From Small Library Beginnings

A brief history of UCL Library Services

An exhibition of material from UCL Special Collections

4 March – 13 December 2019
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#ucllibrariesexhib
UCL Library Services today comprises a modern, multi-site department with print collections numbering two million books, rich and diverse archives, extensive online resources and over 4,000 study spaces. The earliest collection, built up by the first Librarian, the Reverend Dr Francis Augustus Cox, numbered just 6,500 volumes in 1829. These were accommodated in what was known as the ‘Small Library’ at the southern end of the Wilkins Building. For some 40 years after 1831, with no formally appointed Librarian and limited funds, the collections grew mainly through donations and bequests. In the twentieth century the Library survived air raids and continued to grow, while in 1919 UCL’s School of Librarianship opened – precursor to the Department of Information Studies now proudly celebrating its centenary.

This exhibition narrates the unique and absorbing history of UCL’s libraries. It highlights some of the spaces, collections and people that have been integral to their development, drawing on a selection of items from UCL Special Collections.
Introduction

Books about books; libraries about libraries

An exhibition about UCL Libraries, based in UCL Libraries? How very ‘meta’, to coin a phrase my students use, even before I teach them about metadata (‘data about data’). To whom will it appeal? This was the starting point for the selection committee as we tried to narrow down the object history of the institution that lies at the heart of our working lives. Our own interest and its motivation are obvious – bookish people love to know the history of the places in which we work. We could expand that out to the Hermione Grangers among our student body – those whose first impulse will always be ‘When in doubt go to the library’. Fellow academics sometimes use UCL’s many exhibition spaces, including the library, as places to bring guests and showcase treasures. These audiences were ours for very little taking. Our challenge, however, was how to reach out to people who may not yet know that they are interested in the history of UCL Libraries. This catalogue and the exhibition it accompanies, are our best attempts to do just that.

The library is a growing organism

All librarians have (or should have) the words of S R Ranganathan engraved on their hearts; some may even have them tattooed in other places. His Five Laws of Library Science, first published in 1931, are given as follows:

- Books are for use;
- Every reader their book;
- Every book its reader;
- Save the time of the reader;
- The library is a growing organism.

Clearly this exhibition provides a vivid case study of the final law. It traces the growth of UCL Libraries from the Small Library in the Wilkins Building that existed in 1828 to the twenty-first century, when UCL academics and students are fortunate to have access to both physical and online resources. These include more than 500,000 e-books and 75,000 e-journals (to quote the figures given by Rozz Evans, Head of Collection Strategy, in section 2 of this catalogue).

Having started with the last of Ranganathan’s laws, it seemed obvious that while keeping it at the core we should expand out to explore the rest. In so doing we have focused on the activities undertaken by librarians and information managers – some of them out in the open, such as answering reader enquiries, and others more hidden, such as acquisitions and cataloguing. How do libraries find the right materials, purchase them and ensure they reach the right readers in a timely and time-saving fashion? To paraphrase Rudyard Kipling: if you know the answers to all that, then you will be a librarian, my friend – or at least know a little of what librarians get up to.

Books are for use

As is always the case with first principles, they permeate everything. However, section 2 of this catalogue highlights objects intimately connected with the identification and acquisition of materials and the ways in which libraries make them accessible to their users. You can see the first accessions register for the library and note its date: 1830. Although the first Librarian, the then Rev. F A Cox, was appointed in July 1827, and his salary of £200 a year is recorded from October 1828, when UCL opened, the first register of accessions only opens on 1 January 1830.
Accessions registers performed a function now carried out by computer systems. Yet they are gold dust to historians not only of libraries, but of the History of Ideas. While catalogues reveal what a library holds, accessions registers tell us when they obtained a particular book – and that, in turn, can tell us when different ideas became considered important to convey to students. In deciding what to obtain, libraries have to think about lots of different factors, but the principal aim is to ensure that the items will be used.

As far as we know, most of the early books at UCL were donations from benefactors, and it makes sense that it should have taken the new university a couple of years to formalise its acquisitions process. In any case, we cannot say which was the first book added to the Small Library. However, we can see from the accessions register that the first book it records is Bibliothecae Regiae Catalogus (London, 1820), a five-volume set of the catalogue of the King’s Library at the British Museum. Many libraries in the early nineteenth century used this and other major printed catalogues to source materials for purchase and to assist them in their own cataloguing operations.

Every reader their book; every book its reader

UCL scholars in Bloomsbury have always enjoyed the privilege of being within easy walking distance of the British Museum. The first accessioned book would thus also have been a useful reference tool for some of them – checking holdings at the neighbouring library and possibly even filling out one of the request slips in advance. Skipping forward a century, to the 1920s, you can see some of Karl Pearson’s requests for the British Museum (p.23). As highlighted in section 3 of the catalogue, we live in far more permissive times. The rules on the back of these slips would have been quite daunting – especially the final one that declares: ‘the borrower being responsible for the book so long as the ticket remains uncancelled.’ Today we are used to receiving friendly courtesy emails from libraries requesting that we renew our books online if we have not finished with them – a mere administrative task for us to complete.

The case study in section 6 of this catalogue, focusing on Tlaloc, includes a wonderful account of the lengths to which librarians will go to source the right materials for their users. In the archive we can trace the developing relationship between Geoffrey Soars in his role as librarian and Cavan McCarthy as journal editor. Even today there are many materials such as zines and some international works that cannot simply be ordered at the click of a mouse over the internet. Those of us who use such materials are saved potentially hours of searching by the efforts of librarians, who provide us with materials swiftly and easily.

Similarly, a lot of work is carried out to ensure that when we are working in a library we find only the books that really are relevant to us. A small hint of the complexities of structuring information can be seen in Wilkins’ An Essay Towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language (London, 1668), explained by Tabitha Tuckett in section 3 of this catalogue. Complex algorithms run behind all the searches that we make today, providing us with the best matches the system can manage.

Save the time of the reader

Everything in a library is targeted towards making the user experience as straightforward as possible. Section 7 of this catalogue provides a case study of materials from the Institute of Education. In these you can see how space is planned down to the last detail, including model book carts for use in planning children’s schoolroom libraries and photographs documenting how libraries are actually used. Far more than rooms, libraries are constantly evolving – whether through dramatic events such as the war damage highlighted in section 1 of this catalogue or benevolent acts of donation that allow scholars to study the books owned by a particular private individual before they entered the library’s collections. In section 5 of this catalogue Erika Delbecque highlights some of the important collections commemorated by bookplates, while section 3 focuses on marginalia – an activity encouraged in early classical times as a way to share ideas.

Then you shall be a librarian, my friend

Sometimes the activities of librarians and our related professionals come as a surprise to people. Many of the students we recruit to the MA Library and Information Studies in the Department of Information Studies first discovered their desire to become a librarian when a shelving job during their degree opened their eyes to the wide range of roles available. Section 4 of the catalogue highlights items connected to the School of Librarianship, Archives and Information Studies, now the Department of Information Studies. The School was founded at the instigation of the Library Association with a grant from the Carnegie Trust UK; it opened its doors to students in September 1919. As we prepared for this exhibition, and for our upcoming centenary celebrations, it has been fascinating to read the questions students were set in the first exams in 1920.

Many UCL Libraries staff have studied at SLAIS / DIS over the years, and it is pleasing to see this relationship represented here by Vanessa Freedman’s Sir John MacAlister Medal. Now our Subject Liaison Librarian (shared with Jewish Studies), Vanessa provides valuable support for staff and students, including participating in
teaching activities. Several UCL Libraries colleagues work directly with our students, and the close relationships we share are, we hope, continued by our alumni when they take up new roles at UCL, in London and worldwide.

We hope that this exhibition and catalogue provide you with a flavour of the world of libraries at UCL and beyond. In the current climate we are regularly asked if there is still a place for people with information skills in the workplace. The answer is yes: librarians and archivists are everywhere – in law firms, banks and government think-tanks, as well as inside institutions such as UCL’s. As Victor Hugo wrote in ‘À qui la faute?’ (1872), ‘a library implies an act of faith’; earlier in the same poem he observes that ‘these books were always put there for your sake’. We hope the objects in this exhibition are both interesting in themselves and provide you with some context for the ways in which they came to be here, at UCL, for you.

Anne Welsh
Lecturer in Library and Information Studies
Department of Information Studies
UCL
1: Establishing the Library: Building, Destruction and Expansion

**Best laid schemes...**

Before the advent of the cloud, e-books and virtual assistants, it was impossible to imagine a library existing without a physical space. Books, journals, archives, catalogues and librarians all needed to be somewhere; students, researchers and lecturers all needed access to them if they were to work, study and learn.

The need for a library was firmly acknowledged in the original plans for UCL. In architect William Wilkins’ drawings, the library is one of three grand rooms off the university’s main entranceway, along with the Great Hall and Museum of Natural History. Unfortunately, by the 1830s plans to build the university’s Great Library had been abandoned due to funding issues; library books and staff resided instead within the deprecatorily named Small Library.

The university finally got its first purpose-built library in 1849. The General Library – now known as the Donaldson Library – was built on the site of the unfinished Great Hall. Through the coming decades it expanded out into the Wilkins Building’s first floor, and by the early 1900s the corridors on either side of the Flaxman Gallery linked together a series of subject-specific libraries – the precursor to the Main Library today.
The interwar period was a time of expansion for UCL, and this did not exclude the library. A medical sciences library, known as the Thane Library, was established in the then brand-new Anatomy Building in 1923, and the Foster Court Science Library opened in 1938. Surviving plans show that the General Library was not forgotten; it was to be extended into the South Central Block, which would have given needed space to the university's still growing collections. But the Second World War had far more destructive plans in store for UCL's libraries.

Fear of air raids led UCL to send its treasured manuscripts and rare books to join the prized collections of many other institutions in the cellars of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, while the Faculty of Medical Sciences and its library were evacuated to Leatherhead in Surrey. The precautions proved wise; in 1940 the first of two bombings significantly to damage UCL burnt out substantial portions of the library, with heavy material losses – an estimated 100,000 books and pamphlets were affected. Many were tragically lost for ever, although the fire and smoke stains that remain on some of the books among UCL's collections show that not all were considered to be irretrievable.

What remained of UCL's library was removed to Stanstead Abbotts in Hertfordshire. As a result when a second bombing in 1941 entirely destroyed UCL's famous Dome, the collections at least were unharmed.

The expansion of the General Library did happen eventually, although much later than planned. In 1967 UCL acquired the National Central Library, re-naming it the DMS Watson Library. Today it is better known as the Science Library.
Three books with damage possibly caused by the bombing of UCL in 1940:

*UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, 207 GC 5 FAB*

Xenophon. *Tou Xenophōntos hé tou Kyrou Anabasis = Xenophontis expeditio Cyri*, vol.4. Glasgow: Robert and Andrew Foulis, 1764 (Right)
*UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, 207 GX 84*

*UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, 207 GP 92*

Rebuilding the Mocatta Library

Frederic David Mocatta (1828–1905), philanthropist, bibliophile and historian, amassed a huge private library: a catalogue of his books and manuscripts compiled just before his death ran to 800 pages. As the *Times Literary Supplement* has noted, ‘Anything historical, liturgical or social calculated to throw light upon Jewish life, present or past, was eagerly collected by Mr. Mocatta’.1 He bequeathed his library and artefacts to the Jewish Historical Society of England (JHSE), which negotiated with UCL to accommodate a library and museum as well as a room for the Society’s lectures.

By 1930 the library had outgrown its original premises, so funds were raised for a new library and lecture theatre which opened in 1932. The entire library was destroyed by the 1940 bombing (apart from the most valuable items, which had been evacuated to Aberystwyth). The JHSE immediately launched an appeal to rebuild the collection and large numbers of books were received from individuals, publishers and institutions in the UK, USA and Palestine. The library, and the adjacent Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, re-opened in 1954. The Mocatta Library closed in 1990 when its holdings were integrated into the Hebrew & Jewish Studies collection in the UCL Main Library.

Vanessa Freedman
*Subject Liaison Librarian: Hebrew & Jewish Studies and Information Studies*

1 Draft report of the Mocatta Library Committee for 1917–1918.
Item in focus: a title of supreme rarity

Jews had been expelled from England in 1290, but in the seventeenth century calls for their readmission came not just from Jews such as Menasseh ben Israel, but also from Christians. Joanna Cartwright (or Cartenright) and her son Ebenezer were English-born Baptists living in Amsterdam. On 5 January 1648 they presented this petition to the Council of the New Model Army. It was ‘favourably received with a promise to take it into speedy consideration’. The Jews were formally readmitted in 1656.

The petition of the Jewes for the repealing of the Act of Parliament... was acquired as part of the postwar reconstruction of the Mocatta Library. Sir Louis Sterling donated funds to purchase the library of the journalist Asher Myers (1848–1902), which had just become available following the death of his son. Writing in 1942, the historian Cecil Roth explained that the Myers collection not only replaced works destroyed in the bombing, but also provided the library ‘for the first time with a few titles of supreme rarity’, of which this was the most important. There is a handwritten note to this effect in the book, signed C.R.

Vanessa Freedman
Subject Liaison Librarian: Hebrew & Jewish Studies and Information Studies

Cartwright, Joanna. The petition of the Jewes for the repealing of the Act of Parliament for their banishment out of England: presented to his Excellency and the generall Councell of Officers on Fryday Jan. 5. 1648. With their favourable acceptance thereof. Also a petition of divers commandmanders [sic], prisoners in the Kings Bench, for the releasing of all prisoners for debt, according to the custome of other countries. London: Printed for George Roberts, 1649 (Opposite)

The Holy Bible containing the Old Testament and the Nevv: newly translated out of the originall tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised, by his Maiesties speciall command. Appointed to be read in Churches. Printed by the Printers to the Universitie of Cambridge, 1637. Bound with The Book of Common Prayer, Speed's Genealogies and the Metrical Psalms

2: Managing our Collections

When the shelves are full: UCL Library’s Collection Strategy

Since its earliest days UCL Library Services has grown to become one of the UK’s largest university research libraries. Today it holds about two million printed items alongside access to extensive digital resources including more than 500,000 e-books and 75,000 e-journals. UCL’s collections range from highly specialist research collections to textbook collections supporting the large-scale delivery of UG and PGT programmes. Some of these collections additionally merit recognition as collections of national and international importance, and form part of the world’s intellectual heritage.

In the past, university collections tended to be derived from departmental libraries, gifts, donations and bequests, supplemented by some purchases. These can be seen even in the library’s earliest accessions registers, when the focus was on building teaching collections and filling shelves. But fast forward the 190 years since UCL’s first librarian was appointed and you can see times are very different.

Recent years have seen major changes in how people teach and study. Increasing student numbers and shifting user expectations have necessitated a highly focused approach to managing the library’s collections. Space is at a premium; the library cannot keep everything in perpetuity. UCL Library’s Collection Strategy allows us to manage and develop collections coherently and facilitates the most effective use of our financial, space and staff resources.

Increasingly diverse ways of providing access to material in digital form have transformed library collections. With a preference for digital where possible, the library works hard to maintain the balance between teaching and research activities and seeks to ensure long-term sustainability for our most important collections. Selection of new material is mainly based on reading lists, academic and student suggestions and subject expertise. Some donations are accepted. Material that is little used is relegated to off-site storage or disposed of.

Nor does the library operate in isolation. UCL Library Services collaborate on a national level to ensure that the UK’s research libraries continue to serve the needs of the research community past, present and future.

Rozz Evans
Head of Collection Strategy

UCL Library Accessions Register (vol.1), 1830–32
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Schedule to C K Ogden’s library made by Alan Keen, 1953
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, MS ADD 357, FF.1 AND 81

The arranging of information: how cataloguers find every book its reader

Since its inception UCL has acquired extensive collections of printed material to support its teaching and research programmes. It also holds a wealth of rare material of interest to researchers and bibliophiles across the globe. How, then, does UCL apply the third law cited in S R Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science (‘Every book its reader’) when much of that material is of necessity on closed access and the potential readership is scattered worldwide?

The requisite links between books and readers are generated by UCL’s team of cataloguers who are adept at describing items within the collections. Beyond the obvious information, such as author, title and edition, other distinctive features may often be evident: bookplates, printers’ devices and annotations, to name but a few. For rare material these elements are particularly significant, as they can render each item unique in its own right. Ranganathan’s reader wanting to trace books owned by C K Ogden, for example, may have only an incidental interest in the author/title elements, but an overwhelming desire to know what bookplates and annotations the items contain.

A skill akin to mindreading is thus required when cataloguing. What reader’s need might this book satisfy? What could be recorded to enable that reader to match their need to this item? The cataloguer, in effect, becomes the intermediary between item and reader, enabling the latter to visualise what they cannot see and find what they may – or indeed may not – have thought of seeking. Skilful cataloguing, therefore, not only ensures every book is discovered by its reader, but also ensures the carefully managed collections are used to their full potential.

Andrew Watson
Head of Retrospective Cataloguing
Item in focus: a plan for a universal language

John Wilkins’ *An essay towards a real character...* is a manifesto for an extraordinary project that involved many of the most eminent natural philosophers – now known as scientists and natural historians – in Britain during the mid-seventeenth century. John Wilkins set out to create a universal language, which he felt was the key to world peace, religious harmony and successful international trade. Wilkins’ two decades of work came at a time of political and religious turmoil in Britain, and an increased awareness of countries where Latin was not a universal language. The project was considered vitally important by the newly founded Royal Society, whose members continued to work on it long after Wilkins’ death.

The language proposed is an analytic one, by which people might communicate with one another through shared concepts, whatever their native spoken language. This was to be achieved by reference to a classification scheme of universal things and concepts. Using the classification table to identify the key characteristics of what you wanted to say, you could communicate your thoughts to someone else even if the other person had never encountered the thing you were describing.

Placing all universal concepts into a single, hierarchical classification scheme proved a challenge for decades. Scientists disagreed about how many universal concepts existed: 40? 70? More? To us this might seem a flawed project, and one that ignores cultural differences, but it has proved central for those studying how to classify knowledge, information and books to make them as accessible as possible. The project was also hugely influential in practice. Leading seventeenth-century scientists such as Robert Hooke (1635–1703) and John Wallis (1616–1703) wrote and published in the language. Proposals were made to use the scheme to classify the Bodleian Library and the cabinet of curiosities that was to become the Ashmolean Museum. In the nineteenth century the scheme influenced Sir Isaac Pitman, whose system of shorthand became hugely popular in both the United Kingdom and the USA.

Dr Tabitha Tuckett
Rare Books Librarian: Academic Support and Events
3: Using the Library

Rules and regulations

The 1829 regulations for library users show that the services then provided by the library were a far cry from those of today. Besides the ‘perfect silence’ demanded and the extremely limited hours offered, what stands out is that library users had to wait for the Librarian – the head of the library – to retrieve their books personally. This may sound like something of a luxury, but it would have been intimidating to any student wanting to study more challenging or controversial material, as the Librarian would know exactly what they were reading.

Nor was this oppressive atmosphere quick to change. The library tickets of statistician Karl Pearson, filled out in the 1920s, show instructions to borrowers that are primed to pin blame for any errors on the borrowers themselves. This attitude was not unique to UCL: tickets for the British Museum’s Reading Room show that august body to have taken a similar position.
Block Plan of UCL, 1935 (Below)

UCL RECORDS, UCLCA/4
Item in focus: a commemorative bell

Unexpected things find their way into the libraries – curiosities that started life elsewhere and often relics of former entities with historical links to UCL. The most innocent-looking object can have a story to tell and the “Library Bell” is one such example of this.

The Cruciform Building stands on the space occupied by the original University College Hospital (UCH). History was made here in December 1846, when a patient was anaesthetised with ether for an operation performed by Robert Liston; it was the first such event in Europe, following a similar trial at the Massachusetts General Hospital in the same year. In commemoration a bell was presented to each hospital by Dr F William Cock in 1920. It provides a tangible link to the momentous occasion, with the iron arch made from the railing of the old UCH operating theatre. The bell has an interesting provenance too. It was made partly from the metal used for Westminster Abbey’s new bells in 1919 and partly from a bell in Appledore, Kent that dated back to 1620; the oak base of the ‘Library Bell’ is made from its 1685 bell frame.

Having once stood on a table in the Medical School’s Board Room, the bell joined the Clinical Sciences Library in its former home in the Rockefeller Building before being moved to the Cruciform with the library in 1999. We may conjecture how often it was used to alert students to the library’s imminent closure, before 24-hour opening was introduced.

Kate Cheney  
Head of Site Library Services

Signs of life

It is not enough for a library to fill its shelves with books. Like any other department, it needs to show that it is contributing to university life – that it is supporting teaching, learning and research, and that its resources are usable and accessible. One way to do this is by showing facts and figures: how many people come through the library turnstiles, how many books have been issued and returned, how many articles have been downloaded. But while these are all signs a library has been well used, they are not the only signs of use. Shadows of their past readers often remain in library books long after the reader has graduated or given the books away.

There are bookmarks too, of course. These can be anything found near at hand and slipped between two pages in order to remember a quote or formula; something inconsequential and flat, such as a scrap of notes or a household bill. The reverse is true as well. Books make very handy places to store shopping lists, for example, or to preserve an interesting leaf or flower such as that found in A catalogue of British fossils.

In historical tomes, the tiny writings on the pages of a Greek or Latin text, perhaps left behind by a famous scholar, are known as marginalia. This is a respected field of historical research in its own right. In contemporary books, however, highlighter or pen underlinings are a librarian’s nightmare. Yet they still show us something about a book’s users. One previous reader of John Reinhold’s De situ orbis left behind a careful list of ancient and contemporary place names. Another left exploratory annotations in the margins, and yet a third decorated its pages with drawings of a creature probably meant to be a horse.

UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, GRAVES 4.1.26


UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, REF COLLECTION K MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY MOR
4: Librarians: Staff and Students

Behind the desk

UCL’s first Librarian, the Rev. F A Cox, presided over a library service very different from that of today. Although head of the library, and a man of great prestige, Cox’s role (which he held from 1827 to 1831) was a hands-on one. He not only oversaw the acquisition of the library’s first books in their thousands, but was also personally in charge of doling these out to staff and students. Cox also put together the library’s first catalogue. But in the face of its financial issues (caused partly by lower than expected student numbers), the university quickly dispensed with the role of Librarian and until 1871 only employed an assistant – sometimes not even that.

The reinstatement of the role coincided with the professionalisation of librarianship in the UK, following the establishment of the Library Association in 1877. This saw a shift in how library staff were educated and trained. Apprenticeships gave way to institution-led training, eventually leading to the United Kingdom’s first permanent library school, which opened at UCL in 1919.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, in the last 100 years the library school (now the Department of Information Studies) and UCL Library Services have formed something of a symbiotic relationship. Students studying librarianship have access to professional librarians working in the very next buildings. In turn the library has benefited in the form of high-achieving UCL alumnæ, who like the university so much that they have decided to stay and work there. The Sir John MacAlister Medal included in the exhibition was presented to Vanessa Freedman, now UCL’s Subject Liaison Librarian for both Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Information Studies, as the top student in the MA in Library and Information Studies for 2009–10.
Item in focus: the student record of a writer of library laws

The Department of Information Science boasts a number of notable former students, but the best known (at least within the library world) is certainly Siyali Ramamrita Ranganathan. As his registry file shows, Ranganathan’s academic achievements at UCL were not outstanding. But he went on to devise an entirely new library classification system and the famous Five Laws of Library Science (p.5).

Ranganathan’s Five Laws are still used today by many librarians as the key principles of their discipline. The laws emphasise both choice and accessibility of materials in libraries for readers.
5: Bookplates: Charting a Book’s History

A bookplate is a small printed label that is pasted inside the cover of a book to indicate who owns it. Individual collectors and libraries have placed bookplates in their books since the fifteenth century, with the practice becoming widespread throughout Europe towards the end of the seventeenth century.

Bookplates typically bear the owner’s name, coat-of-arms or motto. Motifs that express the interests or the profession of the owner are also common, particularly from the nineteenth century onwards.

In the nineteenth century bookplates became collectible items in their own right. Collectors set up specialised societies and published journals that documented their activities.

For libraries, bookplates are an important way of finding out who owned a book before it entered their collection. Identifying former owners from their bookplates can be one of the most challenging yet rewarding parts of cataloguing a book. In this centenary year, bookplate ‘O’ (pp.2 and 39) shows a work’s former owner to have been Dr Ernest Baker, Director of University College School of Librarianship from 1919–34.

Erika Delbecque
Head of Rare Books

Giftplate: presented by Gertrude Chambers, for R W Chambers, to University College London, 1943
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, STRONG ROOM C 1612 S7

Bookplate of John Thomas Graves; crest with motto ‘aquila non captat muscas’
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, GRAVES 15.D.28

Giftplate: bequeathed by Sir John Francis Rotton to University College London
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, ROTTON 23.J.16 (V. 5)
D

Bookplate of Mocatta Library, University College London; portrait of Frederic David Mocatta, set within illustration of oil lamp, unrolled scroll, quill, books and the Wilkins Building, University College London (Above left)
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SR MOCATTA 1637 C3/1–4

E

Bookplate of The Sir Hermann Gollancz Library, University College London; portrait of Sir Hermann Gollancz, set within illustration of books, open scroll with Hebrew lettering, quill, the Wilkins Building, University College London and a synagogue (Above right)
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SR MOCATTA PAMPHLETS BOX 20 ITEM 12

F

Giftplate: presented by Thomas Lewis to University College Hospital Medical School Library; leafed border, crest of University College Hospital with Latin motto ‘ratione dirige cursum’ (Left)

G

Bookplate of Thomas Hardy
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, OGDEN BRO COR

H

Bookplate of the Rockefeller Medical Library, Institute of Neurology; crest of UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology (Left)
QUEEN SQUARE LIBRARY
Giftplate: presented by the Provost to University College London, June 1953
STORE 98-16240

Bookplate of the Central Reference Library, Westminster Public Libraries; ‘Withdrawn from Westminster City Libraries’ stamp
STORE 07-0514/155

Bookplate of University College London, designed by Anatloy I. Kalashnikov; picture of Wilkins Building, University College London

Bookplate of the Resident Medical Officers’ Library, Moorfields Eye Hospital; crest of Moorfields Eye Hospital with Latin motto ‘fiat lux’ (Below)
THE JOINT LIBRARY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL & UCL INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, 140 FAS

Bookplate of Queen Square Library; picture of human nerve, above crest of UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and heraldic device and University College London and NHS corporate logos
QUEEN SQUARE LIBRARY

Bookplate of the Institute of Ophthalmology London; picture of Jesus healing a blind man with Latin text ‘domine ut videam’ (Below left)
THE JOINT LIBRARY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL & UCL INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, 320 CHE

Bookplate of Dr Ernest A Baker, Ex-Libris; illustration of a man sitting at a desk with books, pen and paper, in front of a window with a view of mountains and a lake (Below right)
MAIN LIBRARY, REFERENCE K 3 L18
6: Collection in Focus: Tlaloc magazine and Curating the Small Press Collections

UCL’s Small Press Collections include a large number of Little Magazines. These illustrate the trajectory of independent literary publishing from the end of the nineteenth century to the present day, with a focus on the mid-1960s onwards. Little Magazines were first consciously collected as a literary format at UCL by English Librarian Geoffrey Soar. He recognised their significant contribution to the independent publishing boom of the 1960s, a development made possible by economically accessible printing technologies (not least the ‘mimeograph’ or duplicating machine). Funding was secured and the first subscriptions were placed in late 1964.

Tlaloc, a Little Magazine with an emphasis on concrete and visual poetry, was edited by Cavan McCarthy, a poet and librarian at the Brotherton Library in Leeds. First issued in December 1964, Tlaloc is exactly contemporary with the birth of UCL’s collection. It featured the work of many of the key players of the British literary avant-garde, including dom sylvester houedard, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Bob Cobbing and Angela Carter, among others. McCarthy was also the European editor for the Directory of Little Magazines and the Small Press Review, as well as producing his own Loc-Sheet newsletter. As such, he had an extensive network of connections into which Soar tapped – with the result that UCL’s collection now contains countless rare items published by poets, artists and small collectives from around the world. Tlaloc is referred to by McCarthy as ‘a librarian’s nightmare’ due to its changing format and loose inserts, but it is typical of many of the collection’s titles from this period.

Among the many hundreds of letters written by Soar to poets, publishers, artists, distributors, bookshops and funders, the correspondence with McCarthy, in particular, illuminates a growing relationship based on this culture of information sharing. It also reveals the intricate paper trails necessary to the development and curation of a collection of largely ephemeral, often obscure material in a pre-internet age. Such was his regard for McCarthy and his magazine that Soar eventually purchased an associated archive of original artwork, layouts and correspondence, items from which are displayed in this exhibition.

Elizabeth Lawes
Subject Liaison Librarian: Fine Art, History of Art & Film Studies

Items showing the history of Tlaloc magazine in UCL's Small Press Collections: Tlaloc. London: Leeds, N. Yorks [sic].
Edited by Cavan McCarthy
LITTLE MAGAZINES TLA

Archives of the Small Press Collections (Above)
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Items from the Tlaloc archive
UCL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
7. School Libraries and Information Literacy

An assumption that underpins the majority of the interactions between UCL’s libraries and its students is that students arriving at UCL are familiar with using libraries. Many students will attend information literacy sessions while at UCL, in which they learn how to use databases, how to tell good online sources from those unsuitable for academic work or how to handle rare materials. However, far fewer will be shepherded from computer to shelf and shown how to locate their particular book. Help will be given if requested, but with UCL Library Services now supporting over 40,000 students, it is impossible for every student to receive training on the more basic aspects of using a library.

For this UCL relies heavily on school libraries. While schools in the UK have never been required to maintain their own libraries, both primary and secondary schools were strongly encouraged to do so from the early twentieth century. By 1937 the School Library Association had been established and the professionalisation of librarianship had been extended to those working as school librarians. At school, children would be taught not only how to read books, but also how to access and critically assess them. The Archives of the Architects and Building Branch of the Ministry of Education show that by the 1970s books and reading were not just taking place in the library: they were a focal point of the classroom itself.

Today we see a different picture. The closure of public libraries across Britain frequently makes headlines, a situation mirrored by a decline in school libraries and qualified school librarians, especially in economically deprived areas. This means that an increasing number of children have little or no access to a library, impacting on both their literacy and ‘information’ literacy. This, in turn, will impact on their ability to support their own learning when they reach higher education; the ‘basic’ skills that students are expected to have acquired before reaching university will be under-developed or missing altogether. As the socio-political landscape of the UK continues to change, the question of how libraries in higher education can best support all of their users remains a significant one.
### 8. Expanding our Knowledge: a Timeline of UCL Library Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Year of origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UCL Main Library</strong></td>
<td>Has its origins as the Small Library in the Wilkins Building. The General Library, now the Donaldson Reading Room, opened in 1849 and the library further expanded on either side of the Flaxman Gallery. Became known as the Main Library more recently as Library Services sites increased</td>
<td>1828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Free Hospital Medical Library &amp; Barnet Hospital Library</strong></td>
<td>The present Medical Library combines the former Hospital and Medical School libraries, separate until 1981 and located in Bloomsbury prior to moving to Hampstead. With the closure of a separate nursing library in 2007, this has become the only library serving the Royal Free Hospital. In 2017 the Barnet Hospital Library became part of the combined Royal Free London Libraries, serving the Trust at all of its hospital sites.</td>
<td>1828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UCL Cruciform Hub</strong></td>
<td>Began as a medical library in 1829, in the Wilkins Building. Divided in 1907, with its clinical collections forming the University College Hospital Medical School Library, in today’s Grant Museum. Became the Clinical Sciences Library in 1980 and moved into the former hospital as the Cruciform Library in 1999. Joined in 2005 by the Middlesex Hospital's Boldero Library. Refurbished and re-opened as the UCL Cruciform Hub in 2014.</td>
<td>1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UCL School of Pharmacy Library</strong></td>
<td>Part of the School of Pharmacy since its foundation by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. At one time located in Bloomsbury Square, and moved to its present Brunswick Square location in 1959; subsequently extended and refurbished several times.</td>
<td>1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Joint Library of Ophthalmology, Moorfields Eye Hospital &amp; UCL Institute of Ophthalmology</strong></td>
<td>The Institute was founded in 1948 in Judd Street and the first Librarian was appointed. It moved alongside the earlier Hospital (located on City Road since 1899) at the new Bath Street building in 1992. In 1999 the Institute Library received the Resident Medical Officer libraries held by the Hospital’s Joint Study Facility, combining to form the Joint Library, also home to the Hospital’s Museum.</td>
<td>1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCL Institute of Education Library</td>
<td>A library formed part of the London Day Training College in Southampton Row. It moved with the Institute of Education to Senate House in the 1930s, and later to Ridgmount Street. The new Institute Library at Bedford Way opened in 1993.</td>
<td>1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL School of Slavonic &amp; East European Studies Library</td>
<td>Central to the School since its founding, the Library moved from Senate House to the new, award-winning SSSEES building on Taviton Street in 2005.</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology Library</td>
<td>Established at Queen Square by the 1920s, the Library moved from Alexandra House into its current space in 1980–1. Known as the Rockefeller Library from the mid-1950s, until its refurbishment in 2010.</td>
<td>1920s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Eastman Dental Library</td>
<td>Has its roots in the Eastman Dental Clinic adjacent to the Royal Free Hospital site on Gray's Inn Road, later becoming the Eastman Dental Hospital and Institute. As the Library grew it moved into larger premises, finally located in the old Hospital's Victoria Wing.</td>
<td>1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Institute of Archaeology Library</td>
<td>Part of the Institute of Archaeology since its early home at St John's Lodge in Regents Park. Moved to Gordon Square in 1958, initially on the first floor and subsequently relocated to the fifth floor.</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health Library</td>
<td>Associated with the Institute of Child Health since its foundation, the Library was initially located within Great Ormond Street Hospital, moving to the new Institute building in 1956. It was combined with the Centre for International Child Health’s collections. The expanded Library opened in 1996 and was refurbished most recently in 2017.</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Ear Institute &amp; Action on Hearing Loss (AoHL) Libraries</td>
<td>Originally the Institute of Laryngology and Otology Library at the Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital, but changed its name to the Ear Institute Library in 2008. The AoHL Library was established under the auspices of the then National Bureau for Promoting the General Welfare of the Deaf in 1911 and has been partnered with UCL since 1994.</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Institute of Orthopaedics Library</td>
<td>Part of the Institute of Orthopaedics since its foundation. In 2005 it was combined with the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital’s library, which at one time had a branch library located at the hospital’s Central London outpatients’ clinic.</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Library</td>
<td>Known also as the DMS Watson Building, brought together collections formerly accommodated in dispersed locations including Foster Court and the Main Library.</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Language &amp; Speech Science Library</td>
<td>Originally the Library of the National Hospital’s College of Speech Science, later known as the Department of Human Communication Science; located at Chandler House since 1985. Temporarily relocated to Remax House in 2006–8 before returning to its current premises, now part of the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences.</td>
<td>1970s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL Bartlett Library</td>
<td>Opened as the Bartlett Built Environment Library in the former Wates House, now 22 Gordon Street, with origins in the departmental libraries for Architecture and Town Planning. Known as the Environmental Studies Library prior to its current name, taken in 2010. Relocated to Central House on Upper Woburn Place in 2014.</td>
<td>1974</td>
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</table>
Bibliography


Mocatta Library Committee, 1918, Annual Report, unpublished draft.


Detail of front cover of An essay towards a real character and a philosophical language, John Wilkins, 1668 (p.21)
Acknowledgements

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Back cover and page 13: A collection of books ruined by fire © Alpha Press.

Photograph of burnt-out printing press (cat.4 – image displayed in exhibition) © Alpha Press.

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Exhibition Location

Main Library staircase and first floor
UCL Library Services
Gower Street
London
WC1E 6BT

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From Small Library Beginnings
A brief history of UCL Library Services

An exhibition of material from UCL Special Collections

4 March – 13 December 2019