

The Sir Michael Cobham Library Building Project

Facts and figures

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General Information

Director of the Library: David Ball

Person to refer to with inquiries: Jill Beard

Current readership, number of registered readers: 19,227

Number of full time students: 12,085

Number of part time students: 5,115

Number of staff teachers, professors, researchers and administrators: 1,392

NOTE: The University Library has another site on the Lansdowne Campus

The Talbot Campus Libraries before the project

Total floor area (sq. metres): 4,032sq m in 2 libraries

Number of reader seats: 897

Total capacity of shelving (volumes): total of books, pamphlets, periodical volumes including special collections in open access storage: 202,745

Number of staff (full time equivalent): 59.9

Opening hours to the public (hours per week and days per year): 71 hours per week for 335 days

The new library building: aims and features

Architects: Saunders Architects

Project Architect: Bill Moisan

Type of project: Extension / Renovation

Aims of the new building are to

- provide an iconic learning space epitomising the aspirations of the University's corporate vision: "youthful and innovative ... high quality ... student-centred learning";
- to offer safe, equal and autonomous access for all, with sensitive support for those with special needs;
- to conform to the University's energy-saving environmental policy;
- to be flexible and responsive to the current and future demands of a growing and diversifying academic community with an intensifying focus on research;
- to offer a coherent integrated spectrum of services previously spread across the campus in two libraries and various offices;
- to meet tight constraints in terms of planning and covenants (e.g. not exceeding five storeys) and budget (£5.3m);
- to increase readers' seats in configurations supporting different learning styles, with flexible computer access and wireless technology;
- to extend the opening hours through self service.

Special Features

- the Library is in a landmark position in the centre of the campus;
- architecture – an octagonal plan;
- a new five-storey octagon linked along one face to an existing building; the latter comprises two inter-linking two-storey octagons, built in the 1980s and fully refurbished as part of the project;
- built around a central service core;
- free-span construction with no obtrusive pillars enabling most efficient use of floor area;
- angled windows to minimise solar gain;
- disabled access with a lift, designated for priority use by those with special needs;
- materials selected to reduce maintenance costs, etc.;
- old refurbished building has a large area for social computing/study, space dedicated to postgraduate students and learning support, a postgraduate law library, a language/computer laboratory;
- entrance leading to strategically placed help points, designed to be welcoming and accessible, and on into the newly built tower housing the main book stock;
- natural zoning of activities, with areas for quiet study, learning support, online research, use of special collections, postgraduate and group activities, and individual computing;
- transactions on the ground and 1st floors with social learning space and increasingly silent study on the 2nd to 4th floors, where the seating layout is conducive to silent study;
- full wireless network and "blue sockets", for safe connection of non-wireless laptops to the University network, allow daily use of a large number of computers without restricting study space through fixed desk-top machines;
- a special collections room profiles our broadcast media and conservation sciences resources;
- signage using accessible font providing clear, minimal but effective guidance.

Technical information about the new building

Total gross floor area (including corridors, stairs, lifts, technical rooms, etc): 5,523 sq m, which is divided into:

- Open access services (reference room, reading rooms, holdings -books and periodicals-, circulation and information desks, etc.): 3027.96 sq m.

Special rooms for

- Audiovisual: 60.65 sq m;
- Special collections: 75.07 sq m;
- Seminar room(s) in 2003: 8 rooms totalling 214.2 sq m;
- Seminar room(s) in 2008: 6 rooms totalling 175.32 sq m.

Special activities

- Public refreshment areas (external access): 33sq m;
- Vending area added summer 2008: 7.38 sq m.

Core activities: 5 floors new build, 2 floors refurbishment

- Administration and staff areas: 1,041.44 sq m;
- Circulation areas (corridors, stairs, lifts), toilets, technical rooms, etc: 1,070.68 sq m;

| | Seats: 2003 | Seats: 2008 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Audiovisual: | 29 | 29 |
| Computers: | 257 | 257 |
| Seminar room(s): | 129 | 122 |
| Regular: | 570 | 631 |
| Number of reader seats (Total): | 985 | 1010 |

- Total potential capacity of shelving in 2003: 4,500 linear metres comprising 193,895 items;
- Total potential capacity of shelving in 2008: 4,400 linear metres comprising 151,377 items;
- Total e-resources in 2008: 47,000 e-books and 42,000 e-journals and report series.

Staffing

- Number of staff required for the functioning of the new library (full time equivalent): 54.34.

Mechanical features

- Ventilation/Air Conditioning: in the newly built section, a displacement ventilation system with full air-conditioning confined to specific areas, night cooling of the structure, additional air handling as required and a targeted heat curtain across the automatic entrance doors;
- Heating: 3 Hamworthy Purewell natural gas fired atmospheric cast iron boilers at 105 kW each. These have an optimiser and weather compensation control and all adjustments are made with the building management system. The building is heated on the ground and first floors via fan coil units and a fresh air heat recovery unit located in the plant room. 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors are heated via radiators located around the perimeter of the building and are naturally ventilated to maintain an average temperature of 22°C;

- Lighting: in the newly built section internal lighting is fluorescent and controlled by a programmable lighting control system (ECS system) with the exception of lighting to utility and plant rooms. External lighting is controlled by a combination of time lock and photocell;
- Acoustics: in the newly built section acoustics were designed to minimise noise from the different activities;
- One lift;
- Theft detection: 3M detection system and tattle tape;
- Computerised house control: TALIS;
- Type of IT-cabling and capacity: Cat 5e (1,000mbs) UTP cabling system to 359 outlets. Capacity - there is a 1GB/s link to the building, 100MB/s to each desktop, and the wireless link is 11 MB/s.

Schedule of the building process

Preliminary brief: 2000

Project drawings and competition between contractors: Jan-March 2001

Opening of the construction work: June 2001

Duration of the building work: 14 months for newly built section plus an additional 4 months for the refurbishment

Furnishing and moving the collections: August 2002 (new build)

Date of opening of the new building: January 2003 (complete project)

Costs

Building: 4,125,987 GBP

Furniture and equipment: 645,239 GBP

Fees: 528,774 GBP

Total: 5.3 million GBP

Publications

BEARD J., FERRIS, J. AND RYLAND J., 2003. Fit for purpose: Bournemouth University's new library. Update, 2(6), pp.28-30.

BEARD, J., WOODCOCK, J., 2008. Reshaping the Future 14th LIBER Architecture Group Seminar: Building on Experience: Learning from the past to Plan for the future.
http://www.zhbluzern.ch/liber-lag/PP_LAG_08/Wednesday/Beard_LIBER08_def.pdf
 [Accessed 2 November 2008].

BEARD, J., BALL, D., 2008. Reshaping the Future. <http://liber.library.uu.nl/> [Accessed 2 November 2008].

Bournemouth University Library website:
<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/library/building/building.html>