2030 will continue to deliver a great taught student experience and will also focus on developing a new partnership with our postgraduate research community.

### **Digital Library Manchester**

Putting our users at the heart, we aim to establish The University of Manchester Library as a global leader in the development of innovative and inclusive digital services via the application of cutting-edge technology, infrastructure and smart data use. The Digital Library has emerged as an area of unprecedented importance in the provision of access to our inspiring collections, knowledge and research regardless of time, place or ability. Building on an impressive history of digital service innovation and collaboration, Digital Library Manchester (DLM) will advance the evolution of our Digital Library through a transformation of our digital capabilities.

### **Spirit of Manchester**

The University of Manchester Library is as much a part of life in the city as it is in the University. Over 20,000 people from our local communities are members of our Library and we welcome over 350,000 visitors every year at The John Rylands Library. Imagine2030 will aim to increase our involvement in the cultural and educational life of our city through our tradition of radical innovation.

### **The University of Manchester Office for Open Research**

The University of Manchester Office for Open Research brings together our world-leading existing work in open scholarship for all disciplines with new bodies of work in open data, citizen science and open access. It will be one of the most significant investments in the future of publishing, data and open knowledge by any UK university, reaching across all Humanities and Science disciplines.



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME

# NATIONAL RESEARCH LIBRARY *in the* NORTH

Vital to UK Research





## PROGRAMME MISSION

The University of Manchester Library is one of only five National Research Libraries in the United Kingdom and the only one outside of Oxford, Cambridge and London. National Research Library in the North is a confirmation and reimagining of Manchester's leading and instinctively collaborative national role.

## LEAD PRIORITY AREAS

### National Partnerships

Manchester will work with the other UK National Research Libraries, the three National Libraries and with all other collecting institutions with a national role to transform ways of working and to better enable research through our collections, services and facilities. We will actively seek cross-sectoral partners, including those allowing us to further develop the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion projects for our staff and research collections. The ground-breaking work of our Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre will be fully represented as being of national importance.

### The John Rylands Library Next Chapter

The John Rylands Library is the most remarkable university special collections library in the world. The next chapter in its eminent history will be a project to enrich and transform the researcher and visitor experience through new exhibition facilities and redesigned spaces for research, teaching, learning, events and research impact. A new Centre for British Popular Culture with The British Pop Archive will also be established and a major discovery and cataloguing project will deliver new understanding of our internationally significant collections of incunabula.

### COLIM Libraries

The university libraries of Cambridge, Oxford, UCL, Imperial and Manchester (COLIM) share in their institutions' large-scale research environments. Three of the partners, including Manchester, are also National Research Libraries, and all five constitute the Band One institutions of library content purchasers in the UK. COLIM will develop a shared agenda for the libraries of the country's most research-intensive universities, in particular in the fields of open access research communications and scholarly publishing.

### Manchester Modern Collections

Our print and digital modern collections are amongst the most outstanding in the UK and we will seek to further increase their breadth and depth. Teams will deliver this across the Library with expertise in collection management and development and in close liaison with the faculties and schools of The University of Manchester. In addition to the internal drivers of growth, the Library will work with others nationally and regionally on contemporary and future-driven ideas of shared and collective collections.

### Manchester Digital Scholarship

Manchester Digital Scholarship (MDS), based in the National Research Library in the North programme, will determine and deliver this diverse field of activity. Key partnerships will be developed, especially through our membership of Research Libraries UK, which will focus on the continued transformation of scholarship through digital technologies and global collaboration. MDS will act as a conduit for new research, research impact and for the coordinated long-term care and interpretation of research collections.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME

# UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER LIBRARY GLOBAL

A renowned international partner





## PROGRAMME MISSION

As one of the world's great libraries we will seek new partnerships, ways of working and groundbreaking projects. This will ensure that our collections and staff, which are both drawn from all over the world, are able to disseminate open knowledge to open societies.

## LEAD PRIORITY AREAS

### **The John Rylands Research Institute (JRRI)**

The JRRI is a unique and valued partnership between a research institute and a university library. This will be further enhanced during the course of Imagine2030 through a deeper partnership with the University's School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. This will further develop one of the world's leading centres for the research, interpretation and curation of collections and the production of world-leading scholarship and its dissemination and impact on society.

### **Our Library Giving**

In close collaboration with colleagues working on the Our Library programme, The University of Manchester Library will develop an innovative philanthropy strategy. This will be in partnership with the University's Directorate of Development and Alumni Relations. It will ensure that valued benefactors in the UK and beyond are given the opportunity to work with the Library as they enable new research and transform lives through education.

### **Manchester University Press**

The longstanding relationship between Manchester University Press and The University of Manchester Library will be deepened and transformed as each respond to the global shifts in publishing. Our University is one of only a very few worldwide with the opportunity to exploit both a global brand in its Press and one of the world's finest libraries.

### **University of Manchester Library International**

Aligned with the University's Research, Teaching and Learning and Social Responsibility strategies The University of Manchester Library will build new partnerships and shared practices with key partners around the world. Initially, these will be developed with The University of Toronto Library, The University of Melbourne Library and The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library to enhance our research, teaching and staff development programmes and will also be affiliated with partners in The University of Manchester Worldwide.

### **Manchester Digital Collections**

Manchester Digital Collections (MDC) is a new enterprise between Manchester and Cambridge. This is part of a suite of new services and partnerships between the Library and others around the world, including the Digital Library of the Middle East, which is digitising content in member libraries to restore collections lost in conflict. MDC's ground-breaking work will be developed and expanded to enhance other collections and collaborations.

In addition to these specific programme areas, The University of Manchester Library will design a new programme of international engagement based around dedicated liaison responsibility at a senior level for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, North America, South America, and for Australia and Asia.

# MEASURES OF SUCCESS





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In addition to fully engaging with the University's overarching **Financial Sustainability** measure, The University of Manchester Library draws its measures of success directly from those of the University:



### **GLOBAL INFLUENCE**

The Library will make a significant contribution to the reputation and status of The University of Manchester as one of the world's great libraries within one of the world's great universities.



### **RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY**

The Library will play an integral role in the research lifecycle, partnering with researchers from development to research impact, and will also enable the University to deliver its mission on open research.



### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The Library is a valued part of student life and academic success and will continue to listen and respond to the infinite variety of support required on campus and online by the country's largest single-site student population.



### **IMPACT ON SOCIETY**

The Library is an outward-facing aspect of University activity, and will develop programmes of public engagement with research and collections as well as working to promote the acknowledged value of libraries to society.



### **OUR PEOPLE, OUR VALUES**

The Library listens to those who use and work with us and will employ this evidence to create change, in conjunction with building a trusted workplace for staff and students with wellbeing at its centre.



### **INNOVATION**

The Library has considerable capacity to lead on changes to the ways in which large research libraries work, and will do so in collaboration with challenging and rewarding partnerships in support of Manchester's intention to be recognized as Europe's most innovative university.



### **CARBON REDUCTION**

The Library has one of the largest physical footprints of any single UK academic library system, and will work with many partners to contribute to the city's decarbonisation pathway and 2038 zero carbon target.

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# PARTNERSHIPS

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In addition to our internal associations, The University of Manchester Library has multiple partners beyond the University. We thank them for their engagement and look forward to working further in particular with the following organisations:

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Research Libraries UK (RLUK)

The Russell Group

Cambridge-Oxford-UCL-Imperial-Manchester (COLIM)

N8 Research Consortium

The Northern Collaboration

North West Academic Libraries (NoWAL)

Manchester City Council

The UK National Research Libraries (NRLs) Association of Research Libraries (ARL)

Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL)

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)

Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

OCLC

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER)

Jisc

DART-Europe Consortium

Cambridge-Manchester Digital Collections Programme

JRRI-Folger Library Fellowships

JRRI-Huntington Library Fellowships JRRI-Library of Congress Fellowships JRRI-Newberry

Library Fellowships

International Federation of Library Associations



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# SITES

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## **Main Library**

All subjects and Special Collections

## **Alan Gilbert Learning Commons**

Digital-only, flexible learning & study space

## **Art and Archaeology Library**

Art, Archaeology, Art History

## **Braddick Library**

Physics and Astronomy

## **Eddie Davies Library**

Business, Management, Accounting, Finance

## **The John Rylands Library**

Special Collections, Rare Books and Archives

## **Joule Library**

Science, Engineering and Technology

## **Kantorowich Library**

Architecture, Geography, Planning, International Development and Environmental Management

## **Lenagan Library**

Drama, Music, Sound Recordings and Film

## **Stopford Library**

Medicine, Human Sciences

## **Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre**

Race, Migration and Diversity

## **University Language Centre Library**

Language books and audio

## **The University of Manchester Digital Library**

Digital content and services

## **Salford Quays 1**

Research Reserve Services

## **Salford Quays 2**

Research Reserve Services

The University of Manchester Library is essential to The University of Manchester's research and discovery, teaching and learning, and social responsibility goals. Our Library works closely with faculties, students, Professional Services, the University's Cultural Institutions and our creative, humanities, scientific, charitable, civic, national and international partners in sustaining one of the world's great libraries at the heart of one of the world's great universities.

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