

ICT Forum

Michaelmas Term 2013

Report from the Bodleian Libraries

The ILS/SOLO

The summer (which now seems a long time ago) saw not one but two major version upgrades to our core library applications, Aleph and SOLO. As well as the functional enhancements delivered by the latest versions of the Ex Libris software, both projects also delivered improvements to the underlying IT environment. Each application now runs in 3 separate environments; development, quality assurance (QA) and production, allowing service packs and local developments to be tested without impact on training activities and with a reduced risk to the support of the production service.

Both upgrades were implemented with the minimum of impact to staff and readers and have delivered much requested functional enhancements.

Aleph (v.21) and ARC (v.3) upgrade

As well as placing us on the latest supported version of the software, with access to the latest fixes and enhancements through regular service pack releases from Ex Libris, the upgrade delivered a number of functional enhancements and improvements to the usability of the staff client. The upgrade to Aleph also enabled us to upgrade the Aleph Reporting Centre (ARC) to v3 which delivered significant performance improvements. The primary benefit of this is that it is now possible to refresh the ARC data on a nightly basis meaning libraries can report on data that reflects the position up to the close of business the previous day.

SOLO (Primo) v4 upgrade

Primo, the software underpinning SOLO, was upgraded to v4 during a standard 2 hr at risk period. The upgrade delivered a number of new features including:

- Browse search by author, title, or subject
- Date range search
- Multiple selection / exclusion of search facets
- Improved export options e.g. the ability to export directly from individual records and to export to desktop reference management software.

Mobile SOLO

Mid-way through term we launched a mobile view for SOLO. This should be shown automatically for anyone accessing SOLO from a mobile device. Though this was a “soft” launch, usage has steadily increased and the service will be more widely publicised in the New Year.

Next Steps

Though the recent upgrades have delivered both functional and usability enhancements, improvements to our resource discovery solutions remain a priority. Initiatives in the pipeline include:

- A redesign of the SOLO user interface to deliver improved usability, accessibility and a design more in keeping with the Library and University's web presence.
- A programme of work to deliver new/improved resource discovery solutions

ORA, Open Access (OA) and data

Under the Oxford OA programme ORA is being enhanced to make it more robust and to implement improved features. Significant effort has been dedicated to clean up data, including that intended to be harvested from a source within Oxford, and work is well underway with controlled vocabularies and identifiers for people, funding agencies, organizational units, events and so on. We are working closely with IT Services to build an institutional ORCID service to offer authors the opportunity to assign a unique ORCID author ID which can be used, amongst other purposes, within Bodleian digital services. The vocab.ox.ac.uk site has been improved.

Staff are currently engaged with improvements to web log statistics for display on records (and in compliance with common standards), creating a data model that will not only underpin ORA, but in time, all Bodleian digital services, improvements to the Symplectic connector to support full text deposit in ORA (bibliographic metadata from Symplectic with full text files from local drive)

The thesis digitization project is progressing well and the last batches are planned for sending for external scanning.

There has been little work on research data services as no project staff are currently funded to devote time to RDM. However, some staff are involved in the EAPP (Digital Safe for administrative data) pilot project.

Theses

Of the approximately 2,900 volumes that will have been sent for scanning, over 1,000 have now been received, checked, and made freely available for public access in ORA and via SOLO. These range from "*A study in Augustine and Calvin of the Church regarded as the number of the elect and as the body of the baptized*" (awarded in 1958), to "*The global diffusion of national human rights institutions and their political impact in Latin America*" (awarded in 2011). Over 25% of these 1,000 were submitted by disciplines which now form part of the University's Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division.

Polonsky Foundation Digitization Project

On December 3rd, we launched the Polonsky Foundation Digitization Project, a collaboration between the Bodleian and the Vatican Library. The aim of the project, funded by Dr. Leonard Polonsky, is to digitize 1.5 million pages from incunabula and Greek and Hebrew manuscripts over the course of the next few years. The libraries have each built their own websites for finding and viewing the digital objects, but for the launch, BDLSS staff prepared a gateway website to provide information about the project and showcase a few important items.

The website, which can be found at bav.bodleian.ox.ac.uk, contains videos, essays and blog posts. Twenty-one books and manuscripts are featured on the site: 12 from the Vatican and nine from the Bodleian. For the launch, both libraries have focused on important early Bibles and scriptural texts, including their Gutenberg Bibles and the Bodleian's Laudian Acts (MS. Laud Gr. 35). The site is bilingual in English and Italian, with translations provided by Bodleian staff and Oxford students.

The site launch was covered by more than 600 media outlets internationally, including BBC News, the Guardian, and CNN. The site was featured on the Bodleian's main web page, which was the single largest source of referrals to the site. Facebook was also a popular source of referrals, and considerable international site traffic was generated by links from Belgian, Greek and Austrian sites. The site received over 21,000 unique visitors within the first 24 hours, and 64,000 within the first week, with the majority of visitors hailing from the United States. Visitors spent an average of 2 minutes and 29 seconds on the site, showing particular interest in Arch. B b.10 (the Bodleian's Gutenberg Bible), MS. Kennicott 3 (a Hebrew manuscript Bible), and Stamp. Ross. 283 (a Vatican copy of a printed German Bible).

Electronic Legal Deposit

From April 2013, the UK's six Legal Deposit Libraries (LDL)¹ have the legal right to collect electronic publications and to harvest content from the worldwide web. The new eLD legislation covers:

- E-journals, e-books and other electronic documents published in the UK
- Web pages published in the UK (including material available by download from a website)
- Stand alone or "handheld" electronic items such as CD-ROMs
- Items on microfilm

Working in liaison with the publishers, the six Legal Deposit Libraries have to **agree whether and when the entire output of a publisher moves to electronic Legal Deposit (eLD)**. Once LDLs have agreed to accept eLD from a publisher who wishes to deposit their monograph and/or journal output electronically, and the eLD content is ingested into the system, **the libraries will no longer be receiving the print copies by Legal Deposit**.

As with printed legal deposit material, access will be limited to readers working on Bodleian Libraries premises and only a single access per work at a time will be permitted. However, eLD material, which in print may have been confined to the open shelves of a particular library, can be consulted in any of the Bodleian Libraries.

Work on eLD has proceeded rapidly over the long vacation. As of the start of October, 109450 article-level records for eLD items have been added to SOLO. Unfortunately it has proven somewhat harder to implement a robust and secure solution to enable local printing of eLD materials, and colleagues within BDLSS, ITS, and at the British Library are still working on this aspect.

Nick Millea adds: Following an intensive EU Procurement exercise, the contract for platform development and hosting of digital map data was awarded to thinkWhere Ltd. The new system will host data for all the UK Legal Deposit Libraries and will be jointly funded for five years from January 2014.

In addition to hosting the libraries' existing collection of Ordnance Survey digital mapping back to 1998, the system will offer increased flexibility and scalability to accommodate the additional new datasets acquired under the Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013. Securing a system with these capabilities allows the libraries to capture for the first time mapping hitherto lost in the digital "black hole" due to the relatively early transition of cartographic publishers from print to digital format.

¹ Bodleian Library, British Library, Cambridge University Library, National Library of Wales, National Library of Scotland, Trinity College Dublin.



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EEBO-TCP

The Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership (EEBO-TCP), hosted a second successful international conference at Lincoln College's EPA Centre 16-17th September 2013. Full details of the conference programme are available at

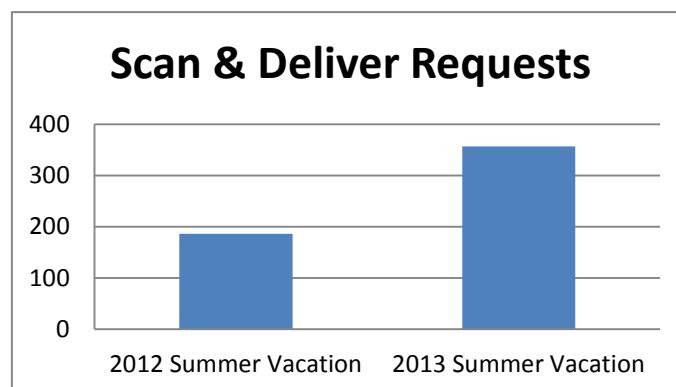
<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/eebotcp/conferences/conference-eebo-tcp-2013/>

The number of fully transcribed and encoded texts available to EEBO-TCP institutions surpassed 40,000 over the summer, and the EEBO-TCP Board made a commitment to actively pursue the remaining \$3-4M which will be required to complete the corpus of c.70,000 texts envisaged as the combined output of EEBO-TCP Phase I and II.

The outputs of EEBO-TCP form a major component of the Jisc's Historic Books platform, which combines the fully-searchable text with other extensive corpora of C18th and C19th materials.

Scan & Deliver (Scan on Demand)

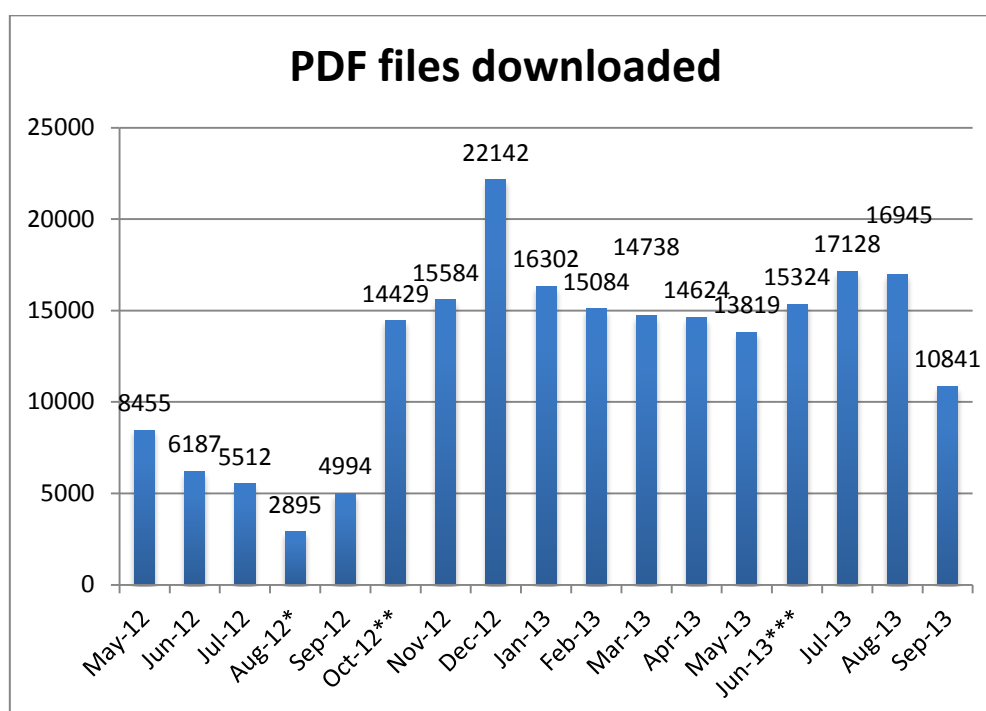
Scan & Deliver continues to grow in popularity with a total of 1,706 requests being placed since go live. Comparative figures between summer vacations of 2012 and 2013 show a 92% increase in demand this year.



A technical development was introduced this summer. In order to place a request customers now require £4.75 on their account, the minimum required to pay for a request. This has resulted in speeding up the requesting process and eradicating the need to contact customers to top up their accounts.

Google Books Collection

Although the collection of Google Books that are downloadable from SOLO had a drop in the number of downloads in September 2013, the average number of downloads for the quarter remained close to 15,000. Downloads from September 2013 were twice the number of downloads from September 2012 and August showed a 585% increase from the previous August. Overall the collection seems consistently used.



Andrew Bonnie, BDLSS, 13th December 2013