

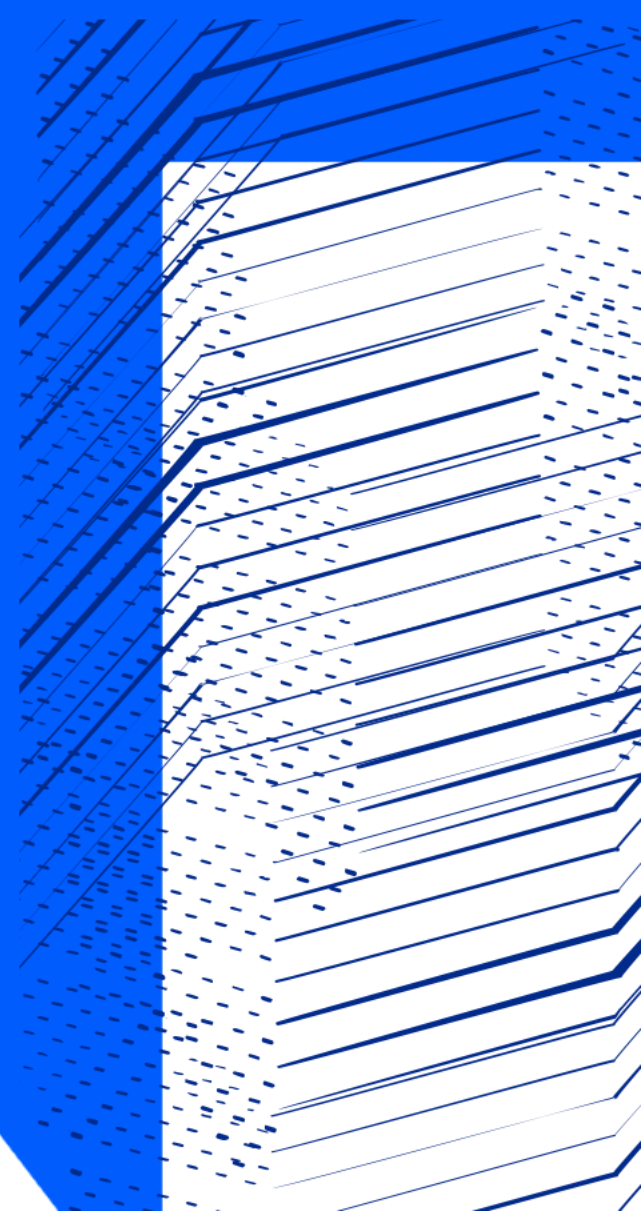


Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Balancing the books: meeting information needs in a research institute

Debbie Franks, Library Operations Manager,
Chadwick & RAL Libraries, STFC

*UKSG Seminar: Financial planning for librarians, 4th
December 2019, London*



STFC - what we do

World class research, multi-disciplinary facilities, innovation and skills

- ❑ One of the UK Research Councils; part of UK Research and Innovation from 1 April 2018, a single research and innovation funding body; a 'Non-Departmental Public Body' in Department for Business, Energy & Industry Strategy (BEIS)
- ❑ Broad range of physical, life and computational sciences
- ❑ Funding for ca. 1,700 scientists in particle and nuclear physics, and astronomy - Grants
- ❑ Access for 7,500 scientists to world-leading, large-scale facilities – 'facility time'
- ❑ Science and Innovation Campuses at Daresbury and Harwell
- ❑ Globally-recognised capabilities and expertise in technology R&D
- ❑ Inspiring young people to undertake STEM



Where we are

UK Astronomy Technology Centre
Edinburgh, Scotland



Polaris House
Swindon, Wiltshire



Chilbolton Observatory
Stockbridge, Hampshire



Boulby Underground Laboratory
North Yorkshire

Daresbury Laboratory
Sci-Tech Daresbury Warrington, Cheshire



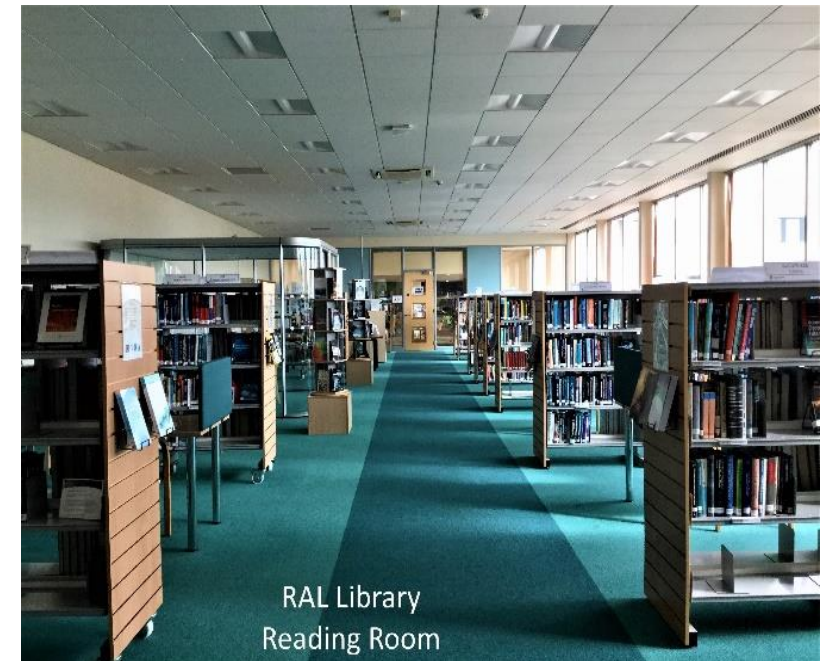
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Didcot, Oxfordshire



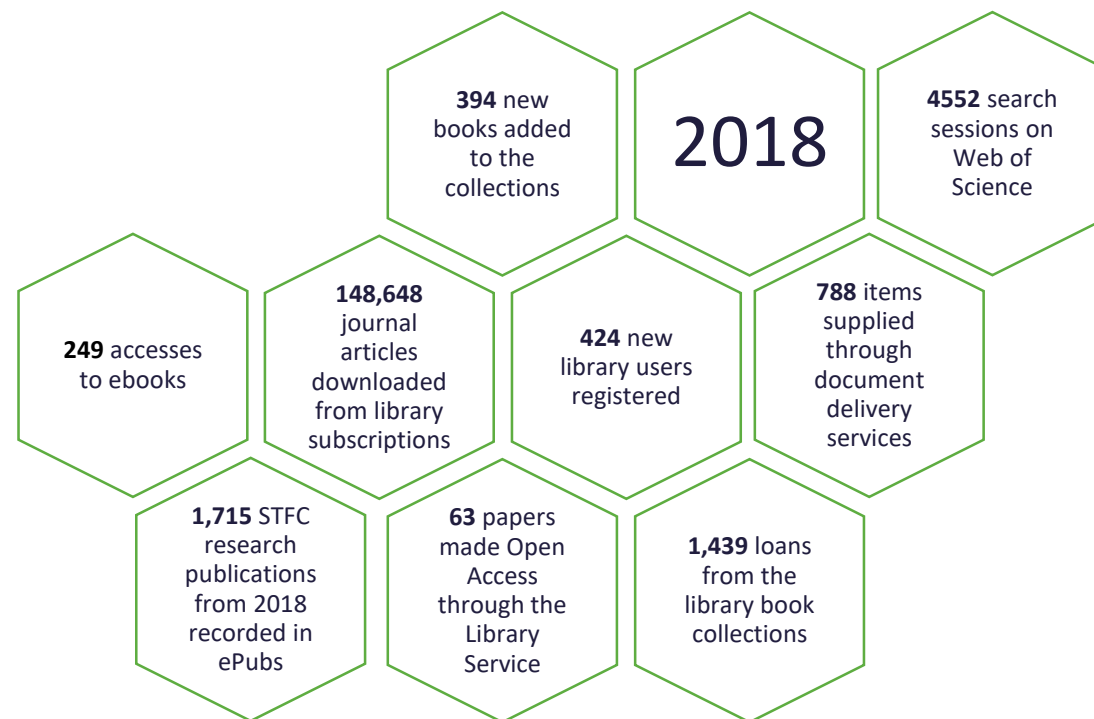
Chadwick & RAL Libraries



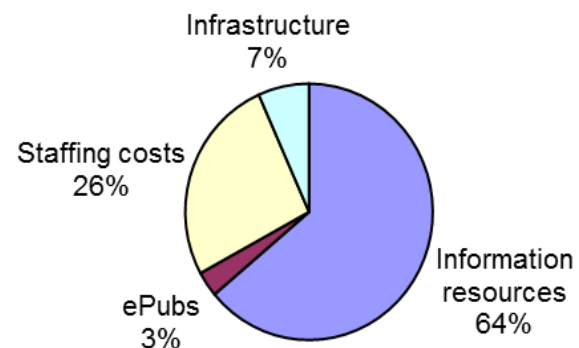
 @DLRALLibs



- ❑ The Chadwick and RAL Libraries provide services to STFC staff on the Daresbury Laboratory and RAL sites.
- ❑ Some of our resources are licensed at Council level to be used by STFC staff on all its sites (for example Web of Science).
- ❑ Our services extend to STFC facility users, visitors and tenants on the Sci-Tech Daresbury and Harwell Oxford Campuses.
- ❑ The Library Service is shared with Diamond Light Source through an annual SLA.
- ❑ 7 library staff (6.1 fte)
- ❑ 1,964 registered library users



Spend profile



Infrastructure

IT systems, equipment & licences
£61,100

Consumables
£2,630

Furniture
£0

Printing
£665

Memberships
£1,280

Information Resources

Journal subscriptions
£526,500

Database subscriptions
£73,500

Document delivery &
interlibrary loans
£10,100

Book collection
£17,800

Staffing costs

Pay
£253,200

Learning & Development
£970

Travel (cross-site
management & national
working group meetings)
£5,075

ePubs

£31,580 (*staff costs*)

Library spend 2018-19

£984,400

Financial year April - March

Challenges & constraints

- ❑ Flat cash allocation at best vs 'library inflation' of 3-7%
- ❑ Accruals accounting commits following year's budget
- ❑ Only know budgets on a single year cycle
- ❑ Cannot carry forward or claw back
- ❑ "Read & Publish" deals not suitable for us

Preparing estimates

Allocating costs across stakeholders

		Registered	Loans	ILLs	WoS	BSOL	CIS	OpenAthens	Journals (RAL site)
2018-2019	DLS	395	74	117	1161		27	303	
	Total	1898	588	519	4629		73	1186	
	%	21	13	23	25	14	37	26	21
	Assoc. cost	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£XXX,XXX	DLS contribution								

Journals 2015

- ❑ The loss of our journals budget in 2014/15 in a prepayment account with our subscription agent, Swets, which went bankrupt in October 2014, resulted in a high risk of having no renewed online subscriptions for 2015.
- ❑ The library budget for 2015-16 included an allocation for the Apr-Dec portion of 2015 subscriptions, the costs of which usually accrue automatically from invoices paid in the previous year.
- ❑ We negotiated with publishers for grace access to journals during Jan-Mar 2015 and invoices at a discounted rate of 75% of the subscriptions to be paid from April.
- ❑ Most publishers were sympathetic to our situation. Overall we experienced no significant break in service, with only 5 titles lapsing due to them not fitting into the negotiation timescale.
- ❑ Some other titles were actively cancelled for 2015 due to a relatively high cost per download.



Opportunities & solutions

- ☐ Flexibility in overall library budget – can adjust allocations between resource types (including staff if vacancies occur mid-year)
- ☐ Take advantage of consortia and national negotiations to reduce and fix prices
- ☐ New models in the market – renting vs owning
- ☐ Healthy collections – take a ‘book buying break’
- ☐ Knowledge of post-cancellation access entitlements – real implication of cancellations
- ☐ Build in pilots/trials to explore different models and products (invest to save)
- ☐ Context – awareness of the financial landscape in the organisation (and wider)
- ☐ **Networking – make friends with your finance officers and suppliers**

