



ANNUAL REPORT

2025/26



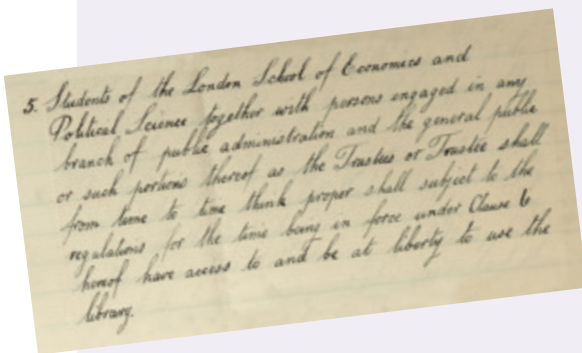
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1 ABOUT

The Library was established in 1896 as The British Library of Political Science with a Trust Deed stating its purpose as:

“...promoting the study and general knowledge of political economic and social science statistics history and jurisprudence and all matters relating to the progress and development of communities and of mankind generally.”



5. Students of the London School of Economics and Political Science together with persons engaged in any branch of public administration and the general public or such portions thereof as the Trustees or Trustee shall from time to time think proper shall subject to the regulations for the time being in force under Clause 6 hereof have access to and be at liberty to use the library.

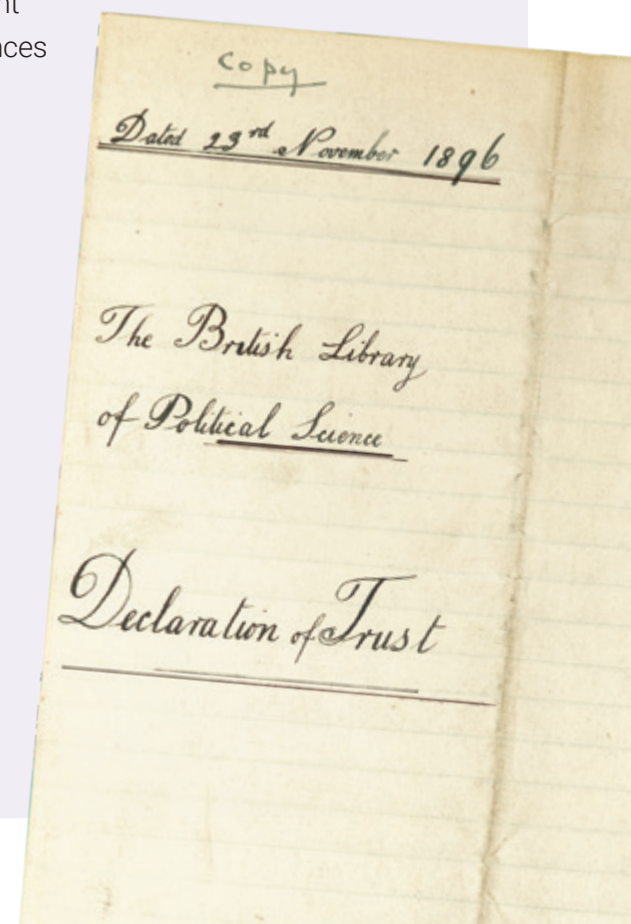
Members of the London School of Economics and Political Science, together with members of the public engaged with the subjects studied by the School, were to have “...access to and be at liberty to use the Library.”

In 1955 the School became the sole Trustee of the BLPES and LSE Council receive an annual report from the Librarian summarising the activities undertaken by the Library in the three areas of obligation under the trust.

- **Collections:** to maintain and develop a collection of sufficient depth and breadth to support scholarship in the social sciences at a national level.
- **Facilities:** to maintain and develop facilities which enable people to use the collections.
- **Access:** to maintain public access to the collections and provide services that promote scholarship in the social sciences at a national level.

The report is also received by Academic Board, Research Committee and Education Committee, with additional detail being provided to cover the activities undertaken specifically to support education and research for the School in our role as LSE Library.

*Hand-written declaration
of trust to found the Library. 23 November 1896.*



2 DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

In 2025/26, LSE Library continued to demonstrate its critical role in advancing the School's mission through support for world-class research, excellent teaching and learning, civic engagement, and access to distinctive collections.

Across the year, the Library combined trusted services with innovation and partnership, helping our communities to create, discover, use and share knowledge in ways that are open, inclusive and impactful.

Our support for research grew in both scale and ambition. The upgraded LSE Research Online now brings together research outputs, theses and research data in a single improved repository, with more than 3 million downloads during the year. We expanded open access support for authors, including a new fund for monographs, and strengthened LSE's contribution to open research through events, practical guidance, doctoral training and the first CIVICA Open Science conference hosted at LSE. The opening of the SafePoint Hub, the first UK service of its kind, has also positioned the Library as a leading access point for secure data, in the UK and internationally.

The Library remained an essential partner in the student experience. Millions of interactions with online reading lists, hundreds of thousands of exam paper views, thousands of study space bookings, and extensive teaching and enquiry support show the depth of our contribution to learning at LSE. We worked closely with colleagues across the School to ensure that students could access the resources, skills, spaces and personalised support they need to succeed. Particularly strong student satisfaction results reflect the quality and value of this work.

Our collections continued to connect LSE with wider audiences. Public exhibitions, events, archive workshops, school sessions and community programmes opened our unique archives and special collections to thousands of people. The centenary of The Women's Library provided a powerful focus for this work, celebrating a landmark collection through exhibitions, events, new digital content, blogs and research engagement. At the same time, our ongoing work to improve archival description supported more inclusive and accessible discovery.

The Digital Library saw significant growth in use, new assets and user engagement. The launch of Charles Booth's London in Minecraft demonstrated how archival collections can be reimaged for global audiences, attracting 1.9 million downloads and introducing new learners to LSE's collections in an engaging and creative format.

These achievements are the result of the expertise, commitment and curiosity of colleagues across the Library, working in partnership with academic departments, professional services, students, researchers, donors and external collaborators. As we look ahead, we will continue to build on this momentum: widening access, strengthening research and learning, developing distinctive collections, and ensuring that the Library remains an ambitious, inclusive and essential part of LSE's contribution to the world.



Niamh Tumelty

Director of LSE Library and Librarian of the British Library of Political and Economic Science

3 IN FOCUS

a Supporting research

Key Statistics:

430

enquiries supported through the Systematic Review Service

622

people reached through our Open Research events

Introduction

In 2025/26, LSE Library continued to support the School's Research for the World strategy through services that enable open, rigorous and impactful research. The Library strengthened open access provision through the upgraded LSE Research Online repository and introducing new support for open access monographs that helps authors share their work more widely. This year the Library also created a new role, Wikimedian in Residence and Research Visibility Champion, to support researchers reach audiences beyond academia through the Wikimedia platforms.

Open research activity expanded through our events programme with the Open Research Working Group, practical guidance and training. Meanwhile our collaboration with the CIVICA Alliance supported international exchange on open science and we hosted the first CIVICA Open Science conference at LSE.

The Library also improved access to secure data through the new SafePoint Hub, the first in the world. Alongside these developments, the Women's Library Reading Room remained a valued space for archive and special collections research. The Systematic Literature Reviews Service supported evidence-based work across the School, and the copyright advice service helped researchers navigate rights, permissions, licensing and emerging questions around AI.

Open Access

Through our open access service the Library supports researchers to increase the visibility and impact of their research publications. In 2025/26 there were over 4,450 publications and theses deposited to **LSE Research Online** which received over 3 million downloads.

This year saw the successful completion of a project to upgrade LSE Research Online, involving staff from across the Library and colleagues in other Divisions. All research outputs including theses are now showcased in one repository and for the first time we have a research data repository. Submission of research outputs has moved from email to online forms which are embedded in the site and the improved interface provides a more modern experience for users.

Our support for open access expanded this year with a new fund for open access monographs. This fund has been used to support 13 monographs from seven different Departments across LSE and with eight different presses in the first year. The Library currently manages 12 read and publish agreements with major publishers, as well as supporting several fully open access initiatives. These agreements allow LSE authors to publish open access at no or low cost in most hybrid and fully open access journals. In 2025/26, 563 articles were published under these agreements. This year significant time was spent working with Jisc and other UK institutions to negotiate improved agreements with the 5 biggest publishers that deliver better value and long-term support for open research.

Open Research

This year, Open Research activity at LSE focused on building our community of engaged researchers through our events programme and creating new guides to open research practices, under the guidance of the Open Research Working Group (ORWG). The ORWG has grown to sixteen members, hosted ten events and produced four new guides.

Our events this year included a mix of panel events, informal coffee mornings and the launch event for the Open Research Community. We reached 123 people in person and 439 online. We also continued to collaborate on the Open Science and Scholarship Festival with 12 other London universities and publishers.

New guides published this year include Code Review, Open Access for Books and Journals and Reusing Open Datasets. The guide to OA books references a newly produced, and already well-used, resource from the team on where authors can publish without paying a fee. The team also created a guide for LSE authors on Open Access Book Contracts, which has been popular within LSE and beyond.



Launch of the Open Research Community. LSE Library Director Niamh Tumelty giving the opening remarks.

We have delivered open research training via the PhD Academy and developed new collaborations with Departments to embed open research training within PhD seminars. This year we were successful in delivering workshops in the Management and Anthropology departments. We trained 61 PhD students through the PhD Academy and departmental seminars. This year also saw the re-launch of a ReproducibiliTEA group at LSE, which is a network designed to engage early career researchers with peer discussions on reproducibility, transparency and best practice in open research.



Anthropology training workshop

CIVICA

LSE Library is an active partner in CIVICA, an alliance of ten leading European social science universities. The network promotes cooperation in research, education, innovation and service to society across member institutions.

This year we have been building on the Open Science Incubator Programme delivered in Spring 2025, through regular meetings of the Open Science Coordinating Committee. As a result of the incubator training, this year SNSPA (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania) and IE University were both successful in applying for national funding to develop their open science services.



CIVICA Conference - Keynote talk from Professor Joe Deville, University of Lancaster

A highlight of the year was the delivery of the CIVICA Open Science Assembly and Conference on 19-20 May. This consisted of a closed meeting for the Open Science Coordinating Committee, where we looked back at our achievements for CIVICA 2 and worked together on plans for CIVICA 2+. For the Conference, LSE hosted 60 speakers and participants for a day of discussion and networking. Sessions included a panel discussion on open science perspectives, lightning talks, a presentation on Wikipedia and a book launch event for *Doing Open Social Sciences* by Patrick Dunleavy, Tim Monteath, Denisa Kostovicova and Hannah Boroudjou.

Secure Data Services

The Library has become a key access point for secure data for external researchers in the UK and internationally. The new SafePoint Hub opened in January 2026 and is the first UK service of its kind. It includes two single desks and one multi-desk bookable by research teams in collaborative mode, increasing access from two users to up to ten people at a time.



SafePoint Hub interior.

The SafePoint Hub and SafePod services have proved very popular, with 455 bookings in the last year, the highest number of bookings of any SafePod Network service, and 274 of these bookings were for the Hub. The service has helped expand our audience beyond the UK higher education community: 34% of bookings in the first six months came from outside the UK, and 22% came from non-academic institutions, including consultancy and advocacy organisations.

Demand for secure and confidential microdata remains high, and the Library's two secure rooms have seen strong booking levels throughout the year. Two additional departments have received Office for National Statistics accreditation to use ONS data on campus, and we have signed a new agreement with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, enabling access to Australian confidential data services for the first time.

Women's Library Reading Room

The Women's Library Reading Room continues to be a highly valued and popular service, providing researchers with a welcoming, inclusive and accessible space in which to work. Use of the service continues to grow, with 2,885 bookings this year, reflecting sustained demand for access to archive and special collections material. The Reading Room supports a diverse community of users, including overseas researchers, academic and doctoral researchers, independent scholars, journalists, alumni and LSE staff. We continue to receive exceptionally positive feedback from readers, who consistently praise both the quality of the service and the support provided by staff.

Systematic Literature Reviews Service

Six years in, the Systematic Literature Reviews Service continues to play a vital role in supporting evidence-based research across LSE, handling 430 enquiries in 2025/26 and adapting to shifting demand across the School. The service is led by Information Specialist Andra Fry, with support from Academic Support Librarian Heather Dawson.

Health Policy remained the largest source of enquiries (263), followed by International Development (66), with growing engagement from the Grantham Research Institute (26) and CPEC (24). Postgraduate students accounted for most queries (263), alongside staff (92), executive students (36), and research students (35).

The balance of review types continued to change this year: systematic reviews (162) and scoping reviews (153) were requested in almost equal measure, with a further 22 queries on integrative reviews. Most consultations took place over email (292), with 69 online and 54 in-person meetings.

Teaching remained a core strand of the service's work. The service provided 13.5 hours of embedded teaching for HP407 over three weeks, supporting 50 students, and supported 39 students on DV453, plus 26 follow-up consultations. Three introductory sessions through LSE LIFE attracted a further 50 attendees.

Copyright

The copyright advice service continued to support staff, students and external researchers with a range of copyright-related enquiries. Queries covered copyright ownership, permissions and licensing, Creative Commons licenses, and the reuse of archival and special collections material. The service also contributed to discussions on emerging issues relating to artificial intelligence, including text and data mining and contractual restrictions on AI use by library resource providers.

Copyright support fed into the Library's wider research support offer during 2025/26. With colleagues, advice was provided to researchers on author rights, publishing agreements and open licensing. The service continued to support researchers across the School in assessing copyright risk, identifying appropriate permissions routes, and applying copyright exceptions.

b Supporting our learning community

Key Statistics:

**2.9
million**

student interactions
with online reading lists

328,000

exam paper views
to support students
preparing for their
assessments

22,000

study space bookings
helped students access
the spaces they needed

Introduction

The Library contributes to teaching and learning by giving students access to the guidance, resources and spaces they need throughout their time at LSE. Our work reaches students at different stages of their academic journey, from their first introduction to the Library in Welcome through to more advanced research and use of collections.

During 2025/26, we worked closely with academic departments, LSE LIFE and colleagues across the School to provide timely and inclusive assistance. This included embedded information skills teaching, one-to-one appointments, enquiry support, Welcome activities and specialist advice on open research. We also enabled access to course materials through Leganto online reading lists, rapid sourcing of requested material through Get It For Me, exam paper provision and accessible formats for students with print disabilities.

The level of engagement with these services shows their importance to the student experience. Thousands of students attended workshops and Welcome sessions, used online reading lists, accessed past exam papers, requested new books and booked study spaces. Together, this activity demonstrates the Library's role as an essential partner in learning at LSE, helping students move through their studies with the information, materials and environments they need to succeed.

Information Skills

The Academic Liaison and Collection Development team works with academic departments and colleagues working in roles that support education to identify teaching and learning priorities and respond to them effectively. We work to ensure that all students can develop the skills they need to succeed academically through providing a range of learning opportunities, including workshops, one-to-one appointments and enquiry support. The team also ensures that support is inclusive and personalised, and shaped around the needs of individual students.

We deliver workshops for all taught students focused on finding, evaluating, and citing academic sources. These sessions are embedded in departmental courses as well as in the LSE LIFE learning programme. The workshops are designed to empower students to develop the research skills they need for their essays, dissertations, and independent learning.

During 2025/26, we delivered 104 workshops for academic departments (including 37 for undergraduate courses and 47 for postgraduate taught courses), reaching over 3,200 students. In addition, we provided 53 workshops through LSE LIFE, including a new workshop on Generative AI and literature searching and more workshops on using subscription datasets. These workshops were attended by over 400 participants.

Alongside this, we offered approximately 500 individual one-to-one appointments and responded to close to 2,700 student enquiries from students. We also provided supplementary learning materials available via Moodle, enabling students to engage with them on demand, at their own pace.

During Welcome (September 2025), our Access Services team delivered 40 Getting Started sessions to 945 students. These sessions are designed to welcome new students to the Library and introduce the resources, services and support that they may access during their studies. Over 95 per cent of attendees rated the session as helpful.

Our Curators partnered with academic staff across several departments to integrate archival materials into classroom teaching, introducing students to researching primary and visual sources to enhance seminar discussions and research assignments. We also hosted workshops for UK and international universities to use archives in students' research. More information about these activities can be found in section 3c. IN FOCUS – Engaging with the World, under Engaging Learners.

The Open Research Services team also continued to support the research community by offering expert advice on open access, research data management and impact metrics. In 2025/26, the team ran 10 sessions for PhD students and three for academic staff, with a total of 111 participants. These sessions complement the ongoing outreach events programme supported via the Open Research Working Group.

Summer School

The Library remains a key point of support for LSE's three Summer School programmes. We played a prominent role on induction days, welcoming new students with Getting Started briefings and personalised Library tours that introduced students to our services and facilities. We ensured that all Summer School students knew how to access support and where to go for help. We also assisted Summer School teachers to update their online reading lists and ensured that all required textbooks and supporting materials were promptly available to students.

Leganto: Online Reading Lists

Leganto has been the Library's online reading list service since 2023 and it is a key part of our teaching and learning resource provision. It enables students to access course readings quickly and consistently, while helping to ensure that essential materials are available when required.

In 2025/26, around 1,800 courses had an online reading list (around 86% of all courses), comprising around 200,000 citations. Where resources were not already held by the Library, our Acquisitions team sourced them quickly. Leganto is well used by staff and students alike, with over 87,000 edits made by over 1500 reading list editors, and more than 2.9 million student interactions with their reading lists, averaging over 1,600 interactions per reading list.

Students are encouraged to report broken links via the platform, and we resolved more than 800 reports this year, all within 24 working hours. This helps maintain reliable access to readings, reducing any potential disruption for students.

Get It For Me

LSE students, staff and alumni can use the Get It For Me (GIFM) service to access material not currently available at LSE Library. Where possible, we will purchase items that are required or obtain them from another library. In 2025/26, we purchased almost 2,500 books requested by undergraduate students, postgraduate students, postgraduate researchers and academic staff. The recommendations from our users are diverse and span the social sciences; the most frequent topics of GIFM requests were Economics, Asian history, Gender and Women's Studies, Law, and Criminology and Welfare. These books are added to the Main Collection and GIFM provides a key opportunity for students to assist in the development of collections that reflect our national role as the British Library of Political and Economic Science.

Exam Papers

Our exam papers service provides students with previous exam papers from the last seven years to support their revision. In the last year, 545 new exam papers were added and there were over 328,000 exam paper file views and more than 64,000 exam paper downloads.

My Adjustments

As demand for accessible resources continues to evolve, we have expanded our support beyond traditional PDF and Word formats, with a growing number of requests for EPUB versions and, for the first time, DAISY format. Working closely with RNIB, the team has developed new expertise and processes to meet these changing needs, ensuring our services keep pace with developments in accessible publishing and the expectations of our users.

A key service improvement has been the refinement of our Welcome processes to identify print disabilities at an earlier stage. By encouraging students to share accessibility requirements when they first engage with the service, more have been able to access resources directly through Alma Digital, providing quicker access to essential course materials and reducing the need for alternative format conversions.

Overall, the team handled more than 1,300 interactions relating to the provision of alternative formats, working closely with students and colleagues across the Library to ensure resources were delivered in the format best suited to individual needs.

We also continued to expand the Library Buddy Service, which pairs students with trained staff on a one-to-one basis to help them navigate Library services and build confidence in using our spaces, resources and systems. The service plays an important role in reducing anxiety and supporting a positive student experience. To strengthen these connections, we hosted a successful Welcome and Discovery event at the start of the academic year, bringing together participating students and staff to introduce Library services, build confidence and provide reassurance from the outset.

Through our institutional licence with the Copyright Licensing Agency, we provided more than 6,000 accessible readings to visually impaired students, helping to ensure equitable access to course materials.

Study Spaces

The Library offers a variety of study spaces to meet different student needs, including silent zones, PC areas, and collaborative spaces. During peak times (term-time, 11am – 5pm), open study areas are typically 90 per cent occupied. Students can reserve individual study rooms, booths, and selected silent study seats up to 14 days in advance. Spaces are available for up to six hours per week, and our QR code check-in system ensures that real-time availability is accurate. This year, students made over 22,000 bookings (approximately 14,000 room bookings, 4,600 booth bookings and 3,400 seat bookings).



Students making use of our spaces

Student Voice and Feedback

The Library places strong value on student feedback and uses it to improve our services. The National Student Survey (NSS) includes a specific question on how well Library resources support learning. In 2026, we achieved a score of 91 per cent, a 0.7 decrease from the previous year. Results from the Undergraduate Survey (which targets noncompleting undergraduate students) also dipped slightly. From the free-text comments, much of the negative feedback is focused on the physical state of the Library building and lack of study spaces, which will be addressed in the Library Refurbishment Project, currently in its very early stages.

We regularly conduct user research to support the development of our services and facilities. For example, this year we ran focus groups about student computing needs to inform our decision about whether to introduce docking stations in place of some PCs in the Library. The participants strongly supported the introduction of docking stations and provided many use cases for them. We also used a contextual enquiry approach to update our insight into student use of the Library building to guide the development of the brief for its eventual refurbishment, and we conducted usability testing in upgrading Library Search to a new user interface, to ensure it was intuitive and effective.

c Engaging with the world

Key Statistics:

14,760

people visited two free public exhibitions

1,200

people attended the Library's programme of 25 free public events

353

LSE students and staff engaged with LSE archives through archives workshops

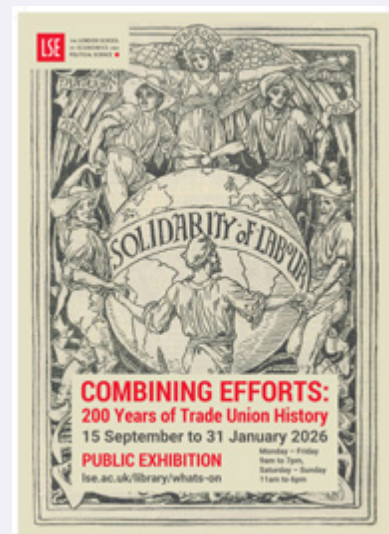
Introduction

The Library provides programmes and services for staff, students, schools, and the public that encourage research, learning and engagement with its unique archives and special collections.

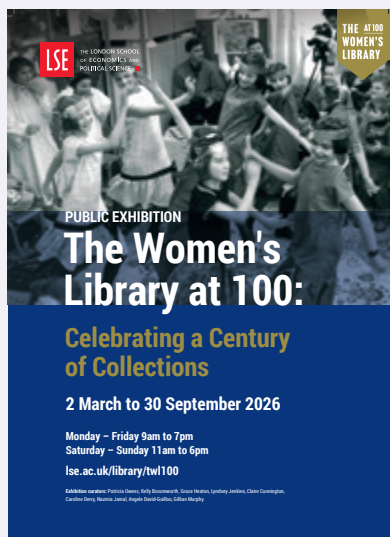
Collaborative research, creative projects, free workshops, public talks, exhibitions and online resources draw on the stories within our collections. The Library collaborates with academics, researchers, writers, performance artists, artists, archives, libraries and related organisations.

Public Exhibitions

The autumn/winter 2025/6 exhibition *Combining Efforts: 200 years of Trade Union History* was a joint project between LSE Library and the Trades Union Congress (TUC) Library at London Metropolitan University Library, to recognise the 200th anniversary of the 1825 Combination Act passing into law. The exhibition delved into the collections of both libraries for stories from the last 200 years of union organising in Britain, from the struggles to legally organise to black trade unionists discussing their experiences as union members.



Poster for *Combining Efforts: 200 years of Trade Union History* exhibition



Poster for The Women's Library at 100: celebrating a centenary of collections exhibition

Combining Efforts demonstrated the value of collective curation by bringing together LSE and TUC collections to tell a broader story of trade union history. The exhibition reached a wide audience through events, tours, blogs and a **podcast with the History Workshop Journal**, and it also attracted visitors and groups we had not previously engaged with as extensively. Positive feedback suggests that the project resonated well beyond the gallery space with tour groups from various trade union groups and a popular walking tour. It has also helped create a strong foundation for future work upon which to build by linking the Library with new partner organisations.

Our winter/spring exhibition **The Women's Library at 100: celebrating a centenary of collections** looked at the history of The Women's Library and explored five stories from its rich and diverse holdings chosen by guest curators. Two stories came from a social media call out (Patricia Owens on women's voices in international relations; Lyndsey Jenkins and Grace Heaton on Una Kroll's 1974 election campaign); two more stories highlight research by PhD students using the collection (Kelly Bosomworth on the Six Point Group; Nazmia Jamal on Sheba Feminist Publishers); and Claire Cunningham and Caroline Derry on the 1885 scandal and the Criminal Law Amendment Act followed an event in 2025 which used archives that are in the exhibition. For the first time we produced an exhibition guide in the form of a zine that was distributed at exhibition events. The zine expanded on information in the exhibition and allowed visitors to take home a creative piece of reading material.



Visitors at the Women's Library exhibitions opening.

Public programmes

The programme involved walking tours, performers, writers, researchers, politicians, activists covering the breadth of themes contained within LSE collections. Subjects explored included women's history, writers; faith and peace, human rights, trade unionism and workers' rights, environmental justice, the Fabian Society, and LSE's own history.

2026 has seen the Library mark the centenary of The Women's Library with a special public programme The Women's Library at 100 celebrating the history and the research that draws on the collections in a major exhibition and a year of free special events, new digitized collections, collections guides and blogs sharing stories from within this historic and important collection. One early morning writing workshop saw aspiring writers draw inspiration from The Women's Library archive.

Our grateful thanks to all our speakers who were generous with their time.

A selection of feedback from our public programme

“ I thoroughly enjoyed being back in an academic setting, hearing a powerful talk followed by awkward questions. ”

“ It was an excellent walking tour. Very clear voice to a big crowd and well thought out lecture, capturing the context of the women's strike... ”

[A walking tour with Dr Laura Schwartz Class Struggle on the Riverbank]

“ Thank you to LSE for organising this meaningful event and for honouring the values and beliefs that are deeply important to our community. Your respect, inclusivity, and willingness to create space for diverse cultural and spiritual expressions truly stand out. For us, Dr. Bahesab holds a place of profound reverence, and seeing that acknowledged with such sincerity meant a great deal. Your efforts helped us feel seen, respected, and valued. We appreciate the thoughtful planning, the welcoming environment, and the genuine commitment to celebrating our traditions. Thank you for recognising what matters to us and for fostering a sense of belonging. ”

[An event to mark Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's date of birth]

“ It was inspirational to see the legacy of the Women’s Environmental Network being safeguarded for future generations in the LSE Collection. The event was a celebration of Women’s determination, courage and creative campaigning over 40 years of activism driving issues of gender equality and climate and social justice forward. ”
[at the launch of new collections from the Women’s Environmental Network and the Black Environmental Network]

Supporting LSE Learning and LSE Communities

Staff work with LSE academic staff across several departments to integrate archival research into classroom teaching. These sessions introduce students to researching primary and visual sources to enhance seminar discussions and research assignments.

LSE courses currently integrate the archives in their programmes include:

Economic History

- EH237 Theories and Evidence in Economic History (Professors Eric Schneider and Patrick Wallis)
- EH429 History of Economics: Ideas, Policy and Performativity (Professor Mary Morgan)
- EH431 Women in Economic History (Dr Anne Ruderman);
- EH520 Approaches to Economic and Social History, (Professor Mary Morgan)

Gender Studies

- GI429 Archival Interventions: feminist, queer and decolonial approaches (Prof Clare Hemmings)

Gender Studies

- GV4G7 Marx and Marxism (Dr Bruno Leipold)

International History

- HY120 Historical Approaches to the Modern World (Dr Leo Shipp)
- HY332 Interwar worlds: the cultural consequences of the First World War (Dr Edoardi Vaccari)
- HY334 Communication Revolutions in Latin America, c.1539 to the Present (Dr Anna Cant)
- HY483 Land and Conflict in Latin America since 1750 (Dr Anna Cant)
- SS-IR223 Women through the Ages (Dr Imogen Umoren, Summer School)

The Marshall Institute

- GV4G7 Marx and Marxism (Dr Bruno Leipold)

And LSE100: The LSE Course

Archives sessions were held for LSE student societies and staff networks - SPP Womxn Network (Department of Social Policy student society) and Women in Politics, LSE's professional staff network **LSE Power** and LSE's Centre for Women, Peace and Security and LSE Sustainability teams. New LSE staff are introduced to LSE history and archives at their induction and LSE Summer School students can join an archive sessions during their studies.

Supporting learning beyond LSE

We welcomed 448 students for archive workshops from external HE institutions (26 sessions)

We welcome **HE student groups** enabling participants to develop their archival research skills by analysing original materials. The workshops involve an introduction to archives and an opportunity to handle and engage with material on a particular topic.

We welcomed class groups from the University of Westminster, Kings College London, University College London, Goldsmith's University of London, Royal College of Arts, University of Miami, University of Notre Dame and American Institute for Foreign Study, Central St. Martins., Columbia University.

Subjects explored include: trade unionism, Charles Booth's London poverty survey, suffrage, Black and Asian history, activism, women's liberation movements, feminists' presses and material relating to women and violence, women and work, textile and art history.

“...I really appreciate the time you took to share the collection with us. My students and I were so impressed by the comprehensiveness of the archives – it's amazing that we can hold hand-written notes from meetings of activist groups from decades ago. This was a great learning opportunity for my students.”

Schools

525 students from both primary and secondary schools have participated in archive workshops.

The Library's partnership with the National Justice Museum saw 17 primary schools take part in the museum's **Suffragettes: On Trial and In the Archives** session.

Students visit the Royal Courts of Justice and The Women's Library archives at LSE exploring suffragette history through the lens of the story and trial of suffragette, Elsie Duval. Students take part in a courtroom workshop in a real working courtroom. Stepping into all the courtroom roles, they enact a mock-trial from 1912 where Elsie Duval has been accused of throwing stones at a post office window. Through exploring her motivations and deciding her fate, they'll consider the important issues surrounding women's rights, protest, and punishment. After the courts, students visit LSE Library to explore the historical documents - diaries, letters, and newspaper articles - directly related to the case.

“ I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you for the amazing workshop you led today. The children have been so engaged this week in the pre-visit lesson and it was fantastic to see them engage today with it in an actual courtroom and archive. What a wonderful workshop to be able to provide them! In eight years of teaching, I'd have to say it is probably my favourite trip in a long time! ”
[following a school group on 'Suffragettes: on trial and in the archive' session]

“ The opportunity to visit your collections was such an inspiration and helped us visualise what we would like our collection to be... The school's Feminist Book Society also said: “We loved the archives at the Women's library! Perhaps we could have some charting the development of... our own feminist history... ” ”
[following a school visit to the archives]

Engaging with Communities

We welcome archive visits from community learning groups and have enjoyed visits from Older Feminists Network, Kingston Walking Group, family history groups, Herefordshire County Council, Fabian Society groups and several trade union groups.

The Library is pleased to host the **Friends of the Women's Library** monthly talk series and annual conference. 397 people attended their hybrid talks which introduce people to different collections in the Women's Library. The Library is grateful for the generosity and support of the Friends.

Opening archive research

The Library ran a free one-day archives research workshop for anyone with an interest in learning more about archives and research. Curators and archivists developed the *Introduction to Archives* course to enable participants to develop their skills so that all could pursue their own archival research in the future. This will run again in 2026-27.

“All of it. Very well structured and paced, comprehensive and accessible to non-academics. Opened up a whole world of study and dedication I was not fully aware of. All the presenters were excellent and it was great to see and even handle some of the archival material.”

Engaging with Research

The Library launched its first Fellowship scheme to encourage and support new original research based on the unique archive collections. Three researchers were successfully appointed and their research will be shared in 2026-27.

Kelly Bosomworth is completing her PhD research on '*Feminism Between the Waves: A Political and Cultural History of the Six Point Group*' - supported by Midlands 4 Cities Collaborative Doctoral Award with the University of Birmingham and LSE Library. Kelly was a guest curator on our centenary exhibition, *The Women's Library at 100*.

As part of The Women's Library centenary year, we are publishing a monthly blog series by researchers and new digital content on the LSE Digital Library - see the dedicated **The Women's Library at 100 webpage**.

The following blogs explore LSE Library collections

- **Barakar in the archives: reading a town through colonial letters** Sovon Dutta discusses how he came across a series of nineteenth century letters held at LSE Library that referenced their hometown, Barakar in West Bengal, India.
- **LSE illustrated: how the media has captured LSE in cartoons** – LSE archivist Lisa McQuillan explores how LSE as an organisation, its academics, and its students have been the subject of different cartoon illustrators' pens and paintboxes.
- **The Webb portrait on loan to Pallant House** – LSE archivist Lisa McQuillan shares a behind the scenes view of preparing for the Webb portrait to go on loan to Pallant House Gallery.
- **Beatrice and Sidney Webb and Trade Unions** Curator Inderbir Bhullar traces the beginnings of the partnership of Beatrice and Sidney Webb.
- **Combining efforts – 200 years of trade unions in the UK** – Co-curator Chelsea Collison reflects on seven stand-out items from the Autumn 2025 exhibition.

The Women's Library at 100 blog series:

- **Environmental activism by women at the WI** – Grace Parker, Sociology undergraduate at London South Bank University writes on their research for a women's grassroots and environmental activism project.
- **"An ever-increasing army" Housing the unmarried woman worker in London** – Writer and researcher, Terri Mullholland explored publications giving advice on board and lodgings for unmarried women who had travelled to London for work in the early 20th century.
- **Black women poets at Sheba Feminist Publishers** – Nazmia Jamal is the Paul Mellon Centre's New Narratives Doctoral Scholar for 2025-2028. Her PhD research explores Sheba Feminist Publishers in relation to the Black Arts movement and the evolution of Black and queer feminisms in Britain.
- **Guest curators choose their favourite items from The Women's Library exhibition**
- **The Women's Library at 100** – seven recommended reads for a new LSE exhibition selected by librarian, Heather Dawson.

d Developing Our World-Class Collections

Key Stats:

1,082,472 *Digital Library user events* (other figures available see below)

1.9 million downloads of *Charles Booth's London in Minecraft*

600,730 user sessions on the online catalogue (January - July 2026 only, we don't have information for 2025). Other figures available – see below.

240 digitisation on demand orders

New Archives and Special Collections

This year, we welcomed several significant additions to our archives and special collections, further strengthening our holdings on modern political, social, and economic history, including:

Birmingham Women's Liberation Playgroup. A small collection of materials relating to this grassroots, feminist-run childcare collective. Includes original materials from the 1970s and 1980s and material relating to a reunion in 2011.

Working Families. Born-digital collection of briefings, reports and other publications produced by this national charity campaigning for the rights of working parents and working carers.

Gay Liberation Front Oral History. Interviews with members of GLF conducted by LSE students Philippa Fletcher and Noah Petts between 2023 and 2025. The interviews were conducted as part of Pip's and Noah's research about the meaning and community-building nature of the badges of the Hall-Carpenter Archives.

Black Environment Network. Founded in the late 1980s to promote the participation of ethnic minority communities in the environmental and heritage sectors, the archive includes administrative records, project files, annual reports, and publications documenting BEN's activities.

Peggy Duff Letters. Handwritten letters by peace campaigner Peggy Duff to John and Gill Slater, 1965-1968. John Slater's association with CND began in the early 1960s when he was a student at Oxford. He was one of the co-founder's of Sanity and after university worked as for a time as the campaign's information officer. After a spell teaching in Africa he went on to forge a career as a broadcaster. His wife Gill Slater was also an active member of CND.

Women's League for Health and Beauty. a groundbreaking women-only mass keep-fit movement organisation founded in London in 1930 by Mary Bagot Stack. Along with physical fitness, the League promoted cross-class and cross-generational friendship, as well as ideals of healthy motherhood and universal peace.

Archives in Absentia. Artwork created by three artists – Amerah Saleh, Bengy Speers, and Gemma Lees as part of a collaborative project between LSE Library and Arts & Homelessness International inviting artists with lived experience of homelessness to explore and respond to the Library collections. These co-produced pieces explore homelessness through both personal and historical perspectives. The collection also includes photographs from workshops and the showcase, project reports, and related documentation.

All the above except for the WLHB collection have been catalogued and are available for consultation.

We also received accruals to various collections including British Federation of University Women, Sally Alexander, Hilda Seligman, Economic History Society, Broken Rites, Eglantyne Jebb, Richard Balfe, Robert Palmer, Quest, Violet Markham and Liberal Party.

Archival cataloguing. We have completed work on the following collections, all of which are now available for consultation by researchers.

Cynthia Cockburn. We have finished cataloguing the archives of the feminist researcher and peace activist Cynthia Cockburn. Material from the collection featured in this year's The Women's Library at 100 exhibition.

Mothers Apart from their Children. Founded in 1979 as a support and social network for mothers who are apart from their children due to a range of different circumstances.

Keeping Pace Interviews. Created in 2002 by the artist and writer Rachel Lichtenstein as part of her research for The Women's Library exhibition Keeping Pace, these interviews explore the lives of ten older East End women, from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and ages, all living within a mile radius of Old Castle Street, E1.

Other collections work has included:

Women's Equality Party. We have begun work on processing this large and complex born-digital collection, which was donated by the Party last year as part of its winding-up activities.

Liberal Party/Liberal Democrats. We continue to make significant progress with the Liberal Party/Liberal Democrats archives, an extensive and complex fonds of more than 1,000 boxes which includes the archives Young Liberals and the union of Liberal Students). Over two thirds of the collection has now been catalogued, and work is on track for completion in December 2026.

Sheba Feminist Press. We have secured an Archives Revealed Grant from The National Archives to catalogue the archives of Sheba Feminist Publishers, a pioneering independent feminist publishing collective active between 1980 and 1994. This project will run from July 2026 to March 2027

Language review. We completed work on a review of archive catalogue descriptions.

We have also completed work on our language review project, which involved identifying, reviewing and updating legacy catalogue entries containing outdated, misleading, or offensive language. This initiative formed part of our broader effort to improve the inclusivity, clarity, and usability of our archival metadata, especially for those new to research or exploring underrepresented histories.

School Archives

This year the School celebrated its 130th anniversary and we delivered a range of LSE130 themed talks and archive visits to students, staff, alumni, and donors, as well as writing a blogpost on how LSE has been depicted by newspaper cartoonists through the years. We hosted an incredible performance of Undone Theatre's play *Lessons on revolution* during the LSE Festival. The play based on archival material from the late 1960s' student protests focuses on the actions of students David Adelstein and Marshall Bloom, and we were delighted to have David Adelstein in the room and able to contribute to a lively discussion after the performance. We rounded off the anniversary celebrations with a public event linking the shared history of LSE and the Fabian Society.

We also had an exciting opportunity to share a piece of LSE history with a wider audience when Pallant House Gallery, in Chichester, asked to feature the portrait of LSE founders Sidney and Beatrice Webb, in their retrospective of the artist, William Nicholson. The portrait which usually forms the centrepiece of the Shaw Library was de-installed, sent for conservation work, and transported to Pallant House Gallery where it could be viewed beside Nicholson's other works from November 2025-May 2026. After a well-attended exhibition, the painting was returned to its home in the Shaw Library in May. As well as being perfect timing to celebrate our founding story, this was a good chance to clean the artwork and stabilise its frame so it will be well protected for years to come.

Charles Booth's London Website

Work began on expanding the geotagging of the digitised survey notebooks on the **Charles Booth's London** website, to improve the discoverability and usability of these records. The Library hosted two UCL Digital Humanities students to test the use of AI-assisted tools in geolocating Religious Influences notebook references to update the digital map with places of worship identified in the survey. This work will be scaled up in the coming year.

Digital Library impact statistics

- 488,718 Digital Library page views
- 1,082,472 Digital Library user events
- 88,189 Digital Library active users
- 1,511 new Digital Library assets added
- 39% increase in user events since last year
- 45% increase in page views since last year

Digital Library images on Wikimedia Commons

In the last year over 1,200 LSE Digital Library public domain assets have been uploaded to Wikimedia Commons, and over 6,000 edits made to improve Wikimedia image records, helping to increase the visibility and discoverability of collections. Notably, LSE Digital Library images on Wikimedia platforms now receive approximately 3 million views per month.

Working with partners on new digital collections

The Library has liaised with partners to select, digitise and make available material with unique research value.

- 8,665 images across 235 assets have been selected and digitised from LSE Library collections in partnership with the Digital Transgender Archive for the project, 'Digitising and Disseminating the UK's Untold Trans History'.
- The Library's holdings of the Katharine Buildings rent book and Beatrice Potter Webb correspondence were digitised to enable the University of Westminster's 'Social and spatial encounters over time: Revisiting Katharine Buildings' research project.
- 5,406 images across 54 assets have been digitised from the Library's holdings of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and British Federation of University Women (BFUW) archives to support an upcoming collaborative project between LSE Library and an external researcher, 'Developing Digital Scholarship at LSE Library: Mapping Networks of International Feminism in The Women's Library archives'.

Minecraft project

The Library collaborated with Lancaster University and the creative studio BlockWorks to create *Charles Booth's London in Minecraft*, an innovative educational resource that brings one of Britain's most important social surveys to life for new audiences. Available through Minecraft Education and the Minecraft Marketplace, the project transforms Charles Booth's poverty maps and police notebooks, held in the Library's archives, into an immersive and interactive digital world.



Visitors to the Charles Booth's London in Minecraft launch event

Based on Booth's original maps, police notebooks and Goad Fire Insurance Plans, the project recreates the area between Bedford Square and the present-day LSE campus as it appeared before early twentieth-century redevelopment. Over a two-year period, 15 professional Minecraft builders and two academic researchers reconstructed Victorian London using more than 45 million blocks and 1,000 custom textures to create a historically authentic environment.

Players can explore Victorian streets, interact with more than 200 historical characters, and complete activities inspired by Booth's seven-colour social classification system, including encounters with Charles Booth and Beatrice Potter (later Beatrice Webb), who would go on to co-found LSE.

Since its launch in January 2026, the project has achieved global reach, attracting 1.9 million downloads. By presenting archival collections in an accessible and engaging format, the project has introduced new audiences worldwide to the Library's collections and supported innovative approaches to learning, teaching and public engagement.



Visitors playing the Charles Booth's London in Minecraft game

Digitisation Services

The Library's on-demand digital scanning service extends access to archives and special collections beyond the reading room, enabling researchers around the world to engage with unique collection material remotely. During the year, the service fulfilled more than 240 requests, digitising approximately 7,200 pages for personal study and research. The service has a strong international reach, with 72% of requests coming from outside the UK.

The digitisation team photographed content for the physical exhibition, The Women's Library at 100 and contributed to the People and Action display in conjunction with the LSE Festival theme, How to Save the Planet.

Loans to External Galleries and Museums

The Library loaned material to a number of partner institutions this year, extending the reach of its collections through a series of high-profile exhibitions:

- British Library: Secret Maps (24 October 2025 – 18 January 2026)
- St Albans Museum and Gallery: Our Stories: Tracing Black Histories in Hertfordshire (2 October – 2 November 2025)
- Historic Royal Palaces: The Last Princesses of Punjab (10 April – 8 October 2026)
- The Amelia: Amelia Scott (April 2026 – April 2029)

New Purchased Resources

We continue to purchase digitised primary source collections from commercial publishers to support teaching and research across disciplines. This year's acquisitions include:

- China, America and the Pacific (AM): this explores the cultural and trading relationships that emerged between America, China and the Pacific region between the early 18th and 20th centuries.
- Confidential Print: Middle East, 1839-1969 (AM): complete volumes of all British Colonial Office and Foreign Office Confidential Print for the Middle East.
- Confidential Print: North America, 1824-1961 (AM): documents covering a broad sweep of history from c1824-1961, taking in the USA, Canada, the Caribbean and Central America.
- Conflict in Indochina (AM): drawn from The National Archives, this provides comprehensive coverage of the key events during the War in Vietnam, and the wider impact on Laos and Cambodia.
- Environmental Science and History (Wiley): this focuses on the critical aspects of anthropogenic change and include features unique and rare to archival collections from multiple, global sources, such as Kew Gardens and the National Archives.
- Gender: Identity and Social Change (AM): comprises three centuries of primary source material documenting extensive developments in gender roles and relations.

e LSE Press

Key Statistics:

290,728

online reads and
downloads of LSE Press
books this year

2.6M

online reads and
downloads of LSE Press
journal articles this year

5M+

lifetime online reads
and downloads of all
LSE Press publications

Social media and newsletters

This year LSE Press published eight new books, including books by scholars with global reputations as well as new titles in our two book series.

- Nicholas Stern, ***The Growth Story of the 21st Century: The Economics and Opportunity of Climate Action.***
- Tim Besley, Irene Bucelli and Andrés Velasco (eds), ***The London Consensus: Economic Principles for the 21st Century***
- Don Herzog, ***Reading Wars***
- Patrick Dunleavy and Timothy Monteath, ***Doing Open Social Science: A Guide for Researchers***
- Alexander Pepper, ***What's A Company For? A Problem in Business Ethics (or...when Socrates met Milton Friedman)***
- Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) series titles: Julian Brigstocke, ***Nonauthoritarian Authority: Cities, Materiality and the Aesthetics of Power*** and Laurie Parsons, ***Climate Hegemony: Confronting the Politics of Environmental Impasse***
- LSE Monographs on Social Anthropology series titles: Noëlle Rohde, ***Marked: School Grades and the Quantified Life***

Journals

LSE Press publishes five journals, with the student journal imprint, Houghton St Press, publishing 19 journals, including a new title launched this year - the *LSE Laidlaw Scholars Journal*. The imprint extends the mission of the Press by embedding publishing within the student experience, supporting the development of the next generation of researchers.

Impact and recognition

Two LSE Press titles were recognised by book prizes this year:

- ***Renegotiating Patriarchy***, by Professor Naila Kabeer, won the 2026 ACLS Open Access Book Prize.
- ***How Africa Eats***, edited by Professor David Luke, was shortlisted for the Business Council for Africa's Business Book of the Year 2026.

Developing the Press

- Membership of the Open Book Collective saw the Press attract support from 23 libraries from the UK, USA and Europe. We published our first OBC-funded book, *Reading Wars*, in April 2026.
- We extended our presence on a broader range of open access discovery platforms and made Kindle editions of our titles available for download via Amazon.
- The first translated edition of an LSE Press title published in French. Nicholas Stern's book published as *La Révolution Climatique* with Frémeaux & Associés.

Author feedback

The Press consistently receives excellent feedback from our authors on their experience of publishing with us. Dr Noëlle Rohde, author of *Marked: School Grades and the Quantified Life* told us, 'It was a joy to work together with the entire team at LSE Press. I would like to thank everyone involved for their remarkable efforts in bringing this book to fruition'.

4 OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to receive support from several endowments, which facilitate a range of activities:

The Friends of The Women's Library purchased various items for us this year, including:

- Central National Society for Women's Suffrage Executive Committee Minutes 1896 – 1898, which records an iconic event in the history of the women's suffrage campaign: the union of the Central National Society with other suffrage societies to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies,
- Papers relating to the installation in 1928 of a memorial to Emmeline Pankhurst in Westminster in 1928.
- Women's suffrage ephemera, including song-sheets and plays

Location audit

We carried out an audit of our archive collections to check that information about their locations in the store was accurate, complete and up-to-date. This information has been added to the archives management system, to ensure that key information about the collections is held in one system. This work was made possible through endowment support.

These endowments allow us to go above and beyond our business as usual to help develop new and innovative services and resources for all our users.

We work closely with LSE's Philanthropy and Global Engagement (PAGE) teams in promoting how we make use of these generous donations.

5 OUR TEAMS

Library Leadership Team

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Beth Clark, Associate Director, Digital Scholarship and Innovation, b.clark1@lse.ac.uk
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Collections and Academic Services Group

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Kevin Wilson, Academic Liaison and Collection Development Manager

Heather Dawson, Academic Support Librarian

Dr Paul Horsler, Academic Support Librarian

Andra Fry, Information Specialist

Ellen Wilkinson, Academic Support Librarian

Wendy Lynwood, Academic Support Librarian and Copyright Officer

Sonia Gomes, Academic Support Librarian

Simon Machell, Assistant Librarian

Acquisitions

Kevin O'Donovan, Acquisitions Manager

Jo Adams-Lingwood, Assistant Librarian

Liz Galloway, Senior Library Assistant

Anna Iporac, Senior Library Assistant (shared role with Subscriptions)

Paul Whitehouse, Library Assistant

Rita Andreou, Library Assistant

Krista Lynch, Library Assistant (shared role with Subscriptions)

Vilma Pikelyte, Library Assistant

Bill Barker, Assistant Librarian

Anna Stinson, Senior Library Assistant

Anna Iporac, Senior Library Assistant (shared role with Acquisitions)

Wendy Butcher, Library Assistant

Krista Lynch, Library Assistant (shared role with Acquisitions)

Archives and Special Collections

Anna Towlson, Archives and Special Collections Manager

Emma Pizarro, Archivist

Nick White, Archivist

Silvia Gallotti, Archivist

Lisa McQuillan, Archivist

Samantar Osman, Archives Assistant (left LSE in June 2026)

Angèle David-Guillou, Archives Assistant

Learning and Engagement

Maria Bell, Learning and Engagement Manager

Chelsea Collison, Learning and Engagement Officer

Indy Bhullar, Curator

Daniel Payne, Curator

Dr Gillian Murphy, Curator

Digital Scholarship and Innovation Group

Digital Library

Henry Rowsell, Digital Library Manager

Nick Bywell, Digital Library Developer

Robert Miles, Digital Assets Manager

Andy Jack, Web Editor

George Jukes, Digital Library Assistant

Maddy Clark, Digital Library Assistant

LSE Press

Sarah Worthington, Editor in Chief

Philippa Grand, Head of Publishing

Alice Park, Managing Editor

Justin Clark, Production Manager

Elinor Potts, LSE Press Communications Coordinator

Lucy Ashworth, Publishing Assistant

Metadata

Helen Williams, Metadata Manager

Clare Hudson, Assistant Librarian

Fran Frenzel, Metadata Analyst

Rena Akhadova, Senior Library Assistant

Gemma Read, Library Assistant

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Bethany Morris, Library Systems Assistant

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Claire Delahunty, Repository Manager

Hannah Boroudjou, Research Data Librarian

Julie Baldwin, Research Data Librarian

Andrea Onder, Open Research Assistant

Ruth Orson, Library Assistant

Thomas Graves, Open Research Library Assistant

Kira Hopkin, Open Research Library Assistant

Adam Harangozo, Wikimedian in Residence and Research Visibility Champion

Student Library Experience and Service Quality

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Clive Wilson, Access Services Manager

Richard Collings, Enquiry Services Manager

Jo Taplin-Green, Reader Services Manager

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Refhat Hussain, Library Assistant

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Marius Dicomites, Membership Supervisor

Katie Skinner-Baker, Library Assistant

Alison Cummerson, Library Assistant

Barbara Anderson, Library Assistant

Emily Horsey, Library Assistant

Selina Wilson, Library Assistant

Sasha Doughty, Library Assistant

Siubhan Brew, Library Assistant

Ylva Nilsen, Library Assistant

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Paul McFarlane, Collections Digitisation
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Giancarlo Carrozza, Collections Assistant

Daniel Arduino, Collections Assistant

Dean Hinks, Collections Assistant

Lukas Zajasensky, Collections Assistant

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Jeannette Morris, Reshelver

Ashley Ward, Reshelver

Joanna Dros, Reshelver

Pauline Fernandez, Reshelver

Clive Graham, Library Assistant

Claire Taplin, Library Assistant

Carlota Pasillao, Book Cleaner

Operations and Development

Jo Tate, Operations and Development
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Yvonne Olusoga, Project Development
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Nadia Marks, User Experience Researcher

Dafina Rama, Library Office Manager



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