French Studies Library Group

Annual Review

French Studies Library Group Annual Review

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The FSLG Annual Review is an annual publication, produced for the members of the French Studies Library Group. The aims of the Group are:

 To act as a focus for librarians and other concerned with the provision of library resources and services in French studies;

- To facilitate cooperation in the provision, access, promotion and preservation of French printed and electronic resources;
- To provide a forum for the dissemination of information on these topics between libraries and the scholarly user community;
- To liaise with related library groups.

Membership

Membership is open to any person or institution with an interest in the aims of the Group. Annual membership costs 15 pounds sterling. Please contact the Treasurer, Martin Hodgson (martin.hodgson@kcl.ac.uk).

Notes for contributors

Contributions to future issues of the Review are always welcome. Submissions should be preferably in electronic form (rich text format (RTF)). Please send them to the editors at the above addresses.

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French book supply – a personal view

David Lowe, Head of European Collections and Cataloguing, Cambridge University Library

For twenty-two of the past twenty-five years my main responsibility has been as the German specialist at Cambridge University Library. Acquisition of German materials certainly has its problems – very expensive titles, the necessity to cover a wide range of academic disciplines, until 1989 the difficulty of acquisition from East Germany. But until I began selection and ordering in French three years ago, I hadn't realised how great the contrast between acquisition of titles in two such major European languages.

In common with many large academic libraries Cambridge acquires most of its German language materials from Otto Harrassowitz in Wiesbaden. Harrassowitz provides a very comprehensive information service for new titles. Nowadays we order on-line through the Harrassowitz database, which is extremely straightforward and easy to use, with records of a uniform and consistently high quality. Twenty-four hours later we pull across bibliographical records for our purchases from the Harrassowitz server, and these are used automatically to create new purchase orders, complete with prices and Cambridge fund codes. OttoEditions also indicates when a title is out of print, or announced but not yet published. Standing orders can also be checked online. Ordering German titles is a really efficient and straightforward procedure. Although the databases of major French vendors are reasonably well designed and easy to use, none of them offer the wealth of added features provided by OtttoEditions.

It is clear that there is no consensus as to the "best" French supplier. No French firm has captured such a large share of the market as Harrassowitz for German imprints, or Casalini for Italian titles. My instincts told me that Cambridge French acquisitions should be streamlined and placed with one supplier (three years ago we were using approximately fifteen vendors, three for monographic orders and another dozen for long-established standing orders), and I began to compare and contrast the various firms and services on offer.

The supply of bibliographical information on new titles is of paramount importance for me. I am in no doubt that the best selection policy would be careful scrutiny of the French national bibliography etc, but Cambridge does not have the necessary staff resources. If we are to purchase a satisfactory

range of French acquisitions each year, it can only be by pushing as much work as possible on to the vendor.

There appear to be three major contenders based in Paris – Aux Amateurs, Erasmus and Touzot, all of whom have many satisfied customers amongst academic libraries in the States. (I noted with interest at the WESS conference in Paris in March 2004 that many American libraries use more than one vendor.) A further option is offered by Dawsons, who, whilst not a specialist French supplier, include French titles fairly comprehensively upon their database. Cambridge had in the past also used Librarie Sous la Lampe, but the firm's inability to supply standing orders led me to reject them, and they have subsequently ceased to supply monographic titles to libraries in the United Kingdom.

Dawsons is the only one of these vendors who does not offer any kind of information service for new titles, which for a large general library like Cambridge is a distinct disadvantage. (Dawson's big credit point – its pricing – will be mentioned later.) Touzot probably has the most comprehensive listing service – certainly so in the fields of political and social science. Sometimes I find Touzot's comprehensiveness an advantage, picking up titles I would not find from any other source, but I have also sometimes ended up buying what I thought were monographs and what turned out to be issues of a periodical with a distinctive, or sometimes not so distinctive, title. And for a general academic collection with a limited budget, more indication of what were the mainstream "must-have" academic publications would be useful.

Such analysis of new academic publishing is provided by Aux Amateurs, with its one, two and three star rating of new titles. This I find really valuable, though any such ranking system is inevitably controversial on occasion. The bibliographical information provided is excellent, though the subject analysis is less detailed than that offered by Touzot. Like Touzot, Aux Amateurs claims a fairly comprehensive coverage of new academic titles, but I have found obvious gaps in coverage.

Librairie Erasmus doesn't claim to be comprehensive in its new title service. The main emphasis is on the fine arts, where coverage is very thorough, but the slips also include a range of archaeological, historical and literary titles. The advantage of Erasmus slips is the accompanying paragraph of analysis of each title, which I find greatly facilitates the selection process.

Both Touzot and Aux Amateurs allow us to add our fund codes and download the relevant records into our system free of charge, which certainly makes ordering a much quicker process. Erasmus plan to offer a similar service in the near future. The quality of entries on the databases is consistently high for Touzot and Aux Amateurs. Dawsons relies on pulling in data from other sources, as does Erasmus for titles not included in their new title service, and this is more variable in quality. (Instances where I would not have retrieved a record if I didn't know the ISBN are reasonably common.)

Pricing brings further complications into play. All four vendors are fairly consistent in their charges for titles from mainstream publishers. However, in the case of smaller publishers there is sometimes considerable variation in the prices charged. Is one vendor consistently cheaper? I don't think so. Dawsons does, however, offer a larger general discount than any of its competitors.

A final difficulty relates to the vast array of countries which publish academic material in French. Harrassowitz and Casalini both aspire to comprehensive coverage of titles in German and Italian, but after all, they have relatively few countries to deal with. I'm not sure that any French supplier achieves a comparable level of coverage, but if they do, it is only for material published in mainland France. Belgian imprints are less well represented, and coverage of titles published in Africa, the Indian Ocean or the Caribbean is very patchy.

I know there are French language titles published in Mauritius that Cambridge should be buying, but all my attempts in the past twelve months to find a reliable source of supply have met with failure. With the Cameroon I've had rather more success, but it was a nerve-wracking business. The publisher concerned, Editions CLE, was scarcely represented at all in the major vendors' databases. I couldn't get any email response to my enquiries. Having placed a fairly substantial order by letter, prepayment was requested, which I don't really like doing. The books did arrive though – with a Glasgow postmark and a decidedly inaccurate address!

So three years on I still instinctively feel that I should rationalise on French book acquisition. It is obvious that the more vendors you use, the greater the risk of buying duplicates. (The Harrassowitz database provides a valuable double-check, alerting us to the fact that the University Library – or another Cambridge library – has already bought a particular title.) However, I am as far away as ever from choosing one French supplier over another – there are simply too many variables. Only one thing is certain. Those acquiring German language titles have a very easy time of it ...

A survey of recent activity in French libraries and French-based library

Teresa Vernon, Curator, French Collections, British Library

Pan-European library projects

The European Library project which aims ultimately to offer access to the combined resources both digital and non digital of the 43 national libraries of Europe launched its web portal (http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/) in March 2005.

At launch the site gives access to catalogue records and digital objects from the nine national libraries of Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Switzerland. Note that the simple search defaults to only nine national library catalogues and three digital collections so that it is necessary to select the advanced search option to view and search all the collections available at launch.

The Gabriel website has now closed and its contents incorporated into the European Library website. Annual reports of the national libraries may be found on the website of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) website (http://www.kb.nl/gabriel/about_cenl/)

The Google Library Project announced in December 2004 which aims to digitise (initially) 15 million books from the collections of Harvard, Stanford and Michigan university libraries as well as from the New York Public Library and the Bodleian with a reported investment of between \$150 and \$200 million has, following a French initiative initiated by the President of the BnF, prompted the EU to announce plans to boost its policy of preserving and exploiting Europe's written and audiovisual heritage, including digital libraries and the development of search engines. Meanwhile the French government has set up in July an interdepartmental committee to develop the European digital library project at the national level.

The BnF has mounted a selection of (somewhat poorly scanned) press cuttings on its website at: http://www.bnf.fr/pages/dernmin/com_google.htm. The President of the BnF also published in April a book with the same title as the headline in his January article in *Le Monde*: Jean-Noël Jeanneney, *Quand*

Google défie l'Europe (Paris, Mille et une nuits, 2005). The controversy has sparked a lively debate in France reflected in the archives of the discussion list biblio.fr (http://listes.cru.fr/sympa/arc/biblio-fr)

Developments at the Bibliothèque nationale de France

Jean-Noël Jeanneney, President of the BnF, was reappointed for a second three year term of office from 22 March 2005. In practice he will continue as President for a futher two years as he will reach retirement age in 2007.

Collections, Catalogues and National Bibliography

The *Bibliographie nationale française-Audiovisuel* is now available on the web. The first instalment to be made available is the cumulative bibliography for 2004. The *Bibliographie nationale française-Livres, Publications en série* and *Musique* are already available online http://bibliographienationale.bnf.fr/.

The Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal which is particularly strong in French literature collections is currently converting its catalogues of printed books. At present pre-1880 and post-1988 accessions are available online in BN-OPALE PLUS, the main BnF catalogue. The next tranche will concern the 1880 to 1988 accessions. In addition records for the printed books and musical scores in the Georges Douay theatre collection (Fonds Georges Douay) are also now entered on BN-OPALE PLUS.

Following the transfer of the Département des Arts du Spectacle from the Arsenal building on the rue de Sully to the BnF's Richelieu site the Arsenal building is currently being upgraded to meet modern health and safety standards.

The Département des Arts du Spectacle moved in autumn 2004 from the Arsenal building on the rue de Sully in the Bastille area to the Richelieu site. The Département is expected to benefit from being located close to the Institut national d'histoire de l'art and the Société d'histoire du théâtre. The records of the core Auguste Rondel collection comprising books, press cuttings, programmes and brochures relating to the performing arts are now available on BN-OPALE PLUS. However the inventory by broad subject classifications and the supplement to the collection have not been converted so these need to be consulted on site or via the microform *Catalogue de la Collection Auguste Rondel* held in some UK libraries.

The conversion of the printed catalogues of the Département des manuscrits is in progress. The catalogues of several important collections are also now online. More information on the BnF website (www.bnf.fr) by following the path: Catalogues & bibliothèque numérique/Accès aux catalogues numérisés.

The BnF's Collection Development Policy ("charte documentaire des acquisitions") is now available online: http://www.bnf.fr/pages/infopro/collectionspro/pdf/Charte_coll.pdf

Please note that subject-specific collection policy statements are not yet online (the subjects are listed in Synthèse et perspectives-Annexe 3).

Digitisation

In May 2005 the BnF and the Library of Congress launched *France in America/La France en Amérique*, a bilingual multimedia website exploring the history of the French presence in North America and the interaction of the French and American peoples from the 16th to the early 19th century. A second final release due to be launched in 2006 will document the continuing links between France and the US in the 19th century. Further information may be found in the online BnF press kit at:

www.bnf.fr/pages/presse/dossiers/france_amerique.pdf.

The BnF website, the latest addition to Gallica, the BnF's digital library, is at: http://gallica.bnf.fr/FranceAmerique/fr/. The companion Library of Congress website, part of the library's Global Gateway website, is at: http://international.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/.

The Bibliothèque nationale de France made public in February 2005 details of its project to digitise French daily newspapers from the 19th century to 1944 over the next five years and make them available for free on Gallica. The first titles to be digitised are: *Le Figaro, Le Temps, La Croix* and *L'Humanité*. Eighteen titles are scheduled to follow: *Le Journal des Débats, Le Constitutionnel, La Presse, Le siècle, Le Petit Journal, Le Petit Parisien, Le Matin, Ouest-Eclair, L' Action francaise, L' Aurore, Le Gaulois, La Lanterne, L' Intransigeant, La Justice, L'Univers, Le Rappel, Gil Blas and L'Echo de Paris. More information is available in the online BnF press kit at:*

http://www.bnf.fr/pages/presse/dossiers/num presse.pdf.

In July 2005 the BnF announced a collaborative digital project on 19th century universal exhibitions in partnership with the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM) to be mounted on Gallica and the CNAM's own digital library, the Conservatoire numérique des Arts et Métiers (CNUM) (http://cnum.cnam.fr/).

A Collection Development Policy statement for Gallica, the BnF's digital library, is available online at:

http://www.bnf.fr/pages/infopro/cooperation/pdf/Charte_Gallica.pdf.

Notable acquisitions

Annotated books from the library of Louis Jouvet were purchased at the auction sale at Drouot on 1 April 2005 to complement the existing Louis Jouvet collection in the Département des Arts du Spectacle. The Département has also acquired the archives of the theatre director Roger Planchon. The historian René Rémond has donated his manuscripts and personal archives to the BnF. The writer Pierre Guyotat has donated his manuscripts, notebooks and correspondence. Michel Butor has donated the letters he has received since 2000 to be added to two earlier gifts made in 1993 and 2000. Hélène Cixous, Dominique Fernandez and Jacques Réda have also donated recent manuscripts to be added to existing holdings. Albert Memmi has donated his diaries from 1954-2004 as an inaugural gift to the Albert Memmi collection.

The Département des Estampes et de la photographie has acquired documents relating the photographer Nicéphore Niépce held by Janine Niépce. Together with correspondence acquired at the Jammes sale in 2002 this acquisition will throw light on the early history of photography.

Guides to research

Des sources pour l'histoire des femmes: guide. Coordonné par Annick Tillier. Paris, BnF, 2004. ISBN: 2717723226. 20 EUR http://editions.bnf.fr/science/fiche72.htm

The online Guide de recherche en bibliothèque-collections imprimées et audiovisuelles (http://grebib.bnf.fr/accueil.html) has been revised. Although the guide is aimed at novice users it contains a useful "Miscellanées BnF" section which provides guidance with hard to find categories of material and collections under the following headings: Annuaires officiels des abonnés au téléphone, bulletins paroissiaux, catalogues d'éditeurs et de librairies, documents en caractères non latins, normes, publications officielles françaises, recueils (dumps), thèses françaises, titres de périodiques.

News from other French libraries

The Italian architect Massimiliano Fuksas has been chosen to build the future Centre des Archives nationales at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine near Paris. The building, which will hold post 1790-archives, is due to be ready in 2009. Meanwhile the Minister of Culture has set up a team to study the administrative structure of the French National Archives.

The new research library of the Institut Mémoires de l'édition contemporaine (IMEC) (http://www.imec-archives.com/) opened on 25 October 2004 at the Abbaye d'Ardenne, a restored 12th century abbey near Caen in Normandy. The Institut holds over 350 archival collections of authors, publishers, periodicals and institutions. The library comprises four sections. The bibliothèque d'études des fonds is the main section: it is intended to back up each of the archival collections by providing complete author works and critical literature on open access and in the reserve collection. For example the Céline study library includes some 1400 printed books, 150 theses and 310 critical works, while the Genet collection comprises 600 items. The Robbe-Grillet library comprises 1260 works and the Dotremont library 310 titles. The remaining sections consist of a library specializing in the printed book and archives, a periodicals library and a reference library. The Paris branch office remains open to advise researchers on their visit to Abbaye d'Ardenne site and also provides access to the catalogues and inventories.

IMEC also announces the publication of an updated hard copy edition of its guide to the collections *Répertoire des collections* (last ed.2000) for September 2005. The *Répertoire* is traditionally also available online and regularly updated on the IMEC website, but at time of latest visit in July 2005 only a list of collections was available following a revision of the website

The Bibliothèque Carnegie of the Bibliothèque municipale de Reims (http://www.bm-reims.fr/) reopened on 15 June 2005. Donated by Carnegie after WW1 and housed in an art deco building which had been closed since 2001 for renovation, the library holds the heritage and research collections of Reims public libraries. Two examples are a book of hours owned by Mary Stuart and a collection of material relating to the Grand Jeu Group (René Daumal, Roger Gilbert-Lecomte, Roger Vailland and the painter Joseph Sima) active in Reims between c.1928 and 1932.

The Bibliothèque Humaniste at Sélestat (http://www.ville-selestat.fr/bhselestat/) in Alsace has opened a website with information on the collection and an online catalogue. The best-known collection is the library of Beatus Rhenanus, a native of Sélestat (information provided via Jack Kessler in *FYI France*).

Jack Kessler also highlights the website of the Bibliothèque munipale of Avranches in Normandy (http://www.ville-

<u>avranches.fr/manuscrits/tourisme_manuscrits.htm</u>). The recently renovated library holds the collections of local religious institutions including that of the abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel.

The Bibliothèque du Film (BiFi) (http://www.bifi.fr) which has been closed since 24 March 2005 has now completed its move to its new premises in the former American Center designed by Frank Gehry at 51 rue de Bercy. The Library and the Cinémathèque Française will reopen to the public on 28 September 2005.

The Bibliothèque historique des postes et des télécommunications (http://www.bhpt.org/) has made its catalogue available online. The library states that its collections provide rich source material for research in economic, social, technical and administrative history. The library also holds an almost complete (not 1996-1999) set of telephone directories in hard copy and on microfilm.

The library of the Institut catholique de Paris has announced the opening of its online catalogue. The Library of the Institut has strong holdings in theology and also holds early and special collections donated since the foundation of the Institut in 1875.

http://www.icp.fr/icp/catalogues.php (online resources)
http://www.icp.fr/icp/biblio_universitaire.php (university library website)

The Library of the Musée de l'Homme closed its reading room on 10 June 2005. This library will form the core collection of the library of the future Musée du Quai Branly (q.v.) and its role as a library specialising in ethnology and prehistory will continue. Pending the opening of the museum a procedure for the consultation of the library collection is due to come into operation from January 2006: more information is promised in September 2005. Meanwhile the bibliographic records for books and periodicals are being added to the Système universitaire de documentation (SUDOC) online catalogue http://www.quaibranly.fr/ (then click on "médiathèque").

The Centre technique du livre de l'enseignement supérieur (CTLes) (http://www.ctles.fr/) at Marne-la-Vallée, a depository library for university and other important libraries in the Ile-de-France region, now has a website. The website gives access to the online catalogue and also to information and forms on issues such as transfer of collections and shared conservation (medical periodicals project).

The Centre national de la danse (CND) (http://www.cnd.fr) opened at Pantin near Paris in September 2004. An article in *Livres Hebdo*, the weekly French

book trade journal, (no. 586, 28 January 2005), mentions historical collections of interest such as the Gilberte Cournand collection of printed books and photos as well as programmes, posters and brochures from the post-WW2 period. Another highlight is the Roderick Lange collection which consists of the professional archives of Albrecht Knust, a disciple of Rudolf Laban, on Laban and dance in Germany since the inter-war period. In addition to its research role the library is also a public library and the library website emphasises this later aspect to the detriment of the visibility of the research collections.

The Ecole nationale des chartes (http://www.enc.sorbonne.fr) regularly mounts new material on its website. This includes an online bibliography on the history of the book (http://theleme.enc.sorbonne.fr/sommaire74.html) compiled by Annie Charon and Elisabeth Parinet. Mme Parinet also published *Une histoire de l'edition à l'époque contemporaine*. Paris, Seuil, 2004, 489 p. (Collection Points Histoire).

The creation of the new Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration (http://histoire.immigration.fr/) has been confirmed. The new museum, which will also have a library, is due to open to the public in 2007. It will be located in the Palais de la Porte Dorée (Paris 12), the site of the old Musée national des arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie. The choice is not uncontroversial since this art deco building was built for the Colonial Exhibition of 1931, then became the Musée des colonies et de la France extérieure before being renamed Musée national des arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie (MAAO) in the 1960s. Pending its opening to the public the Cité, which will concentrate on immigration since c.1820, has mounted a virtual exhibition on this theme together with learning resources on its website.

The new Musée du Quai Branly (http://www.quaibranly.fr/) dedicated to the arts and civilisation of Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas, is due to open in 2006. The building, designed by Jean Nouvel, the architect of the Institut du Monde Arabe, is named for its location on the Seine near the Eiffel Tower. The collections come from the Ethnological Laboratory of the Musée de l'Homme and from the Musée national des arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie and have already been transferred to the new site.

Catalogues

The catalogues of the special libraries and of the special collections of the public libraries of the Ville de Paris are being converted and will be added to the Catalogue collectif de France (French Union Catalogue) between 2005 and

2007, starting with the printed books in the Bibliothèque administrative de la Ville de Paris. In fact the catalogues of the Bibliothèque des Arts graphiques, the Bibliothèque Forney and the Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand (women's history) were partially automated in 1997 and included in the CCFr. The catalogues of further public and special libraries with important historical collections such as the Bibliothèque municipale de Bordeaux are also currently being retroconverted.

In the medium term (2006) it is envisaged that the CCFr will become a portal, with links to online catalogues of early holdings (not all converted catalogues are in the CCFr) and to union catalogues of manuscripts.

The catalogues of the Bibliothèque littéraire Jacques Doucet (one of the most important libraries for 19th and 20th c. French literature collections) and of INIST are among others to be integrated in the course of 2005 to the Système universitaire de documentation (French universities union catalogue) and therefore also into the CCFr which includes the Sudoc. In March 2005 the new portal, portail documentaire Sudoc (http://www.portail-sudoc.abes.fr/) was launched. The portal gives access to databases freely available on the web and to subscription based resources. Obviously libraries in the UK can only access the freely available resources.

Digital libraries

The Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée has launched its digital library of out-of-copyright works from its library collection in Egyptology, classical civilisation and the ancient Near East (www.mom.fr/bibliotheque/bibnum). The Ecole française d'Athènes has already created Cefael, an ambitious digital library of the works it has published since its foundation in 1877 (http://cefael.efa.gr/).

Francophone collections of electronic journals: recent developments

The French-speaking world has recently seen some initiatives designed to provide a Francophone equivalent to JSTOR and Project MUSE. Often, however, the decision has been made to offer full-text access to at least the back files of journals free of charge. The pioneering French- Canadian Consortium of three Quebec universities, Erudit (www.erudit.org), which provides access to current and retrospective issues of c.50 journals in the humanities and social sciences), is often seen as a model and sometimes as a partner.

The year 2005 saw the launch of PERSEE (http://www.persee.fr), a French project to digitise and provide full-text access to scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences. The project is run by a consortium led by the Université Lumière Lyon 2. Like JSTOR there is a moving wall of between three or five years. The first phase comprises seven pilot journals: Les Annales, La Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Chartes, L'Homme, Matériaux pour l'histoire de notre temps, La Revue de l'art, La Revue économique, La Revue française de science politique. The second phase currently being developed will see the addition of eight new titles. In the long term the project aims to include 250 titles. The website is available in French and in English. The FAQ section provides further information on the project and on how to perform searches. As explained on the website authors or copyright holders must grant rights to view individual articles, although in practice permission is rarely withheld. If this happens only bibliographical references to articles are provided. French law is particularly stringent with the copyright of images, so pending ongoing negotiations, the images in the Revue de l'art have not been reproduced. The default access is to one page at a time. In order to access the full article it is necessary to click on "export the article in PDF". The Thumbnails" view ("Vignettes") is designed to give an overview of all pages at once to highlight non-text material, viz, illustrations, etc.

The launch of the Belgian project CAIRN (http://www.cairn.info./) is now set for September 2005 (information on new launch date provided by Dr Graeme Hayes via the Francofil discussion list). This project is a joint initiative of Belgian and French publishers such as De Boeck, La Découverte, Belin, Erès, Verdier, etc and the University of Liège. CAIRN will initially provide full text access to 60 francophone journals in the humanities and social sciences and aims to provide access to over 200 titles within three to five years time. In general access to full text will be available free of charge to the back files of journals according to the moving wall principle, while access to current and recent issues will be on a subscription or pay-as-you go basis.

French author-related websites

Since early 2005 the website Atelier Andre Breton (http://www.atelierandrebreton.com/) has made available 25 000 digitised items from the André Breton collection together with supporting material on Breton and surrealism comprising a bibliography, a chronology and a what's new section. While it is possible to navigate some of the site and perform searches it is necessary to register (free of charge) to access the collections database.

Although not recent (March 2004), two important additions have been made to the website of the Maison de Balzac in Paris. The first edition, known as the Furne edition (1842-1855), of the *Comédie humaine* is now online: it is paginated and fully searchable

(http://www.paris.fr/musees/balzac/furne/presentation.htm). This is a joint project of the Groupe International de Recherches Balzaciennes, the ARTFL Project (University of Chicago) and the Maison de Balzac. The site also gives access to a concordance of the Comédie humaine and of many other works by Balzac compiled by Professor Kazuo Kiriu

(http://www.v1.paris.fr/musees/balzac/kiriu/concordance.htm)

The Centre Flaubert is working on the digitisation and production of a hypertext edition of the manuscripts of Madame Bovary held in the Bibliothèque municipale de Rouen: the project is due to be available online in 2006 (http://www.univ-rouen.fr/psi/BOVARY/index.htm)

The team of the André Gide Editions project (University of Sheffield) invites visits to GidianArchives (http://www.gidiana.net/GA.htm), a database composed of some 3000 articles from the personal archive of André Gide now in the Bibliothèque littéraire Jacques Doucet in Paris. The articles in GidianArchives extend well beyond Gide studies to provide information on numerous aspects of the first half of the twentieth century. Most of the items are presented as Word documents, though some cuttings are in PDF format. A search engine makes it possible to find articles on a given theme ("motsclés") or an individual ("noms propres"), track down all the articles by a particular writer or published in a specific periodical or to select items by date.

A website on the writer Violette Leduc, created by Mireille Brioude, provides a chronology, a bibliography of works by and about Leduc, information about her literary friendships and news items.

(http://www.violetteleduc.com/index.html)

Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland

New Directors of the ten federal cultural and scientific institutions have been appointed for a fixed six-year term with effect from 2 May 2005. The new Director of the Royal Library is Patrick Lefèvre who was Director of the Royal Army Museum.

In April 2004 the federal government approved a ten-year digitization programme from 2005, the Plan de numérisation du patrimoine fédéral, for

the ten cultural and scientific institutions, which include the Royal library, the federal archives and museums plus the Belgian cinémathèque

The libraries of the ministries of the Belgian government (note that "ministries" are now called "Services public fédéraux") have created a union catalogue of their holdings at: http://www.bib.belgium.be/.

The year 2005 sees numerous exhibitions put on to mark 175 years of the creation of Belgium as an independent state (<u>www.175-25.be</u>).

Hubert Nyssen, the Belgian-born writer and publisher who founded Actes Sud (now run by his daughter Françoise Nyssen), has donated his personal and professional archives to the Centre d'Etudes du Livre Contemporain of the University of Liège. The University already holds the archives of Georges Simenon and Marcel Thiry. More information may be found on Hubert Nyssen's website (http://www.hubertnyssen.com/archives.php).

The Musée royal de Mariemont (http://www.musee-mariemont.be/) has acquired the archives of the writer, lawyer and political activist Charles Plisnier. The Museum already holds the archives of Plisnier's nephew, the writer Charles Bertin in the library's Réserve précieuse section (its core collection was assembled by the Belgian bibliophile Raoul Warocqué).

Living Belgian writers who maintain their own personal websites include Nicolas Ancion (http://ancion.ibelgique.com/), Philippe Blasband (www.blasband.be), Jean-Claude Bologne (http://perso.wanadoo.fr/jean-claude.bologne/), François Emmanuel (www.francoisemmanuel.be), Vincent Engel (www.vincent-engel.com), Caroline Lamarche (www.carolinelamarche.net), Amélie Nothomb (http://membres.lycos.fr/fenrir/nothomb.htm), Colette Nys-Mazure (http://membres.lycos.fr/nysmazure/), Jean-Pierre Otte and his wife Myette Ronday (http://perso.wanadoo.fr/plaisir.d-exister/). For an overview of information on Belgian authors on the web refer to the website Guide des Lettres Belges (www.guidedeslettresbelges.be (click on "Documentation").

The Luxembourg bibliographies produced by the Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg (BnL) have migrated to the web (http://www.bnl.lu/bib/index.htm). The Bibliographie luxembourgeoise (National Bibliography) is currently (July 2005) available in annual fascicules from 2001 to 2004 and for the first semester (January-June) of 2005 and the Bibliographie d'histoire luxembourgeoise in annual fascicules from 2001 to 2004.

The BnL has launched a project to digitize books and periodicals relating to Luxembourg in its collections (http://www.bnl.lu/cgi-bin/luxonline.pl). The first phase comprises six items and includes the *Bibliographie nationale du pays de Luxembourg depuis ses origines jusqu'à nos jours* (Luxembourg, Imprimerie V.Buck, 1947-1975) and the *Catalogue descriptif des manuscrits de la bibliothèque de Luxembourg*.

Following the appointment of its director as Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Culture with effect from 1 April 2005 Marie-Christine Doffey was appointed as the new director of the Swiss National Library and took office on 1 April. Mme Doffey has worked at the SNL since 1991 and has been its deputy director since January 2003.

The Library is working towards bringing up to date its four specialised subject bibliographies which include the *Bibliographie annuelle des lettres romandes* and *the Bibliographie der Schweizergeschichte/Bibliographie de l'histoire Suisse*. It is intended that publication will migrate to the web. The four bibliographies are already available for cumulative searching on the SNL's BIBLIO database (http://topaz.snl.ch/cgi-bin/gw/chameleon?=skin=biblio) from 1994 onwards for the Swiss-French literature bibliography and from 1999 for the Swiss history bibliography.

The Swiss National Library has announced the opening of the Frenchlanguage version of Swiss Infodesk (http://www.snl.admin.ch/swissinfodesk/index.html), an annotated directory of internet resources about Switzerland. Although the English version has been available since 2003 the French and German versions are not identical to the English version so the different language versions should be consulted as needed.

The new online Swiss Portal to Serials (http://www.swiss-serials.ch/) is a metacatalogue similar to KVK and enables the user to search for and locate periodicals in the main libraries of Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

A new face at the University of Bristol

Damien McManus, Subject Librarian, Arts and languages, University of Bristol

It's hard to believe that I have been in post at the University of Bristol for nearly a year, but now that the academic year has come to an end I have had the chance to draw half a breath to take stock of my experiences so far.

First, a line or two about me. Last September I moved here from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, based in Central London. Prior to that I worked in public libraries in London and a short stint at Leeds Metropolitan University, having started my career at the University of Leeds as a Student Assistant in the late 1990s. Although my degree was in English and French, I am, like many colleagues in academic libraries, responsible for several other subjects: in my case, German; Russian Studies (taking in Czech and Slovak); Linguistics; Classics and Ancient History, and English.

The spread of subjects for which I am responsible poses many challenges. These include gaining knowledge of the collections that I maintain; continuing to build relationships with departments which were crafted so effectively by my predecessor Michael Howarth over many years; trying to ensure that the information needs of staff and students in the Departments with which I liaise are met, and many others. One thing is certain, however: I find this post tremendously rewarding and endlessly interesting.

Of particular interest to me (and, I suspect, to many colleagues reading this) is the subject of how to ensure that library users receive tuition about making best use of printed and online resources available to them. Experiences of some colleagues in other institutions show that arriving at a position where librarians can teach students how to use information resources effectively as part of the academic curriculum is far more easily said than done. However, at Bristol, we have decided to formulate and implement an Information Literacy Strategy which aims to integrate or 'embed' information literacy into teaching programmes. Advice about this subject from colleagues (tips, case studies, and so on) would be more than welcome!

A major source of support to me is the network of colleagues in other university libraries with whom I share information, usually indirectly through channels such as the FSLG, GSLG and COSEELIS mailing lists and publications, but also directly at FSLG Committee meetings, or the recent

CURL/CoFoR conference at the British Library. As I am relatively new to the world of academic librarianship, I find this network invaluable: it is always good to know that I am not alone in the challenges that I face in trying to provide effective resources and services for my academic communities!

A brief history of WESLINE (West European Studies Library and Information Network)

Jill Kempshall, Faculty Librarian: Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences, Bolland Library, University of West of England

and

Antony Loveland, Head of Arts Collections, Senate House Library, University of London

WESLINE, the West European Studies Library and Information Network, was officially launched during the one-day Conference on Collaborative Collection Management and Foreign Language Collections which was held at the British Library on April 11th 2005.

Some years earlier it had become increasingly apparent to the four existing West European studies Library groups (in addition to FSLG these are ACLAIIR, the Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Resources and ISLG and GSLG the Italian and German Studies groups) that there were benefits to be gained from developing consortial activities and having a unified and more powerful voice to respond to the various consultation exercises which were taking place at the time. So in August 2001 representatives of those groups, with Jill as convenor, met to discuss how this could be taken forward. It was agreed that a starting point would be the production of a questionnaire to be circulated to those librarians and information specialists working in West European language and area studies in order to determine who was working in the field, what their job titles and responsibilities were and to create a list of language "specialists" from the replies. It was also hoped that more members might be recruited to the groups in the process.

The groups also agreed that they would pursue cooperation by linking up their websites, and despite concerns about problems of overlap or lack of relevance, there was considerable interest in the possibility of running a joint conference. In 2003 the first such joint conference took place at Cambridge University. It was a great success and was followed by another in 2004, which was hosted by the Institut Français and the Goethe Institut. The 2005 conference in Oxford is keenly anticipated and there is a strong possibility

that both the ISLG and ACLAIIR will participate in the 2006 event to be held at the University of London.

At the time of its inauguration this umbrella organisation had the working title of Consortium of West European Studies Library Groups. The more memorable name WESLINE was adopted in 2004 when the Chairs of all the groups were attending the Paris Conference of WESS, the West European Studies Section of the American Association of College and Research Libraries.

Unlike WESS, WESLINE does not at present have a committee or any funds of its own, hence its rather slow gestation. However, it is able to act as a pressure group and recently made representation to the University of Bangor about its proposal to remove Subject Librarian posts. Moreover, the consortium has taken its first steps towards becoming a more 'tangible' entity, even if it is in a virtual environment. Since September 2004 WESLINE has had a website¹, which is hosted and maintained by the University of London Research Library Services.

The site has three main features: a bulletin board for items of interest to the members of the West European groups; the directory of language 'specialists' referred to earlier; and assorted documents of interest. It is still in its infancy so it is difficult to predict at this stage exactly how it will develop, although it is becoming increasingly clear that the directory will assume more importance as it expands². Although the need for a directory was highlighted early on in the group's discussions, the feedback from the recent joint meeting at the British Library if anything reinforced this belief.

At this stage it remains unclear how WESLINE will develop as a group. However, since we are firm believers in the maxim, "From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow", we are hopeful that this is just the beginning of a bright future.

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¹ http://www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/wesline/

² If you wish to submit your details, please email them to Antony Loveland (aloveland@shl.lon.ac.uk).

News round-up

British Library

The Catalogue of Photographically Illustrated Books

(http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/photographyinbooks/welcome.htm) is a searchable database of books illustrated with original photographs, early photomechanical prints, and texts related to the history and development of photography from 1839 to 1914. The British Library's collection of photographically illustrated books is one of the world's largest and most comprehensive sources of early British and foreign photography. The database is particularly rich in French material.

Ed King, Head of Newspaper Collections at the British Library, points out that the JISC-funded **British Newspapers 1800-1900** project to digitise up to two million pages of fully searchable texts and associated images from out of copyright BL newspapers 1800-1900 will make available information (free to HE/FE) about France and other West European countries through the reports in UK newspapers.

http://www.bl.uk/collections/britishnewspapers1800to1900.html

Work continues on official publications from Western European governments within the framework of the co-operation agreement between the British Library and the Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Gaps that have been identified in the collections of national government publications from Belgium and Luxembourg are being filled and titles are being acquired.

http://www.bl.uk/collections/social/belgium.html http://www.bl.uk/collections/social/luxembourg.html

British Library Publishing has published the following title: Antony Griffiths. *Prints for Books. Book Illustration in France 1760-1800*. London, The British Library, 2004. ISBN: 0712348743. 192 pp, 90 b/w ills. £20.00.

The book is based on the Panizzi lectures given at the British Library in November 2003, but the text has been considerably augmented for publication.

An informal BL Group 'Francophiles' has been set up and has met twice. The Group aims to provide a focus for the coordination and promotion of French collections across the Library.

Morna Daniels has published 'Caricatures from the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and the Paris Commune', *Electronic Library Journal* (2005), art.5, pp.1-19. http://www.bl.uk/collections/eblj/2005/article5.html

Morna Daniels attended the annual conference of the Society for the Study of French History at the University of Southampton 4-5 July 2005. The conference attracted an attendance of eighty-seven people. The theme of the conference was French History: Spaces and Places. There was four parallel sessions at most time slots, but a booklet of abstracts was distributed to give an overview of all the papers. It is obvious that a wide range of material with visual or cartographic content is of interest to the researcher.

Teresa Vernon attended the 46th annual conference of the Society for French Studies at the University of Leeds 4-6 July 2005. 155 delegates attended this year's conference including thirty seven postgraduates. Attendance over the past five years has averaged 151 delegates. The programme, ranging from the medieval period to the present day and from literature, thought, history and cultural studies to cinema, postcolonial studies and the strongly emerging area of research on French photography, reflected the chronological and interdisciplinary reach of contemporary French and Francophone studies. Thanks to the initiative of Ann Farr, Arts Faculty Team Librarian at Leeds (and FSLG Secretary), a special display of French material was mounted in the Brotherton Library by Chris Sheppard, the Head of Special Collections. Future SFS Conferences will be held at St Andrews (2006), Birmingham (2007), Liverpool (2008) and St Anne's College, Oxford (2009).

Teresa Vernon

Cambridge University Library

Donation of French Canadian plays

In May 2005, the Cambridge University Library's **Canadian French holdings** made a considerable leap thanks to a substantial donation by the **Délégation Générale du Québec à Londres**, represented by Cultural Services Director Colin Hicks, and Céline Gagnon, Cultural Attaché.

The donation consists of about hundred volumes of contemporary plays published between 1970 and 2000. It includes first editions by authors such as Michel Tremblay and Marie-Claire Blais, as well as less famous playwrights. Many items are published by Les Herbes Rouges, Montréal, and Leméac, Ottawa, in series created to acquaint the public with young new theatre, and contain editorial matter and photographs of performances and authors.

The volumes are not borrowable, but can be fetched on request and read in the Library.

Cécile Gani, European collections and cataloguing

The Dreyfus bequest

John Dreyfus (1918-2002) was a noted British typographer of the second half of the 20th century. He joined Cambridge University Press in 1939, and was involved in organizing the 1940 exhibition celebrating 500 years of printing in Europe. After war service he returned to Cambridge, becoming Assistant University Printer in 1949. In 1955 he succeeded Stanley Morison as typographical adviser to the Monotype Corporation, a post he held until retirement in 1982. His years with Monotype coincided with the shift away from hot-metal typography, first to photocomposition and then to digital character generation. He was by upbringing a cosmopolitan figure, and his library reveals his close contacts with typography and fine printing in the United States, France, Germany and elsewhere. He was in close contact with many of the great typographers of his time: Hermann Zapf, Maximilien Vox, Adrien Frutiger, Jan van Krimpen, Jan Tschichold, , Max Caflisch, Harold Berliner, W.A. Dwiggins and others. In France his friends included Maximilien Vox, Charles Peignot, René Ponot, Raymond Gid, François Richaudeau, Fernand Baudin, Gérard Blanchard and others. He was a member of the Association Typographique Internationale and the Rencontres Internationales de Lure. Many of the books from Dreyfus's library contain personal inscriptions from the authors. His fondness for Cambridge remained after his retirement; in a letter to the printer Morris Gelfand dated 5th August 1993 he stated his intention "to ensure that my own collection eventually goes to the Cambridge University Library, where I learnt so much about typography while I was an undergraduate".

Cambridge University Library has taken those items from Dreyfus's library that were not already held elsewhere in the Library, with other material going to the Library of Trinity College and elsewhere.

Nicholas Smith, Rare book department

A selection of recent antiquarian acquisitions made by the University Library

Arnald of Villanova (d. 1311)

Le tresor des pouvres: selon maistre Arnoult de villenove, maistre Gerard de solo, et plusieurs aultres Docteurs en medicine de Montpellier. Nouvellement imprime et corrige. Lyon: Claude Nourry, 1527

Very rare and beautifully printed edition in the French vernacular of Arnold of Villanova's and other Montpellier doctors' teaching on pharmacology and medicine. This collection was particularly popular in France, printed for the first time at Paris in 1503. This is the third printing of the French text.

Arnald of Villanova (1235-1311) was a student at Montpellier around 1260, and by 1291 had again taken up residence there as a medical master. His teachings and writings were important in establishing the content of scholastic medicine there, and his advice shaped the papal bull of 8 September 1309, which regularized medical education at Montpellier, defining a set of 15 Greek and Arabic texts as the basis for future study.

Title printed in red and black, with one woodcut initial and large woodcut of the author lecturing. In 19th-century vellum, spine lettered in ink, with numerous marginal annotations in a contemporary French hand. André L. Simon's copy, with his engraved bookplate on front paste-down; bookplate of the Christie-Miller collection on fly-leaf.

Jean Baptiste de la Grange

Traité des elemens et des meteores. Contre le nouveaux philosophes Descartes, Rohault, Gassendi, Le P. Maignan, etc. A Paris: Chez la veuve Josse, 1679

Le Pére de la Grange was one of a number of late 17th-century scholastics who wrote critiques of Descartes and the new philosophy. An Oratorian, La Grange had already argued against Cartesian philosophy in *Les principes de la philosophie contre les nouveaux philosophes* (Paris, 1675). In this later work of

1679, which includes a number of illustrations, he again intended to counter the influence of Descartes, Gassendi and other "nouveaux philosophes". He gives an explanation for each element of nature (matter, fire, water etc.), and goes on to consider the Earth, its origin, its immobility, and, he argues, how it is impossible that it moves round the sun.

Charles Louis de Secondat, baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)

De l'esprit des loix ... Nouvelle édition revüe & corrigée, avec des changemens considérables donnés par l'Auteur. Genève: Barrillot & fils, 1749

This edition is important because it was produced in haste shortly after the first edition, and incorporates some (though not all) of the corrections made by Montesquieu to the numerous errors made by the printers in the first edition. Vol. 1 has cancel title-page with imprint: A Amsterdam: Chez Zacharie Chatelain, 1749.

Antoine-François-Xavier Jantet (1747-1805)

Leçons élémentaires de méchanique. Dôle: Chez Joly; Paris: Chez Barbou, 1785

The Abbé Jantet was a distinguished professor of philosophy at Dôle college and later taught mathematics at Besançon. This was his only published work, and was received favourably at the time. With 9 folding engraved plates.

Jacques Berriat-Saint-Prix (1769-1845)

L'amour et la philosophie. Paris: Chez Lavilette, 1801

Berriat-Saint-Prix was a lawyer and the author of a number of books and pamphlets on law. This rare work is one of his earliest and appears to be his only novel.

Joseph Henri de Saur and Léonce de Saint-Geniès

Les aventures de Faust, et sa descente aux enfers. Paris: Arthus Bertrand, 1825

Novel based on the life of Faust with historical notes. Probably inspired by or adapted from Friedrich Maximilian von Klinger's *Fausts Leben, Thaten, und Höllenfahrt,* which was published at St. Petersburg in 1791, and translated into French in 1798 under the same title as Saur and Saint-Geniès's novel.

Jill Whitelock, Head of rare books

University of London

Staffing

After more than 20 years' service, Simon Barrett, retired from his post as subject librarian for Romance languages. During his time at the Library Simon oversaw the development of all the Romance language collections, particularly French. His decision to pursue a policy of augmenting the holdings of contemporary French writing, particularly Francophone African literature, anticipated with perfect timing the emergence of Post-colonial studies as an academic discipline. Consequently, the Library now boasts some of the finest holdings in this field in the UK.

Filling his shoes is Christine Anderson. Christine will be combining her new responsibilities with her current role as subject specialist for the Latin American Area Studies collection. With an academic background in French and Swiss ancestry Christine is well placed to take on the role.

University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS)

In 2002 the Council of the University of London paved the way for the convergence of the libraries of the central University³ with the aim of improving co-ordination across the whole and making better use of the resources at their disposal.

The undertaking is an enormous one, which is likely to take a number of years to complete. It comprises a number of different strands, including (amongst other things) the creation of a new unified catalogue, a degree of financial convergence, the implementation of a new management structure, and the re-location of three Institute libraries into the Senate House complex. To facilitate the latter and to ensure that the Library meets with new guidelines on access for disabled users, there will be a substantial re-fit of floors 4-6 in Senate House Library. Work on some of these initiatives, such as the unified catalogue, has already begun and work on some of the major building is scheduled for mid-2006.

The project is being driven by a new Information Strategy, and is being implemented by David Pearson, Director of the ULRLS since spring 2004. It promises to be a challenging time, but at the end of it all, it is hoped that there will be in place a more efficient Library service, which will comprise some 3

³ These are: Senate House Library and the libraries of the Institutes of the School of Advanced Study (www.sas.ac.uk).

million volumes, and will provide enhanced services and collections to the University's 19 constituent colleges and beyond.

Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies (IGRS)

As a consequence of the broader re-organisation of the central University and its activities, the respective Institutes of Germanic and Romance Studies have been brought together to form a single entity. The convergence formally took place on August 1st 2004. The creation of the new Institute has also been accompanied by the appointment of a new Director, Professor Naomi Segal. Before taking up the new post Prof. Segal was Professor of French at Reading University where she founded the MA in *Body and Representation*.

The Institute plans to continue to build upon its established programme of workshops and seminars with a programme for 2005-6 under development. For more information, see the Institute's website (http://igrs.sas.ac.uk/). The 2005-6 academic session will also see the launch of a new taught MA/MRes in modern languages which will have a French component.

2006 languages groups conference

Planning for the 2006 conference, to be held at Senate House, is well underway. It is scheduled for 14th-16th September. The services of some speakers have already been secured for the first afternoon and work is ongoing to recruit more for the second session on the following day. Visits are also being planned. Happily we can also report on the decision of the Italian Studies Library Group to participate and discussions with ACLAIIR (Advisory Council on Latin American and Iberian Information Resources) are ongoing.

Antony Loveland

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