



Opening of the New Headingley Campus Library

James Graham
Headingley Campus
1st March 2007

The New Headingley Library

The Library has been transformed. Library staff have worked with Bowman Riley Architects to design a modern, imaginative library within a classic setting. Inventive design and flexible furniture have created spaces which include:

- More group study space - the whole ground floor can be used for group work
- Wireless network access throughout the building
- An improved layout, with all the books together in one easy-to-find sequence
- 'Smart' self service machines for quick issuing, borrowing and renewing
- A friendly, easy-to-use help and advice point
- More individual silent study space in a room overlooking The Acre
- State of the art learning facilities for disabled and dyslexic students
- New exhibition space for student artwork

Guest Speaker Biography



Peter Hoare was educated at Cambridge University, where he read Modern Languages, and at University College London (UCL), where he took the Academic Diploma in Librarianship. He was awarded the MacAlister medal from UCL and the Cowley Prize for a thesis on a historic library in London.

He has held posts at the London Library and university libraries in Southampton, Hull Glasgow and Nottingham. He has also undertaken various research consultancies for organisations such as the British Library and the Technical University in Lisbon.

Peter now spends most of his time studying the history of libraries and has spoken at conferences worldwide on this subject. A special interest is his work as General Editor of the Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland having co-edited the 3rd volume with Alistair Black.

Lecture Outline

“Libraries as resources for research and as subjects of research: a historical view”

From a perspective of more than 50 years' personal experience of university libraries, as a user and as a librarian, Peter will be talking about changes in libraries (and information services) particularly in higher education, and the changing context in which they operate. Universities today are very different from those of 50 years ago, and their libraries are similarly different. The differences are even greater if we look back to the 19th and early 20th centuries, let alone even further back. Priorities and purposes are different, there is a range of different media, buildings and furnishings look different, and so on. (Much of this applies to other kinds of libraries too, and that raises further questions of comparison, where a historical perspective can be useful.) Nonetheless the basic purpose of libraries remains the same: they provide access to the materials needed for teaching, learning and research, at various levels from toddlers at Story-Hour to Nobel prize-winners pursuing blue-skies projects. This is the fundamental role, without which libraries don't have a real reason to exist.

But libraries are also something worth studying as 'historical objects' in their own right – along with their institutional or social context. Library history (like the related topic of information history) is well represented at Leeds Metropolitan University, as well as being Peter's own main research interest. While working for the past ten or twelve years on the Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland Peter has considered many aspects. What are libraries for? What is their context? Why is their history important in the wider world? How does library history relate to the day-to-day work of practising librarians? What about the people who have used libraries over the years? Once again there are many answers and many ways of approaching the subject. The CHBLI is ground-breaking in its spread of coverage and its comprehensive approach to 1500 years of libraries; but it has been built on foundations that have provided detailed studies of individual libraries and particular features of the library world. It has also relied on history at a more general level to provide the context without which libraries cease to have true meaning. Library & information history has matured into a discipline in its own right, while retaining an awareness of the crucial connections it needs to have with other disciplines.



innovation north
leeds metropolitan university

Professor Simon Lee
Vice-Chancellor
Leeds Metropolitan University

invites you to the opening of the new
Headingley Campus Library

Thursday 1 March 2007

6:00pm arrival for a 6:15pm start

Naming of the library
Professor Simon Lee

Lecture, Peter Hoare
"Libraries as resources for research,
and as subjects of research: a historical view"

Followed by a reception buffet and library tours

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