

Press Releases

Oxford Scholarly Editions Online (OSEO)

8 Nov 2010 – Oxford University Press is proud to announce a major new digital publishing initiative: an online collection of OUP's scholarly editions in the humanities, which will go live in spring 2012.

Oxford's line-up of scholarly editions is unrivalled in its breadth and quality. They comprise authoritative texts of poetry, drama, and fiction, from all periods of English literature, and of other important writing from across the humanities. Such editions are the bedrock of humanities scholarship – the primary sources upon which scholars rely for research and teaching.

Demand for such primary sources to be made accurately and reliably available online has been growing as more and more research and study is done outside the physical confines of libraries, and with *Oxford Scholarly Editions Online (OSEO)* OUP is able to respond to this demand.

An academic editorial board will oversee the project to ensure that it matches the high standards of scholarship embodied in the original print editions. Michael F. Suarez, S.J., Director, Rare Book School and University Professor, University of Virginia, is its editor in chief. He recently edited the acclaimed *Oxford Companion to the Book*. The board also comprises: Professor Gordon Campbell, Professor Christopher Cannon, Professor Emeritus Desmond Clarke, Professor Emerita Marilyn Deegan, Dr Nicholas Halmi, Professor Laura Marcus, Professor John Morrill, Professor Lisa Rodensky, and Dr Andrew Zurcher.

Sophie Goldsworthy, Editorial Director for Academic and Trade publishing, comments: *"Cutting through the mass of data available online continues to present a very real challenge to scholars and students alike, and is nowhere more difficult than in the case of primary texts, with the sheer volume of unevaluated and often simply inaccurate editions online. By marrying technological developments with one of the most traditional forms of scholarly endeavour, OSEO will enhance the discoverability and accessibility of some of Oxford's most prestigious and authoritative content. We are extremely proud to be embarking upon this project alongside such an eminent editorial board, jointly committed to ensuring that we deliver nothing but the highest quality content in a way that fulfils the needs of the widest possible readership."*

The intention is to launch the site with 150 editions of works originally written between 1485 and 1660 – including Shakespeare's plays, poetry by John Donne, and the letters of Thomas Hobbes – and to add tranches of content covering other chronological periods until it contains

many hundreds of editions of works of different types – drama, poetry, and all kinds of prose, from diaries and correspondence through to philosophical speculation, sermons, history, biography, and fiction. Through this initiative OUP will be making many classic editions widely available.

London Libraries to share stock management and acquisitions

Enfield and Havering library services are now sharing stock management services across the two boroughs. The innovative new arrangement means that one stock manager covers stock acquisition, performance and disposal, for Enfield and Havering, boroughs which have roughly the same population size, demographic, and funding levels. The arrangement has been made possible as both are members of the 12-borough strong London Libraries Consortium¹ which services a population of three million across London.

Madeline Barrett, Libraries Strategy & Performance Manager, Enfield Libraries says, “This initiative wouldn’t have come about without our regular meetings as members of the London Libraries Consortium. The consortium seeks service changes which will help us to provide better resources to library users, in a more efficient and cost effective way. We estimate that our shared stock management arrangement has the potential to save around £35k per annum across two boroughs alone, and the consortium is now considering further ways to share operations and stock between members.”

Ann Rennie, Library Services Manager at Havering Library Service, explains, “Our stock manager had reached retirement age, which coincided with our reassessment of the most cost effective and efficient way to operate stock services. Discussions with the London Borough of Enfield, a fellow partner in the London Libraries Consortium, showed that we could share their stock manager. Managers and staff in the consortium share knowledge and experience on a regular basis, which allows us to implement efficiency and service improvements far more quickly than we could as individual authorities.”

¹ The London Libraries Consortium members are: Barking & Dagenham, Brent, Ealing, Enfield, Hackney, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth.

Mark Bennett has been in the joint post since May 2010 and handles budget control, supplier performance, contract monitoring and stock services. As he was previously employed in the role at Enfield, he had all the required skillsets of experience in acquisitions and stock control, knowledge of the consortium's library management system (Axiell's OpenGalaxy) and electronic procurement using EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), performance and budget control including the use of payments interfaces between OpenGalaxy and corporate finance systems, stock management and RFID; consequently he was able to move seamlessly into the joint role without any training. He is also involved in the renegotiation of local and LLC stock contracts covering purchase of stock and associated 'added value' services such as supplier selection, EDI provision, RFID tagging, shelf-ready stock and direct branch delivery.

Mark says, "Shared working across two boroughs and 26 libraries presents an ideal opportunity to benchmark processes and to gain a way of working which takes the best from both boroughs. The Enfield/Havering pilot presents the opportunity to directly apply this to form a broad best practice template for consolidated stock management which other LLC members can adopt or develop. For users this means that they will gain better access to stock, stock will be rotated more efficiently and purchased to better suit our readers' interests and requirements."

The consortium has recently purchased SmartSM, stock performance improvement software, which accesses the OpenGalaxy LMS and takes stock information for analysis. Mark will be using this data to identify areas for development such as which branches have too much or too little of particular categories or authors. The data will be used to develop supplier selection profiles and measure performance of those, ensuring a more evidence-based case for stock management and purchase. As most consortium members will use OpenGalaxy's library management system and SmartSM, they will be able to benchmark and share stock performance data between themselves to identify areas for enhancement.