



### **University of Nottingham Libraries**

The University of Nottingham's position as a world-class University is confirmed by its ranking in the global league tables. We are ranked in the UK and European top 30 and in the top one per cent of all universities worldwide. In order to build upon this position our Global Strategy 2020 sets out goals and actions that target areas of challenge while laying the foundations for ongoing success into the future. The Strategy aims to strengthen and enrich our core activities of Education and Research; address the changing expectations of our students; target investment in research strengths; focus on enhancing quality; and continue to differentiate The University of Nottingham on the basis of an outstanding student experience and our distinct approach to internationalisation.

The University of Nottingham Libraries provides a full range of library and learning technology services to the University. It puts students and academics at the heart of everything, working in partnership with academic and professional service colleagues to provide the right environment for learners, teachers and researchers to discover, develop, use and share information and learning content in support of knowledge creation and dissemination. We work closely with colleagues at our international campuses, and share the same library systems and virtual learning environment.

University of Nottingham Libraries provides a comprehensive range of services, including eight libraries in the UK; over one million print books and journals; 450,000 electronic books and 40,000 ejournals; three million manuscripts including collections of international importance; and a full range of learning technologies including Moodle. Services are provided over extensive hours, seven days a week, and 24/7 at key times.

The department has approximately 180 FTE staff distributed around the University's campuses in the UK, and grouped into six sections: Learning Technology, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Research and Learning Services, Customer Services, Content and Discovery, and Strategy and Planning. Our wide-ranging services include:

- frontline lending and enquiry services across eight libraries
- managing a variety of study spaces
- information skills teaching
- acquiring, managing and promoting printed and electronic information resources for research, learning and teaching, including Manuscripts and Special Collections
- delivering eLearning services and development of new technologies

### **Manuscripts and Special Collections**

The holdings of the section have been built up over eighty years. They include designated collections of national and international significance. A particular strength lies in family and estate archives of the East Midlands. The section also looks after library holdings of rare printed books and a local studies collection.

The section is managed by the Keeper of Manuscripts and Special Collections and comprises 19 staff (14 fte) in two teams each headed by a Senior Archivist. The Collections Team has responsibility for the acquisition, development, preservation and cataloguing of archives, manuscripts and special collections and the Academic and Public Engagement Team has responsibility for the delivery of public services, academic liaison to support teaching and research and public engagement. Many functions involve cross team working, collaborating both in operational services and in special projects.

The section moved to its present home at the University's King's Meadow Campus in 2006. This move has provided expansion space and extended the facilities for storage, digitisation and conservation. A dedicated gallery space is available at Nottingham Lakeside Arts on University Park for the section's rolling programmes of exhibitions and events. Staff work closely with the University's research and teaching community, providing advice for students and consulting on acquisition priorities. A small meeting room is regularly used for classes.

The section has an extensive website, offering information about the collections, research guidance for users of archives, e-learning packages, and content aimed at schools, as well as catalogue access, and other digital visual resources <<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/>> A blog provides current news, and is used to highlight particular resources and services.

Manuscripts and Special Collections was awarded Archive Service Accreditation in 2016

### **Additional Information**

The Wellcome Trust have awarded a Research Resources award for a project entitled: Development of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at The University of Nottingham.

In 2003 Professor Sir Peter Mansfield (with Professor Paul Lauterbur) was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for "discoveries concerning magnetic resonance imaging". This project will transform access to the papers of Peter Mansfield and other scientists associated with the development of MRI at the University of Nottingham: Professor Raymond Andrew and Professor Brian Worthington and associated records of the British Radiofrequency Spectroscopy Group; opening up the collections for teaching and research to tell the story of the pioneering work on MRI undertaken at Nottingham.

The collections will be catalogued and repackaged in archival quality materials. Films, videos, audio tapes and 35 mm slides will be digitised for both preservation and access and to aid cataloguing. Photographs will be assessed for possible future digitisation.

An interdisciplinary Advisory Group will be established to support the project and open up the Collections to researchers. The collections will be promoted to both academics and the general public. It is hoped that this could lead to the discovery of further records relating to MRI at Nottingham and inspire other scientists to donate their records, so developing Manuscripts and Special Collections as a centre for research into the development of MRI.