

ISSUE 14 • APRIL 2024

FSP MONTHLY DIGEST

Welcome to the Faculty and Student Partnerships (FSP) Monthly Digest

This is a platform to share news and updates from across the Directorate.

Each issue is published on the second Monday of every month. We welcome and encourage submissions.

If you have any items to submit, please send these by the last Friday of every month to:

uml.engagement@manchester.ac.uk

Message from Katy, Associate Director (FSP)

Hello everyone. Hope you are all OK and managed to enjoy some decent downtime over the Easter break.

I'm going to keep my message brief as this month's Digest is a bumper issue with so many great contributions from all of you to read. I really love reading about all your plans, thoughts and activities and am delighted that the Digest has become such a successful form of communication in our Directorate.

I've had a busy few weeks which have involved me in quite a variety of activities, its quite hard to pick just a few to talk about.

On a national level I was away in Bath for a couple of days fulfilling my roles as a member of the SCONUL Executive Board. It was a time to reflect on the progress that's been made on delivering the new SCONUL Strategy and an opportunity to plan new activities and events. Some of you I know have made valuable contributions to SCONUL projects already, such as the reviews of the Access Scheme and SCONUL Statistics and I know your input has been appreciated. There are so many new ways you can now get involved as a range of new Community of Interest Groups are about to be launched. If you want to know more do take a look at the latest report on [Delivering the SCONUL Strategy](#).

Closer to home I had the pleasure of meeting the new VC Duncan Ivison when he visited the new SEED Hub and Library – he was very impressed by the space and enjoyed hearing about the positive working relationship that has developed between the Library and Student Support Staff there.

I was also involved in discussions at the Flexible Learning Programme Board that led to an agreement to sign off a two-year pilot subscription to LinkedIn Learning for both staff and students which is something we'll be getting more deeply involved with in due course.

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[Watch the video message](#)



And finally just last week I had the great pleasure of being involved with reviewing the Rylands Award nominations which are always so uplifting to read. It was nice to see a good spread of nominations from right across the Library, including FSP of course – but no spoilers I'm afraid, you'll have to wait until Together24 to hear the results!

So that's it from me for now. Enjoy the rest of the Digest and do get in touch if there is anything you want to ask me about.

Katy

News and updates

Customer Services

Escape the Library!

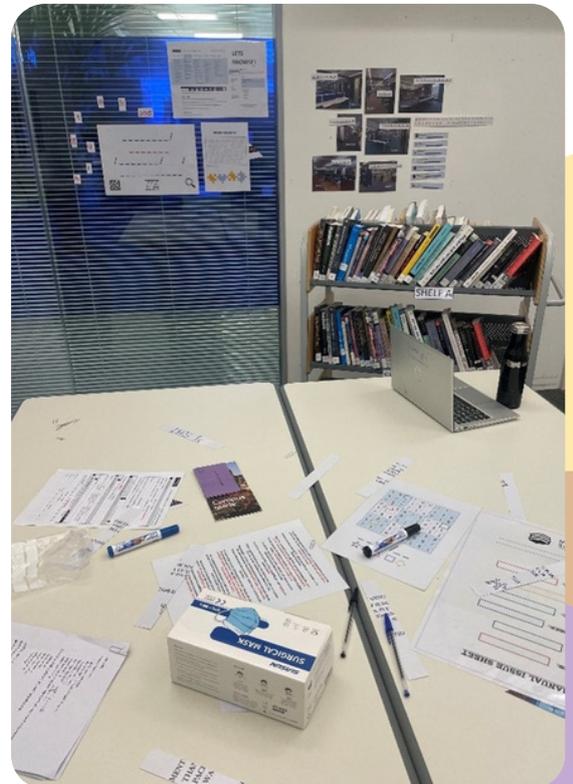
Lydia Street

The Library will run 'Introduction to the Library' sessions for Manchester Access Programme (MAP) students in April. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity for those on the programme to learn a little bit more about the Library and everything we have to offer.

During these sessions, we take the students on a tour of Main Library and show them not only how to navigate the space, but our resources and services. Then, the second half is where the fun begins. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a Library-themed escape room, which sounds quite menacing, but obviously we don't lock anyone in!

What we're really doing is providing a fun and interactive experience that allows students to learn more about how the Library works and put that knowledge to use. To kick off, students must search for pieces of a hidden library card and put them together to enter the Library – demonstrating how a library card works and what it looks like.

At another point, students must find a book on Library Search and then locate it on the book trolley. This demonstrates how Library Search works, and offers a little insight into the Dewey Decimal System. There's a sudoku puzzle that must be solved to reveal the due date of the book and a campus map that must be navigated to see how many loans they can have. As you'll have figured out, each clue corresponds to a piece of information about the Library that the student will find useful; this ranges from everything from book locations to My Learning Essentials (MLE) resources.



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Once they 'escape', students will leave the Library knowing all the basics, and that we are always here to help them if they get stuck along the way. The Escape Room has been a big hit in the past, so we welcomed the opportunity to run it again. It's great that despite having to do a bit of maths we have managed to create a unique and beneficial experience for those taking part!

Engagement

CILIP Information Literacy Group: "Information and AI Roundtable"

Gemma Smith

On Wednesday, 20 March I attended the CILIP Information Literacy Group: "Information and AI Roundtable" session, organised by Padma Inala, Teaching and Learning Librarian in her capacity as Information Literacy Group (ILG) Training Officer. The session was lively and well attended by over 100 librarians from Higher Education (HE), schools, civil service, and government. The key themes centred around the following conceptual and practical topics:

- **AI and authorship** – what constitutes 'authorship'? Is it ideation, content, tone, argument, structure, word choice, human bias? Does the capacity of AI tools to autonomously generate content interrogate our traditional notion of authorship and how does this affect the way we teach information literacy to our students? Will AI replace the 'human author' and relegate us to 'human editor'?
- **AI and the digital divide** – do AI tools have the potential to exacerbate the digital divide between those students who can afford to pay for this technology and those who cannot? Do universities have a responsibility to pay for AI subscriptions to allow equity of access to all students?
- **AI and assessments** – educationalists in the school sector are worried about the use of AI; exam boards often invoke a 'no tolerance' policy to AI. Does this approach help students use AI ethically and responsibly in work and society? How can universities meaningfully support and guide students in their use of AI whilst maintaining academic integrity? Do university assessments need to change to focus on the self-reflective process rather than just output?
- **AI and the role of the librarian** – is AI an opportunity for librarians to strengthen our critical role within HE/society? Are we best placed (with our information literacy expertise) to expose the complexities and context of AI? How can we use our training sessions to engage students, highlighting the limitations, advantages, and ethical considerations of AI?

We acknowledged that there is lots more to discuss and debate on this topic; most notably, AI and ethics and the environmental impact of AI, which I'm sure will be the focus of future sessions.



Bicentenary trip to Bolton

Michelle Sharples

Last summer I was asked to co-lead the University's Bicentenary Way and Historic Campus Tours Project Group with Paul Govey, Head of Student Marketing.

Library colleagues Laura Earnshaw and Grant Collier are also members of the group, and both have made a fantastic contribution throughout the project to create these two significant tributes to mark the University's Bicentenary.



Set to launch on Thursday, 6 June (the first day of the [Universally Manchester Festival](#)), Bicentenary Way tells the story of the University's origins, innovations and the people behind them since 1824. With 114 individual hexagonal stones arranged in six clusters, the installation recognises key figures and groups who have made an inspirational contribution to the life of the University and to society more generally.

Alongside colleagues in Estates, Paul and I have been working with [IP Surfaces](#), who are based in Bolton, on the procurement of the stone, the cutting and laser engraving. We took the time to visit their premises on Wednesday, 20 March. During our visit, Paul and I were able to see for ourselves the cutting and engraving of the Bicentenary Way stones. We were accompanied by Rob Smailes, Multimedia Assistant at the University, who captured video and photos to create a permanent record of how Bicentenary Way was developed. We have purchased 200 stones in total and there will be regular opportunities for names to be added in years to come.

Paul and I worked together in 2007-2009 when I was Student Marketing Officer for the University (he was my line manager). This certainly helped as we navigated University governance to agree the Bicentenary Way names and the short descriptions for each person.

The above photo shows a sneak preview of the University crest engraved on Kilkenny Blue Flamed Limestone. The Bicentenary Way installation begins on Wednesday, 24 April.

You can also check out the [Innovations Campus Tour](#) which launched just before Easter. The Origins Tour is in development and will launch in time for the Festival, when the building work in the Old Quad is complete.

Exam and Assessment Support

Rachel Garraway

Members of the Teaching, Learning and Students, Customer Services, and Engagement Teams have been working collaboratively to create and promote a package of support for our students during the Exam and Assessment period.

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The Exam and Assessment support campaign will run from Monday, 15 April until Sunday, 5 June, and will include workshops delivered by the Library on revision and preparation and applying your knowledge.

To complement this, the University Wellbeing Team will deliver workshops on reducing the stress of perfectionism and managing procrastination. There will also be the usual Library drop-ins plus additional drop-in sessions to cater for students needing extra support during this period. We will be highlighting the [Library support for assessment online resource](#) and encouraging academics to embed this in BlackBoard/other virtual learning environments.

The Library will extend opening hours during this period and have additional study space available in Prospect House. Chrysa Papadimitriou, Kathryn Miller, Tabita-Gabriela Juravle and Paul Ralphs have been working hard to create new sessions and experiences for our students during this campaign. These include origami wellbeing sessions with the Manchester Museum, and assessment support pop up events where we can direct our students to the support on offer.

The Student Team are also planning an Instagram takeover to highlight all the support taking place during this period. Please see our [Exam and Assessment Support webpage](#) for full details of what is on offer.



Student Team update

Ashleigh Glazzard and Fariha Agha

Coming in from the Cold

At the beginning of March, the Library Student Team and Teaching, Learning and Students interns took part in the ['Coming in from the Cold - Taking Centre stage'](#) showcase at Manchester Central Library.

In collaboration with the [Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre](#), this was a celebration of the amazing individuals and community groups they have worked with over the last six years. The event featured talks and stalls from RACE Centre-partnered charities that serve Global Majority communities across Greater Manchester.

After introductions to the event, presentations from the different charities highlighted and showcased the incredible work taking place across Manchester to support marginalised groups such as refugees, Black and South Asian women and young people from low-income backgrounds. Featured charities included Greater Manchester Rape Crisis, Women Seeking Asylum Together (WAST), Manchester Youth Empowerment and Dragons Voice CIC.

A spread of delicious Ghanian food from [RJ's Cuisine](#) brought the evening together, along with mesmerising traditional and heritage performances. Overall, it was an exciting event showcasing some of the incredible heritage work taking place across Manchester to serve marginalised communities and foster community strength.



Proofreading policy

Several members of the Student Team also took part in a proofreading policy focus group in which we discussed our experiences and understanding of academic writing, proofreading, and policies around this, which will contribute to wider research on proofreading policy.

Libraries can Lead: Philosophy of Search at RLUK

Bonnie McGill

On Thursday, 21 March, Jennie Blake and I presented our 15-minute paper 'We're Pretty Sure It's Not a Calculator: The Role of Research Libraries and Information Literacy in Navigating the Artificial Intelligence Landscape', at the Research Libraries UK conference.

We outlined and called for a sector-wide Philosophy of Search, which expands the current (2018) CILIP definition of Information Literacy, so it is no longer solely about making a judgement on information, but rather considering the framing technologies within which information is being produced.

Generative AI (GenAI) is asking the research sector to reconsider research, which was a stance at the other two conferences on AI I have attended in the last month. It seems that access isn't sufficient for agency. Knowing how to navigate the formations of information once there is entry to digital spaces is vital to address any digital skills gaps. GenAI is developing and changing so rapidly that any framework needs to be flexible enough to accommodate those changes.

However, I am hopeful on this front. At a Research Integrity conference hosted by the Advanced Research Computing Centre, University College London, another UK university was proposing principles of research rather than a policy aimed at the current state of play.

Ethics was at the core of both the principles outlined by this other UK university (the conference was under Chatham House rules so I cannot name it), and the 'Philosophy of Search'. Grounding the Philosophy of Search is the idea that ethics is a question(ing), not an answer. This ethics asks us, as researchers and hosts of information and as a library, to question how information is being formed and what information is, and to support others in doing so.

As a library we are already experts in research practices, and as a sector we have the capacity to shape this. We need not concede to a narrative of technological determinism if such a narrative does not support research integrity and learning.

Update on 'Ask me at the Library' roving service

Kathryn Miller

The FSP Library Roving Service project ran between April 2023 and March 2024. The aim of the project was to review and update our approach to providing a roving service in the AGLC and Main Library. The 'Ask me at the Library' service pilot took place between Wednesday, 1 November 2023 and Wednesday, 31 January 2024.

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After evaluating the service, we will now be offering the Ask Me at The Library service from 11am – 2pm, Monday to Friday during the start of the academic year, Semester One and during the exam and assessment periods.

The dates for the next 12 months are as follows:

- 15 April 2024 to 31 May 2024;
- 16 September 2024 to 31 January 2025;
- 14 April 2025 - 30 May 2025 (these dates are approximate).

Outside of these dates roving will be incorporated into the Customer Services Team daily spaces checks. If you have any questions, please contact [Natalie Patton](#) and [Kathryn Miller](#).



New online workshop: Beginners' reference management with EndNote Online

A new online workshop 'Beginners' reference management with EndNote Online' has been added to the Specialist Library Support (SLS) Programme. This hour-long lunchtime workshop introduces [Endnote Online](#) and helps students and researchers to start using this valuable referencing tool. All students, staff and researchers are welcome to attend but the workshop has been specially designed for those who might find it difficult to come onto campus to download the Endnote Desktop software or attend an on-campus workshop.

This workshop will next run on Tuesday, 16 April, 12pm – 1pm (BST): find out more and book a place via our [SLS workshops webpage](#).

Harnessing the Power of Our Data

The Projects and Business Analysis Team are continuing work on one of the key areas of Digital Library Manchester: Harnessing the Power of Our Data. Following initial activities that included adding more information to the Library Services Database in the Library Planning App, and a Data & Analytics Knowledge Survey, the next phase of Harnessing the Power of Our Data focuses on:

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**Projects
and Business
Analysis**



- **Relevant data** – identifying gaps in data, duplication of work/analysis, asking if the right data is being collected;
- **Data quality and processing** – evaluating that the data is of appropriate quality, consistency and is accessible to all.

This work requires a data audit to bring together information that hasn't been captured in the Library Services Database or Data Survey, namely:

- How different individuals and teams use data;
- What sources they have access to;
- What kind of reporting and analysis they conduct independently to the Business Intelligence Team;
- What software they use for reporting/visualisation/analysis (i.e. Tableau or Google Looker) and why.

If you would like to contribute to the [audit](#), please contact [Michael Douglas](#) and [Dana Barringham](#) for access and support. They are usually based in Crawford House and are happy to arrange a time to help.

Staff updates



Clare Shaikh, Teaching, Learning and Students Coordinator

I'm really excited to join the team this week and I am very much looking forward to getting stuck into my new role. I've been in the HE world for the past two years, working at Lancaster University Library and gaining some experience in both their content and teaching team. Prior to this, I completed my undergraduate and Masters degrees in History, and then undertook a PGDE whilst working as a secondary English teacher.

I haven't spent a lot of time in Manchester before, so I am keen to explore the city and the University much more. I can't wait to get to know everyone in the team and to continue to learn more about my role and the Library.

Thank you for reading the FSP Monthly Digest.
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