French Studies Library Group

Annual Review

Issue 5 (2008-09)

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Editors

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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 others 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 *Annual Review* are always welcome. Submissions should be preferably in electronic form (Word or rich text format (RTF)). Please send them to Sarah Brain at the above address.

FLSG on the web: http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/

Electronic mailing lists

FLSG has its own JISCmail list: **FSLG (http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/fslg.html**)

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Staff news

Following Jessica Plane's retirement, Lucy Keating has been appointed Liaison Librarian for Arts and Humanities (which includes modern languages) at Newcastle University library. Contact details lucy.keating@ncl.ac.uk, tel. 0191 222 7656.

Anne Cobby has recently completed 'The Old French Fabliaux: An Analytical Bibliography', to be published by Boydell & Brewer in the series Research Bibliographies and Checklists. For more details see http://www.boydell.co.uk/.

Reports and News

British Academy Language Matters Report

The British Academy's Language Matters Report was published on 3 June. It is the result of a year long study looking at the relationship between the decline in foreign language learning and the effect of this on the level and quality of research in the fields of humanities and social sciences. For the full report and key findings see the website at http://www.britac.ac.uk/reports/language-matters/index.cfm.

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RAE Results: French

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) are now available to view at http://www.rae.ac.uk/. The code for French is UOA 52 and the website contains information on individual institutions' submissions.

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OBE for Modern Languages Professor at Aston University

Caroline Long, *Information Specialist, Aston University, Birmingham*

A senior academic at Aston University, Birmingham, has been awarded an OBE for Services to Modern Languages in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Professor Pamela Moores, Executive Dean of the School of Languages & Social Sciences, has received the honour for her contribution to excellence in Modern Languages in Higher Education, and promotion of language learning in schools and colleges.

Since Spring 2007, Professor Moores has been Chair of the University Council of Modern Languages, the overarching national organisation which represents the interests of languages, linguistics, and cultural and area studies in Higher Education throughout the United Kingdom, and also works with corresponding bodies in other countries.

Professor Moores has been a member of the British Academy working group responsible for the recent 'Language Matters' report, which examines the effects of a decline in language skills and intercultural competence on the UK's international research capacity. She is also a member of the steering group responsible for development of the new 14 -19 Diploma in Languages & International Communication. She will be a key contributor to HEFCE's

recently commissioned review of Modern Languages in Higher Education, to be led by Professor Michael Worton of University College, London.

On a regional level, Professor Moores is Director of the West Midlands Consortium for Routes into Languages which works with schools and colleges to increase interest in language learning through a range of initiatives including mentoring, taster days, cultural events, and activities highlighting the value of language skills for employability. She is also Director of the West Midlands Regional Support Centre for Links into Languages, which aims to provide professional development opportunities and support to language teachers.

Professor Moores' personal academic expertise lies in French and the French media. Her work has examined French journalism, national and regional newspapers and the street press. She is especially interested in political journalism, representation of women in the media, and issues of diversity, regulation and balance.

WESLINE Conference September 2008: An American Perspective

Sarah G. Wenzel, *Bibliographer for English and Romance Literatures, University of Chicago*

In early September 2008, I had the opportunity to attend the WESLINE (Western European Studies Library and Information Network) conference in London. The theme of the conference was the Social Sciences in Western Europe. UK colleagues were most welcoming and hospitable (not to mention forgiving of jet-lag), and I was grateful for the chance to learn about work being done outside of my usual purview (both geographically and subject-wise), as well as for information shared about academic libraries – and a fascinating tour of the British Library (BL), including the (in)famous basement.

David Lowe opened the conference with an overview of some of the challenges and opportunities facing academic librarians, all of which sounded familiar to me. It was very interesting to find many of the same issues confronting academic libraries in both the UK & US. He mentioned frozen budgets, the impact of electronic (especially the sciences) on traditional print budgets, and the increasing call to justify subscription renewals based on the number of hits. In this climate, collaboration and co-operation are ever more important.

The first speaker was Professor Martin Swales. He is a member of a British Academy working group to address the crisis in modern languages in the UK. The theme of his talk was "languages matters" (in both noun & verb forms). He spoke energetically and compellingly on the need to study foreign languages and the many benefits of doing so. Swales outlined some of the issues that he sees with university-level language training, and interestingly to this American ear, he advocates requiring a language as part of undergraduate coursework, as do many American liberal arts colleges and universities. (I am less sanguine that such a requirement would solve even some of the fundamental issues he raises, as I have not found it to be terribly effective).

I spoke on the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and the Global Resource Network (GRN) products, in particular GNARP (German-North American), LARRP (Latin American) and CIFNAL (French-North American).

My talk was followed by "Afternoon Tea," which I think should be a required session at all conferences.

The last panel of the day was a presentation on the British Library's Social Sciences Collection and was given by Ian Cooke, Gill Ridgley, and Jerry Jenkins.

As I understand it, the British Library is developing content strategies for broad disciplines and formats, highlighting a move from geographic-oriented collecting to subject-based, which is seen as more aligned to the way users approach topics. In all, the BL has 38 discipline-based content teams & 8 format-based content teams. The Social Sciences Collections & Research team is a new team of subject specialists built up during 2006-2008. Topics covered by the team include:

- management
- business
- human geography
- anthropology
- education
- international relations
- culture
- media
- sport
- economics
- sociology
- linguistics
- social policy
- law
- political science

The team is charged with developing and exploiting the collection, promoting access and discovery of material, and promoting itself both within the BL and to the public.

Research on scholars' needs performed by the team discovered that their patrons are from many different sectors, e.g., university, non-governmental organisations, government, international. Patrons are primarily interested in researching topics after 1945, and usually can work in more than one language. They tend to rely on a small set of resources they consider "reliable," which differed from one researcher to another (but happily usually included libraries). They exhibited a frustration with complexity, e.g., e-journals that come from many different publishers.

The answer to why they didn't use the BL indicated several reasons:

- >75% cited time pressures
- 90% want more remote access
- >70% want improved online searching
- 60% unsure of range of collections/services provided

From this topic, the presentation moved to a description of the European Documentation Centre in the BL, which was founded in 1963 to address the needs of researchers studying European integration & European studies. Jenkins is interested in exploring the concept of a data map of available online resources, which is something that interests me greatly.

The day finished with the Annual Meetings of the French and German Studies Library Groups, followed by a reception sponsored by Taylor & Francis, and culminating in the Conference Dinner.

Tuesday, we had our tour of the British Library, including the aforementioned basement (French revolutionary pamphlets!). Some in the group toured the library of the London School of Economics.

After lunch, there were three presentations from social scientists researching various European topics:

> Professor Jeremy MacClancy (Oxford Brookes University)
> 'An anthropology of Basque nationalism'
>
> Emmanuel Godin (University of Portsmouth)
> 'The extreme right in Europe'
>
> Dr Daniel Hough (University of Sussex)
> 'Political corruption in Germany'
>
> Dr Simon Parker (University of York)
> 'Italy – A European paradox?'

Two interesting sessions followed Afternoon Tea. Anne Worden, of the University of Portsmouth Library, spoke about 'Supporting teaching and research in the social sciences.' She is a Faculty Librarian in a new university library, supporting research and teaching in

- languages & area studies
- political & international relations
- sociology & social policy
- education
- journalism
- history
- English literature

I was impressed by and interested in the virtual tour and podcast for new students (http://www.port.ac.uk/departments/studentsupport/library/advice/induction/). At this University, there is a required "study skills" course for first-year

students, which includes a section on the library. Worden gave several examples of how she tailors her sessions depending on the characteristics of the students in the programmes, the style of their research, and the requirements of their faculty. They have developed an interactive "referencing guide" (http://referencing.port.ac.uk/). This guide has proved to be very popular, with over 200,000 hits in the last academic year, not all from the University of Portsmouth. I thought the university had an interesting approach to correct citation style, which is universally required by policy: students are marked down for incorrect citations in a uniform matter.

In the second year, students who will write dissertations are required to take a unit on research, in which the library again has a role. Another programme the library offers that I thought an excellent idea is offering a library refresher for students back from their year abroad.

Worden also discussed trends in student behaviour, e.g., the increased popularity of e-books, and in the use of e-journals. She noted something that I've observed anecdotally, which is that there is very little awareness of Google Scholar.

She concluded by discussing the Modern and Contemporary France Index, which was started 24 years ago in the back of the journal, *Modern and Contemporary France*. This index, which covers articles in 33 journals about France since 1789, has been produced in collaboration with Grace Hudson at the University of Bradford and is moving online.

Intute as a resource for West European politics was the subject of Heather Dawson's presentation. She is one of the librarians behind Intute (http://www.intute.ac.uk/), which is a site I find quite valuable. She showed us the EuroStudies page (organised by flag) (http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/eurostudies/), and noted that the site now includes many different types of resources, such as blogs from think tanks, maps, and YouTube videos from governments. While there are individual subject editors, they abide by centralised content policies and keywords are drawn from a controlled vocabulary. There are regular editing and reviewing procedures. It is possible to integrate Intute into your own web pages, see intute.ac.uk/integration and intute.ac.uk/support.html for details.

Attending the WESLINE conference was very valuable for me not only for the formal presentations, informative as they were, but also for the informal exchange of opinions, ideas and new concepts.

N.B. A previous version of this article appeared in the WESS Newsletter, Vol 32, No 1 (Fall 2008):
 http://wess.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Attending_the_WESLINE_Conference_in_ the_U.K.

For more details on the WESLINE conference 2008 and links to the presentations please visit the website at
 http://www.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/wesline/.

Intute: 2008-9 Review of French Materials and New Developments

Heather Dawson, *Intute Government and Politics editor, LSE Library*
Angela Joyce, *Intute Research Officer, Bristol University*

Background

Intute (http://www.intute.ac.uk/) is a JISC funded service which offers free access to a database of Web resources and current awareness services reflecting the 'best of the Web' for UK HE students, staff, and researchers. Intute also incorporates The Virtual Training Suite (http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/), a set of free tutorials which teach information literacy skills. We include substantial online materials for French and European Studies.

In the previous edition of the Annual Review we introduced you to key features of the service. This year we take a look back at interesting developments in French politics materials over 2008/9. We also write about the new-look Intute website and new Virtual Training Suite tutorials, released late summer 2009.

Highlights of 2008/9

One of the key features of the 2008/9 online environment was the massive expansion of pan-European digital library projects. Europeana (http://www.europeana.eu/), the European Commission-funded portal was launched in November 2008; by 2010 it aims to provide free access to over 2 million objects. These will form part of a virtual European library of cultural resources including millions of texts (manuscripts, papers, ebooks), images (photographs, maps), films (moving images, videos, film clips, television broadcasts) and sound from Europe's main research libraries, archives and galleries. All the items will be searchable by keyword or can be browsed by theme or resource type. A wide range of topics relevant to the humanities and social sciences are covered including elections, anthropology, social history and cultural events. Holdings in French include films from the Institut national de l'Audiovisuel and books from the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BNF). For a brief taste of what is available try browsing the special online exhibition on the Napoleonic wars at http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/exhibition/napoleonic_wars/Specials.html, which gathers together more than 200 rare maps, documents and writings. See original letters from Napoleon, battle campaign maps and

patriotic song sheets taken from the British, French and Spanish national libraries!

At the same time, the BNF expanded its own Digital Library, Gallica. Gallica has been online since 1997 and was one of the earliest examples of a national library providing free access to a nation's heritage. During 2007/8 a new version of the site was launched. A key feature of this is the implementation of a vast newspaper and journal digitisation project. This currently includes 27 periodical titles and will end with 3.2 million pages of newspapers freely accessible. A full listing is available at http://www.bnf.fr/pages/zNavigat/frame/infopro.htm?ancre=numerisation/num_presse.htm. Titles which have already been digitised include Journal de l'Empire (1805-1815), le Figaro (1826-1942) and L'Humanité: journal socialiste quotidien (1904-1944).

Another key feature of Internet development was the massive growth in the use of social media. In February 2009 The Pew Internet and American Life project reported that 20% of online adults 25 to 34 had used Twitter, with numbers increasing rapidly month by month (http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2009/Twitter-and-status-updating.aspx). This tendency was reflected in the proliferation of new Web 2.0 sites indexed by Intute throughout the year. These included increasing numbers of blogs, YouTube Channels and even Twitter sites. We also used our blog at http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/blog/ to discuss and provide references to more ephemeral materials, not deemed suitable for the main catalogue.

Two key events, followed by Intute, which illustrated this well, were the one-day strikes in France in early 2009 and the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

La Grève 29th janvier

The internet was used as a tool by French activists to mobilise support for the one-day strike which took place on the 29th January 2009.

Conseil national de la résistance
 (http://www.conseilnationaldelaresistance.fr/) and Comité de résistance citoyenne (http://lecrc.canalblog.com/) used their websites to encourage support for a day of action. They posted appeals online which set out their demands and planned the events. They also created a special website (http://www.29janvier2009.fr/) which gathered together in one place campaign materials for the public. These materials educated French citizens about the aims of the demonstration and invited them to join it. On the day itself, the site was used to co-ordinate activities. Google maps technology was employed to post online maps of the location of specific demonstrations so that members of the public would know where to join

them, and gaps in coverage could be noted by the campaigners and potentially covered by redeploying supporters. The organisers also used YouTube online video technology to upload to the site videos of the protests and to create satirical mash-ups which mocked the reaction of the French government. One notorious example manipulated a famous speech by President Sarkozy "Désormais, quand il y a une grève en France, plus personne ne s'en aperçoit" interspersing it with images of the mass street demonstrations in Paris. Some of these can still be viewed online via links from the 29 janvier website.

Of course many of the national newspapers created special online editions of stories and commented on the events. A good example was Radio France (http://www.rfi.fr/actufr/articles/109/article_77831.asp) which offered podcasts of news, collections of photographs, and comment. More innovative usage was employed by other news services, with an increasing number of online discussion forums being created where citizen journalists could contribute their own comments and upload photographs and online videos from the scene. France 24 even used a Twitter account (http://twitter.com/FRANCE24/status/1155265317) to advertise the updates made to its website throughout the day and offer brief messages on conditions in the city.

A similar usage of real time technology was made by the French transport authorities to inform travellers. The RATP website (http://www.ratp.info/orienter/trafic.php) maintained a regularly updated bulletin throughout the day. It also offered the facility for users to sign up to receive the latest updates via text message direct to their mobile phone.

Finally, bloggers themselves made increasing use of Web 2.0 technology to incorporate moving images and photographs into their postings. Many of the films uploaded by citizens offered critiques of the official numbers of demonstrators recorded by the police. Good examples of postings on this and similar subjects can be viewed on AgoraVox (http://www.agoravox.fr/). This is a well-known French language citizens' media website where members of the public discuss and post commentary.

European Parliamentary Elections 2009

Key trends such as the increasing use of social interactivity and innovative Web 2.0 technology (such as Twitter, YouTube and photosharing) was also noted in our coverage of the European elections online.

Prior to the elections, a research study by public affairs and communications consultancy Fleishman-Hillard, surveyed over 110 MEPs during early 2009 and noted that there was an under-use of the Internet by members and political parties. In particular its Digital Trends 2009 report (http://www.epdigitaltrends.eu/) revealed that 62% of the MEPs surveyed

had never heard of Twitter and had no plans to use it, while only 24% used a blog. However, by June the situation seemed to have radically changed as there was an explosion of new forms of election communication online.

The European Parliament (EP) elections website contained a special area covering the elections (http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/default.htm), which utilised many forms of Web 2.0 technology. These included the facility to view the campaign videos (in all the main EU languages!) via EuroParl.TV (http://europarltv.europa.eu/). An EP Delicious account was set up where users to the site could share their favourite website bookmarks (http://delicious.com/european_parliament). As these were user-generated they tended to be rather eclectic in nature, with in-depth coverage of certain areas and a sparsity of links in others.

An official twitter account (http://twitter.com/EU_Elections_en) was used to post news alerts and links to the latest videos from EU officials. A European Parliament Facebook site (http://www.facebook.com/europeanparliament) attracted over 55,000 fans to its mixture of slideshows, online videos and RSS newsfeeds. And finally an official Flickr photostream (http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament/sets/72157615893071268/) offered the facility to view over 160 images of billboards and pictures from the communication campaign of the European Parliament entitled *It's your choice!* in a variety of European locations!

In terms of France, Toute L'Europe (http://www.touteleurope.fr/fr/organisation/institutions/parlement-europeen-et-deputes/presentation/elections-europeennes-2009.html#c60972), which received some funding from the French government, provided a basic introduction to the issues and news for the French electorate. It included online quizzes and interactive graphs of turn-out levels in France and the wider Europe. A special section of the website (http://etoile.touteleurope.fr/index.php/) provided commentary on the state of the elections online.

National newspapers also created their own websites, which increasingly contained video channels with political debates and interviews with candidates. A typical example was Le Monde (http://www.lemonde.fr/web/sequence/0,2-1168667,1-0,0.html) which contained links to debates which it hosted with the candidates, opinion polls and links to selected blogs.

Blogs were also an innovative feature of Libération which created a special feature called Une escouade d'Eurobloggeurs

(http://europeennes.blogs.liberation.fr/campagne/) where invited bloggers commented on the elections. These included a focus on the use of the Internet.

These features were also shared by the main political parties. They included national political groupings such as the Parti Socialiste (http://www.changerleurope.fr/), whose website has evolved from the simple online postings and text based manifestos in 2004, to a more sophisticated multimedia site in 2009. This had the facility to view online YouTube style videos of official commercials, rallies and interviews. Some parties even offered voters the chance to pose questions to the candidates. They also linked through to pages maintained by individual candidates, many of whom created blogs to provide up to date news of their local campaigns.

There was also an increasing rise in Pan-European political movements. One example was Libertas (http://www.libertas.eu/), which was founded to campaign for a more democratic European Union. Again, its website also offered online discussion forums, blogs and videos. Campaign groups such as the European Disability Forum also organised cross national groupings to lobby for reform for their particular interest group. Their Disability Votes Count campaign
(http://www.disabilityvotescount.eu/en/index.php) had news from NGOs and charity campaigns across the EU, perhaps indicating the increasing development of a European identity. A final group was voter education campaigners, as there was a particular concern that in 2009 political participation, especially among young people, was falling dangerously low.

Caravane civique européenne
(http://www.lacaravaneciviqueeuropeenne2009.eu/) was launched to encourage political participation amongst French citizens in the European elections 2009. It was headed by L'Association Civisme et démocratie (CIDEM) (a confederation of French organisations seeking to promote citizenship values) in association with the French government and other organisations. Its principal activity was to visit and engage with young people in regions in France. The website provides details of this voter education campaign. It also offers online access to some of the leaflets which it used.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique (http://www.fondapol.org/les-travaux/les-tags/resultat-tags/tag/elections-europeennes-2009.html) made full use of Web 2.0 technology to encourage interest. Its feature called '5 friends 4 Europe' contained comment and video YouTube blogs of young people talking about why the elections mattered.

Intute continues to catalogue and collect material from the campaigns. These can be found in a special section on our website

(http://www.intute.ac.uk/socialsciences/cgi). You might also be interested to know that the British Library has created a permanent Web archive (http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/collection/28180520/page/1) of 200 key English language sites created during the 2009 campaigns. They cover a number of categories including: EU institutions, national political parties, pan-European parties, candidates, interest groups (ranging from charities and industries) and news media (mainly news services, as newspapers are excluded due to licensing and copyright issues). Weekly snapshots of sites were taken for 20 key sites, before and after, to capture election shots for all others.

Intute continued to use Web 2.0 services to publicise its work. We have set up several Twitter channels and Intute Economics (http://twitter.com/intuteeconomics) now has over 1,000 followers. There are other channels, including Intute Euro (http://twitter.com/intuteeuro), covering European Studies and the European Union. As mentioned, we also blog actively and Web statistics show that we have a good following by bloggers.

New Intute Website: Modern Languages and Area Studies

In late Summer 2009 Intute released its new website (http://www.intute.ac.uk/). This was in response to user testing and market research conducted by Intute staff and research consultancies. The main feature of the new site is the transformation of the former four subject areas into 19 new subject headings, based on the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) used by the Higher Education Statistics Agency to classify academic subjects. A change which will interest FSLG and WESLINE members is the formation of a new section called Modern Languages and Areas Studies (http://www.intute.ac.uk/mlas/). This is the result of a merger of the old Modern Languages (Arts and Humanities) and EuroStudies (Social Sciences) sections. This will put all our French materials into one accessible section. The new website has a clean modern look, with a new style more focused towards student users. We welcome feedback!

New Virtual Training Suite Tutorials: Modern Languages

The Virtual Training Suite has undergone some interesting changes in the past year. We held a major review by users and Intute staff and consequently are releasing 30 new-look tutorials this year and next, including Modern Languages (http://www.intute.ac.uk/tutorial/modernlanguages). The main finding from the review was that the service is still perceived as valuable and usage is increasing. In light of continuing growth in online services, there will be more focus in the new tutorials on the process of rigorous academic

research, and on the difference between academic publishing and Web 2.0 user-generated content (e.g. blogs, podcasts, videos, social networks). We will emphasise the importance of using libraries and getting to know their specialist services. The basic Virtual Training Suite Web template will stay, but the new tutorials will be shorter, with a cleaner interface, more graphics and aimed specifically at students. Services like Google and Wikipedia will not be dismissed outright, but their pros and cons will be discussed. The main aim is to encourage students to *critically evaluate* what they find online.

Conclusion

This has been a busy year for Intute staff and next year will no doubt be driven by change as well. We look forward to working with our user community to provide an up-to-date and responsive service.

Please email us with any comments or suggestions: Heather Dawson (h.dawson@lse.ac.uk) and Angela Joyce (angela.joyce@bristol.ac.uk).

The European Documentation Centre at the British Library : An Appraisal of the Last Year

Jeremy Jenkins, *Curator, International Organisations, British Library*

Since July 2007 the British Library (BL) has housed a European Documentation Centre (EDC). Now, on its second anniversary it is possible to take a moment and reflect on the successes of the last year for one of the newer EDCs in the Europe Direct network. The basic purpose of the EDC is to make available official publications, literature and documents of the institutions and activities of the European Union (EU). Primarily, EDCs support study, teaching and research at university level. However, they also fulfil in part the European Commission's communication strategy to increase the involvement of citizens in European political life.

As a national repository the British Library is legally obliged to collect information and documentation that pertains to and reflects upon the political and social elements in our society. In undertaking this as the national library of a European Union member state it is clearly appropriate to hold the mantle of an EDC. One result of European integration is that Europe's influence on British society has increased. As an EDC the British Library can ensure public availability of European Union publications, thus helping to inform those who wish to gain more information on the EU and its activities. It raises the issue, why is it important for the British Library to engage in the question of European integration? This can be answered in part on a practical level. The European Union has a population of about 500 million citizens, making it the third largest after India and China. Europe has the greatest share of world trade which plays its part in generating 25 percent of global wealth. After the Dollar the Euro is the second international currency of the world. The European Union is the largest provider of development assistance in the world and it leads the world in the area of climate change reform. These basic facts illustrate the importance of European Union publications from a research perspective.

A central element of Europe's Communications strategy is to change perceptions. The EU is perceived by some areas as a monumental bureaucracy that spends an eternity debating and arguing about treaties. However, that is only the tip of the iceberg. Under the surface there is much work going on to improve not only European society, but the world as a whole in areas such as climate change, common security policy and regional development. It is this work and research that is reflected in the EDC collections. One thing that is clear is that the European citizen perceives the European Union as having a distinct role in a number of important areas. According to the Eurobarometer 70 Report 2008 (http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb70/eb70_first_en.pdf), a majority of respondents felt that the European Union was better placed

than national governments on global issues such as fighting terrorism, protecting the environment, defence, energy and immigration. This is important in two respects. Firstly, in these areas any national legislation is likely to be derived from EU Directives or Regulations; hence in order to trace the background to any such legislation an EDC collection is paramount. Secondly, for the researcher working in a given area, such as climate change for example, to keep abreast of current developments in the field, the EDC collection is an indispensable aid for up-to-the-moment activities, in addition to providing a rich collection of raw data.

One of the fundamental briefs that we have set ourselves as an EDC in the past year is to draw together the British Library's European Union collection and integrate it further into the Library's main collections. Rather than the EDC being a self-contained subset of the collections it should be perceived as a collection that overlaps with other areas and is integrated into the Library's collections. The most obvious area where this takes place is in the Social Sciences. The vast majority of research output of the EU falls in to the Dewey area of 300-399 (i.e. the Social Sciences). Hence, a major part of the work to date has been to make researchers in these areas aware of the rich vein of output and its relevance to their research areas, from statistics and social issues to the political sciences and economics. The relationship between the EDC collection and the Social Sciences is most clearly defined here in the BL by the location of the EDC collection in the Social Sciences Reading Room. This places the EDC collection right at the centre of our Reading Room collection development policy along with other important collections such as national Official Publications. To further interweave the EDC and Social Sciences collections we have focused on the subject areas in which the European Union publishes research. A selection of EDC material is available on open access in the Social Sciences Reading Room, which is a privileged position in a library where most stock is in closed access. To make the best use of this collection and facilitate the work of the subject specialist we have created a guide to the EDC Open Access Collection listing the subjects covered (http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/offpubs/eudoc/euopen/euopen access.pdf).

To communicate with nearly 500 million citizens the European Union maintains a bewildering array of web pages. The internet is the main conduit through which the EU communicates. Angela Joyce notes in the article "Usage of Online European Union Information Resources" that ninety-seven percent of respondents to her questionnaire use online resources or the internet to find information on the European Union. As part of the Europe Direct Network, which the sixty or so UK EDCs belong to, the British Library has made a concerted effort to create web resources (http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/offpubs/eudoc/onlineinfo/eudo clinks.html) to help the European Studies researcher locate and disseminate

the layers of European information, ranging from the basic introductory facts to the rulings of the Court of First Instance.

The European Union publishes for the twenty-seven member states in twenty-three official languages and in doing so this makes the EDC collection also relevant to the BL's wider European Collections. Although it is beyond our remit to collect material in the official languages other than English, multiple language versions of many of the publications are available free online, via the EU Bookshop (http://bookshop.europa.eu/eubookshop/index.action?request_locale=EN) . In effect this allows much of the recent material to be available via the internet. Clearly this makes material on a wide range of subjects in member states easily available. For example, gender equality and similar reports provides disseminated information not only for the EU as a whole but also for the individual member states. This allows the researcher in a given field to access information in their preferred language and format. This flexibility is clearly a benefit to the researcher, providing data and analysis which is easily available, although somewhat under-used. Finally, due to the level of integration between European and national law the EDC collection becomes an avenue into European socio-legal studies. As a result of this layering of information strong links have developed with European Collections and individual country curators.

With so much of the works published by the EU being web-based it is important to make the connection between the virtual research environment of Europa.eu (http://europa.eu/index_en.htm) and the physicality of the Reading Room environment. However, the virtual research environment on Europa and their various databases only date from the late 1990s, whilst the British Library has been collecting European Union Official Publications since the 1950s. In an effort to contextualise the collection and draw together the various strands of our collections, a major piece of work we undertook this year as an EDC Library was to create a Reader Guide to the European Union Collections (http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/offpubs/eudoc/eucollguide/edc-collguide.pdf). The primary purpose of this guide is to give an overview of our EU collections. It was felt that, due to the comparative complexity of the collection, the guide would raise awareness of the depth and breadth, whilst helping to locate specific material. The print version of the guide, available in our Reading Rooms, can act as a personal reference tool for the user to annotate and keep a personal record of items consulted and relevance to the research topic in question. In addition, this guide is available as a text-searchable PDF document. This acts as a complementary resource to the existing BL web pages and a concise listing that links out to the main EU resources available via the world wide web.

In the last 12 months the highlight of the European calendar was the European Parliament (EP) elections that ran from the 4th to the 7th June

2009. As a result there was a raised awareness of the European Union despite domestic political scandal overshadowing the pre-election awareness campaigns. As a result of the expenses scandal and other factors, turn-out for the elections was slightly down on 2004 at thirty-four point seven percent.

The elections coincided with the completion of the Library's new Reader Guide. This offered an appropriate moment to launch this new guide and discuss the outcome of the elections. So on the 9 June the British Library hosted a European Parliament elections symposium. This event represented the culmination of work by several departments at the British Library, including the International Organisations Collections, Social Sciences and the Web archivists. This also gave us an opportunity to discuss the Web Archiving programme (http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/digi/webarch/) to archive the EP elections. This was a project to develop a collection of campaign and related websites and to keep a record of the European Parliament elections from the internet. It includes UK candidates' websites and the sites of political parties and interest groups. The work was done in collaboration with colleagues in other national libraries to exchange collection development and technical expertise along with best practice. With regard to this there has been close co-operation between the Web Archive team and their counterparts at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. By holding this symposium we have endeavoured to raise the public profile of the BL's European Union collections to distinct groups of Library patrons, including academics, research students, librarians and individuals with an interest in European integration.

All in all, aside from the daily running and management of the EDC, accessioning new material, turnouts, staff training, dealing with reader enquiries and queries, 2008-9 has been somewhat of a renaissance for the British Library's European Union collections. We have celebrated and discussed the 2009 European Parliament elections, through the pan-European Web Archive Project, and held a symposium to explore the outcome of the elections. A new Reader Guide has been written to improve the visibility of the access to the European Union collections. Conferences have been attended and groups have visited us, developing new relationships and renewing old friendships. In short, very positive steps have been taken to enhance the European Union collections' place in the British Library. Of course we would be delighted to here from you with any comments or suggestions.

Special Collections Display at Bristol University Library

Nick Hearn, *Slavonic and East European Subject Specialist (Language, Literature and Culture), Taylor Bodleian Slavonic and Modern Greek Library, Oxford*
French Subject Specialist (Language and Literature), Taylor Institution Library, St Giles, Oxford

I attended my first committee meeting of the French Studies Library Group on Monday 27th April in the Arts and Social Sciences Library, University of Bristol. This library underwent radical refurbishment on the ground floor in 2008-9, and now offers enhanced training facilities and space and equipment for students to work in groups. An extensive new social space with canteen has been created near the library entrance with 'cut-away' glass walls, relaxed seating and numerous computer terminals.

The Special Collections Librarian (Michael Richardson) and Archivist (Hannah Lowery) of the Arts and Social Sciences Library kindly laid on for us an excellent selection of French-related material from their Special Collections. Highlights included recently acquired letters from Marc Brunel (Isambard Kingdom's father) to M. Breguet in Paris. Written in 1814 one of the letters shows Marc Brunel keenly looking forward to going back to France and buying some decent clothes and shoes at long last!
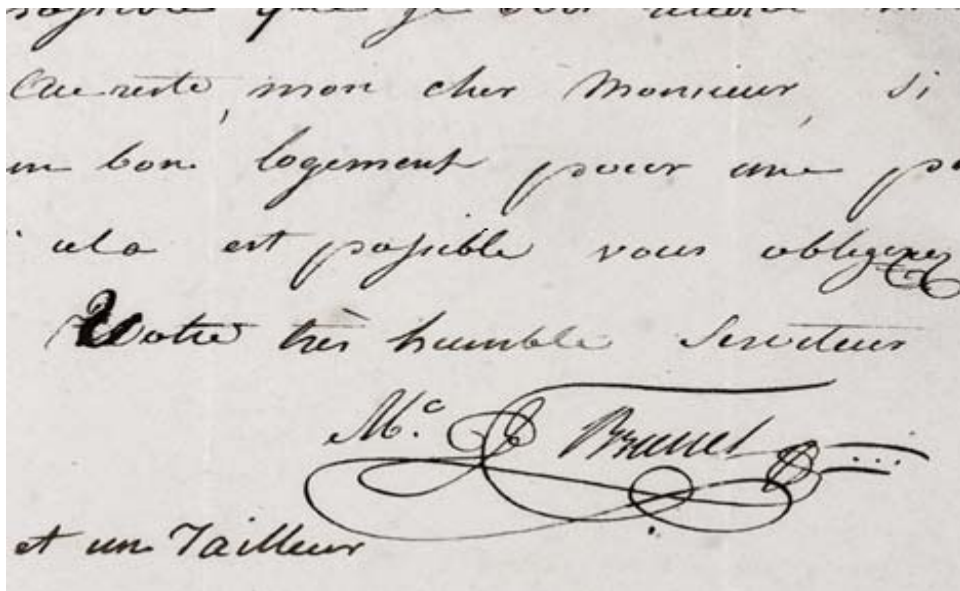

Letter from Marc Brunel to M. Breguet, sent 4th Oct 1814; received 8th Oct 1814. UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

As a former Bristolian I was pleased to see an edition of Froissart once owned by the Bristol poet Robert Southey on display. Nowadays Southey is

not held in high critical esteem. Byron did not think much of him either it seems. He wrote that Southey:

'...had written much blank verse, and blanker prose,
And more of both than anybody knows.' (The Vision of Judgment, stanza 98)
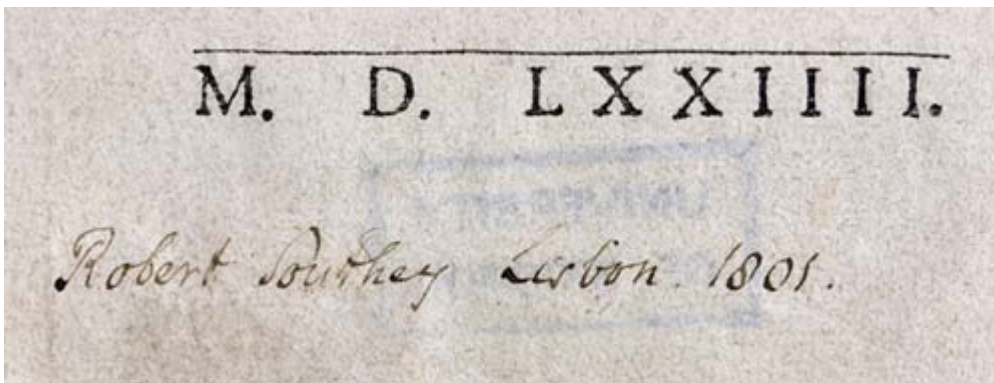
Froissart, Jean, 1338?-1410?: Histoire et chronique mémorable de Messire Jehan Froissart. Reveu et corrigé...par Denis Sauvage.. A Paris : à l'olivier de P. L'Huillier, 1574. UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

There was also a book from the Provençal bibliomaniac Nicolas-Claude Fabri de Peiresc's (1580-1637) collection. Peiresc was a Renaissance scientist and intellectual and a friend of Malherbe. One of his claims to fame was that he demonstrated that Julius Caesar set out from St Omer rather than Calais when he invaded England. The book was *Oneirocritica* by Artemidorus, a treatise on the interpretation of dreams.

There were Anglo-Norman charters, 'coustumiers' (treatises on laws and customs), and some French books from the collection of the great Baroque scholar Leonard Forster who taught at Bristol University. There is the publishing archive of Hamish Hamilton Ltd to 1970, which is on loan to the Library. One of the authors whose correspondence it contains is Jean-Paul Sartre, and there is also Georges Simenon's correspondence with his translator. Bristol keeps on deposit the Penguin Archive containing

correspondence of authors, translators, designers and editors connected with Penguin and an extensive collection of its publications.

Le coustumier du pays et duché de Normendie :la Chartre des priuileges, & libertez d'iceluy pays : style & vsage de proceder & iuger en toutes courts, & iurisdictions, tant des ... : auec plusieurs ordonnances, tant nouuelles, qu'anciennes, publiees en ladicte court, & arrests notables donnés en icelle court de Parlement. A Rouen : Chez Martin Mesgissier, 1578.

Books were displayed on a type of cushion that I hadn't seen before, which hugs to the shape of the book. It is particularly good for large books and is called a Norfolk Book Sofa.

All in all this was an excellent exhibition with a French theme put on entirely for the benefit of us French librarians. We must thank our colleagues at Bristol for putting on this display for us. It gave a wonderful and memorable added dimension to our committee meeting in Bristol.

Contemporary French Authors in UK Libraries

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

The committee of the French Studies Library Group was very glad to welcome Professor Russell Goulbourne, membership secretary of the Association of University Professors and Heads of French (AUPHF), to its December 2008 meeting, with the aim of promoting co-operation between the two groups. One aspiration has been the attempt to develop a coherent collection development policy for French research materials in British libraries. A list of contemporary French authors was circulated to members of AUPHF at the end of 2008, and AUPHF members were asked to indicate authors whom they thought UK research libraries should be systematically purchasing. People were also asked to suggest other authors who should also be added to the list.

It was hoped that a significant number of academics would participate in the voting process, so that the authors in whom there was greatest interest could be clearly identified. The initial response was enthusiastic, but from a small group of people, so the list which follows can only be regarded as a "work in progress". The following names were voted for by more than 50% of respondents: -

Ben Jelloun, Tahar (1944-)
Butor, Michel (1926-)
Chamoiseau, Patrick (1953-)
Cixous, Hélène (1937-)
Claudel, Philippe (1962-)
Constant, Paule (1944-)
Daeninckx, Didier (1949-)
Darrieussecq, Marie (1969-)
Desarthe, Agnès (1966-)
Despentes, Virginie (1969-)
Desplechin, Marie (1959-)
Echenoz, Jean (1947-)
Ernaux, Annie (1940-)
Germain, Sylvie (1954-)
Houellebecq, Michel (1958-)
Huston, Nancy (1953-)
Jardin, Alexandre (1965-)
Kundera, Milan (1929-)
Le Clézio, Jean-Marie-Gustave (1940-)
Maspero, François (1932-)
Modiano, Patrick (1945-)
N'Diaye, Marie (1967-)

Nothomb, Amélie (1967-)
Queffelec, Yann (1949-)
Robbe-Grillet, Alain (1922-2008)
Semprun, Jorge (1923-)
Tournier, Michel (1924-)
Wiesel, Elie (1928-)

It has also been valuable to be alerted to the names of writers whom it was thought should be added to the list – some of whom were unknown to me! I have tried to incorporate these into my selection for Cambridge over the past few months, and would be happy to pass the details on to anyone who is interested.

Film Collection of Glynne Parker

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

Glynne Parker spent most of his career at Cambridge University Library. He retired as Head of the Accessions Department in 1991. For much of his working life he was also building up his own collection of film history books, with the intention of presenting this to the University Library at some future date.

Since retirement Glynne has continued to add to his personal library. He reached the point last year where he had run out of shelf space at home, and in consequence decided to present a first section of his collection to the University Library. These volumes are being kept together as a special collection, which can be consulted in the Library's Rare Books Department. Cataloguing has recently been completed.

Glynne Parker's film history collection covers the period from the start of motion pictures to the end of the 1970s, with a particular emphasis on silent film. This first consignment of material contained more than 400 items in a wide range of languages. French predominates, however, with approximately 100 volumes, many of which are imprints not previously represented in Copac.

The French language imprints are very diverse in their subject coverage. Many volumes are devoted to French film history, but others deal with cinema in Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Greece and the Arab world. A substantial number discuss cinema in Hollywood – the Western, film noir, and thematic volumes such as cinema and religion, and film in a mountain setting. These include the earliest French imprint in the collection, published in 1923 and entitled *Filmland: Los Angelès et Hollywood, les capitales du cinéma.*

The volumes devoted to French cinema include screenplays for films by René Clair, Agnès Varda, Jean Cocteau, Roger Vadim and Jean Vigo. There are many studies of individual directors, including Jean-Luc Godard, Jean Renoir, Abel Gance, Marcel L'Herbier and Henri-Georges Clouzot. Volumes on actors (Raimu, Brigitte Bardot, Edwige Feuillère) include several books on Charles Chaplin, including a slightly unusual translation from a Portuguese manuscript published in Lisbon in 1954.

Film history has, of course, increased significantly in importance as an academic discipline in recent decades. The current Head of the French Department at Cambridge, Emma Wilson, has published widely on French film, and earlier this year was made Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes

Académiques by the French Government in recognition of her contribution to scholarship. In recent years the Library has very actively collected material in French relating to film history, but that has not always been the case. It is very gratifying, therefore, that this donation of books by Glynne Parker enables the Library to fill so many gaps in its historic collections.

The extent of the demand for this material was only brought home to the staff of European Collections as they started to add records to the Library's Newton catalogue. Readers started to order material in Rare Books virtually the moment it was catalogued … and sometimes before there had even been time for the books to move from the Cataloguing Department to the book stack.

The Médiathèque of the French Institute and French e-books

Anne-Elisabeth Buxtorf, *Director of the Médiathèque, Institut français, London*

The Médiathèque of the French Institute holds around 70,000 documents, including audiovisual material, covering all aspects of culture and contemporary French society. Our open access print books still form the major part of the collections. Eighty percent of these have been written in French. They cover subjects as wide as literature, history, social sciences, art, contemporary fashion, science, cinema and others. English translations of French works, and books on France written in English complete the collection. Heritage collections are modest but not negligible, particularly editions of French books from the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as the Free French Archives.

Our entire audiovisual collection, which includes music, feature films and documentaries, is unique in the United Kingdom. It includes all the French cinema classics as well as films by contemporary directors, and popular comedies. In all, there are more than 3,500 DVDs and 4,700 CDs and audio books, which are available on loan to members. The Library Catalogue was integrated with Copac in 2008 and the library also has an inter-library loan system with French and British libraries.

Like all libraries, the Médiathèque of the French Institute has developed its digital collections. Europresse is a database of the most important current French media. The library's subscription to this database gives readers access to the archives of major French newspapers and magazines, including Le Monde, Libération, Le Figaro, Télérama and Le Nouvel Observateur.

In 2010, the Médiathèque will invest in e-books. Until recently the main holder of digital texts online in France was Gallica, the digital library of the Bibliothéque nationale de France. Several electronic libraries could be used as online resources. This includes the electronic libraries of Lisieux, of Québec, and many other general projects integrating text and other documents: Athéna, Clicnet, la bibliothèque numérique francophone and others.

In the various digital libraries in France, the texts most often found were those that have fallen into the public domain and are free of property rights. For contemporary texts, some providers have started recently to offer catalogues of French books online. These contain publications in the form of e-books that also exist in print, and publications that exist only in digital format. Some providers offer special services for libraries where the library

pays a subscription and its members have free access to the platform. Many French libraries provide this service for their members. Public libraries use this system for books that have a short shelf life. Academic libraries can at last offer as many copies as needed to their students who are familiar with online resources.

Whilst interest in content is obvious in France, the same cannot be said for the technology used for reading. For example, the Sony e-reader didn't have the same popularity in France as it had in Great Britain when it was launched (only 5,000 readers sold in 2008). Digital texts are usually read via technology that has other functions, such as computers, iphones, mobile phones and games consoles.

In its first phase the Médiathèque plans to launch a platform with written French texts and its second phase will include films and music for the whole of Great Britain. All FSLG members will be invited to test it. As an accompaniment to these developments in digital books, a one-day seminar, devoted to the study of e-books in Europe, will be held on 29th October at the French Institute. But books in print will still exist, and all members of FSLG are cordially invited to visit us in South Kensington to discover the Art Deco surroundings of the Médiathèque of the French Institute.

Further information

The Library Catalogue, the inventory of old books and the archives of the Médiathèque are accessible on the website of the French Institute at
http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/

For inter-library loans, visits, or other queries about the French Institute or e-books in French, please contact:
17 Queensberry Place
London
SW7 2DT
Tel: 020 7073 1354
library@ambafrance.org.uk

Digital platforms with a special offer on books in French for British libraries:
Cyberlibris: http://www.cyberlibris.com
Numilog: http://www.numilog.com

Other French digital material suppliers:
Newspapers and magazines: http://www.europresse.com/
Contemporary texts: http://www.publie.net/

29 October 2009: Seminar on the evolution of e-books and its consequences on libraries, organised by Eurolis at the French Institute. For more details see
http://eurolis.wordpress.com/

Three Exhibitions of French Books in Oxford

Nick Hearn, *Slavonic and East European Subject Specialist (Language, Literature and Culture), Taylor Bodleian Slavonic and Modern Greek Library, Oxford*
French Subject Specialist (Language and Literature), Taylor Institution Library, St Giles, Oxford

To commemorate the 50th Conference of the Society for French Studies (St Anne's College 29th June – 1st July 2009), the Bodleian and the Taylor Institution libraries put on no less than three exhibitions between them! In a world of e-books and mass digitisation projects it was refreshing to see an exhibition in which one could just revel in the book as a book, an art-object it its own right.

The *livres d'artiste* exhibition organized by Ruth Simons of the Taylor Institution Library provided such an opportunity. Here one could find French *livres d'artiste* lovingly created from fine papers and exotic fonts in which the spotlight was on the pictures (and who can resist a picture?) rather than the text. On one of the pages, a strange bony black dog was juxtaposed with an even stranger spiky black script.

Cocteau, Jean and Buffet, Bernard. La Voix humaine. Paris: Parenthèses Lacourière, 1957. Photographed by Ruth Simmons.

Another book consisted of grids of onions and peas with lengthy over-intellectualised explications (Ah! How French!). On a hot July afternoon one

felt fellow-feeling with the frogs in an illustration of La Fontaine's fable 'The sun and the frogs' as they stewed in their pond beneath the burning sun.

La Fontaine, Jean de and Lurçat, Jean. Vingt fables. Lausanne: André Gonin, 1950. The illustration here depicts the fable of Le soleil et les grenouilles. Photographed by Ruth Simmons

Just as appropriate was the display in the Proscholium of the Bodleian of the Digby MS 23, Pt 2 manuscript of *La chanson de Roland*. This is the granddaddy of all subsequent editions of *La chanson de Roland*. This was brought out in a complementary *Chanson de Roland* exhibition in the vestibule of the Voltaire Room in the Taylor Institution Library. The manuscript is something of a mystery, a palaeographic detective story. Why and when was this epic poem bound together with Plato's *Timaeus*? On which side of the Channel was the manuscript written? Was it the working copy of a minstrel or was it simply a literary version of a well-known legend? After being presented to Osney Abbey by Henry Langley, how did it come into the hands of Oxford astrologer and mathematician Thomas Allen (before he bequeathed it to Sir Kenelm Digby, also of Oxford)? What is certain is that it provided the French with an epic poem in their hour of national distress in the 1830s. Bien sûr, any literature worth its salt should have an epic poem at the head of its medieval tradition. The only drawbacks were that it was written not in French but in Anglo-Norman and kept in the Bodleian. In short, the three exhibitions provided food for thought, perhaps even an *embarras de richesses*!

French Interns and Collection Development: Lyon Comes to Cambridge

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

The European Collections department of Cambridge University Library has welcomed several German and Swiss librarians on extended visits in the past, but it was only in 2009 that we had a first intern from France, who was with us for three months between February and May (the amount of training and commitment required from my own staff is such that we have gradually moved to a position where my department will only accept library school students for a minimum of 10 or 12 weeks). Our French intern Laure came from the École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (Enssib) in Lyon, and her visit turned out to be a highly rewarding experience for all concerned. My staff really enjoyed having Laure as one of their number. She, in turn, was friendly, intelligent and highly committed, and made a big contribution to the work of the section.

Having agreed that Laure might come, I had a few misgivings prior to her arrival. More paperwork and form filling was required by Enssib than had been necessary for German and Swiss trainees, though in the event these more bureaucratic aspects to the internship were dealt with in a very straightforward fashion. This visit was also different in one more fundamental regard. Whereas previous library school students had just wanted detailed work experience, Enssib required for their trainee a clearly defined project which she could carry out.

My suggestion was that Laure should draw up lists of prominent contemporary social scientists and philosophers from France, and should then compare these with Cambridge's holdings on these authors, drawing my attention to significant gaps in our coverage. This idea arose from an earlier WESLINE meeting, at which one speaker commented on the patchy national coverage of works in French by Alain Badiou – a casual remark which had lodged in my mind. What I could never have anticipated was the enthusiasm and energy which Laure brought to the task, and the complex methodology which she devised for drawing up lists of names.

In subsequently describing her methodology for me, Laure mentioned the drawbacks and problems in using some of the databases she had consulted. That level of detail would not be appropriate here, though I would be happy to send more information to anyone who is particularly interested. I will also restrict my comments to her list of sociologists. The methodology for philosophers was similar, but of course used a different range of tools and databases.

The initial raw list of social scientists was extracted from the catalogue of the Université René Descartes, identified by the *Charte documentaire des acquisitions* of the Bibliothèque nationale de France as one of the most important libraries in this field in Paris. By consulting the catalogue du Système Universitaire de Documentation (SUDOC), all books held by the library which had "sociologie" as a keyword and were published in France between 1999 and 2009 were extracted, and the records stored in an online database.

The authors whose names appeared on this list were then submitted to a range of searches against a variety of databases. Depending upon the source the names were checked against lists of monographic publications or journal articles, or were counted each time they were quoted in an article. Further searches in this area were made against BN-Opale, *Esprit critique*, *Revue française de sociologie*, and *Persée.* Consultation of *In extenso* enabled some assessment of the importance of an author on the web to be made, and *Liens socio* gave an impression of an individual's academic activity.

Although a serious attempt was made to limit the number of names on the final list, its length still exceeded our initial expectations. Having eliminated as many names as possible from the initial raw list of data, Laure divided the remainder into two sections. A first list, of approximately 120 sociologists, was restricted to major, well-established writers. On the second list there were 200 people that, whilst potentially equally important, had published less and were still making a name for themselves in the field. Authors tended to be included on the lists if they were an important presence in *Revue française de sociologie* and/or *Persée*, if they taught at an important university, if they were members of the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) or of a CNRS laboratory, or if their work was published by a major academic publisher.

As a final stage in the process, Laure took some of the most important names, compared their output with Cambridge University Library holdings, and recommended titles which were still in print and which we had failed to buy. This was a very valuable and constructive exercise.

The great irony, of course, was that the period of Laure's internship coincided with the drop in value of the pound against the euro, so that my French budget had significantly less purchasing power than in the past. The exchange rate was a regular topic of discussion between us. As Laure pointed out, for a French intern paying for food and accommodation in Cambridge the strength of the euro was a great source of satisfaction. Her final email as she returned to France concluded:

"When I said that I could not have found a better place to spend these 3 months, I was not just being nice. I meant it. I hope the pound will get back on tracks soon so that you can buy any Harmattan book you want."

Harmattan titles were – and remain – very difficult to assess and evaluate!

Chair's report to the FSLG, 2007-2008

This year's AGM sees the resignation of David Lowe from the FSLG Committee and as co-editor of the *Annual Review* owing to ever increasing demands on his time. Happily, David has agreed to be co-opted to the Committee in his capacity as Convenor of WESLINE. David organised the first and very successful joint FSLG/GSLG conference in Cambridge in 2003. He also, with Antony Loveland and now Sarah Burn, edited the first three issues of the *Annual Review* with enormous distinction.

An important development this year has been the establishment of links with the Society for French Studies. Anne Cobby and I were invited to attend the February 2008 Executive Committee meeting of the Society to talk about library liaison within the UK. We introduced the FSLG and its work and also discussed possible collaboration, starting with the collecting of francophone/regional aspects of French literature and the selection of current fiction. FSLG members were urged to alert French departments to the existence of the Group. Follow-up actions include the forthcoming publication in the *SFS Bulletin* of a piece on the FSLG by Anne Cobby and an invitation to Anne and myself to address the October 2008 Executive Committee meeting of the Association of University Professors and Heads of French.

Collaboration with other groups continues under the aegis of WESLINE. The 2007 colloquium, 'Exploding the Canon. From Medieval Romance to TV Soap: meeting the challenges of resource provision', organised jointly with the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of London, explored changing trends in French, Hispanic and Italian studies and the impact on research provision. This year's WESLINE conference focuses on research and resources in the social sciences.

Finally, on behalf of the FSLG, I should like to express a big thank you to all on the Committee. In addition to the contribution of Anne Cobby already highlighted, special thanks are due to Anne Worden for all her hard work helping to organise this year's conference. Once again, thanks are due to Ann Farr, our Secretary, Martin Hodgson, our Treasurer and Damien McManus, our List Owner.

Teresa Vernon
29 August 2008

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