

138+ Years and Counting

The History of Queen Square Library and Archives



A display in Queen Square Library marking UCL200 and ION75, and celebrating Queen Square Library and Archives' history over the past 138 years.

This display features photographs, objects, and documents from Queen Square Archives.

Selected content is available online.

For further information, please contact:

<mailto:neuroarchives@ucl.ac.uk> or see www.queenssquare.org.uk/archives



July 2026

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

Since the mid-twentieth century, the Medical Library has evolved, changed its name to the Rockefeller Medical Library (1954) and later to Queen Square Library and Archives (2010). It continues to enjoy a strong and close relationship with the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and flourish under the Institute of Neurology (ION).

During all of this time, both the patients' library (it would become the Gowers Library in 1951), and the Maida Vale Hospital Library developed but finally closed down. Their histories are also included in this historical timeline.

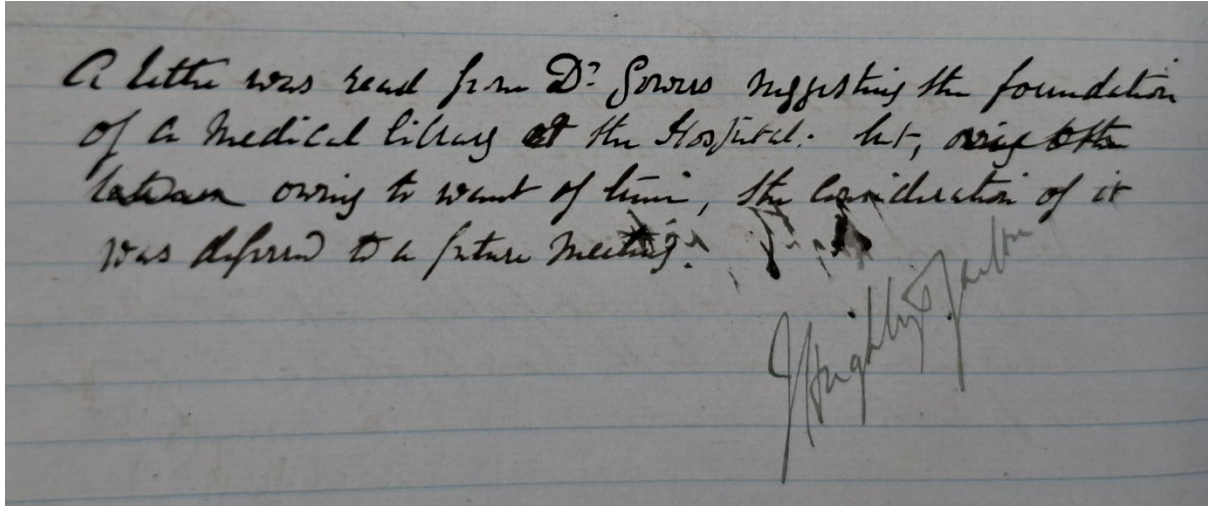
This, then, is the 138-year history of Queen Square Library and Archive, its staff, users, supporters, collections, technology and spaces.

Carl Banks
Information Assistant
July 2026

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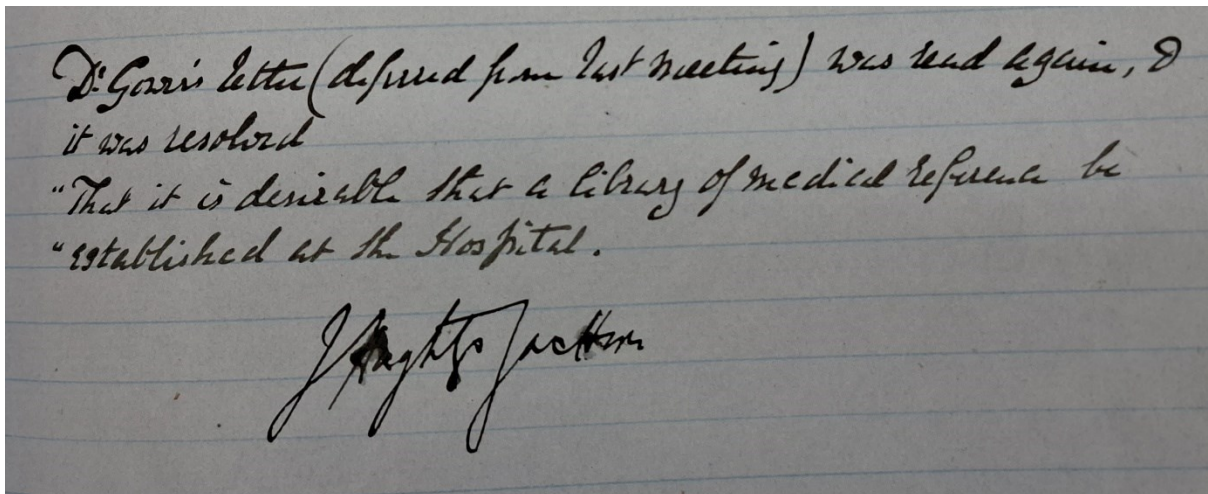
1888

On 3 February at the National Hospital's Medical Committee meeting, a letter from Dr. William Gowers (clinical neurologist at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, London) is read which proposes the creation of a medical reference library. The matter is deferred until the next meeting.



The proposal [National Hospital Medical Committee Minutes 1878-1899, p.60. QSA/19244]

On 21 February, the Committee agrees "That it is desirable that a library of medical reference be established at the Hospital."



The resolution [National Hospital Medical Committee Minutes 1878-1899, p.61. QSA/19244]

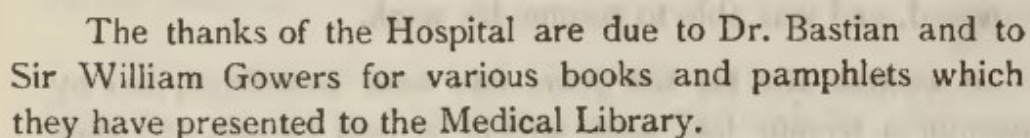
1896

In memory of her late husband, Sir John Russell Reynolds (physician and neurologist), Lady Frances Russell Reynolds donates a portion of his library to the Hospital. It is unknown where the collection is kept, what it consists of or who can access it.

1904

Dr. Henry Charlton Bastian (one of the first neurologists appointed to the National Hospital, Queen Square) and Sir William Gowers present various pamphlets and books to the Medical Library. This is the earliest reference about the Library to occur in the National Hospital's Annual Reports.

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The thanks of the Hospital are due to Dr. Bastian and to Sir William Gowers for various books and pamphlets which they have presented to the Medical Library.

Donations [National Hospital's Annual Report 1904, p.30]

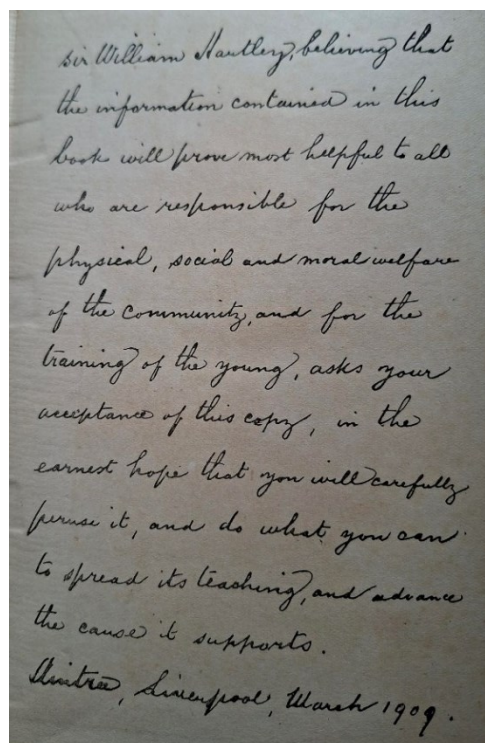
1907

Sir William Gowers and Sir Victor Horsley (neurosurgeon and professor at the National Hospital), amongst others, present books and journals to the Library.

Gowers donates German-language versions of Albert Eulenberg's *Real Encyclopaedia of General Medicine*, *Central Journal for Neurology*, volumes 1879 to 1907 inclusive, and Leyden's *Spinal Cord Diseases*.

Horsley donates *Alcohol and the Human Body*, a book he co-authored by him with Mary D. Sturge (Physician at Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women).

The Library currently holds a second edition copy published in 1909, which has an inscription written by Sir William Pickles Hartley (1846-1922 – image left). Like Horsley, Hartley was a lifelong abstainer from alcohol. Hartley was an English entrepreneur, founder of the famous Hartley's jam company, a philanthropist and devout Primitive Methodist. In 1908, he bought the nearby Holborn Town Hall converting it into a publishing house, which was bought by the Primitive Methodist Church as its national headquarters.



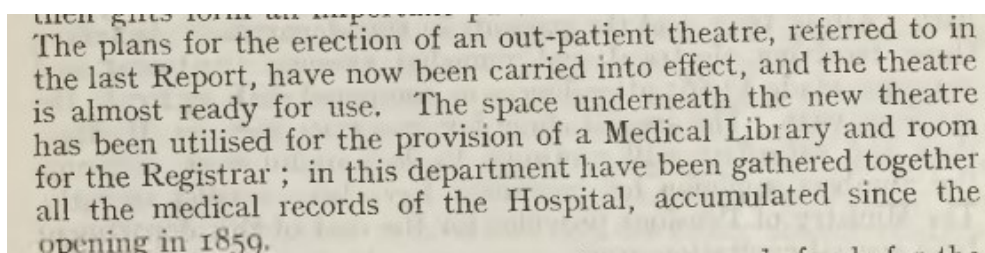
Sir William Hartley, believing that the information contained in this book will prove most helpful to all who are responsible for the physical, social and moral welfare of the community, and for the training of the young, asks your acceptance of this copy, in the earnest hope that you will carefully peruse it, and do what you can to spread its teaching, and advance the cause it supports.

Wintre, Liverpool, March 1909.

Sir Hartley's inscription in 'Alcohol and the Human Body' (second ed., 1909)

1923

The first indication of the Medical Library's location is in the basement of the National Hospital's Albany Wing: "The space underneath the new [outpatient] theatre has been utilised for the provision of the Medical Library".



The plans for the erection of an out-patient theatre, referred to in the last Report, have now been carried into effect, and the theatre is almost ready for use. The space underneath the new theatre has been utilised for the provision of a Medical Library and room for the Registrar; in this department have been gathered together all the medical records of the Hospital, accumulated since the opening in 1859.

First mention of the Medical Library's location [National Hospital's Annual Report 1923, p.7. QSA/18945]

1928

Book donations, and several neurological journals obtained via Sir Gordon Holmes (neurologist) and Dr. Joseph Greenfield (neuropathologist).

1930

More books added to the collection including copies of works by Sir William Gowers presented by Sir Charles Martin. A list of important neurological journals is maintained by staff members.

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1932

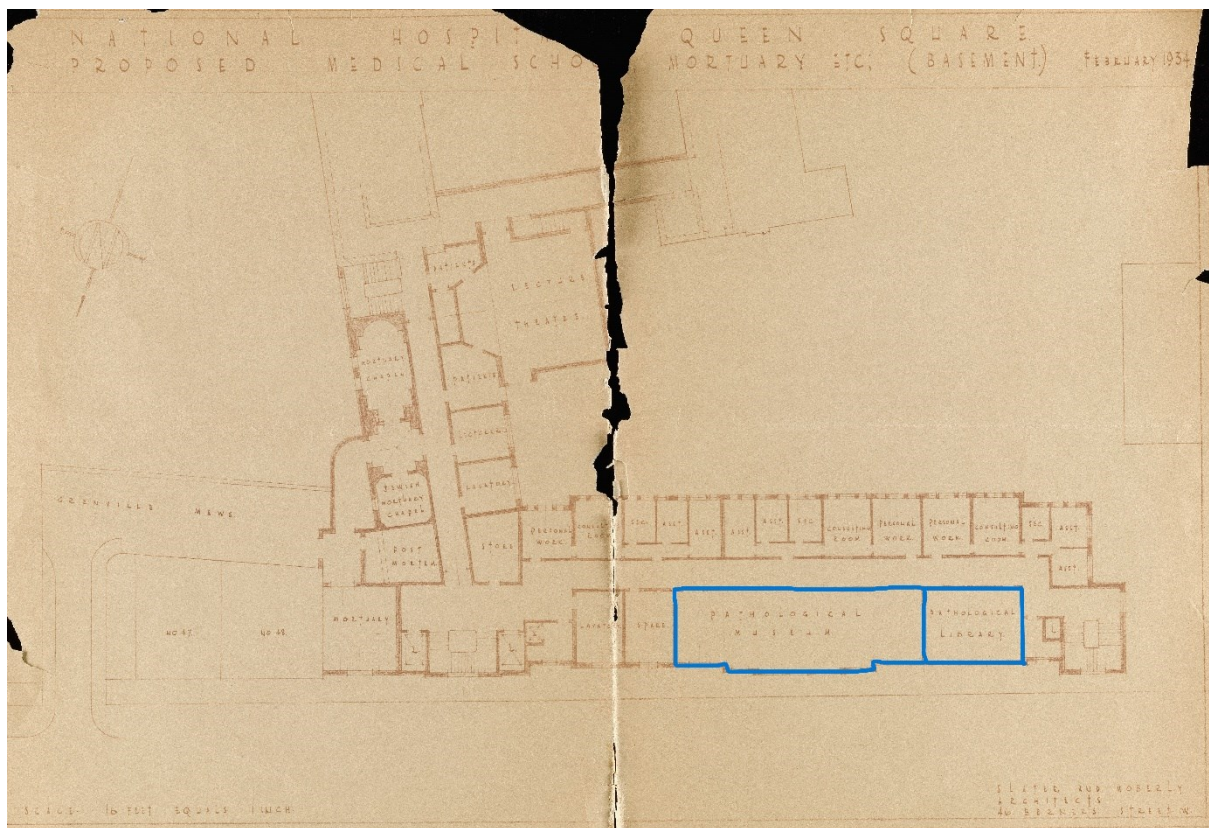
Calls for volunteers to help with indexing case records to facilitate clinical research.

1933

“Painting work.... Passage from the boiler house to the medical library” – this short reference from the *Board of Management Minutes 1931-1937*, 28 February 1933 meeting locates the Library in the National Hospital’s basement.

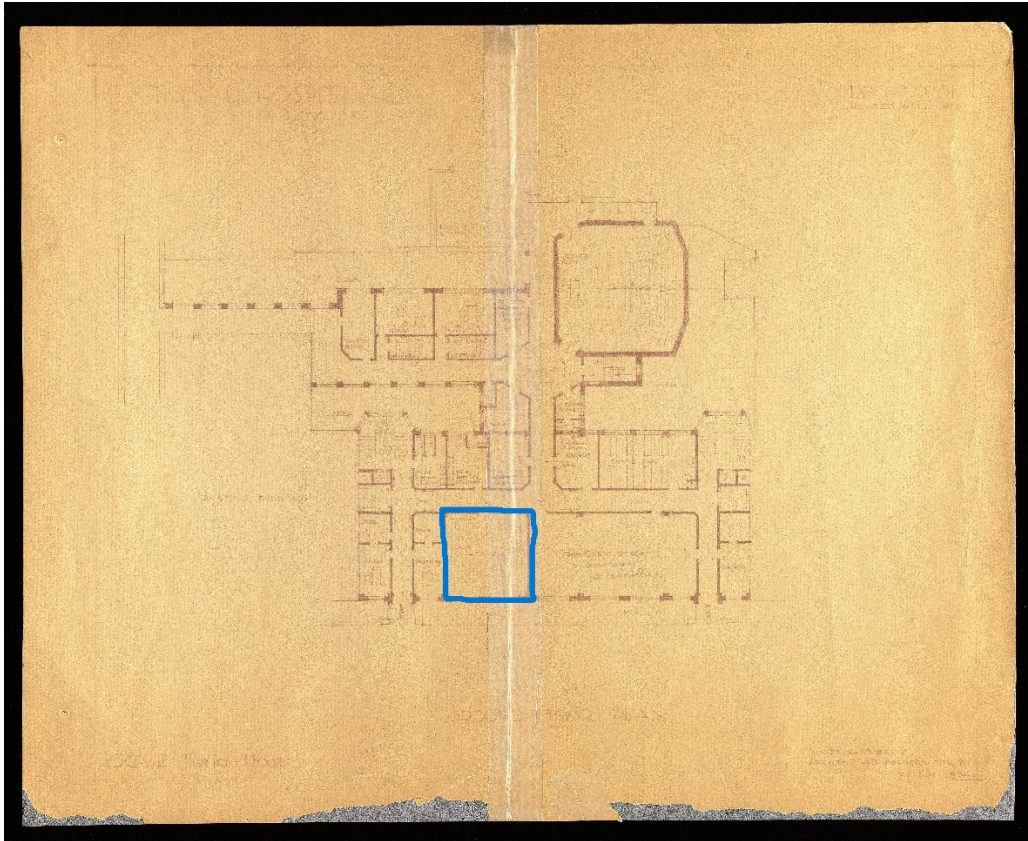
1934

Dated February 1934, Hospital building plans by architects, Slater and Moberly, show two large rooms in the basement facing Queen Square, designated as the Pathological Library and Pathological Museum. It is most likely that this is a second library.



Pathological Museum and Pathological Library, National Hospital, February 1934 [NHNN/PROP/15_0008]

A revised plan, dated 27 November, by the same architects shows only a good-sized Library located on the ground floor, and no museum.



The Library, National Hospital plan, 27 November 1934 [NHNN/PROP/15_0015]

1935

The Medical Library “is now thoroughly representative of modern neurological literature”, which more periodicals being donated by members of the Honorary Staff to the Medical Library.



Medical secretary typing up notes, 1935. First known photo of case notes, lowest bookshelf [QSA/12412]

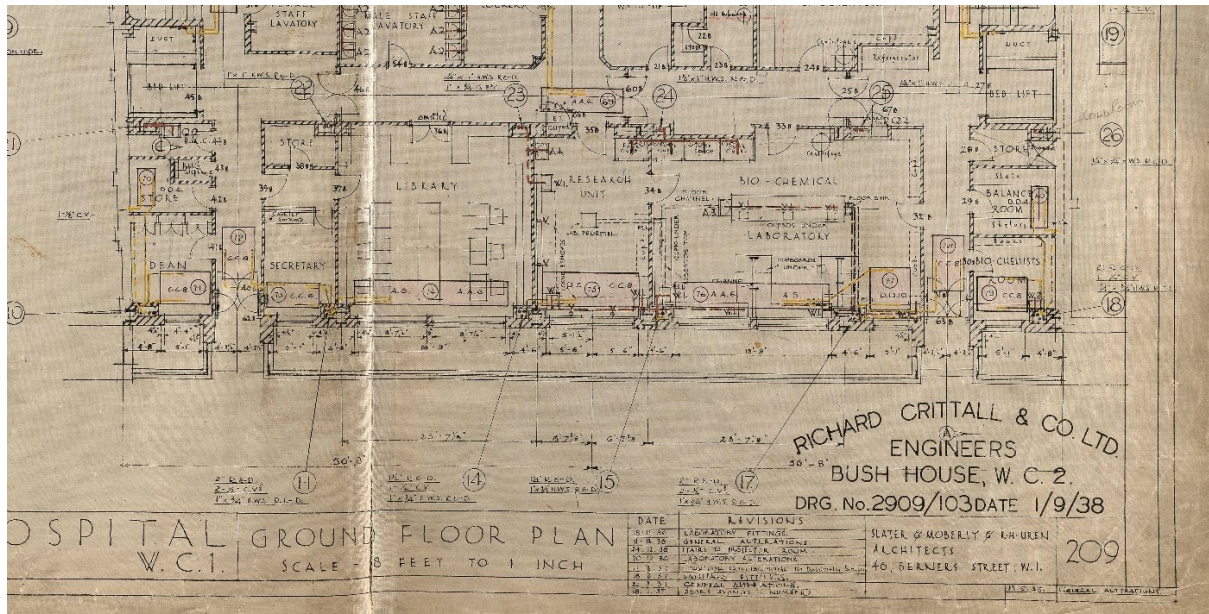
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1936

The collection “contains a remarkable number of neurological works for a hospital of this size and is of considerable service to the large number of postgraduates who attend the hospital.”

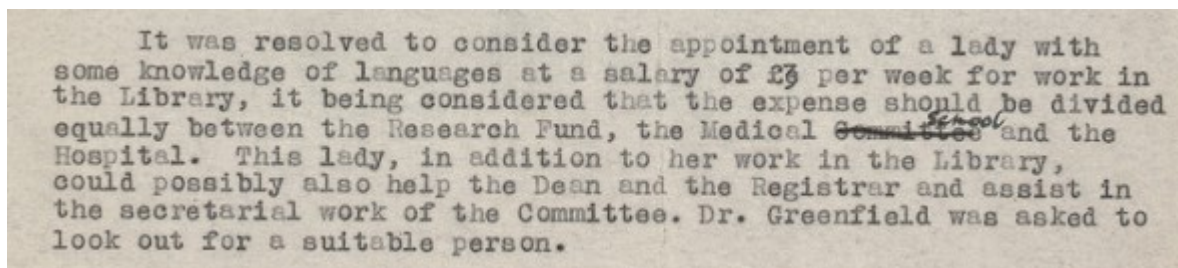
1938

Built in part by a generous grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the new Queen Mary Wing of the National Hospital is completed in June. The Library is situated on the ground floor facing Queen Square, along with laboratories, a clinical research unit, the lecture hall and the post-mortem department. “The library, which has been furnished by American and Dominion doctors, is in constant use.”



Centre left: Library located in the new Queen Mary Wing, National Hospital plan (cropped), 1938
[NHNN/PROP/20_0001]

First known mention and plans about Library staff: “It was resolved to consider the appointment of a lady with some knowledge of languages at a salary of £3 per week for work in the Library, it being considered that the expense should be divided equally between the Research Fund, the Medical School and the Hospital. This lady, in addition to her work in the Library, could possibly also help the Dean and the Registrar and assist in the secretarial work of the Committee. Dr. Greenfield was asked to look out for a suitable person.”



First mention of staffing of the Medical Library
[National Hospital Management Committee 1938, p.162. QSA/19039]

Dr. Francis Walshe accepts an Honorary Librarian role, a new position and one he holds until 1950. He is also Honorary Physician at the National Hospital, and from 1937 to 1953 is the editor of *Brain* journal.

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1939

Shutters are ordered for the Library windows, presumably in preparation of war coming to London.

First mention of a library budget (although this seems to be a one-off, at least until 1951). It is for library books for the amount of £49 10s 6d (about £2,827.79 in today's money – March 2026, Bank of England inflation calculator).

1940

The insurance policy is reviewed with the aim of including library books, presumably in the event of bomb and fire damage during the Blitz.

1948

The National Hospital joins the NHS.

1950

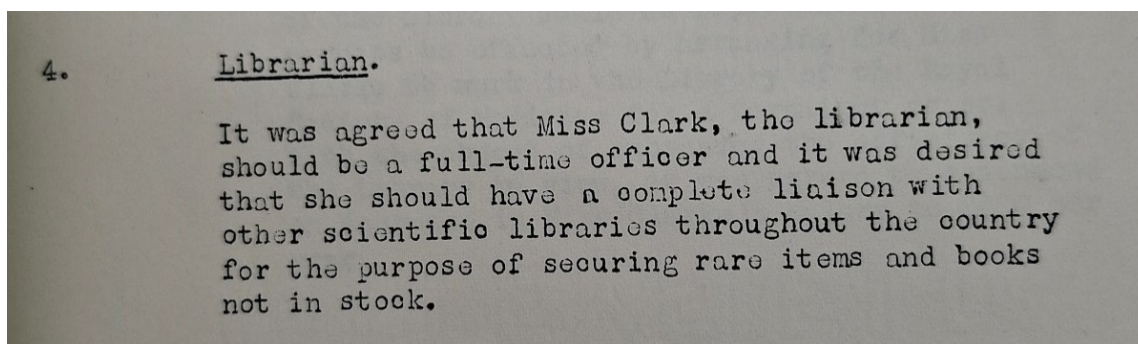
The Institute of Neurology is established. It was originally the Medical School attached to the National Hospital.

On 18 October, the first ever meeting takes place of the Institute's newly formed Library Sub-Committee, under the chairmanship of the Dean, Dr. Macdonald Critchley. Also present at this meeting are Drs. William Blackwood and Edward Carmichael, although no library staff attend.

The first ever agenda item concerns purchasing books and periodicals. On this, the Minutes say:

"In fulfilment of the principle that the library should be a very complete one as regards neurological literature and, at the same time, be well stocked in psychiatric and psychological items, a list of monographs not already in the library was approved for."

At the same meeting, P.M. Clarke is endorsed as the Institute's first Medical Librarian, staying in the role until 1958. One of her key duties is to liaise "with other scientific libraries throughout the country for the purpose of securing rare items and books not in stock."



*First mention of a Librarian for the Medical Library
[ION Library Sub-Committee Minutes. 1950. v.316, p.1]*

First mention of interlibrary loans. The Library has links to the Science Library, National Central Library, the Institute of Psychiatry and Orthopaedics, and London University Library.

1951

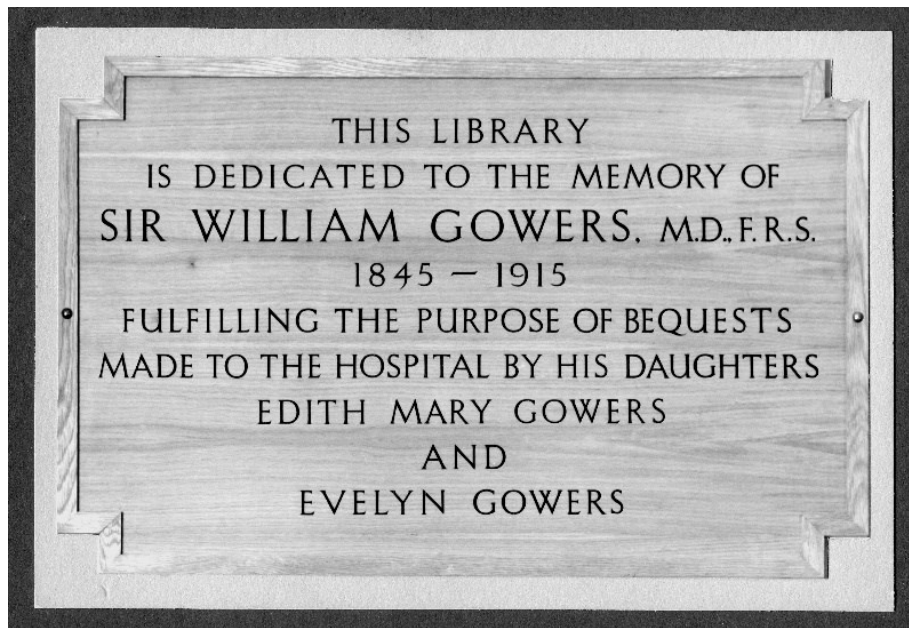
By the end of the year, the collection consists of about 1,200 books, and 80 journals.

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The historic collection includes “French and German neurological books of the end of the last century, and some early nineteenth century English curiosities on cerebral localisation.”

The Library Sub-Committee discusses a number of ‘firsts’: an allocated “earmarked” budget (£750 for the academic year), technology for the Library (Microfilm Reader, Kodak AH Type II, price £130), book suggestion recommendations, and the Medical Librarian’s salary (increased to £400 per annum, or equivalent to about £16,000 in 2026).

The Gowers Library (for patients and others in the National Hospital) opens with an official launch party. Ernest Gowers (son of Sir William Gowers) presents to Gordon Holmes a presentation box.



Gowers Library plaque [QSA/1500]



Ernest Gowers presenting to Gordon Holmes, 1951 [QSA/11871]

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1952

The Finance and General Purposes Committee declines the request for funds to buy the microfilm reader.

The Medical Librarian's pay is increased to £410 p.a. (including London Weighting) and P.M. Clarke is promoted to grade 'C' of the Whitley Council Scheme.

The collection grows to over 1,300 books and 81 regular journals (nearly 3,00 bound volumes), alongside numerous unbound periodicals, reprints and monographs.

Interlibrary loans are made to Maudsley, Middlesex and Shenley Hospitals, and to the Tavistock Clinic. Russian language items are added to the Russian Union Catalogue held by the National Central Library.

1953

No Library Sub-Committee meeting takes place. The collection and loans continue to grow.

1954



The Library Sub-Committee propose to change the Library's name to the Rockefeller Library (or Rockefeller Medical Library), in tribute to the Rockefeller Foundation's funding to the National Hospital. However, it takes a long time for the new name to emerge in the Institute's Annual

Reports (ten years later, from 1964 up to 2006) and to be reflected in the Library Sub-Committee's own name (once in 1975, and then from March 1989 until about 2013/14). The RML doorplate still appears on the Library's main doors to this day.



Rockefeller Medical Library main doors

Changes and 'firsts' for the Library Sub-Committee: Dr Michael Kremer replaces Dr Critchley as Chair (as new Dean). He is Chairman until February 1962; R.A. Gould is the first (known) Secretary; the first mention of the meetings' location, is The Dean's Room, National Hospital Queen Square; meeting frequency increases from annual to the first Monday in second month every term.

P.M. Clarke is promoted further from grade C to D.

1955

The bound collection total is 3,412, of which 90 periodicals are regularly received.

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1956

The bound collection increases to 3,568.

1957

The bound collection grows to 3,749. A notable donation is from Sir Francis Walshe of the first bound volume of his collected papers.

1958

P.M. Clarke resigns on 30 August. Jean P. Wallis, ALA serves as the Medical Librarian until 1964. Her probation salary is £576 plus £30 London Weighting (about £16,563 without LW, or £17,425.568 with LW). In 1958, the Librarian's wages correspond to the lowest end of the scale of comparative salary information obtained from the North-West Polytechnic, School of Librarianship.

After a four and half year hiatus, the Library Sub-Committee meets again. Its name is changed to 'Library Committee', the first of ten such changes up to 1996. Biannual meetings are planned.

First mentions of borrowing procedures, bookplates, and Library rules and regulations. For the former, the installation of an entry cards system for borrowing replaces a marking out procedure. For the latter, Dr Blackwood, rather than the Librarian, drafts the rules and regulations.

The bound collection totals 3,881 items.

The Library is overcrowded and lacks room for displays and storage. Moving to larger premises, when available, becomes a increasing possibility.

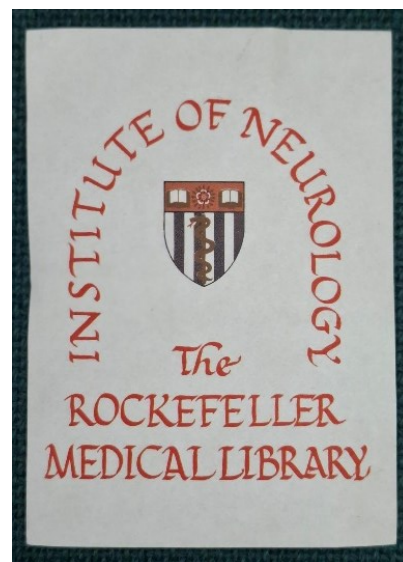
1959

Medical Librarian, Jean Wallis is confirmed on a pay scale for Higher Clerical Grade, going into General Administrative Grade. She also becomes a Fellow of the Library Association after passing exams.

Ten years after the first Library Committee meeting, on 26 January, the Librarian is invited to attend for the first time (and speak, presumably). The frequency of meetings changes to once a term.

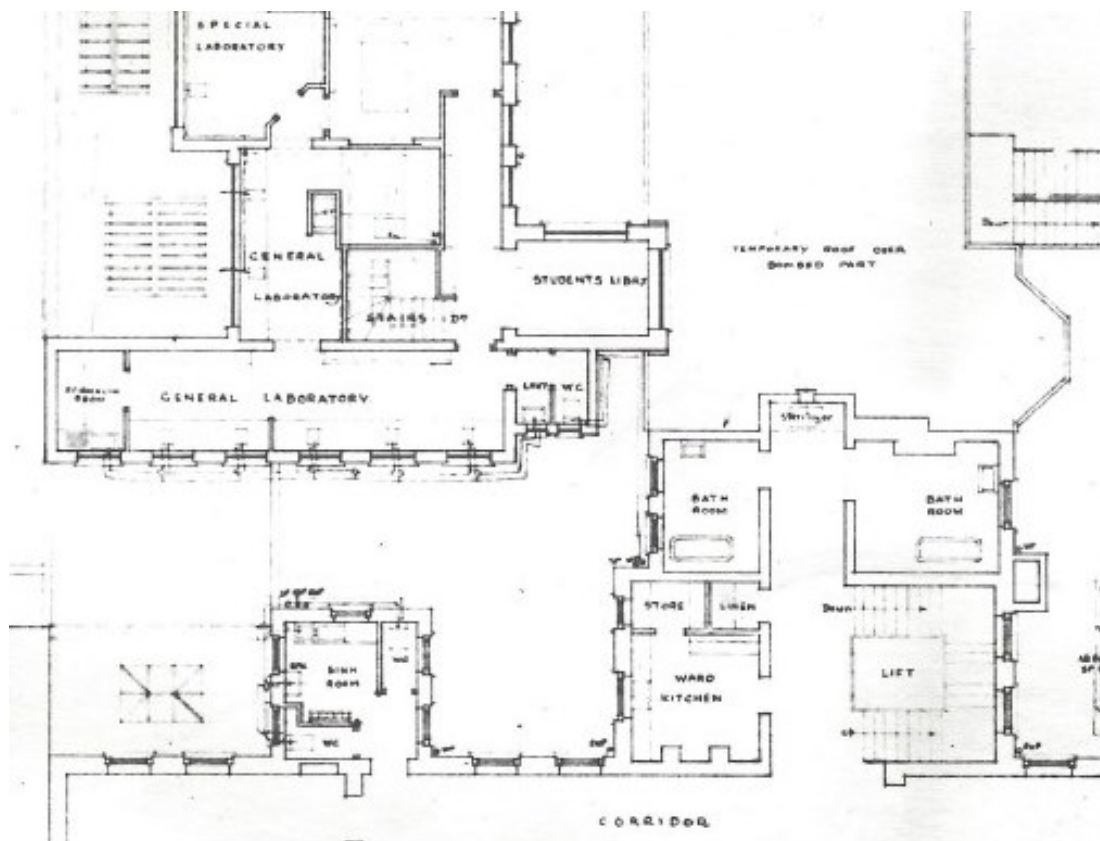
The first mention of photocopying: the Librarian is permitted to use The Royal Society for Medicine's photocopying service for articles.

For the first time, books in the Maida Vale Hospital students' library (MVHL) are to be recorded in the Accessions Register kept by the Rockefeller Librarian, with a copy kept at MVHL. Jean Wallis visits to discuss library arrangements there with the Advisor on Studies.



Library bookplate sticker [cat. no. 148]

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Centre: Students' Library at Maida Vale Hospital for Nervous Diseases, first floor, next to the bombed part of the building (1950, extract)

The bound collection totals 4,150 items, with 120 regularly received journals. Some books are sent to Remploy for binding. A notable donation of 50 books from the library of the late Dr J.G. Greenfield is gifted by Mrs. Greenfield.

The first reference to reserving library space following users leaving books to 'reserve' their seat especially in busy times. A new notice states:

"It is regretted that owing to lack of space unoccupied seats cannot be reserved for more than fifteen minutes. If a Reader is to be absent longer than this his/her books may be set aside. They will not be returned to the shelves until three hours have elapsed."

1960

For the National Hospital's Centenary Week, Jean Wallis is set the task of making a comprehensive collection of all the published works of the senior members of the National Hospital Staff from 1859 to the present day. She visits The Royal College of Physicians and the British Museum Library to compile a list of relevant publications by former National Hospital staff. Bibliographies of each author are compiled and many of their books and papers are added to the Library stock.

An exhibition of the manuscript and published works of the National Hospital's early great historic figures also showcases many other books from the Library.

Discussions begin about relocating the Medical Library. The National Hospital obtains 33 Queen Square ground floor and basement. One proposal is to move the Rockefeller Medical

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Library to the old chapel. An architect is commissioned to examine the premises and provide an estimation of costs.

The first ever Extraordinary Meeting of the Library Committee takes place. Key topics discussed and agreed upon are levies on library users for borrowing, an annual collection stocktake, and the proposed move to 33 Queen Square.

1961

The Librarian's attendance at Library Committee meetings 'by invitation' of the Dean is queried. Nevertheless, the Committee's Constitution and status quo remains unchanged.

The proposed move to 33 Queen Square is shelved as relocating to Alexandra House, 17/19 Queen Square becomes a viable alternative.

1962

The Library move to Alexandra House takes place between February 1962 and July 1963.

Dr James William Douglas Bull replaces Dr Kremer as Chairman of the Library Committee.

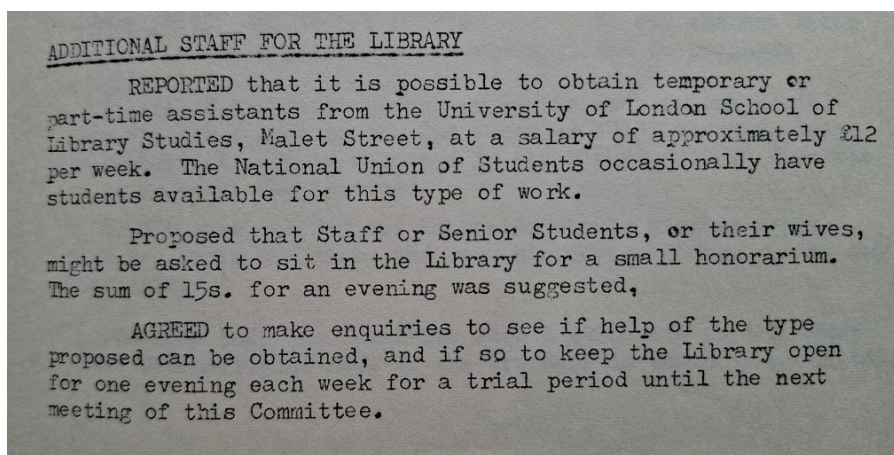
1963

Staff cover issues take centre stage. The Librarian's absences are normally covered by Institute secretarial staff, or for longer periods, by a Librarian temp. However, the Library

Committee discuss the possibility of engaging Library Assistants (for the first time) in part-time or temporary jobs for the Library. The University of London School of Library Studies is consulted about library assistant salaries, and replies that £12 a week is usual (between £230-300 in today's money, April 2026). The National Union of Students is considered as a possible recruitment pool, as are "Staff, Senior Students, or their wives ... for a small honorarium ... of 15s. for an evening.":



*Alexandra House, 17/19 Queen Square London
[QSA/15231]*



Additional staff for the library [Library Committee, 2 December 1963. v.316, p.45]

The Library Committee's name changes back to the Library Sub-Committee during 1964 - 1966.

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1964

A three-month trial of opening one evening a week from 6 – 8.30 p.m. with a volunteer, overseen by Dr. Peter Nathan and Dr. Marion Smith, begins in February. In spite of advertising, it is discontinued due to low attendance. Demand for Library services however continues to grow.

In May, the Library Sub-Committee consider the Librarian's duties, and unanimously believe that Jean Wallis "would not be able to fulfil the repeatedly growing demands of these services." The Dean agrees to discuss matters with her. In September, Jean Wallis resigns – willingly, unfairly, with any choice in the matter – is unknown.

The Library Committee's Second Extraordinary Meeting specifically meets to discuss and resolve the recruitment of a new Librarian. The Honorary Medical Librarian role is resurrected (last used in 1950) and a new role of Honorary Consultant Librarian is created. These are filled respectively by Dr. Richard A. Hunter, MD, MRCP, DPM (serves up to July 1965), and Liam M. Payne, FLA (Librarian at The Royal College of Physicians; in the role until 1971) under whose stewardship the Librarian role now falls.

G.T. Evans, ALA, is appointed as Librarian from September.

In October, Liam Payne presents his library modernisation report, 'Rockefeller Medical Library: An Interim Report'.

1965



Beryl Bailey, Medical Librarian, 1980
[P494_0012 Bailey B 1980]

G.T. Evans leaves, and M.B. Bailey, ALA becomes the Librarian (September 1965 - 1993). 'Beryl' Bailey is the longest serving Queen Square Librarian, to date.

First mention of an Assistant Librarian: P. Valentine-Dormer joins the team on a new three-year appointment in December but leaves next year. This post is created by the generosity of the Wellcome Trust, whose three-year grant specifically funds cataloguing of the Library's historical collection and of some National Hospital case notes.

A student librarian from the North-West Polytechnic School of Librarianship, S. Bagley, undertakes work experience for six weeks in the summer.

Modernisation of the library: a complete stocktake is made, a card index catalogue which cross-references books, journals and reprints is put in place, the Library is rearranged to facilitate the work of researchers and students, the opening hours start an hour earlier (from 9 a.m. now), and a trial using a Xerox 914 photocopier begins.

Dr. William Goody replaces Dr. Richard Hunter as Honorary Medical Librarian.

1966

The Librarian gives library induction talks each term for a year.

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She also attends a MEDLARS course, a significant step into use of electronic systems and databases. (MEDLARS - Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System - was launched in 1964 by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). It was a mechanised version of the NLM's vast and manually compiled *Index Medicus*, a monthly guide to medical articles in thousands of journals. At the time, there was no other publicly available, fully operational electronic storage and retrieval system of its magnitude in existence. It later evolved into an online system in 1971 called MEDLINE, short for MEDLARS Online).

A Rank-Xerox Office Copying Machine is installed in neighbouring Alexandra House for a two-month trial.

An enclosed library office is created for the Librarian.



F. Batten [QSA/1812]

P. Valentine-Dormer, Assistant Librarian, leaves to work at the Institute of Dental Surgery, having almost completed the cataloguing project. The Hospital case notes remain to be indexed so the Assistant Librarian's role is advertised. A second student librarian takes up a fortnight placement in the Library at the end of November.

The Library Sub-Committee changes its name to the Medical Library Sub-Committee.

Two exhibitions are held in the Library, one on Frederick Batten (often referred to as "father of paediatric neurology") marking the centenary of his birth, and the other about Sir Victor Horsley to coincide with the publication of a new biography about him.

A ban on eating in the Library is introduced (well before a smoking ban!).

1967

Appointed in late 1967 but unable to take up the role of Assistant Librarian due to issues moving to London, Dorothy Fryman is recruited as a Library Assistant later in the year. It is unknown when she resigned.

First mention of a selected reading list, in February: "AGREED to ask the Sub-Dean to consult with the Clinical Tutors and to prepare a list of books recommended for reading by the students attending the Institute, to amplify the teaching programme. The list should consist primarily of books available in the Institute Library. When the list is complete it should be sent to this Committee".

The Secretary of the Library Association (professional body for library staff) writes to universities and colleges asking them to "examine the extent to which their libraries are deficient in the light of the recommendations made in the Report of the Committee on Libraries set up by the University Grants Commission" (1965, chaired by Dr. SR Ranganathan). Based on this, Liam Payne, Honorary Consultant Librarian, presents a memo to the Medical Library Sub-Committee highlighting the Library's future space requirements to increase facilities for its users.

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In the past year, books and periodical loans increase by 20 per cent, and loans from other libraries almost doubles.

An exhibition of books and articles on some medical aspects of Ancient Egypt is held in the Library, based on "Catalogue of Egyptian Antiquities in the British Museum, I—Mummies and Human Remains" and presented by Dr. James Bull (assistant radiologist, National Hospital).

1968

Brenda Hill is appointed Assistant Librarian in February 1968, but leaves in September. Her successor is Andrea Davies, formerly the temporary Assistant in the Gowers Library, starts in November.

In May, the National Hospital agrees to pay half the salary of an additional Assistant Librarian.

In July, D.J. Wright is appointed on a part-time basis as the Assistant Librarian working to complete the Hospital case notes index with Dr. Purdon-Martin.

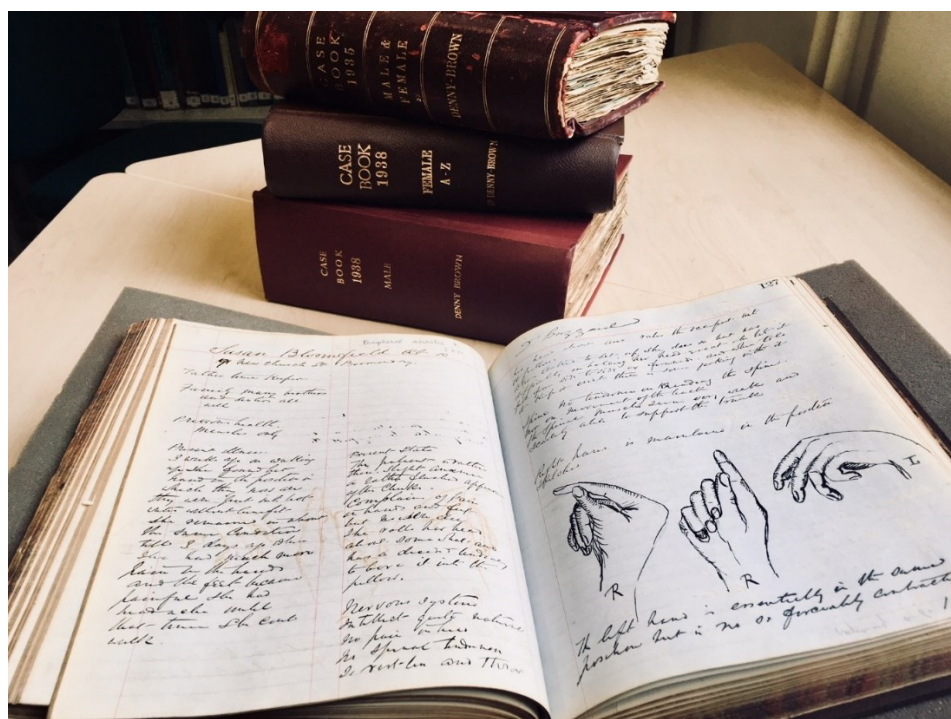
In November, Dr. Reginald Edward Kelly becomes Chairman of the Medical Library Subcommittee.

The Rockefeller Fund grant of £316 (about £5,000 - £6,000) for the Library is spent on rebinding back numbers of journals.

1969

F. Perry replaces D.J. Wright as the part-time Assistant Librarian responsible for indexing the Hospital case notes. After two accidents in March, F. Perry returns to work in July. It is unknown when F. Perry left the team.

The Wellcome Trust agrees to fund a four-year post for a Librarian to index the historical reports and case notes.



Some of the 1,500 volumes of case notes (1863 to 1946) in Queen Square Archives

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Newly installed shelving in the Students' Common Room is used to exhibit museum specimen jars.

1970

Assistant Librarian, Andrea Davies leaves in December.

The Library borrows items most frequently from the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, the Royal Veterinary College, the Institute of Child Health, and the National Lending Library at Boston Spa. The Library loans 220 items, including one to the National Library of Czechoslovakia.

CopyCat 220 photocopying services become essential for students and staff.

The Library gets completely redecorated, chairs and tables are repaired and cleaned.

1971

More Assistant Librarian changes: B. Richter join in January and leaves in September, replaced by B. Travers starts on (October 1971 - 1985).

Liam M. Payne, MBE, FLA, Honorary Consultant Librarian, retires after eight years in the role. No replacement is appointed.

Two Librarianship students from the Polytechnic of North London gain experience in the Library for a month.

The first copyright notice is displayed to library users.

Notwithstanding the Cold War political situation, the Library loans books to the State Libraries of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania. One item is borrowed from the State Library in Estonia, USSR.

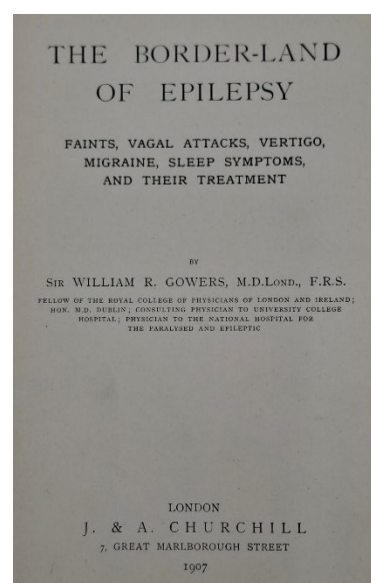
1972

There is a one hundred per cent increase in loan figures over the past seven years: from 3,814 loans in 1966 to 7,680 in 1973.

The Library gets its first cassette tape player.

The Honorary Consultant Librarian's final report, 'The RML Accommodation now and in the future' sets out calculations in square feet all of the Library's space requirements including for desks, shelving and the office.

More international links: the Medical Library Sub-Committee organises a book donation for a brand new Neurological and Neurosurgical Library opened in Denver, University of Colorado, in memory of the late Professor James Stephens. The Professor was Assistant and Registrar to James Purdon Martin, MD, FRCP at the National Hospital. Professor Stuart A. Schneck at the University of Colorado acknowledges receipt of Gowers' 'Borderland of Epilepsy: faints, vagal attacks, vertigo, migraine, sleep symptoms and their treatment' (1907).



Title page of Gowers' book, 1907

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1973

A new Drug Information Service is created jointly by the Rockefeller Medical Library and The Pharmacy of the National Hospitals.

Indexing of Hospital case notes: the Wellcome Trust's grant, providing the Assistant Librarian's salary, expires and the project is still unfinished. A further grant application is made.

A library student from Northern Polytechnic joins the team for six weeks, completing an exhaustive, annotated bibliography on writer's cramp which was presented to the Library.

1974

Beryl Bailey becomes an Associate of the Institute of Information Science (A.I.Inf.Sc.).

1,300 photocopies of articles are provided to our library users through the British Lending Library. An additional 870 items are borrowed from other libraries.

In tribute to the late June Quick, Chief Technician in the Chemical Pathology Department, a fundraiser enables a subscription to the 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' journal.

1975

Proposals for the Librarian to be appointed as Institute of Neurology (ION) Staff and under the supervision of the Institute Librarian, with the National Hospital reimbursing the ION for the salary.

Library facilities are updated with an intercom, external phone line and new lighting.

Links are established with the Librarian at the Instituto Neurologico de Colombia with the aim of exchanging books and journals.

1976

Ongoing discussions about appointing a Library Assistant but no decision is reached.

The increase in book prices generally, and costs of lending from the British Library, means fewer books are added to the collection. Gifts of books alleviate some of the gaps.

1977

No new books are bought except series on standing order.

Completion of the historical collection cataloguing but as it is all housed in the Library, space is a real problem.

Medical Librarians from Norway and Brazil visit the Library.

Maida Vale Hospital library stock and duties are reviewed by Beryl Bailey. Currently, the Secretary at MVH looks after the library there.

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Maida Vale Hospital Library [QSA/1301]

1978

Nearly 10,000 items are lent this year, which is almost double the amount recorded in the 1967/8 report.

The Librarian investigates the costs of having a Medline terminal for searches.

A considerable number of older books, mostly donated by the British Library Lending Division, are added to the collection. This is in line with the proposed policy of the Working Party on Subject Specialisation of the University of London Library Resources Co-ordinating Committee, of which the Librarian is a member.

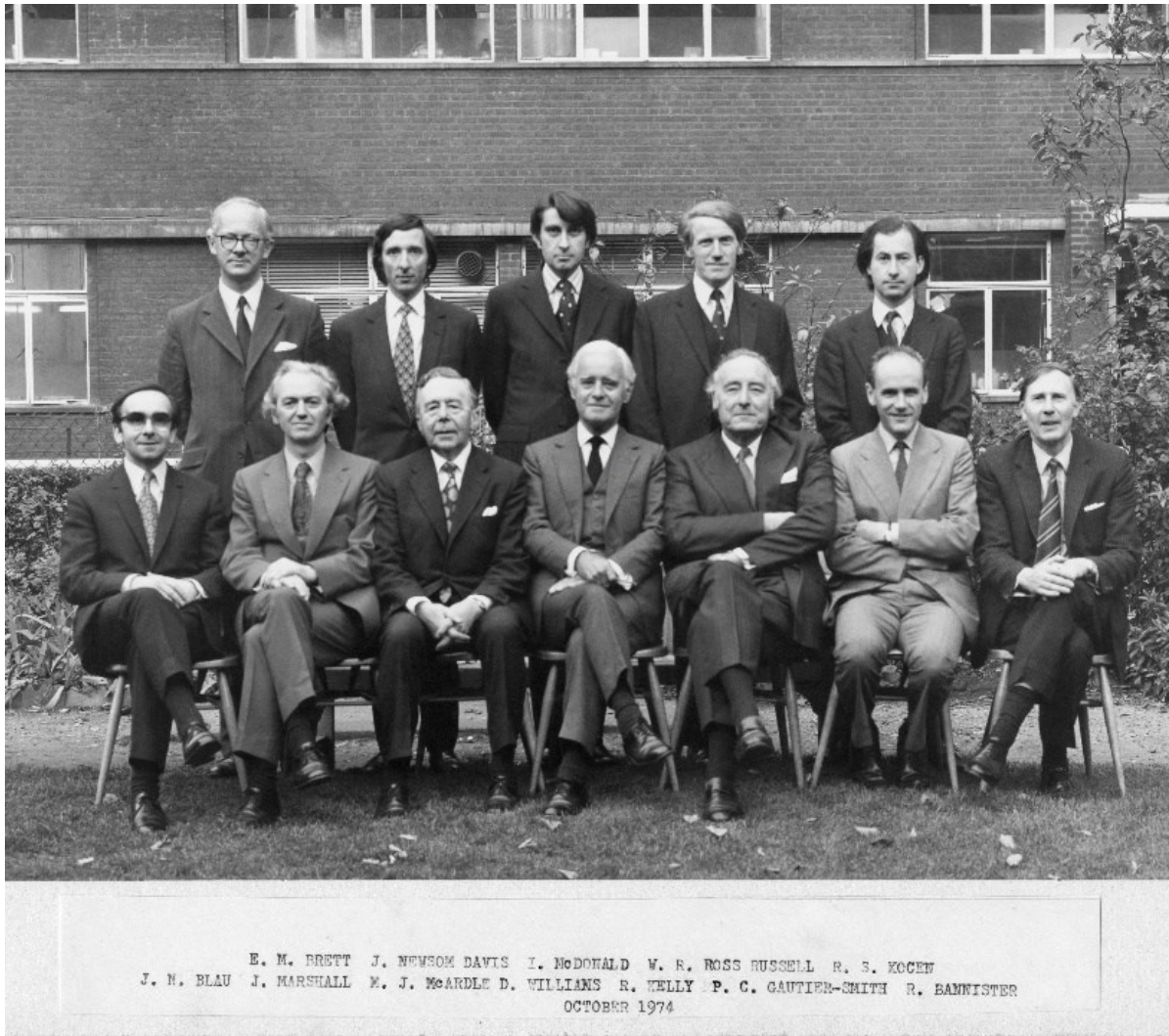
The lease of Alexandra House, Queen Square is due to expire in 1981, so discussions begin about alternative accommodation. In the meantime, library space pressures are eased with extra space being found in the basement of Alexandra House, possibly to house the growing Historical Collection.

1979

Discussions about the possible purchase of 23 Queen Square. Lack of space is an ongoing pressing issue.

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £500 for books and bookplates.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh donates some historical books, and the disbanded British Council Library gifts the Library with 85 nearly new books.



Sir Roger Bannister (end of front row, right) with other National Hospital consultants, 1974 [QSA/14035]

Sir Roger Bannister recommends the *Journal of the Autonomic Nervous System* is subscribed to a free copy is obtained. (His training and first appointment was in 1959 at the National Hospital, where he became a consultant in 1963).

Both the Librarian and Assistant Librarian reach the top of their respective salary scales. There is support for a sympathetic "upgrading in view of their greatly valued services to the Library". The Assistant Librarian offers to stay on after her retirement, and her offer is accepted.

1980

The Library loans 13,743 books, over 3,000 more books than the last academic year.

Bookbinding facilities at Chalfont Centre for Epilepsy are still used by the Library.

A further donation from the Chartered Society of Queen Square of £1,500 is given for use in buying books, etc.

1981

An offer is made on 23 Queen Square, and the freehold is purchased jointly by the University Grants Committee and the government's Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS). The Rockefeller Foundation donates £10,000 (over £40,000 in today's money, April 2026) towards the cost of converting one of the floors into the Rockefeller Medical Library. In the interim,

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23 Queen Square, London [QSA/1348]

library users go to the Royal Society of Medicine, British Medical Association, etc. The Library moves to its new quarters, from Alexandra House to the first floor of 23 Queen Square in the summer.

Postgraduate, Abdul Jhavary, who helps during vacations possibly since 1980, becomes a temporary Library Assistant to help during the library move.

Dr. Gooddy retires and relinquishes his appointment as the Honorary Medical Librarian, a role that seems to be discontinued.

1982

The introduction of the Diploma Course in the Institute results in a considerable increase in the use of the Library, especially in the first two terms. In all, over 13,000 items are issued during the year.

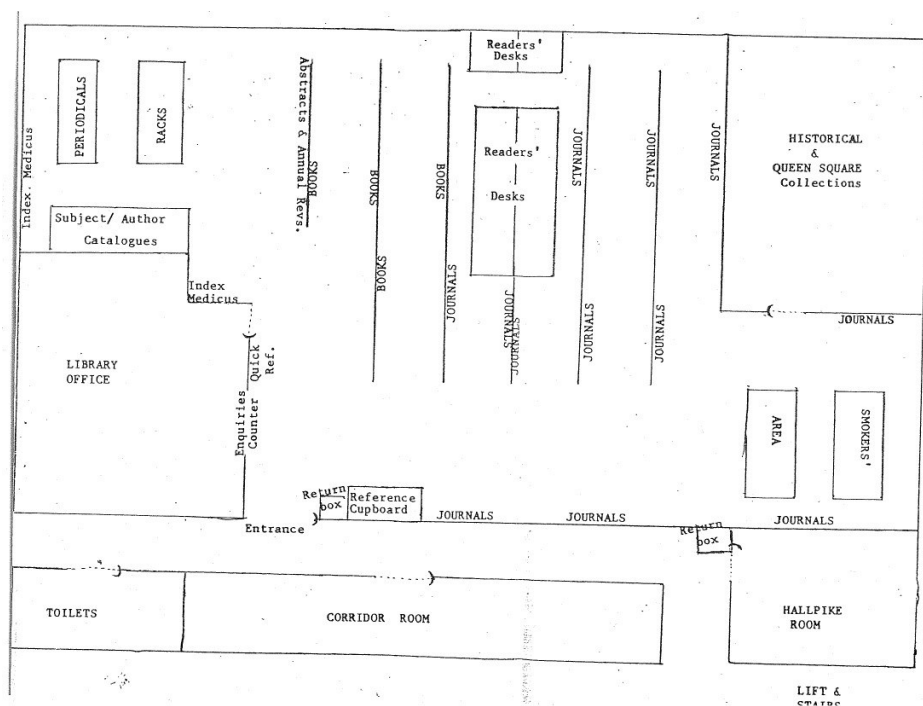
Dr. P.C. Gautier-Smith resigns as Chairman of the Medical Library Sub-Committee, and as Dean of the Institute. Professor John Marshall succeeds him.

Memorials of the late Richard Hunter and CS Hallpike: a room in the Library is dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. C.S. Hallpike, An endowment of £1,000, and other financial donations by the Hallpike family, are accepted to maintain the Hallpike collection of books and papers.

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £2,000 to the Library.

1983

The Library hosts a small memorial party with Hallpike family members in the newly named The Hallpike Room.



Library layout showing the Hallpike Room (bottom right) and smoking area
[ION QS Library Guide, c.1983 – 1988]

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The Library gets connected to the University academic computer network.

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £2,000 to the Library.

1984

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £2,500 to the Library.

Also, a donation is received from the late Dr. C. Margoles estate of about 150 books from a private collection.

The Advisor for Studies at Maida Vale Hospital joins as a new representative of the Institute's Medical Library Sub-Committee of the Academic Board (new Committee name, from December 1984 – May 1985).

Computer-aided literature searches are now possible in the Library.

The University of London's Library Resources Coordinating Committee Working Party report on 'Rationalisation of Library Resources in Bloomsbury' is published. As such, a postgraduate medical institute representative is invited to serve on the new Coordinating Committee structure.

1985

Retirement of Betty Travers, Assistant Librarian, after 13 years. Succeeded by Melissa Ford (November 1985 - 1989) who is responsible for organising the computerisation of Library Services. Abdul Jhavaray, previously a temporary assistant, is appointed as part-time permanent Library Assistant (until 2000).

The University of London's Organisation and Methods Unit's report results in changes including agreement that the Institute should employ a second professional Librarian on a three-year contract basis.

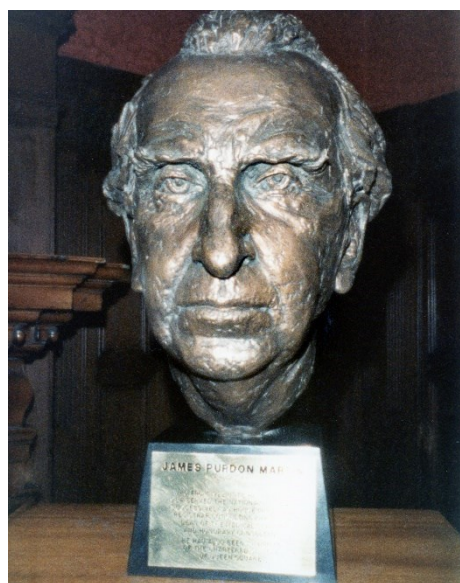
The Medical Library Committee's terms of reference are widened to include Audio-Visual aids matters. Subsequently, the Head of Medical Illustration "for appropriate items of business" is co-opted. From June, the Committee is renamed The Medical Library and Audio-Visual Services Committee. One of the first commitments made is to establish a cine, slide and video library.

Dr. Andrew J. Lees reviews the old surgical films to decide which films should be kept for archival purposes.

The bust of the late Dr James Purdon Martin, MA, MD, DSc, FRCP, presented at a memorial on 17 January in the National Hospital, commemorates 62 years of service at the Hospital. The artwork is now on display in Queen Square Library.

Almost half of the library users are from the NHS.

A photocopier is installed in the Library.



*Dr. James Purdon Martin bust, 1985
[QSA/1990]*

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1986

The Dean agrees in principle to committing the Institute to contribute financially to the new University integrated library computer system (UILCS). It would cost £2.5m over a three-year period for the University.

Journals are replaced after a fire at a bookbinders destroyed them.

A catalogue of cine films is published.

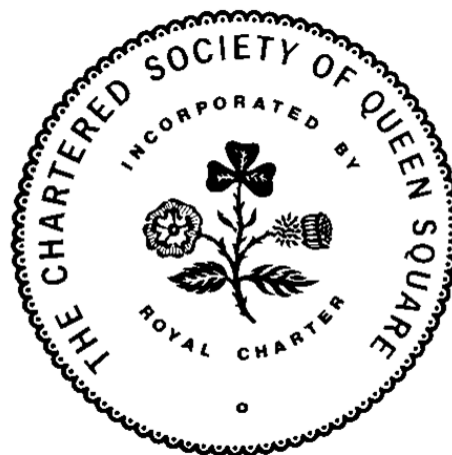
An archivist's report in 2007 indicates that prior to 1986 the historic case notes are stored in consulting room "C" in outpatients, in the National Hospital. After that, they are briefly stored in the Board Room, then in basements in a building in Wakefield Street, then below the Library, and later in Guilford Street (beneath nurses' accommodation).

1987

From 1 April, the Rockefeller Medical Library is able to offer facilities for computerised online literature searches. The databases which would be able to be accessed include Index medicine, Psycinfo and the Science Citation Index.

The possibility of obtaining the Medline database on CD-ROM becomes more likely. The Assistant Librarian is trained to do literature searches, and helps with the bibliographic work for the Esprit project (half a day per week for six months initially). Users are charged £10 for literature searches, the income of which is used to buy from Dr. Willison the Medline databases and hardware that he purchased.

Dr. D.N. Landon becomes Chairman of the Medical Library and Audio-Visual Services Committee, replacing Professor J. Marshall.



Logo of The CSQS

The Chartered Society of Queen Square (CSQS) donates £3,000. Without these generous donations, the Library would be unable to buy new books.

1988

The Rockefeller Medical Library holds some 15,000 books in stock, the Historical Collection consists of over 1,000 volumes, and there are 170 current journals, with over 200 back sets of mainly neurological journals, some incomplete.

The Library is a founder member of MISER (Medical Information, South-East Region), a group of medical libraries committed to free interlending. Over 500 items are lent to others, mostly through MISER.

Nearly 60 online searches (presumably literature searches) are done during the year.

A direct phone line to the Librarian's office is installed, so calls presumably are no longer routed via the National Hospital switchboard.

The Library becomes a no smoking area.

Proposals to move the Library to Queen Square House are supported by the Institute's Academic Board and the National Hospital. However, the Library remains at 23 Queen Square.

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A generous bequest in memory of Dr. Michael Kremer (Chairman of the Library Committee 1954-1962) for £4,700 is spent on equipment e.g. CD-ROM hardware and library shelving. An area in the Library is set aside as a memorial to him. The bequest is worth about £15,244 in today's money (April 2026).

In July, the National Hospital agrees to contribute an additional £1,500 per annum towards the Library's running costs reflecting "the considerable usage of the Library by the Hospital staff."

1989

Assistant Librarian, Melissa Ford leaves, and is replaced by M. Newman, BA, Dip Lib, joins the Library (until 1992). The Library Assistant role is made permanent after initially being created for three years.

From June, Medline on CD-ROM is installed, proving very popular as it is in almost constant use. It replaces the online search searches and enables users to do their own literature searches.

Continuation of close links with librarians of the National Hospitals College of Speech Sciences and Nursing Studies Unit in Chandler House, and other medical and scientific libraries.

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £6,000.

1990

The case for joining and implementing Libertas, the University co-operative computerised cataloguing system, begins. Seven sites within the university already adopt and use it by February 1991, making the card catalogue obsolete.

The Library has two CD-ROM databases now, Medline and Excerpta Medica Neurosciences, with both in almost continual use by staff and students.

The Library's book and journal display, "Patients' Eye View" proves popular.

The Wellcome Trust Film Library is established and holds "the "cream" of the Institute's collection". The Institute retains the copyright.

1991

S. Wells is employed to cover Abdul Jhavary's absence.

Books written and donated by authors from the Institute and National Hospital are placed in the special "Queen Square" collection.

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £3,000.

Likely first mention of an Archivist, although it's unclear as to how they are contracted to work in the Library, and by whom. A subject index for reference is available in the Library.

1992

Temporary Assistant Librarian, Gertrud F. Porter, BA, Dip Lib (January 1992 to 1994) joins the Library to cover Melissa Newman's maternity leave.

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During the year, Maida Vale Hospital Library has been completely closed, and book stock is sent to the Library in August, mostly for sale. Copies of journals could still be sent to Maida Vale by ambulance if required - along with staff being bussed from Queen Square!



*Ambulance on the turntable at Powis Place, National Hospital
- for a quick turnaround for the journals and staff! [QSA/1552]*

British Library costs are £4 (about £9 in today's money, April 2026) per interlibrary loan, £2 of which is paid by the library user. Nowadays it's free to users.

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £3,000.

1993

Part of the Department of Nurse Education Library collection merges with the Rockefeller Medical Library's.

Increasing disillusionment with Libertas. However, Reference Manager software is very popular with users.

Gertrud Porter is appointed as the Assistant Librarian for 3 years from 1 January 1993, following Melissa Newman's decision not to return to work after maternity leave.

After 27 years, Beryl Bailey retires. She is the longest serving Librarian and library staff member we have had to date.

The Chairman "wished to express his gratitude to Mrs Bailey for all that she had done over a long period of time, particularly for the way in which she had built up from small beginnings a very effective and widely-used Library. All joined in wishing her a happy retirement." Similar gratitude and praise can be found in the Queen Square Alumnus Association newsletter:

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MRS. BERYL BAILEY

Mrs. Bailey, after 27 years as Librarian of the Rockefeller Medical Library, retired this year. The high quality of the service she has provided to the Institute and Hospital, and in particular the highly effective use she made of her wide network of library contacts to obtain loans, has been highly appreciated over the years.

Praise for Beryl Bailey on her retirement [Queen Square Alumnus Association Newsletter, 1993, Iss. 6, p.2]

Recruitment for the Librarian post was highly competitive, and the advertisement "had attracted applicants of very high calibre". In the end though, Louise J. Shepherd is appointed. All Library costs to be met fifty-fifty by the Institute and Hospital for the first time. The National Hospital's General Manager becomes entitled to full membership of the Rockefeller Medical Library and Audio-Visual Services Committee (new name from June 1989 - 1996) for the first time, rather than attending by the Dean's/Chair's invitation.



A lightpen used for scanning barcodes

The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £2,500. Library staff start to use a lightpen (image left) to scan barcodes inside books, rather than using slips of paper for book circulation services.

In December, library staff help organise a very successful Reference Manager workshop at the Institute of Child Health.

1994

Library Assistant: Olive M. Falconer, SRN, CMS (June 1994 - 2000) joins after a successful career in nursing at The Royal Brompton Hospital. Assistant Librarians, Sam J. Duerden, MSc, ALA (October 1994 - 1997) and A. Thomson, MA (November 1994 - March 1995) also join the Library team, and Gertrud Porter resigns.

New software and technologies are mentioned for the first time: BIDS, Gopher (the campus information server), Word Perfect, OCLC (library management system), and E-mail.

UNICORN Collection Management System is ordered, purchased with funds agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Current library records are converted from Libertas to UNICORN by library staff adding new records and converting the card catalogue into machine readable form. Users' names are used as identifiers, barcodes for books.

The Follett Report: A Blueprint for Library/Information Provision in British Universities is published, written by Frederick W. Ratcliffe, Emeritus, University Librarian of Cambridge. Recommendations are noted.

The new design of the Library, made possible by a major refurbishment, improves accessibility, particularly to the Historical Collection.



Library refurbishment [UCL ION Annual Report 1994-1995, p.135. QSA/19005]

The Library Committee suggests an application be submitted to the Wellcome Trust to fund the services of an archivist, and possibly for some storage space. The National Hospital's historical records are being rebound whilst in the custody of the Gowers Librarian.

The National Library of Medicine's survey of journal costs by subject areas highlights Neuroscience as the third most expensive out of 114.

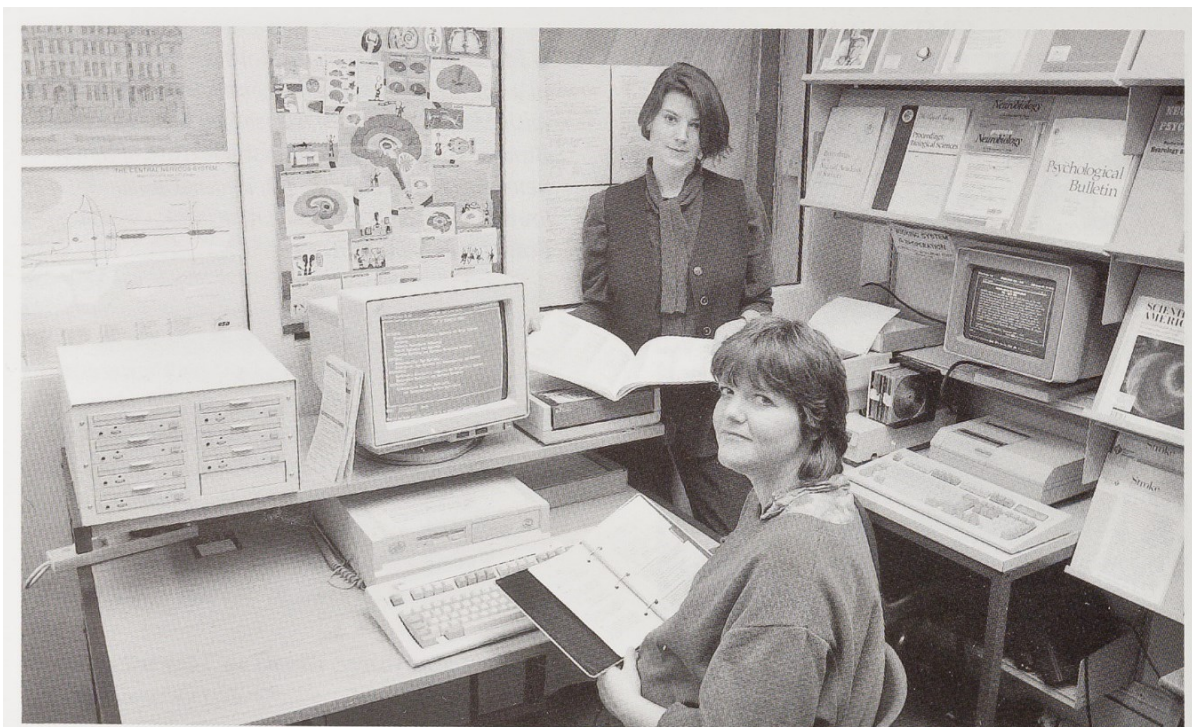
The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £2,500. Over the 18 years since 1979, the organisation generously donated at least £34,500 (in today's money equivalent to about £94,000 in total or over £5,200 a year).

The Library is also indebted to the *Brain* editorial office for donations.

1995

The Library takes part in what becomes a very popular trial of networked access to Medline databases across the Institute's network by Institute and Hospital users. Managed by UCL, the full service is known as ARC (Academic Reference Centre), and is provided by SilverPlatter. The Library becomes the first UK customer in September 1995. The Networked Medline Service continues to be heavily used, with an average of over one thousand searches undertaken each month by Institute and Hospital users.

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Mrs Louise Shepherd and Miss Samantha Duerden use the new Medline system.

Library staff using the Medline system [UCL ION Annual Report 1993 - 1994, p.122. QSA/19004]

The Library's Online Information Service is upgraded creating seamless access across the internet to databases and information services (BIDS). Valuable support comes from the Institute's Computing and Statistics Unit. Other library services include the Library online catalogue, Reference Manager reference handling database, photocopying, and using email.

The year in stats: 9,000 bound journals, 158 current journal subscriptions, 10,000 books and monographs, the historical collection has approximately 2,700 volumes, over 25,000 visits to the Library and some 618 external visitors signed the visitors' book, 6,190 books and journals are issued and 255 new books are added to stock, and nearly 800 books and photocopies on request via the interlibrary loan service.

Discussions ongoing about the Institute and UCL's merger, and reciprocal arrangements for UCL academic staff and students. The National Hospital staff are presently excluded from this arrangement with UCL. UCL insists on the use of Libertas when work on UNICORN has already been done by the Library and is shown to be more effective.

Sam J. Duerden, Assistant Librarian, is promoted to Deputy Librarian some time in 1995/6. It's the first time the Library has anyone in this role.

A. Thomson leaves the team in March.

The Gowers Library (for patients) is transferred to the main Hospital site. Responsibility for the display case of small artefacts and contents falls to the Gowers Librarian.

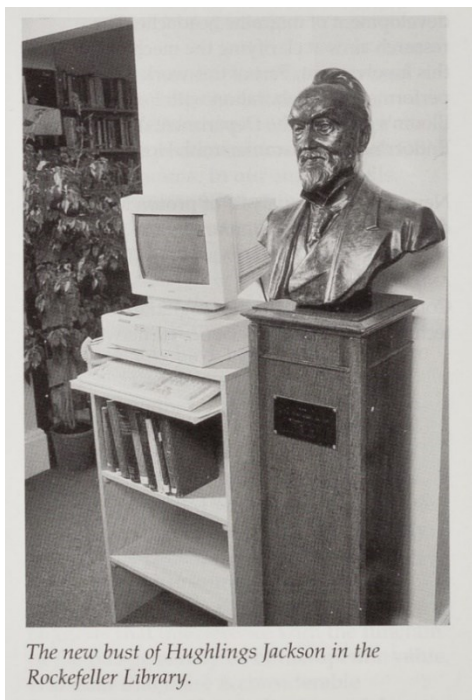
The Chartered Society of Queen Square donates £2,500.

1996

The Library participates in its first trial of electronic journals. It also becomes a trial site for the Ariel document delivery project, digitally transferring articles between participating sites.

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The Library gets its first ever internet entry on the Institute's website, detailing Library services, the journals' list and ejournals' sites.



The new bust of Hughlings Jackson in the Rockefeller Library.

*Bust of John Hughlings Jackson
[UCL ION Annual Report 1995-1996, p.70.
QSA/19006]*

Soon after, the Library's first webpage is published with almost 300 hits in just under three weeks. Feedback is very positive. The ejournals section rapidly expands.

A new catalogue partnership with the Institute of Child Health Library, with the entire collection detailed, and hyperlinks to e-documents and sources.

The Institute-UCL negotiations continue: "...UCL staff envisaged that over the next few years the various libraries involved would adopt similar policies and practices. Louise Shepherd had advised that the Rockefeller Library would not change current arrangements without the agreement of the appropriate Institute committees."

The Library becomes the recognised specialist Library for Neurology in the University of London. Library staff are involved in a variety of working parties and committees to promote co-operation between UCL medical libraries.

A bust of John Hughlings Jackson is placed in the Library.

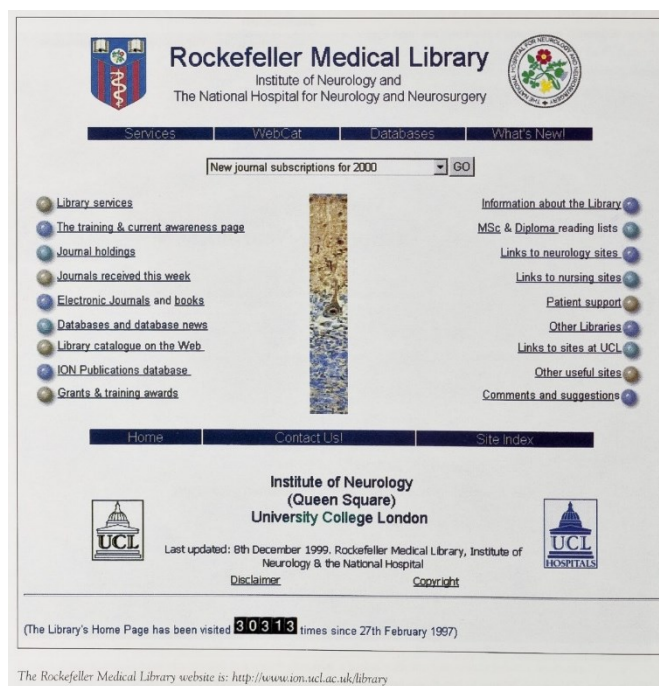
In conjunction with the National Hospital archivist, ways of preserving and digitising the most important items in our collections are underway. A printed guide of the collection and its contents is newly available.

Librarian Louise Shepherd presents her three-year Library plan, comprising twelve strategic aims which are excitingly ambitious, wide-ranging, and user- and tech-focused.

1997

Library opening hours are extended until 8 p.m. three nights a week.

During the academic year, 35,380 visits to the Library are logged, an increase of over a third on the year before. Usage is expected to increase further with the establishment of the UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at Alexandra House, Queen Square, in October 1998.



*The Library's first webpage as shown on 27 February 1997
[UCL ION Annual Report 1998-1999, p.82. QSA/19009]*

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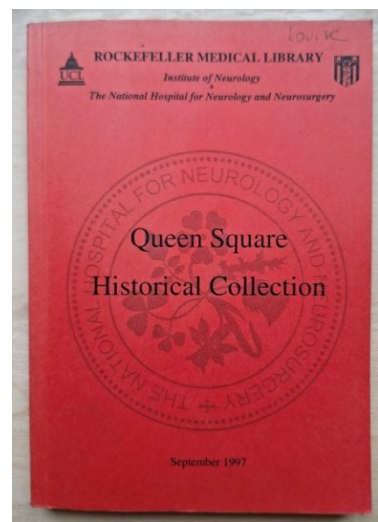
A popular series of seminars, arranged by the Library and the Computing and Statistics Unit, on 'How to use email' and 'Searching the internet' are regularly organised.

'Queen Square Historical Collection' is published, a 251 page complete list of publications (image left).

1998

Deputy Librarian, Samantha Duerden leaves in May, replaced by Sam Martin (until 2000).

Library Assistant, Deborah A. Parsons, MA joins the team (September 1998 - 2000).



Librarian, Louise Shepherd's copy

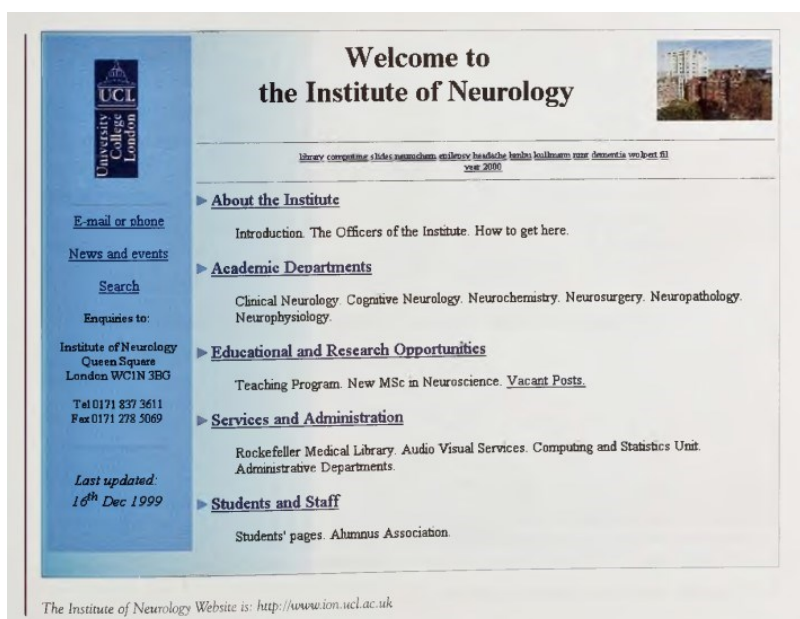
Developments on the Library's projects includes:

- Upgrades of the existing staff publications database to allow internet access.
- Establishing new current awareness and literature search services, and a document delivery services to the Alumni.
- Setting up a new and unique patient support database linking information on over 150 neurological support groups and charities.
- A complete re-write and redesign of the Library's webpages.
- Setting up the new LibInfo library e-mail list.

During the year, 45,133 visits to the Library are logged, nearly 700 external visitors signed our visitors' book, over 7,200 items are issued, and the total number of registered users for the year topped 1,500 for the first time.

1999

Total referrals to the Library's webpages since February 1997 reach 63,000 with the main page receiving over 3,500 hits per month. The Library website is referred to on more than 50 external websites.



*UCL ION homepage: Rockefeller Medical Library appears under Services and Administration, 16 December 1999
[UCL ION Annual Report 1998-1999, p.8. QSA/19009]*

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Totals this year: 40,530 visits to the Library, 768 external visitors, 7,373 items issued to 1,796 registered users.

The collections consist of 18,500 bound journals, 180 active journal subscriptions, 11,000 books and monographs, and 3,000 volumes in the Historical Collection.

2000

Deputy Librarian: Ingrid Aubry, BA, ALA (June 2000 - 2002) replaces Sam Martin. Debbie Parsons leaves in summer 2000, succeeded in November by Jackie Cheshire as a Library Assistant.

One of the year's major activities is on providing support for the Institute's submission to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) Research Assessment Exercise. (This took place approximately every 4-5 years on behalf of the four UK higher education funding councils to assess the quality of research undertaken by British higher education institutions).

Another major focus this year are the discussions about the merger of libraries with UCL. [The evidenced policy response](#) written on behalf of the Librarians of the Institutes of Child Health, Neurology, Ophthalmology and the Eastman Dental Institute, sets out to:

1. “describe our main concerns regarding the current policy as it is set out.
2. respond to some of the issues raised by the College Librarian, in his recent communications.
3. offer an alternative to the merger policy document issued by the College Librarian.”

Concerns include:

1. “Library staff on the sites would be less experienced and fewer in number
2. A large central administration will necessarily be far less responsive than is currently the case.
3. In centralising reporting lines the excellent relationships between libraries and users will be lost.
4. The flexibility and responsiveness in applying non-book funds would also be lost.
5. It is likely that the site library will not benefit fully from any savings made.
6. It is very important that any service level agreement between UCL and the associated NHS Trusts maintains the financial and strategic links currently in place between Institute Libraries and their associated NHS Trusts.”

The response notes “the long history of collaboration between both the Institute libraries themselves, and between libraries across all sectors serving biomedicine” and the growing moves to greater interdependence – e.g. services, technology, resources, knowledge sharing. Ultimately, the specialist health libraries call for “the general principles of collaboration, co-ordination and communication between all UCL libraries be encouraged and supported ... to ensure this process can proceed for the benefit of all libraries and users ...[and recognising] that excellence and quality of service on all sites are of paramount importance”.

2001

Part-time staff members, Abdul Jhavary and Olive Falconer both retire, and in September Sara Golding replaces them. This brings the total to four full-time Library staff.

Library staff take part in the Queen Square Open Day in June, with the Library hosting an exhibition of photographs, artefacts and documents illustrating the history and development of the Hospital and Institute. To coincide with the Open Day, the Library also holds a major sale of duplicate stock. The sale raises nearly £5,000 (equivalent to about £11,000 in 2026),

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establishing the Marsden Memorial Book Fund which funds vital conservation of some of the archive's rarest books and pays for new historical acquisitions.

Collaborative activities and projects include:

- UCL-wide training sessions covering information on neurosciences
- Mapping and improving access to printed biomedical material, with the Wellcome Trust Library
- Improving access to patient information
- Providing digital access to course materials
- Establishing a service level agreement between UCL and the associated NHS Trusts.



Selection of Annual Report covers published in the UCL ION Annual Report 2000 - 2001

2002

Ingrid Aubry resigns, and Kate Brunskill joins as the Deputy Librarian. Kate is the Library's longest serving Deputy Librarian.

Institute Librarian, Louise Shepherd becomes responsible for the Institute's Computing Services from January.

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The collections consist of 526 metres of journals, 174 active print journal subscriptions, over 700 ejournals, 12,000 books and monographs, and 3,500 volumes in the Historical Collection.

Analysis of the Library's twentieth century books, carried out as part of the Mapping Medicine project, reveals 91% of those books are unique to this Library compared with the collections of seven other London-based medical and healthcare libraries.



New rolling stacks [ION Annual Report 2001-2002, p.59]

In August, the library store is fully refurbished, and a new roof, air conditioning and mobile shelving are installed. This enables in-house storage of some of the rare collections.

The Nursing Collection is overhauled resulting in 97 new books and a 42% increase in books loaned to nursing staff.

NHS Trust PCs are set up in the Library. A new Trust-wide umbrella website is created providing information access about five libraries which serve the UCLH Trust.

2003

The first issue of the Library's LibInfo Bulletin for library users is created and circulated. The inaugural issue covers impact factors on the web, searching to see how many times your papers have been cited, and UCL Athens accounts. The last bulletin is published in March 2011.

2004

Upgrades to the library management system and catalogue, and a redesign of the library website improves navigation and use.

2005

Sara Golding leaves in September, but returns later from October 2012 until May 2013. Vanessa Wan joins as a Library Assistant.

Changes to document delivery charges from January 2005. Since 1993 the Library charged £3 per request for items obtained from other Libraries, regardless of the actual cost to the Library. Following the significant disposal of non-specialist print journals in July 2004 and some concern about charges for copies of articles that were once held in the Library, the new revised charges for document delivery are £1 for items requested from UCL libraries and £4 for items requested from other libraries.

2006

The collections consist of about 500 metres of journals, 154 current print journal subscriptions, access to over 4,000 full text electronic journals (the majority via UCL Library and NHS Core



Rockefeller Library staff - clockwise, Miss Sara Golding, library assistant, Ms Jackie Cheshire, library assistant, Ms Kate Brunskill, deputy librarian, Ms Louise Shepherd, Librarian.

Library staff [ION and National Hospital Annual Report 2006, p.80]

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Content), approximately 40 bibliographic databases covering a broad range of biomedical and health care subjects, 12,000 books, and a unique historical collection of 3,500 volumes.

The full review of print stock results in growth space for five more years of print material.

Plans are underway to introduce wireless access in the Library for the first time, to the UCL's network RoamNet.

In June, the Library is accredited for the services provided to the National Hospital, as part of a national accreditation program. The accreditation is carried out by a panel of assessors who review documentation and visit Queen Square to assess the Library, interview Library staff and meet with a selection of Library users. The Library is awarded a 2 rating (the rating scale is 0-3). The report's summary reads:

"The Queen Square Library team, who demonstrate a "can do" approach, provide an excellent service to Queen Square staff. The Library team now need to focus on marketing (as opposed to promoting) their contribution to organizational development and patient care".

Four boxes of papers in the Library belonging to James Taylor and John Hughlings Jackson are reviewed and catalogued by Professor George York (University of California, Davis). Professor York identifies some 45 unpublished manuscripts by Hughlings-Jackson, including a transcribed notebook, and many papers containing notes and comments in Hughlings Jackson's hand. There are plans to digitise the most important papers to ensure that they are available to as wide an audience as possible.



*Examples of typescripts and pages of Hughlings Jackson's writings, many of which are unpublished
[ION and National Hospital Annual Report 2006, p.80]*

2007

NeuroInfo, the Library's first blog (neurolib.blogspot.com), is created. It includes news on the topics of neurology, neuroscience and related areas, sending an alert to subscribers each time a new item is added.

Published in December 2006, but taken forward in 2007, 'A review of the library services of University College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust' (UCLH), by John Thornhill (BA, MCLIP, Information Management Consultant) reports on the library services to the eight sites of UCLH. Key highlights for this Library include funding of £47,987 from the National Hospital, Library Accreditation by the Strategic health Authority showed the Library's services were "extremely

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

good”, the strength of the specialist collection with many unique items, and the “strong tradition of serving NHS and Institute staff equally without question, seeing themselves very much as a joint library ... reflected in the positive attitude of the Hospital and services of the Library.”

Areas to work on include, for example, further work to identify and engage with non-user groups, more assertive marketing (not just promotion) of the wide range of library activity and contributions to Trust and site objectives, additional staffing cover for evenings, and reviewing the needs of a range of disabled users (not just those with mobility issues).

2008

On 21 September, “The Lovely Ladies of the Library” walk six of London’s Bridges to raise funds for the UK’s first Brain Tumour Unit at Queen Square. The event is part of the Walk Around the World for Brain Tumours campaign to raise awareness about brain tumours. The mileage walked by “The Lovely Ladies” contributes to the World Walk target of circling the earth three times at the Equator (75,000 miles or 120,000 km).



‘The Lovely Ladies of the Library’ and friend on the fourth London bridge

The lost revision of Volume 2 of the third edition of the *Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System* by Sir William Gowers is rediscovered in the archive.

2009

Vanessa Wan leaves as Library Assistant, and Louise Ashton is appointed in her place.

Plans are progressed for a refurbishment of the first floor at 23 Queen Square which aims to build a new and improved library and museum space.

2010



Jackie Cheshire working in the Library’s temporary home in CAMLIS, Queen Square

A £1 million major redesign and refurbishment takes place over the first half of the year, generously supported by The Brain Research Trust and The National Brain Appeal. Library and Archive services are delivered temporarily from the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine’s Complementary and Alternative Medicine Information and Library Service (CAMLIS). This is situated on the ground floor of the hospital in Queen Square.

In June, the Library reopens as the place you can see today. (Here’s a virtual tour of the Library: <https://lccos.ucl.ac.uk/library/articulate/queen-square-library-tour/story.html>)

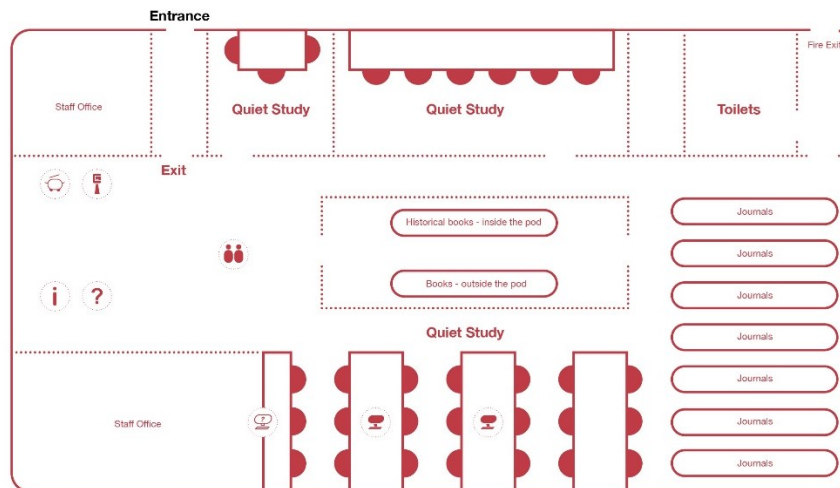
The Library’s name is changed to Queen Square Library, Archive and Museum. The ‘Museum’ part is dropped in due course.

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

An inaugural exhibition covers the founding and early years of the National Hospital.

From the start of the new academic year, there is a small training room for sessions to help users learn new information skills and improve their existing skills.

UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology Queen Square Library Floor Plan



2011

On 6 January, the first Archives Committee meeting takes place. Its full name, initially, is the National Hospital for Neurology and Neuroscience Archives Committee.

The last LibInfo Bulletin is published and circulated to users in March.

Martin Woodward joins as the Archivist, to catalogue case notes, digitise minutes and annual reports, etc. with the support of staff and archive volunteers.

2012

Louise Shepherd retires, having been the Librarian since 1993.

Louise Ashton, Library Assistant, and Martin Woodward, Archivist, also leaves. Sara Hodges née Golding returns until May 2013.

The Library's Annual Report states for the first known time that the Library manages the Queen Square Archive and Museum.

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

2013

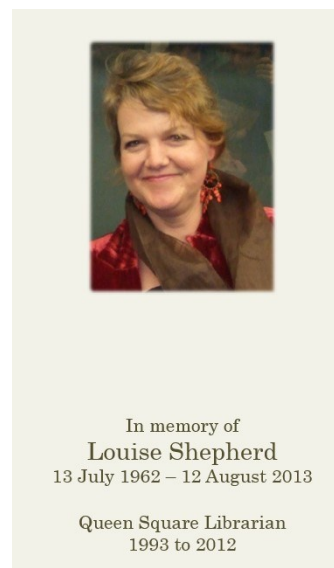
Sarah Lawson joins as Head of Queen Square Library in April. Rossana Rizzo takes up her post as Information Assistant in May. Sadly, Louise Shepherd passes away on 12 August (funeral programme, left).

The Library delivers 59 training sessions, with 564 attendees, and provides 160 interlibrary loans. Over 250 NHNN staff are registered with the Library, making nearly 1,000 loans (over 5,500 loans were made in total). There are over 23,800 visits to the Library, and over 80,000 visits to the website.

A Library Twitter account is set up.

The Library redesign is shortlisted for a Library design award by SCONUL (Society of College, National and University Libraries).

In August, a photographic exhibition showcases images from the National Hospital's archives (which are housed in and managed by Queen Square Library) about the Hospital's foundation and development.



Inside Library's 'the Pod' - the historical collection and Hughlings Jackson's chair

2014

The Library team implements the central UCL reading list system. They also contribute to UCL Libraries' participation in the [UK Medical Heritage Library digitisation project](#) co-ordinated by Wellcome and JISC. Over 400 rare books are digitised and accessible online.

The Library year in numbers: the Library delivers 67 training sessions, with over 750 attendees, including over 300 National Hospital staff. Over 320 National Hospital staff are registered with the Library, making 1,100 loans (over 6,000 loans were made in total). There are over 27,000 visits to the Library, over 150 Inter-Library loans, 82,000 visits to the website, over 200 tweets and over 270 Twitter followers.

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

Other Queen Square Archives material is digitised and accessible online including the National Hospital's Committee minutes up to 1948, the National Hospital and Institute annual reports, the remaining medical staff records and Hospital plans, and The National Brain Appeal's newsletter archive.



Sarah Lawson, Head of Queen Square Library and Archives, collects the Silver Award certificate for the Green Impact initiative 2014

Archives enquiries continued to increase, from across the world, with over 200 image requests and over 300 items consulted by over 130 visitors in 70 visits. This includes a return visit from a group of students from USA studying shell shock. Archives materials are displayed at the 40th Anniversary of the annual Queen Square Fair in July, and as part of [Explore your Archive](#) national campaign week in November.

The Library is awarded Silver for the UCL's Green Impact initiative 2013-2014.

2015

In February, the Library presents its first Fairtrade Week display, 'Green Things'.

22 June: renaming of the archive "pod" as The Louise Shepherd Room to mark the unveiling and the fifth anniversary of the reopening of the Library. A new commemorative plaque in Louise's memory takes pride of place and members of Louise's family (below) and many colleagues join the event.



Filmed November, a new [Queen Square Library video](#) features interviews with students and staff of Queen Square. It is launched January 2016.

The Library wins the platinum award in the UCL's Green Impact initiative.

2016

Jackie Cheshire retires in May after 16 years as a Library Assistant. In October, Library Assistant, Sandra Bamborough joins the Library team.

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026



The Library Committee is reinstated, with its first meeting taking place in July 2016, with reps from across all user groups.

Also during Summer, an RFID (electronic security tag) self-service system for book loans, renewals and returns is installed as part of phase three of the self-service rollout in UCL Libraries (image left).

Digitisation of archives material includes Gowers case notes, letters, and journals. Plus there are a number of donations includes case notes from the former National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) library, and relating to the history of nursing education at the National Hospital.

The Library hosts several exhibitions, including 'Embroidered Minds: William Gowers & the Morris Family' and 'Manhandling the brain: Psychiatric Neurosurgery in the Mid-20th Century: An art and archive installation'.

The Library's first video is produced, in liaison with Bespoke Archives Digitisation, promoting Queen Square Library and Archives. It features interviews with a diverse range of user groups.

Queen Square Library and Archives also features in a number of videos:

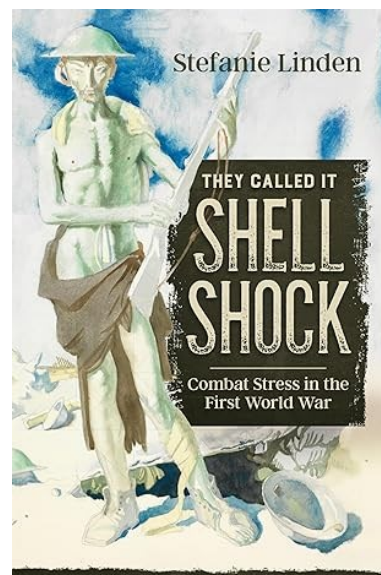
- BBC Horizon: My Amazing twin. Filmed November 2015. Broadcast in August 2016
- [Interview with National Hospital consultant Jeremy Chataway](#). Filmed April 2016. Launched July 2016.

2017

The Library hosts an exhibition commemorating the centenary of Sir Victor Horsley's death, in liaison with UCL Special Collections.

The Library and Archive features in a number of videos:

- [Brain Research Trust](#) - highlighting their 2017 rebrand. Filmed February 2017. Launched April 2017.
- [Mentored by a Madman: The William Burroughs Experiment](#): A conversation with A.J. Lees and Mike Zandi. Filmed February 2017. Launched April 2017.
- Interview with [National Hospital consultant Jeremy Chataway](#). Filmed December 2016. Launched May 2017.



Book cover

This year also sees the publication of *'They Called It Shell Shock: Combat Stress in the First World War'* by Stefanie Linden, a regular Queen Square Archives user, whose book makes extensive reference to our archived case notes.

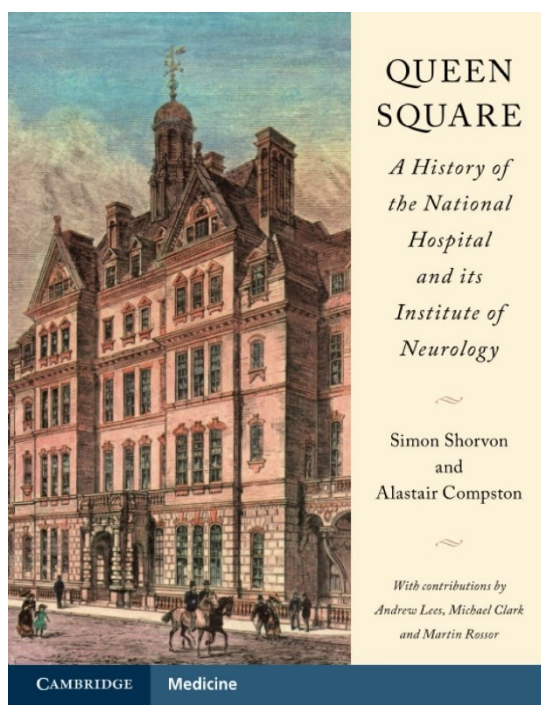
Library staff collaborate with the UCLH librarians' group colleagues to co-ordinate UCLH Library publicity materials, webpages, a postcard and participation in the group's stall at the UCLH research open day in July.

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

2018

The Library continues to review delivery of induction and training, creating new learning materials within Moodle for the benefit of Distance Learning (DL) students, extending the monthly rolling training programme to include Mendeley, and contributing to the development of a new course for the Doctoral School 'Introduction to Search Strategies for Systematic Reviews of Interventions'.

Filming for a BBC2 shell shock programme – for broadcast in November to mark the centenary of the end of WW1 - takes place in January. It includes Dan Snow interviewing Stefanie Linden, author of *'They Called It Shell Shock: Combat Stress in the First World War'*.



Front cover of Shorvon and Compston's book, 2018

Volunteers complete case note indexing from 1931-1945 (totalling over 14,000 cases).

The Library also supports *'Queen Square: A History of The National Hospital and its Institute of Neurology'* written by Professors Simon Shorvon and Andrew Compston published in October, by hosting a launch event (20 November), and facilitating a talk at Camden Local Studies and Archives in June 2019.

Two days in November are devoted to the launch of the new Queen Square history book, and to marking the 'NHS at 70' with a Library tour, Explore Your Archive Open Day, and a tea party. The Library also hosts an event as part of its annual Pyjama Party campaign fundraising for The National Brain Appeal.

2019

Headway Cambridgeshire visit to use archive materials for their IMPACT! Brain Injuries and WWI exhibition and their thirtieth anniversary in July 2019.

We host a number of filming/radio programmes which showcase our Archives – including *'D for diagnosis'*, broadcast on Radio 4 in July.

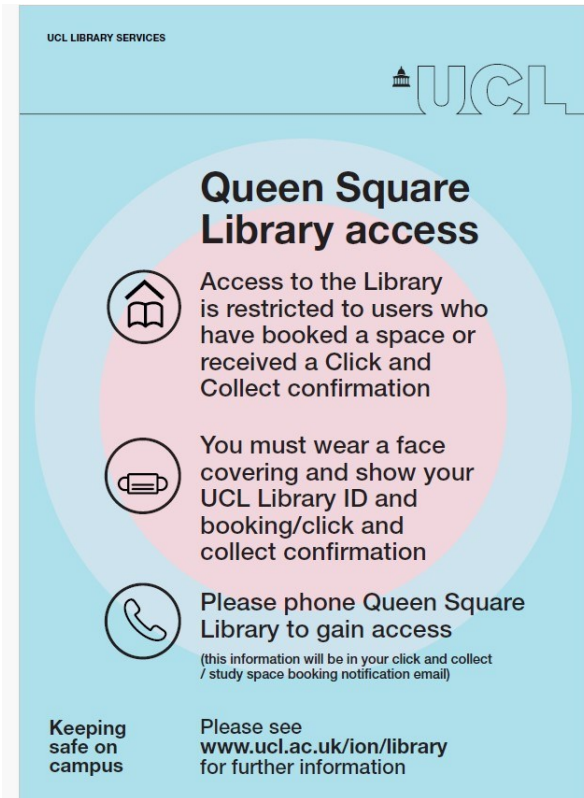
Volunteers complete case note indexing from 1863-1945 (over 10,000 cases indexed this year).

2020 - 2021

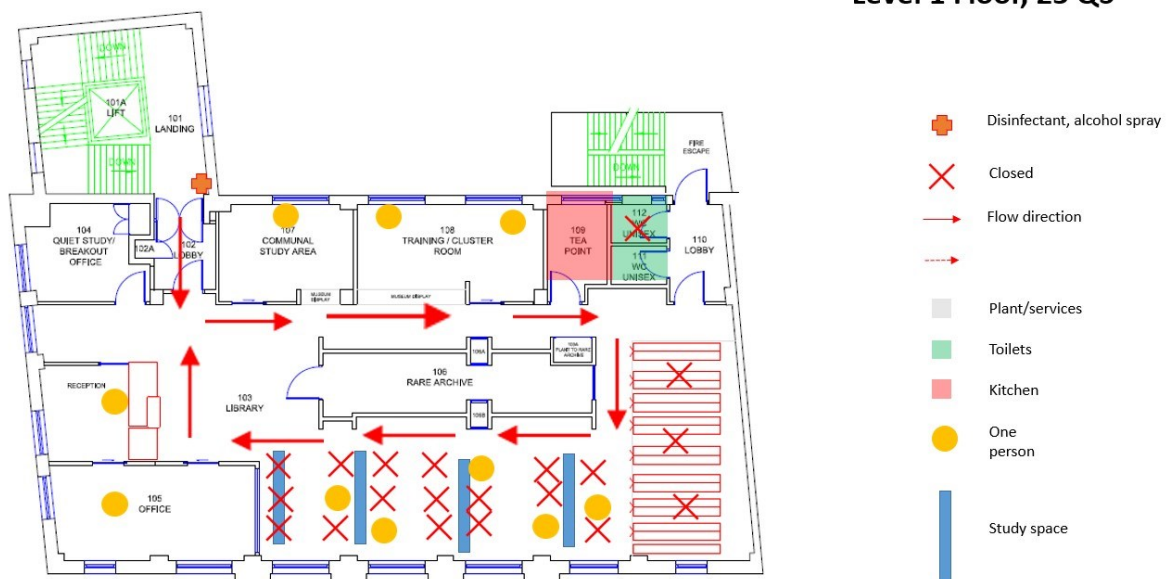
The COVID pandemic shuts down the physical Library from mid-March until Autumn 2020, but services continue. Library staff work from home and continue to provide services remotely.

The Library reopens for pre-booked study space and Click and Collect from October - December 2020 and again from late April - July 2021. Opening hours are reduced, and a one-way system around the Library means it is no longer possible to drop in and browse. (See images below).

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026



Level 1 Floor, 23 QS



Top: UCL and UCLH posters, 2020; above: The one-way system, and closed desks and areas in the Library, 2020

Library projects and activities include:

- Contributing to the development of a suite of new online guides and training materials in readiness for online-only delivery in Autumn term 2020, in collaboration with other trainers. For example, recording a series of videos to pivot the delivery of the *Introduction to Search Strategies for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* course to online format.
- Planning for the reopening of study spaces for Autumn 2020, including designated bookable study spaces for UCLH, and a “Click and Collect” book borrowing service.

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- Creation of a virtual library tour.
- Implementation of Gallagher card system at Queen Square Library and online membership so we can create UCL Library cards for UCLH staff.
- Implementing Libcal booking system for our information skills training, as part of a wider Library Services project.
- Installation of desktop@ucl desks
- LibAnswers enquiry management system.
- piloting an online Library chat service, and volunteered to fill several slots on the weekly rota across campus.
- [Film footage of Queen Square staff in 1930s](#)
- Installation of new security systems, e.g. CCTV, new motion detectors, and panic alarm.

The Library Skills Team, including Deputy Librarian, Kate Brunskill, is awarded the UCL Provost Education Award for outstanding response to a pandemic.

The Library's Twitter account sees huge increases in followers and engagement (1,400 followers and over 130,000 impressions, versus 50,000 in 2019-20) and there are over 40,000 page views of the Library website. There are over 23,000 page views of the Queen Square Archives website (an increase of over 25%), with over 60 images supplied.

Virtual content for our planned Second World War display at the National Hospital ties in with 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2020. It includes a video presenting a brief history of the Hospital, requested by Camden Local Studies and Archives:

<https://queensquare.org.uk/archives/interesting>.



Promoting the Queen Square Library induction tours, 2016

Queen Square Library and Archives History 1888 – 2026

2022

In April, the Library organises and hosts *Shell Shock Beyond the War – A European perspective* international symposium.

Retirement in April of Sandra Bamborough, and welcome Jennifer Milligan as Information Assistant. In October, Rossana Rizzo leaves the team.

2023

Urszula Skiba joins the team as the new Information Assistant in March.



Sarah, Jennifer, Kate and Urszula - the daytime library team 2023

2024

The Library implements UCL's Scan and Send service, and supports the Institute's first undergraduate course, BSc Human Neuroscience.

Jennifer Milligan, Information Assistant, leaves in April.

2025

In January, Irina Smith leaves, and in June, Carl Banks joins as an Information Assistant.

The Library's Twitter account is closed down. Instead, the Library joins the UCL Health Libraries account on BlueSky: @uclhealthlibraries.bsky.social.



The Library joins BlueSky

2026

UCL 200 celebrations marking UCL's bicentenary, coincide with ION 75, marking 75 years of the Institute of Neurology. Anniversary highlights include providing archive images for Professor Simon Shorvon's new book about the Institute's history, and for a film about ION, and a display in QSL about the updated and extended history of Queen Square Library and Archives.

July 2026