Libraries of Science

Conference programme, Friday 14 March 2025 at the Royal Society

9.30am	**Welcome and opening remarks** Royal Society Library team
9.35am	**Session 1** Chaired by Anna Marie Roos, University of Lincoln
9.35am	**Uncovering scientific texts and stories in unexpected libraries** Deborah Kent, University of St Andrews and Ciarán Mac an Bhaird, Maynooth University, Ireland
9.50am	**Hooke's books** Felicity Henderson, University of Exeter, and Yelda Nasifoglu, University of Cambridge
10.05am	**Reading practices in the work of learning: the example of the Hardwicke Circle in the 1750s** Markman Ellis, Queen Mary University of London
10.20am	**Medici Press books in the Royal Society's Arundel Library** Alex Day, Bernard Quaritch Ltd
10.30am	**Discussion**
10.50am	**Coffee and Networking**
11.20am	**Session 2** Chaired by Felicity Henderson, University of Exeter
11.20am	**The library that took forty days to sell (Sundays excepted): Martin Folkes (1690-1754), his Library and the Royal Society** Anna Marie Roos, University of Lincoln
11.35am	**Scientific texts and the making of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society Musaeum, 1710-1814** Dustin Frazier Wood, University of Roehampton
11.50am	**The legacy of Thomas Glass, eighteenth-century physician and bibliophile** Emma Laws, Exeter Cathedral
12.05pm	**The Linnean Society Library: two centuries of continuity and change** Will Beharrell, Linnean Society
12.20pm	**Discussion**
12.40pm	**Lunch**

1.30pm **Session 3**
Chaired by Isabelle Charmantier, Linnean Society

1.30pm **'Their controversial library': the Royal Society Library and its readers in the nineteenth century**
Louisiane Ferlier, Royal Society Library

1.45pm **The library of the Tunbridge Wells Natural History Society: reconstructing a lost powerhouse for citizen science in provincial Victorian England.**
Ian Beavis, The Amelia, Tunbridge Wells

2.00pm **The studious missionary: biomedical science and Dr Archibald Hewan's encounter with Scottish university libraries**
Matthew Daniel Eddy, Durham University

2.15pm **Discussion**

2.30pm **Coffee and Networking**

3.00pm **Session 4**
Chaired by Aileen Fyfe, University of St Andrews

3.00pm **Women and ZSL: the first 100 years**
Ann Sylph, Zoological Society of London

3.15pm **Scientists in libraries: the rise of the scientific information professional**
Emmeline Ledgerwood, National Life Stories, The British Library

3.30pm **The working library of a scientist as a kaleidoscope: the case of François Jacob**
Nathalie Queyroux, National Centre for Scientific Research, France, and Alberto Vianelli, University of Insubria, Italy

3.45pm **Discussion**

4.00pm **Break**

4.10pm **Keynote Session**

4.10pm **Introductory remarks**
Sian Prosser, Royal Astronomical Society Library

4.20pm **Browsing in the astronomer's library**
Karen Masters, Haverford College, USA

4.40pm **Discussion and conclusions**

5pm **Close**

Speaker and chair biographies

Will Beharrell is the Linnean Society's Librarian. As well as making the library available for research, public engagement and education, he promotes the service and holdings through international networks, publications and social media. He has a particular interest in the care and curation of the Society's sizeable rare and early-printed books collection, and has undertaken numerous projects to bring these to a wider audience.

Ian Beavis read Classics at the University of Exeter, and his doctoral thesis on entomology in the ancient world was published in 1988. He joined Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery in 1985 and currently holds the post of Research Curator with the role of discovering and interpreting the stories behind the collections and developing the Museum's research policy. He writes and lectures regularly on local history and natural history.

Isabelle Charmantier is Head of Collections at the Linnean Society. She holds a doctorate in history of science from the University of Sheffield and researched the writing technologies of Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus during a post-doc at the University of Exeter. Having retrained as an archivist, she catalogued the manuscripts of Carl Linnaeus and was for a short time Collections Manager at the Freshwater Biological Association in Windermere, before returning to the Linnean Society.

Alex Day read History of Art at the Courtauld Institute and has an MPhil in Medieval History from the University of Cambridge. He joined Bernard Quaritch Ltd in 2003 to specialise in books on the Middle East and has subsequently diversified into general travel books, early printed books and medieval manuscripts.

Matthew Daniel Eddy is Professor and Chair in the History and Philosophy of Science at Durham University. He is author of *The Language of Mineralogy: John Walker, Chemistry and the Edinburgh Medical School* (Routledge: 2008) and *Media and the Mind: Art, Science and Notebooks as Paper Machines, 1700-1830* (Chicago: 2023).

Markman Ellis is Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies at Queen Mary University of London. He is the author of *The Politics of Sensibility* (1996), *The History of Gothic Fiction* (2000), *The Coffee-House: a Cultural History* (2004), and co-author of *Empire of Tea* (2015). Most recently he published *Science and Reading in the Eighteenth Century: the Hardwicke Circle and the Royal Society, 1740-1766* (2023), research which forms the basis of this paper.

Aileen Fyfe is Professor of Modern History at the University of St Andrews. Her research focuses upon the histories of science, technology and publishing, and she has particular interests in the construction and communication of knowledge, and the way in which scholarly communities operate. Her latest book *A History of Scientific Journals: publishing at the Royal Society, 1665-2015* (2022) was the result of AHRC-funded research on the *Philosophical Transactions*. She is currently working on a history of information, statistics, and publishing in Victorian Britain.

Louisiane Ferlier is the Digital Resources Manager in the Royal Society collections and oversees the digitisation of its manuscripts and printed works. She is also a historian of ideas researching the role of libraries in the circulation of books.

Dustin Frazier Wood is Head of Collections and Operations at Spalding Gentlemen's Society and Senior Lecturer in Humanities at the University of Roehampton. Dustin's research focuses on the cultural history of museum, library and archive collections in the long 18th century, with a particular

focus on provincial intellectual networks and the relationship between manuscript and print publication, and knowledge-making practices.

Felicity Henderson is Senior Lecturer in Archives and Material Culture in the Department of English and Creative Writing at the University of Exeter. Her research focuses on the early Royal Society, with interests in texts, narrative and translation, visual and material culture, and the communication of ideas between the Society and other social groups. She is currently editing the diary of Robert Hooke for publication with Oxford University Press, and her short biography *Robert Hooke's Experimental Philosophy* (Reaktion Books) was published in autumn 2024.

Deborah Kent is a Reader in History of Mathematics at the School of Mathematics at the University of St Andrews. Her research focuses on mathematical sciences in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Recent work has included projects on the circulation and transmission of mathematics in periodicals, American mathematics in World War I, and nineteenth-century eclipse expeditions. She is Librarian of the London Mathematical Society, Council member of the British Society for the History of Mathematics, and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Emma Laws began her career in rare books and special collections at the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, and continued at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where she was a curator for over 20 years. She has been Exeter Cathedral Librarian since January 2022 and continues to work freelance for the Libraries of the National Trust. Emma serves on the committees of the Historic Libraries Forum and the CILIP Library and Information History Group; she is an Accredited Lecturer of The Arts Society.

Emmeline Ledgerwood is a member of the National Life Stories team at the British Library, where she conducts life story interviews and contributes to the development of the BL's *Discovering* Science web resources. Her research focuses on different aspects of the intersection of science and politics during the twentieth century, such as the position of science in Parliament and the changing working lives of UK government scientists. She is currently investigating how British civil servants facilitated the translation of Russian scientific material during the 1950s and 1960s, supported by an award from the Royal Society's Lisa Jardine Grant scheme.

Ciarán Mac an Bhaird is Associate Professor in Mathematics at Maynooth University, Ireland. He is Education Officer for the British Society for the History of Mathematics and founding organiser of the Irish History of Mathematics conference series, and his recent research has focused on library collections. His co-edited book collection 'Mathematical Book Histories' was recently published by Springer-Birkhäuser.

Karen Masters is a Professor of Astronomy and Physics at Haverford College, near Philadelphia, USA. In her research, she uses large astronomical surveys (both in optical and radio wavelengths) to understand how galaxies in our Universe form and evolve. Originally from the UK, Karen has moved across the Atlantic a couple of times during her career. She enjoys writing for a popular science audience: as well as 'The Astronomer's Library' she has co-authored two other books for Quarto, '30-Second Universe' and '30-Second Space Travel'. She also contributed a book chapter on Mary Somerville in 'More Passion for Science', an anthology of stories about women in STEM.

Yelda Nasifoglu is a Post-doctoral Research Associate at the Ax:son Johnson Centre for the Study of Classical Architecture and the department of Art History at the University of Cambridge. An historian of architecture and mathematics, she researches how these were practiced in the 17th and 18th centuries, especially by the early fellows of the Royal Society. She is also interested in book reading and collecting practices during this period, and has been developing the database 'Catalogue of British Book Catalogues in Print & Manuscript up to 1700'

Sian Prosser manages the library and archives of the Royal Astronomical Society, making them accessible to researchers, working with colleagues to use them in outreach and education activities, and promoting the history of astronomy and of the people who created and used the RAS collections. After a PhD on medieval manuscripts, she qualified as a librarian and has completed the Certificate in Astronomy at UCL. She is treasurer of the Historic Libraries Forum.

Nathalie Queyroux holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and is a research engineer at the CNRS. Since 2005, she has been in charge of the Documentation Centre at the Centre d'archives en philosophie, histoire et édition des sciences (CAPHÉS, UAR 3610, CNRS-ENS-PSL).

Anna Marie Roos is Emeritus Professor of the History of Science and Medicine at the University of Lincoln. She is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Linnean Society of London, and the Royal Historical Society, recognised for her historical and scientific work. An edition of the travel diary of Martin Folkes – *Taking Newton on Tour* – will be published by the Hakluyt Society in 2025, as will volume two of her edition of the correspondence of Martin Lister FRS (1639-1712) with Brill Academic Publishing.

Anne Sylph is the Librarian at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and has responsibility for the library and archives. These collections support ZSL's purpose to inform, inspire and empower people to stop wild animals going extinct. She has a particular interested in the contribution of women to the development of zoology, the history of marine zoology and historic 'sciart'. Ann has a BSc in Ecology and an MSc in Information Science. She is a Chartered member of CILIP.

Alberto Vianelli has a double formation in biological science at the University of Milan and in history of science at the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Since 2014 he has been a lecturer in History of Biology and in Science Communication at the University of Insubria, Varese-Como. His research is mainly focused on the relationship between sociability on one side and scientific writing and publication on the other.

Abstracts

9.35am
Uncovering scientific texts and stories in unexpected libraries (Deborah Kent and Ciarán Mac an Bhaird)

Libraries hold books and archival materials significant to understanding our history and culture. Recent work in Ireland and Scotland has revealed new histories of scientific book use and broad participation in the culture of reading.

In this talk, we discuss how this re-examination of scientific texts found in 'unexpected collections' raises important questions about mathematical/scientific texts in wider European collections. Most scientific books in libraries outside of university collections have not yet been considered in detail. By investigating mathematical/scientific texts in European libraries, heretofore underexplored by experts from the history of mathematics/science, we will uncover insights about the broader culture and practice of mathematical sciences.

Our main focus will be on Beeley & Mac an Bhaird's 2024 publication *Mathematical Book Histories Printing, Provenance, and Practices of Reading* (Birkhauser), which challenges established ideas that London was the main centre in Britain/Ireland for mathematical book trade across the 16th-19th centuries, and that the most important collections are based in traditional centres of learning (e.g. London, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, St Andrews). Beeley and Mac an Bhaird's research focused on an Irish seminary library, with an internationally obscure scientific collection. They made significant discoveries. Most spectacularly, close study of a rare and extensively annotated book, previously unlisted in authoritative online catalogues, revealed its key navigational role in a late 17th-century transatlantic voyage. This find highlights the research potential of hitherto unnoticed scientific collections and has attracted international scholarly attention. We also consider different examples of libraries across Ireland and Scotland which have been, until recently, largely unexplored from a scientific point of view. Initial investigations suggest that similar scientific treasures are likely hiding in these underexplored libraries.

9.50am
Hooke's books (Felicity Henderson and Yelda Nasifoglu)

The seventeenth century experimental philosopher Robert Hooke FRS was a committed bibliophile. After his death, his library was sold at auction and the posthumous auction catalogue lists over 2,500 titles of books on subjects ranging from the sciences through to law, literature and divinity. The catalogue is relatively well-known to scholars (and has now been available for almost ten years in electronic format at www.hookesbooks.com). This talk will compare the catalogue with two further sources of information about Hooke's library - a manuscript library catalogue in Hooke's own hand, and extensive evidence from Hooke's diaries kept between 1672 and 1693. Together these three sources provide a detailed picture of how early Fellows of the Royal Society chose, read, swapped and reviewed the books that played a vital part in the development of early-modern science.

10.05am
Reading practices in the work of learning: the example of the Hardwicke Circle in the 1750s (Markman Ellis)

This paper addresses the reading culture of the Hardwicke Circle, influential in the Royal Society, and its primary publication, *Philosophical Transactions*, in the mid-eighteenth century. The principal actors are Thomas Birch (1705–66), Secretary of the Royal Society from 1752 to 1765, and Philip Yorke (1720–90), second earl of Hardwicke. The paper is based on research that quantifies the reading undertaken by these men, and asks what their reading meant to them. Voracious and omnivorous readers, they undertook some reading for entertainment, or to stay abreast of cultural debate. But they also developed a range of more studious reading practices that allowed them to survey, identify, catalogue and summarise their reading.

Their reading was documented, at an unusual level of specificity, in their correspondence. The 'Weekly Letter' was sent by Birch to Yorke from 1741 to 1766, with less frequent replies. It develops an organised and systematic record of their reading, albeit with some caveats. Their correspondence not only noted printed books and journals, manuscripts and correspondence they had read and encountered, but also performed a range of scholarly and critical activities, including attribution and correction, and summarisation and transcription. They also searched for texts for each other, purchased, borrowed or lent them, and sent them between their houses. The Weekly Letter adopts and refines reading practices associated with the studious work of learning and scholarship, such as summarising and abstracting, categorising and making critical judgements and attributions, all

attributes that influenced decisions Birch made when he took on the reform of the *Philosophical Transactions* in 1752, notably in the operation of the Paper Committee.

10.20am
Medici Press books in the Royal Society's Arundel Library (Alex Day)

I propose to describe the bindings of the library's copies of four Medici Press books: Avicenna (1593), Euclid (1594), Al-Idrisi (1593) and Ibn Ajurrum (1592), and to suggest a possible atelier for their production. I will address a number of questions which are raised by them: Why were they bound so luxuriously and for whom?, How and when did they come into the possession of the Earl of Arundel (if indeed they all did)?, Are there comparable bindings on other known copies of Medici Press publications?, and How do they relate to the Medici Press's ambitious (but ultimately doomed) commercial/missionary project to sell the publications into the Near Eastern market?

11.20am
The legacy of Thomas Glass, eighteenth-century physician and bibliophile (Emma Laws)

This is a story about an individual collector *and* an institution – specifically, how the generosity and foresight of an individual shaped a unique institutional identity, and created a legacy of aspiration and participation that continues today.

Thomas Glass: 18th century visionary

Exeter Cathedral Library holds one of the country's largest individual collections of the history of medicine. The Exeter physician and bibliophile, Thomas Glass, bequeathed his private library of over 350 works of science and medicine to the Library in 1786. Glass's friendship with Alured Clarke, Dean of Exeter Cathedral and founder of the Devon and Exeter Hospital, likely facilitated the bequest. Glass stipulated in his will that his books should be made available to 'any physician being an inhabitant of the city', thereby meaningfully extending the purpose of the Cathedral Library to be a centre of learning and inspiration for secular readers as well as clerics.

The collection

Thomas Glass's bequest contains important early printed works of medicine, natural history and experiential science. Current work on the collection includes investigating stories of acquisition, for example, a 1551 work of Benedetto Vettori acquired from the famous library of Francis Bernard.

Legacy

Cathedral libraries typically hold a breadth of knowledge but such significant holdings of science and medicine are unexpected in a Cathedral Library. Thomas Glass's bequest continues to shape the character of Exeter Cathedral Library and to underpin its ongoing partnerships, particularly with Exeter University Medical School. Fourth-year medical students who come to the Cathedral Library to study our Medical Humanities module, 'What Can History Tell Us?', are encouraged to explore the material culture of their chosen profession. Students use historic publications of science and medicine as a focus for reflection on their own development as future medical practitioners, with professional Cathedral Library staff mediating their interactions between old and new.

11.35am
Scientific texts and the making of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society Musaeum, 1710-1814 (Dustin Frazier Wood)

The Spalding Gentlemen's Society (SGS) frequently features as an exemplar of the 'provincial enlightenment' and is relatively well-known as an institution that operated in parallel with the Royal Society and Society of Antiquaries of London from its foundation in 1710 until the late 18th century. This paper explores the ways in which interactions with scientific texts – and the texts themselves – shaped the SGS's 'Original Collection' and early Musaeum and, by extension, the network of collectors, correspondents, experimenters and society members who filled, used, shaped and frequented it. It does so by adopting a comparative and synthetic approach to scientific texts of various kinds: printed books, periodicals, manuscripts and ephemera. By working across these media and their paratexts – membership lists, correspondence, catalogues, specimens, furniture and art – the paper argues that scientific texts played an integral part in shaping the physical spaces and collecting and experimental practices of SGS members.

In cases such as the annotated copy of the 1686 edition of Nehemiah Grew's *Musaeum Regalis Societatis*, annotated to serve as a partial catalogue of SGS's collections, the relationship between text and Musaeum is clear. In others, such as the material related to the gardener Stephen Switzer, fragmentary evidence points to the complex, often entirely unscientific, rationale behind the SGS herbarium and physic garden. Yet other scientific texts that survive in the SGS library and archive point to wide networks of members whose contributions to the Musaeum appear to be symbolic rather than practical, physical representations of social and professional standing and aspirations performed in meetings held within the Musaeum as a space. Taken together, and examined in terms of their provenance, use and symbolic value, these texts help to reveal the ways in which SGS members navigated the social and intellectual waters of the early 18th century.

11.50am
The library that took forty days to sell (Sundays excepted): Martin Folkes (1690-1754), his Library and the Royal Society (Anna Marie Roos)

This talk will discuss the library of Martin Folkes (1690-1754) and its relationship to the Royal Society Library. We are going to show that Folkes was not only ‘instrumental’ in the reform of the Royal Society Library and Repository, but that his own substantive library, instrument and art collection informed collections and activities of the Royal Society as well.

12.05pm
The Linnean Society Library: two centuries of continuity and change (Will Beharrell)

The Linnean Society of London – the world’s oldest learned society devoted to natural history – has possessed a library since its foundation 237 years ago. During that time it has witnessed extraordinary change, not just in our understanding of the natural world, but in how specialist library collections are accessed and used. This talk will examine how the use of our collections has evolved and adapted in that time, to embrace a broader and more multi-disciplinary approach to the mechanisms of research and the production of knowledge.

1.30pm
‘Their controversial library’: the Royal Society Library and its readers in the nineteenth century (Louisiane Ferlier)

In 1857, mathematician Augustus de Morgan donated a volume to the Royal Society embedding a critique of its library in its margins. In a long note and an interleaved excerpt from *Notes and Queries*, he described the Royal Society library in the eighteenth century as a ‘controversial’ collection where books that did not fit the institutional narrative were expunged. He also pointedly hoped that such practices were relegated to the past.

Taking Augustus de Morgan’s view as the point of departure, this paper explores how Fellows used the Royal Society Library in the nineteenth century. Navigating through its lending books, historical catalogues, committee minutes, provenance information and reading marks, it will sketch the transformation of the library from a repository of institutional prestige to a working scientific resource. It also questions the limits of this transformation and the role played by its subsequent custodians in shaping the library.

As part of this paper, a digital version of the lending book for 1853 to 1869 (MS/401/3) will be launched.

1.45pm
The library of the Tunbridge Wells Natural History Society: reconstructing a lost powerhouse for citizen science in provincial Victorian England (Ian Beavis)

The Tunbridge Wells Natural History and Philosophical Society was founded in 1885 with the twin aims of documenting local flora and fauna and establishing a public museum. In both of these it was eminently successful, founding what later became Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery and publishing two substantial accounts of the natural history of the area covering a wide range of taxonomic groups.

The Society had several eminent scientists among its members, notably Rev Thomas Stebbing (its very active President) and Mary Anne Stebbing. But they were concerned to recruit members of all levels of ability and social classes, and to reach out to young people too. The Society’s leaders had a deep conviction of the benefits of scientific knowledge to improve human life for everyone, and they wanted to diffuse that knowledge as widely as possible. They had close associations with the wider contemporary movement towards better and more equal educational provision, including partnership with the Technical Institute and Mechanics’ Institute, and advocating for a public library. They saw natural history not just as an enthralling hobby, but as a component of the scientific enterprise as a whole, and members are frequently urged to do serious research and make their own contribution to the sum of human knowledge.

In pursuit of its vision, the Society built up an extensive library of reference works (it was, for example, an institutional subscriber to the Ray Society’s series of monographs) to enable less well-off members to improve their knowledge and identify the specimens they collected. This paper aims to reconstruct the scope of the Society’s Library, largely dispersed in the mid-twentieth century, and to establish its vital role within the context of the Society’s programme of activities, public outreach, and promotion of what would nowadays be called ‘citizen science’.

2.00pm
The studious missionary: biomedical science and Dr Archibald Hewan's encounter with Scottish university libraries (Matthew Daniel Eddy)

During the early 19th century dozens of black scholars from the Atlantic world studied medicine in Scottish hospitals and universities. Though their presence has been briefly noted by historians of science, medicine and empire, most studies that mention these black physicians are largely biographical and give little attention to how they used libraries or books as learning tools. This paper seeks to address the lacuna by focusing on the university libraries frequented by Dr Archibald Hewan (1832-1883), the first black physician to serve in British West Africa as a Free Church of Scotland missionary doctor. Hewan was born in Jamaica, studied medicine at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities, worked in Old Calabar (modern Nigeria) and then settled in London as a medical practitioner and expert on the diseases and natural history of Africa.

The paper will begin by giving an overview of the limited research currently available on how 19th century physicians of African and Indian descent accessed and utilised libraries containing books and journals that addressed the biomedical sciences and the natural sciences. Using new manuscripts recently found by myself and the staff at Glasgow and Edinburgh university libraries, the first part of the paper offers, for the first time, an account of Hewan's intellectual formation, the goal being to shed more light on the place of libraries in his educational development as a medical scientist and his experience as a black student, physician and missionary. The rest of the paper will answer two overarching questions. First, how might surviving university archival documents related to Hewan's matriculation, attendance and coursework be used in conjunction with his library reading record and contemporary library catalogues to understand how, why and when he used university libraries? Second, to what extent do Hewan's later articles published in journals such as the *Lancet* offer insight into the books he used in the library while he was a student? In pursuing these questions, the paper seeks to offer greater insight into Hewan's interface with the scientific libraries he encountered during his formative years.

3.00pm
Women and ZSL: the first 100 years (Ann Sylph)

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) was established almost 200 years ago in 1826. Women were involved in founding ZSL and unusually, were admitted as Fellows as early as 1827. They were admitted on the same basis as men.

This paper will outline women's scientific involvement with ZSL including their publications in the ZSL's *Proceedings* and *Transactions*. From the first scientific illustrations contributed by women (Vol. 1 of *Transactions,* publ. 1835), the first papers about scientific research carried out by women (1839) through to World War I when the first women Curators, Librarians and Keepers were appointed and a period when there was a large increase in the number of research papers by women.

From the start the intention was to have a Library and although it has moved several times it has always been accessible to Fellows and many women have also contributed publications, art works and archives to the collections. Books in the Library's special collections also contain contributions by women, the earliest being a 1642 book on marine invertebrates (a later edition of a book originally published in1606).

Access to books and journals at ZSL Library as well as being able to attend scientific meetings has played a role and still contributes to women developing and expanding their knowledge of zoology, supporting both informal and formal education.

As we approach ZSL's bicentenary, the celebration of women's contribution will be one of six 'themes' during 2026, emphasising the significance of the role of women within ZSL.

My ongoing research to uncover the contribution of women to ZSL and the development of zoology has been a challenge as the contribution of women is so often hidden. In this illustrated talk I will highlight and celebrate contributions by women and the challenges I have faced in carrying out this research in ZSL Library and Archives.

3.15pm
Scientists in libraries: the rise of the scientific information professional (Emmeline Ledgerwood)

The construction of a National Lending Library for Science and Technology at Boston Spa, Yorkshire, in the early 1960s signalled a new approach in the UK to meeting the needs of scientific readers for printed material. NLLST played a key role in enabling scientists in the UK and further afield to consult scientific literature before the advent of digitisation.

The recommendation for this new national library came from a committee set up after the Second World War in the Department for Scientific and Industrial Research, based on discussions with members of the wider scientific community such as the Royal Society's Scientific Information Committee. Donald Urquhart, its first and only director, cast aside traditional methods of librarianship to achieve efficiency and speed, incurring the criticism of the library profession. He also recruited staff with scientific backgrounds, reflecting the emergence in technical libraries and information units across industry and government of specialist librarians who understood both science and documentation. From this new breed of scientific information officers developed the professional body of information scientists.

This paper will consider how scientific knowledge is not just located in the collections of a particular library but can also be found embodied in the personnel working there. It will draw on archival material and recent interviews to show how the scientific backgrounds of library personnel, including Urquhart, contributed to the emergence of a new kind of scientific expert, the information scientist.

3.30pm
The working library of a scientist as a kaleidoscope: the case of François Jacob (Nathalie Queyroux and Alberto Vianelli)

As a case study of a book collection compiled and used by a scientist, we propose an analysis of the library that the renowned biologist François Jacob (1920-2013) built up in his office at the Collège de France. This personal collection is currently housed at the Centre documentaire du Centre d'archives en philosophie, histoire et édition des sciences (CAPHÉS, CNRS-ENS-PSL).

CAPHÉS library and archives gathered personal and institutional collections and archives of prominent figures and organisations in the field of philosophy and science, including that of the biologist François Jacob. First at the Pasteur Institute then Professor of Cell Genetics at the Collège de France from 1964 to 1991, he won the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology with André Lwoff

and Jacques Monod in 1965. Among other honours, he was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 1973.

His personal library contains 720 publications. We would like to propose a study of this library by considering it as an archive: we will identify the marks of belonging, define the major disciplinary fields present in the collection, and produce statistical data relating to the periodisation and languages of the publications. We will then propose, by cross-referencing the data with that from its archives held at the Pasteur Institute, an analysis of the network of professional relationships that the collection brings to light. Finally, we will produce a qualitative analysis of the collection by relating it to François Jacob's lectures, conferences and publications.

This biologist's library shows that, while François Jacob conducted his experimental research in his laboratory at the Institut Pasteur, his office at the Collège de France was also a place where he developed his thoughts and theoretical work.

4.20pm
Browsing in the astronomer's library (Karen Masters)

I invite you to browse with me in the *The Astronomer’s Library*, a collection of some of the world's most beautiful, significant and awe-inspiring books about astronomy. Together, we’ll journey through the pages of history, from the ancient records of the skies created by civilizations around the world, to the scientific revolution and beyond. Along the way, we’ll explore the books that have unlocked the mysteries of the cosmos and appreciate the many stunning ways astronomy and astronomical knowledge have been illustrated through the ages. This presentation will shine a light on the timeless tools, techniques, and ideas that have shaped our understanding of the heavens, offering a fresh perspective on the profound connection between humanity and the stars, and revealing how technological innovations shaped the progress of astronomical knowledge.