

Report from the Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library Services)

Summary:

This Report examines current progress in implementing the Library Strategy by looking at high level progress in the 6 Key Performance Areas. A number of questions are posed to Library Committee.

Action required of Library Committee:

To discuss, with particular reference to the following Questions:

User Experience: What are the needs of PGR students, and how should UCL tackle these going forward?

Staff, Equality and Diversity: the Committee's comments on the Staff Survey results are welcome

Systems and Processes: What is the Committee's view of the growing importance of mobile technology in underpinning the Student Experience? What is the Committee's reaction to the concept of megajournals from UCL Press?

Paper Sponsor:

Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library Services)

1. Executive Summary

This Report identifies key developments in the implementation of the [Library Strategy](#) under the 6 Key Performance Areas which together form an Implementation Plan for the Strategy objectives. A number of Key Questions are noted, on which Library Committee's views would be important. These are:

User Experience: What are the needs of PGR students, and how should UCL tackle these going forward?

Staff, Equality and Diversity: the Committee's comments on the Staff Survey results are welcome

Systems and Processes: What is the Committee's view of the growing importance of mobile technology in underpinning the Student Experience? What is the Committee's reaction to the concept of megajournals from UCL Press?

2. User experience

2.1 PRES Action Plan

In the 2017 PRES survey, the Library scored an 87% satisfaction rating to the question: There is adequate provision of library facilities (including physical and online resources). This was down 1% on the score in 2015 and 1% lower than the 2017 sector average. The Library has submitted an Action Plan to the UCL Doctoral School which addresses the Survey question directly, digital library provision and space for researchers to work in the UCL family of libraries. In the latter areas, the following suggestions have been made to the Doctoral School:

- Some survey work to establish whether the Library is using PGR space optimally. How many dedicated PGR (+PGT) spaces does UCL have in total? What type of spaces do PGR students want/need? How is the space utilised in Faculty/departmental spaces vs. centrally-provided space? Does the provision of dedicated PGR space have a positive impact in PRES scores?
- Systems and processes: is there an optimal system for making PGR space bookable? The Library understands that the Bartlett has developed a local solution, the Library is starting to use a system in a few library-managed spaces, and other parts of UCL may have other approaches. Can best practice be shared, or is the solution to replace systems with better options?
- Based on the above, there might be some recommendations which could be produced to improve the provision of PGR space on campus, demonstrating an institutional need.

Full PRES results can be found at <http://www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/survey/>.

2.2 ReadingLists@UCL

The ReadingLists@UCL service aims to provide digital online readings for all modules which have a presence in Portico. For January 2018, the results for the reading lists service show a slight increase on the previous report.

ReadingLists @UCL coverage compared to Portico modules, January 2018			
School	Modules	Lists	%
BEAMS	1786	1330	74%
SLASH	1951	1224	63%
SLMS	1273	731	57%

Total	5010	3285	66%
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Now, 66% of the modules in Portico have online Reading Lists attached. This is the highest ever figure which the service has achieved.

The breakdown by Faculty is as follows:

Faculty	Modules	Lists	%
ARTS	685	413	60%
BEF	389	266	68%
ENG	861	652	76%
FBRS	410	254	62%
FLS	286	149	52%
FPHS	208	130	63%
INT	21	19	90%
IOE	130	82	63%
LAWS	103	93	90%
MEDSCI	369	198	54%
MPS	536	412	77%
SHS	764	442	58%
SSEES	248	175	71%
Total	5010	3285	66%

By Department, the breakdown is:

Department	Modules	Lists	%	Faculty	School
Anthropology	140	101	72%	SHS	SLASH
Arts and Sciences BASc	21	11	52%	ARTS	SLASH
Bartlett School of Architecture	84	24	29%	BEF	BEAMS
Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management	74	70	95%	BEF	BEAMS
Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources	71	38	54%	BEF	BEAMS
Bartlett School of Planning	96	80	83%	BEF	BEAMS
Biochemical Engineering	96	21	22%	ENG	BEAMS
Cancer Institute	6	6	100%	MEDSCI	SLMS
Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis	11	8	73%	BEF	BEAMS
Centre for Mathematics, Physics and Engineering in the Life Sciences and Experimental Biology	5	0	0%	ENG	BEAMS
Centre for Multidisciplinary and Intercultural Inquiry	68	26	38%	ARTS	SLASH
Chemical Engineering	54	49	91%	ENG	BEAMS
Chemistry	82	51	62%	MPS	BEAMS
Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering	100	73	73%	ENG	BEAMS
Computer Science	164	163	99%	ENG	BEAMS
Development Planning Unit	41	40	98%	BEF	BEAMS
Division of Biosciences	235	104	44%	FLS	SLMS
Division of Infection and Immunity	48	21	44%	MEDSCI	SLMS
Division of Medicine	83	41	49%	MEDSCI	SLMS
Division of Psychiatry	18	2	11%	FBRS	SLMS

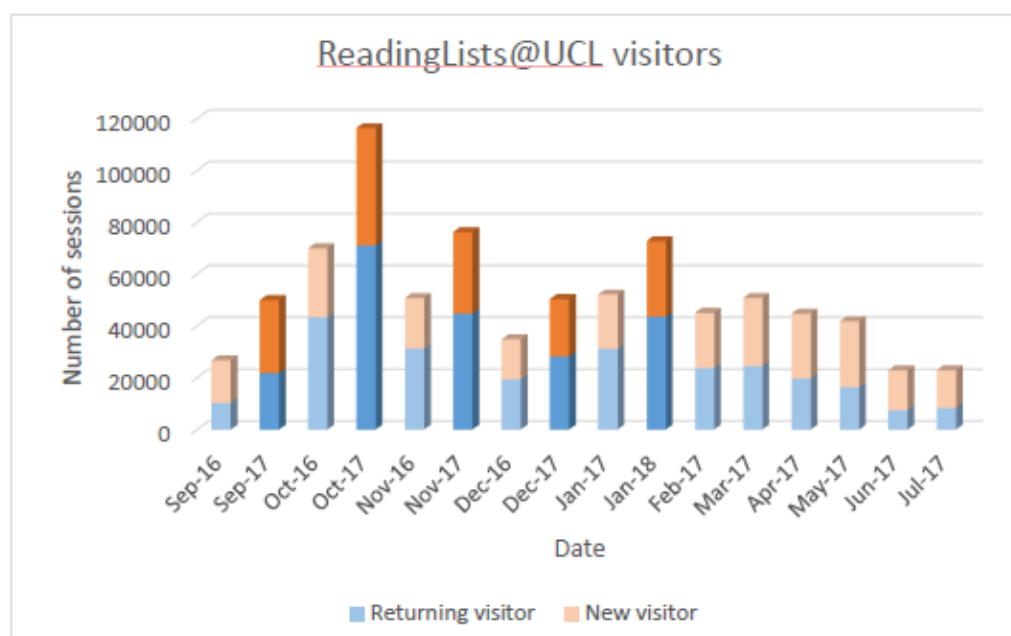
Division of Psychology and Language Sciences	295	182	62%	FBRS	SLMS
Division of Surgery and Interventional Science	91	62	68%	MEDSCI	SLMS
Ear Institute	30	13	43%	FBRS	SLMS
Earth Sciences	80	63	79%	MPS	BEAMS
Eastman Dental Institute	105	38	36%	MEDSCI	SLMS
Economics	82	37	45%	SHS	SLASH
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	80	66	83%	ENG	BEAMS
English Language and Literature	50	32	64%	ARTS	SLASH
European Social and Political Studies	20	11	55%	ARTS	SLASH
Faculty of Engineering Sciences	10	3	30%	ENG	BEAMS
Geography	123	50	41%	SHS	SLASH
Greek and Latin	61	49	80%	ARTS	SLASH
Hebrew and Jewish Studies	38	21	55%	ARTS	SLASH
History	102	31	30%	SHS	SLASH
History of Art	63	15	24%	SHS	SLASH
Information Studies	54	41	76%	ARTS	SLASH
Institute for Digital Innovation in the Built Environment	7	1	14%	BEF	BEAMS
Institute for Global Health	32	15	47%	FPHS	SLMS
Institute for Global Prosperity	5	5	100%	BEF	BEAMS
Institute for Women's Health	19	19	100%	FPHS	SLMS
Institute of Archaeology	131	107	82%	SHS	SLASH
Institute of Cardiovascular Science	10	8	80%	FPHS	SLMS
Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology	8	8	100%	FPHS	SLMS
Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care	51	44	86%	FPHS	SLMS
Institute of Health Informatics	18	15	83%	FPHS	SLMS
Institute of Neurology	41	41	100%	FBRS	SLMS
Institute of Ophthalmology	26	16	62%	FBRS	SLMS
Institute of the Americas	25	17	68%	SHS	SLASH
IOE - Culture, Communication and Media	5	0	0%	IOE	SLASH
IOE - Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment	4	2	50%	IOE	SLASH
IOE - Education, Practice and Society	49	33	67%	IOE	SLASH
IOE - Learning and Leadership	6	3	50%	IOE	SLASH
IOE - Psychology and Human Development	16	11	69%	IOE	SLASH
IOE - Social Science	36	31	86%	IOE	SLASH
IOE - UCL Institute of Education	14	2	14%	IOE	SLASH
Laws	103	93	90%	LAWS	SLASH
Mathematics	101	91	90%	MPS	BEAMS
Mechanical Engineering	62	51	82%	ENG	BEAMS
Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering	52	12	23%	ENG	BEAMS
Natural Sciences	7	4	57%	MPS	BEAMS
Philosophy	127	31	24%	ARTS	SLASH
Physics and Astronomy	119	78	66%	MPS	BEAMS
Political Science	98	84	86%	SHS	SLASH
School of European Languages, Culture and Society	243	188	77%	ARTS	SLASH
School of Pharmacy	51	45	88%	FLS	SLMS
Science and Technology Studies	55	43	78%	MPS	BEAMS

Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy	26	15	58%	ENG	BEAMS
Security and Crime Science	46	37	80%	ENG	BEAMS
Slade School of Fine Art	3	3	100%	ARTS	SLASH
Space and Climate Physics	28	19	68%	MPS	BEAMS
SSEES - East European Languages and Culture	89	61	69%	SSEES	SLASH
SSEES – History	11	9	82%	SSEES	SLASH
SSEES – Russian	28	22	79%	SSEES	SLASH
SSEES - School of Slavonic and East European Studies	76	48	63%	SSEES	SLASH
SSEES - Social Sciences	44	35	80%	SSEES	SLASH
Statistical Science	64	63	98%	MPS	BEAMS
UCL GOS Institute of Child Health	70	21	30%	FPHS	SLMS
UCL Medical School	36	30	83%	MEDSCI	SLMS
UCL Qatar	21	19	90%	INT	SLASH
UCL School of Management	166	162	98%	ENG	BEAMS
Total	5010	3285	66%		

An impressive thirty departments now have coverage of 80-100%.

Visitor statistics have increased substantially this academic year and UCL reading lists have already had in excess of 360,000 visits since September 2017. This increase is likely to be because more reading lists have been set up and more students are able to benefit from them. As students become accustomed to finding good quality lists for their modules, they are actively seeking out online lists for their other courses.

The trend for a greater number of ‘returning visitors’ in Term 1 continues, showing that students are using their reading lists more than once, returning as they research or revise.



Total visits: 365,592
(Of which New: 156,250 and Returning: 209,342)

Visitor numbers are higher each month compared to last year, demonstrating the increasing popularity of online reading lists amongst student visitors. Since 1st September 2017 there have

been 365, 592 visits to online reading lists, a figure not reached last year until mid-Aprils (again, since 1st September 2017).


The ReadingLists@UCL team can assist in setting up and adding new lists: drop-in sessions every Wednesday are available to show teaching staff how to manage their lists, or a one-to-one orientation can be arranged in your department. For further information please don't hesitate to get in touch at readinglists@ucl.ac.uk.


3. Staff, equality and diversity

The Library has begun to take action on the results of the 2017 Staff survey. This work is being led by a Staff Survey Action Group, which met for the first time on 13 February. The mission of the Group is to articulate and communicate staff priorities clearly and directly, to ensure that action is taken to improve the experience of Library Services staff and the effectiveness of the Division. In the context of the new Library Strategy being prepared in 2018, the Group should exemplify the values identified in a series of workshops across Library Services, especially "Empowering" and "Open".

The headline scores for Library Services were an improvement on the previous Survey scores. In addition, 191 out of 302 members of staff responded to the Survey, a response rate of 63% - the highest yet achieved in the Library.

The Employee Engagement score was 63%, and improvement of 2% over the previous Survey, but 2% below the parent (Office of the Vice-Provost for Research).

 TOP 3 MOST IMPROVED QUESTIONS:	VARIANCE FROM PREVIOUS SURVEY
Q25. I am aware of UCL's range of benefits for its staff (eg Pension, childcare vouchers, employee assistance scheme)	+31
Q9. I am satisfied with my job security	+21
Q35. I am aware of how to access support from UCL if I experience stress	+16

 TOP 3 HIGHEST SCORING QUESTIONS:	% POSITIVE
Q2. I understand how my work contributes to the objectives of my department/division	86%
Q3. I understand how my work contributes to the success of UCL	84%
Q25. I am aware of UCL's range of benefits for its staff (eg Pension, childcare vouchers, employee assistance scheme)	84%

	Question	% Positive	Variance from previous Survey	Variance from Parent	Variance from Organisation overall
1	Q58. I feel that my work/professional goals and objectives are aligned to those of UCL	59%	-1	-2	-3
2	Q1. My work gives me a sense of personal accomplishment	69%	-2	-2	-14 ↓
3	Q52. I understand the values of UCL	71%	+2	-2	-1
4	Q28. I am encouraged to show initiative and be proactive at UCL	50%	+4	-5 ↓	-17 ↓
5	Q40. I am treated with fairness and respect at UCL	68%	+10 ↑	-3	-7 ↓
6	Q20. I am optimistic about the future of UCL	49%	+11 ↑	-2	-8 ↓

These key questions were identified by ORC as being of importance. They are not necessarily the questions with the lowest scores. Some are areas to improve upon and others are areas to maintain. The Library's Staff Survey Action Group is preparing an Action Plan, which will be ready by 30 April. A fuller report will be presented to Library Committee at its next meeting.

4. Finance, management information & value for money

Each year, SCONUL compiles a range of statistics for academic libraries in the UK to assess performance in the sector and to enable comparisons between institutions. Using this information, the Management Information team in UCL Library Services compiles a SCONUL strategic dataset, where UCL's performance in a key set of indicators is compared with a group of comparator organisations in the UK. The chosen comparator institutions are Imperial College, King's College London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Manchester. Statistics are given in the Table below. For UCL, equivalent statistics for 2015/16 are given. The line for RLUK is Research Libraries UK, and shows the mean results for all libraries (including UCL) who are members of the [RLUK](#) network.

Overall, the Table shows that UCL Library Services is maintaining an excellent level of performance in very challenging financial and political times – Brexit pressures, inflation in materials costs (books, journals, e-resources well above the headline rate of inflation), and a prevailing lack of engagement in Society at large with Universities.

The statistics allow a number of conclusions to be drawn. UCL cannot compare with the University of Oxford in the level of expenditure on its central library system. The Oxford figures cover all central libraries (Bodleian and Faculty/Departmental libraries), but exclude College libraries. In all areas, UCL compares extremely well with the RLUK mean scores, and indeed with all other comparator institutions. The figures underline the position of UCL Library Services as one of the major research library services in the UK.

In the age of digital delivery, the statistics show improvements in a number of areas. The number of article and e-book downloads per FTE student in UCL show an impressive increase. However, these figures are lower than some of UCL's competitors, notably Oxford, Edinburgh and Manchester. The reasons for this are difficult to determine. UCL, with its many library sites in the UCL family of libraries, has generous provision of printed copy. However, the future is digital not paper, and the comparatively low figures for UCL uptake also underline a budgetary issue – that UCL needs to invest

new money in digital delivery in order to effect the transition for our students from a paper to a digital environment. This is underlined by the figures for the level of spend on Information Resources per FTE student. UCL's spend per student has gone down from £312 to £306, and the institution is behind Imperial, Oxford and Cambridge. This is a key statistic for UCL in terms of fulfilling the requirements of UCL 2034 to deliver an improved Student Experience. Staffing spend in UCL Library Services is in line with the RLUK mean and lower than Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester. What is needed is an injection of new money into the Library budget to ensure that the Library can deliver the vision of UCL 2034.

Institution	FTE Students	Total gross Library spend	Grant as % of total University expenditure	Total Information spend per student FTE
UCL 2016/17 (2015/2016)	32,800 31,792	£28,271,546 £27,750,506	1.83% 1.8%	£306 £312
RLUK MEAN	20,570	£12,996,991	2.00%	£267
Imperial	16,509	£11,259,291	1.31%	£373
King's London	25,977	£14,200,365	1.67%	£255
Oxford	19,903	£45,967,444	2.33%	£417
Cambridge	19,172	£33,072,526	n/k	£483
Edinburgh	29,211	£17,553,547	1.70%	£296
Manchester	37,578	£22,523,412	2.13%	£273
SCONUL Strategic Benchmarking Data 2016/2017				

Institution	Total loans per FTE student	Staff spend as a % of total expenditure	Article downloads per FTE student	E-Book section requests per FTE student
UCL 2016/2017 (2015/2016)	13 13	42% 41.5%	324 274	167 119
RLUK MEAN	13	42%	232	221
Imperial	7.50	39%	356	99
King's London	10.43	41%	255	111
Oxford	32.17	47%	450	498
Cambridge	26.68	43%	472	186
Edinburgh	19.04	41%	346	278
Manchester	9.03	45%	293	204
SCONUL Strategic Benchmarking Data 2016/2017				

5. Systems and processes

5.1 Mobile use of UCL Library Services

As part of the annual review of our website statistics, the Library Services' SMT this year commissioned a report on usage of library services on mobile devices. Here are the key findings.

Current mobile usage of the Library's services

- In September 2017, 16.5% of visits to the Library's website came from mobile phones (plus 3% from tablets). The proportion of mobile phone usage has been increasing steadily year on year, with visits from desktop computers declining, and visits from tablets declining slightly.
- In the same month, 10.5% of visits to [UCL Explore](#) came from mobile phones (plus 2.5% from tablets). [UCL Discovery](#) records a similar degree of mobile usage.
- 16.5% of visits to ReadingLists@UCL in that period came from mobile/tablet devices.
- Mobile usage of the Library's other digital library services, such as [Digital Collections and Archives](#), is slightly lower. Comparative figures for the Library's third-party electronic resources are not routinely available.
- UCL also has a mobile app, [UCL Go!](#), which has Library functions as one of its options. In the most recent month for which statistics are available (Sep-Oct 2017), there were 11,840 clicks on the Library Services module in UCL Go! This represented 1.9% of all clicks in the app during that period.

During the summer of 2017 Library Services made its website mobile-friendly (responsive to screen size) and added a mobile-friendly version of UCL Explore in a beta release, which will be subject to user feedback and review before launching as the primary interface. There is therefore an opportunity for mobile usage of these services to continue increasing in the coming months.

Benchmarking

A review of other UCL services and library services across similar institutions showed:

- For the Moodle Virtual Learning Environment, the current proportions of access via mobile and tablet devices stand at 21% and 5% respectively (i.e. 26% combined). Moodle has had a mobile-friendly interface for a number of years, which may have catalyzed take-up to reach these levels.
- A review of the Russell Group institutions revealed that 83% of their libraries now have mobile-friendly websites, while 54% have fully mobile-friendly resource discovery tools such as Ex Libris Primo, so UCL is in line with the sector average.
- Further development and innovation in this area is in its infancy in the sector, but several institutions state an intention or desire to progress.

Next steps

The Library will be looking to improve the mobile-friendliness of its web services, in line with user preferences. In the coming year, the Digital Libraries Section will lead the process of converting the mobile-friendly view of UCL Explore into the primary interface. Beyond that, the following areas will be considered in preparation for the new Library Strategy:

- User experience research into which library services users want and need to access on a mobile device. This could include innovative developments harnessing new technologies.

- Implementation of quick wins and low cost mobile-friendly services, based on the findings of the above.
- Marketing and promotion of mobile services to library users.
- Monthly and annual reporting of take-up against each mobile service.
- Working with the UCL Go! team to improve the Library's offering and increase take-up.

5.2 UCL Press Megajournal platform

16 January 2018 saw the soft launch of the UCL Press megajournal platform to an audience of 55-60 people in the JZ Young Lecture Theatre.



What is a megajournal and why is UCL Press launching a megajournal platform? Essentially, a megajournal is a platform where cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary work can be brought together and where the outputs are characterized by openness – of peer review (where the reviewers' reports are available for scrutiny), of readership (when the final output is freely available for sharing and re-use), of scope (where, for example, underlying research data can be made available alongside the published output), and of evaluation (where responsible metrics are used to help evaluate the quality of the outputs).

If that is the 'what', then why is UCL Press taking this road? The megajournal platform looks very unlike traditional journals. The reason is this – there is a growing acceptance that the future of scholarship is best served by the Open Access and Open Science agendas. What is the best mechanism to achieve this transition to full Open Access? Research funders have started establishing their own Open Science platforms and research-intensive universities like UCL can do the same. This has the power to change the culture in academic publishing by bringing publication and dissemination back into the academy.

It was these questions and potential solutions that the Megajournal platform launch sought to celebrate and investigate. Three external speakers set the scene – Robert Kiley, who talked about the Wellcome Trust's Open Research platform; Stephanie Dawson from Science Open, which is the company selected by UCL to deliver its Megajournal platform; and Dr Catriona MacCallum from Hindawi. The plenary session concluded with a presentation by Ian Caswell of UCL Press, announcing the broad details of the planned UCL Press provision, which will work initially with the environmental science research domain in UCL to create an environmental science Megajournal.

The Town Hall meeting ended with a Question and Answer session with the speakers plus Paul Ayris as CEO of UCL Press, which was chaired by Professor David Price (Vice-Provost, Research). This session showed very lively engagement in Open Science by the audience of 55-60 attenders – journalists, commercial publishers and academics.

The UCL Press Megajournal platform will be formally launched in the autumn of 2018 to coincide with Open Access week. It is an important development in the Press's mission to change the pattern of scholarly publishing in the academic community as Open approaches gain momentum in a global move towards Open Science

5.3 *New Library Management System*

The Library recently began the project to procure and implement a new Library Management System to replace Aleph and SFX, as a core deliverable of the [Library Strategy 2015-2018](#). The contract has now been signed for the replacement solution, Alma, the new-generation cloud based service from Ex Libris.

The new application is expected to bring many benefits for Library Services staff such as:

- Enhanced staff user experience
- Streamlined cross system workflows and processes. This will improve efficiency and reduce the time currently spent managing information in multiple systems
- Opportunities to enhance our services to students and other library users, through analytical tools and through interfaces with other services in UCL and beyond

The new system is expected to go live by the end of August 2018.

The project to design and implement the new system is a collaboration with ISD. A project board (chaired by Martin Moyle), project team (from ISD), and a core implementation team in Library Services have been appointed and will be working closely together to ensure a smooth transition onto the new system. All teams will be trained and supported, and opportunity for feedback will be provided throughout the process.

6. **Sustainable estate**

6.1 *BREEAM Award*

The New Student Centre, which opens officially in 2019, has been shortlisted for a BREEAM award for sustainability. BREEAM is a globally-recognised sustainability assessment method for construction projects. In support of the ambitious targets in its institutional Sustainability Strategy, Carbon Management Plan and Sustainable Building Standards, UCL mandates the use of BREEAM on all new build and major refurbishment projects. The minimum requirement is for an Excellent rating, in line with local planning requirements. For the New Student Centre, as a flagship building on a previously undeveloped site, an early decision was made to target the highest possible rating of 'Outstanding'. Achieving a BREEAM Outstanding rating requires exemplar performance in all areas of the assessment, in terms of construction, energy consumption and wellbeing features within the building.

6.2 *Topping Out*

Friday 16 February 2018 saw the topping out ceremony for the new Student Centre. This tremendous building development is a pivotal objective of the [UCL 2034](#) strategy and of the [Library Strategy](#), which are designed to enhance the Student Experience and to provide an environment fit for education, research and outreach in the 21st century.



A large group of UCL staff, including members from the Library, joined the construction teams to celebrate the topping out ceremony. There were a number of speeches to mark the occasion led by the Provost and President of UCL, Professor Michael Arthur. The Provost spoke of the importance of the UCL 2034 strategy to deliver a first class student and research experience. The delivery of the vision contained in UCL 2034 is of fundamental importance for the future health and vitality of the institution as one of the great research universities of the world.

The topping out ceremony itself took the form of the Provost inscribing a concrete block with his name and title, which will now be secured into the structure of the building.

The Student Centre, when fully open this time next year, will mark a transformation for the service which the Library can provide to UCL students. The building will be operated by the Library and contain 1000 digitally-enabled learning spaces. There will be no paper provision in the building. Library collections will remain in the existing UCL family of libraries. If borrowed by the student they can, of course, be brought to the new Student Centre for personal use. The type of learning spaces the Library will provide is being closely modelled on the learning spaces which we already provide in the Cruciform Hub and in the UCL Institute of Child Health. These are in fact the model aspired to for all UCL's libraries. The Student Centre will also offer a new thoroughfare through UCL, helping to unite the campus and to bring a greater sense of community to staff and students on the site.

The opening of the Student Centre marks a very important development for the Library. It will transform the Student Experience and the way students use libraries and learning spaces across UCL. This will give us the opportunity to continue to re-think our existing library spaces and how they are used. The topping out ceremony marks the start of a year of communication in and from the Library as UCL fits out the interior of the building and we plan for the full operation of the Centre. Ben Meunier has given an interview to CILIP, the library and information association, and there will be other interviews and national Newsletter articles to announce the birth of what is a major development in academic libraries throughout the whole country.

7. Communication, Open Access & outreach

7.1 *2nd International Conference of University Presses (REDUX 18)*

13-14 February 2018 saw ALPSP (Association of Learned and Society Publishers) in association with UCL Press host the 2nd International Conference for University Presses, called REDUX 18.

Between 200 and 250 attenders from all over the world joined the event. There was a particularly strong contingent of University Presses from North America.



The purpose of the Conference is to provide a venue for all University Press publishers to meet together every 2 years to consider current publishing practices, possibilities for future developments and the relationships between the Press and their parent University bodies. Many, but not all, University Presses are run through University Libraries – UCL Press certainly is. There are clearly advantages in such a close relationship and these became clearer during the course of the 2 days. Shared digital infrastructures, shared leadership, an understanding of issues common to both parties,

such as metadata creation and discoverability – these are all areas where sharing adds value to Press activity.

The Conference was a mixture of plenary and parallel sessions. UCL was well represented in all these activities. Ilan Kelman from the UCL Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction was a panellist, looking at authors and their publishing experiences in a paper entitled ‘To Suffer the Slings and Arrows of Academic Publishing?’. Ilan edited the book [Arcticness: Power and Voice from the North](#) which UCL Press published in 2017. Ilan also gave one of the best academic assessments of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which UCL has signed. DORA says that the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) cannot be used as a measure of quality for individual articles. On day 2, Rozz Evans from UCL Library Services spoke in the Libraries session of the Programme and gave a very good analysis of UCL’s ‘New Approaches to Collection Management – What Might it mean for Publishers?’.

I myself did not speak at the event, but was honoured to be asked to chair the session on Open Access, with speakers from the USA and France. Peter Berkery from the Association of University Presses spoke on collaboration. Pierre Mounier from OPERAS spoke about collaborative publishing infrastructures and how his consortium, of which UCL Press is a key member, is trying to build just such a public infrastructure for Europe. Frank Smith from JSTOR described how Open Access books have helped change and develop the services which JSTOR offers to the community. This is certainly true for UCL Press, where our download figures have doubled through putting copies of UCL Press titles onto the JSTOR platform.

It was an honour for UCL Press to host this international publishing conference. Feedback during the two days underlines the fact that UCL Press has already made its mark in the international field of university presses.

7.2 *Visit from the Talloires Network*

On 16 February, UCL Library Services entertained a visit from Anthony Monaco President of Tufts University, chair of the Talloires Network.

The Talloires Network has the following objectives:

Mission

- The Talloires Network is an independent international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education.

Vision

- The Network envisions universities around the world as dynamic forces in their societies, incorporating civic engagement into their research and teaching. They believe that

universities have a responsibility to develop the next generation of active citizens who will address community challenges around the world.

When President Monaco visited the Library, he received three presentations; on Open Science from Dr Paul Ayris, on UCL Press from Martin Moyle, and on UCL East and Citizen Science from Ben Meunier.

Following his visit, the President sent the following note to Professor Michael Arthur:

Thank you all so much for such a stimulating and informative set of discussions today at UCL. It was wonderful to hear about UCL's strategy for community engagement especially on the new UCL East campus, your public engagement activities in culture, libraries, science and engineering, and your research strategy focused on grand challenges. It was great to see how much overlap there was between your activities and programs and what we are trying to achieve through the Talloires Network (TN).

Paul Ayris
Pro-Vice-Provost (UCL Library Services)
19.2.18