



**BODLEIAN**  
LIBRARIES  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## **OXFORD LIBRARY 700 CONFERENCE 2020**

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

#OxfordLibrary700

2020 marks the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the decision to build the first purpose-built central Library for the University of Oxford. In 1320 Adam de Brome, the Rector of St Mary's Church began the construction of a building to house a new library for the use of students in the University, at the expense of Thomas de Cobham, Bishop of Worcester. The new building was also to house a gift of his books, which were to be chained, and made available to students. Since then the central University library has gone through an amazing history of growth, reduction, attack and renewal, especially through the re-founding of the library in 1602 by Sir Thomas Bodley.

Today the Bodleian Libraries embrace all the centrally-funded libraries of the University, with physical collections well in excess of 13 million volumes, and with digital collections and services of great size and scope. The Bodleian serves the academic community of the University of Oxford, and since its refounding by Sir Thomas Bodley, also serves the international community of scholarship.

The 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary gives an opportunity to reflect on the role that libraries have played and continue to play in society. The conference will therefore consider the past, present and future of libraries in this broad context and will gather academics from relevant disciplines, leading practitioners from the world of libraries and archives, and specialists from the world of media, science, and communication to discuss and debate the place of libraries.

### **WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER**

2.00-6.00pm

A short introductory video will be available for participants to view ahead of the conference

2.00-2.15pm: **Welcome by Richard Ovenden OBE, Bodley's Librarian**

#### SESSION 1

'A library was ...' Looks at the history and development of libraries from the ancient world to the end of the twentieth century. How would the world have been different if there had been no libraries?

2.20-2.50pm Keynote: **Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor, Emeritus, University Librarian, Harvard University**

*'The Library of Alexandria and Libraries, their Distant Past and Near Future'*

2.50-3.00pm **BREAK**

*PANEL DISCUSSION 1*

3.00-3.20pm **David Rundle, Lecturer in Latin and Palaeography, Centre of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Kent**

*'The Fourth will last forever': 'Bodleians' before Bodley'*

3.25-3.45pm **Tom Beaumont James MBE, Professor Emeritus, University of Winchester**

*'Bodley's first Librarian, Thomas James'*

3.45-4.00 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

4.00-4.15pm **BREAK**

*PANEL DISCUSSION 2*

4.15-4.35pm **Alexander Bevilacqua, Assistant Professor of History, Williams College**

*'The Bodleian: An Islamic Library in Oxford?'*

4.40-5.00pm **Marina Rustow, Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in Near East, Director of the Princeton Geniza Lab, Princeton University**

*'Hebrew manuscripts, the Cairo Geniza and the Bodleian's right of first refusal'*

5.00-5.30pm **PANEL DISCUSSION AND MODERATED QUESTIONS**

END OF DAY ONE

**THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER**

2.00-6.00pm

A short introductory video will be available for participants to view ahead of the conference

2.00-2.15pm **Welcome by Prof Anne Trefethen, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for People and Gardens, Libraries and Museums, University of Oxford**

SESSION 2

'A library is ...' Considers the current position of libraries and archives in society, what difference do they make?

2.15-2.45pm: Keynote: **Alberto Manguel, writer and former National Librarian of Argentina**

*'The Library as wishful thinking'*

2.50-3.00pm **BREAK**

## PANEL DISCUSSION 1

3.00-3.20pm: **David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States**

*'The Diffusion of Knowledge: The Role of Libraries and Archives in Creating an Informed Citizenry'*

3.25-3.45pm: **Nilanjana Roy, columnist and former editor**

*'Protests, pavements and libraries: the appearance, disappearance and survival of makeshift libraries in a time of global unrest'*

3.50-4.10pm: **Elisha Chiware, Library Director, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa, and Buhle Mbambo-Thata, University Librarian, National University of Lesotho**

*'Higher Education Libraries in Southern Africa: collaborations, partnerships and the future'*

4.10-4.30 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

4.30-4.45pm **BREAK**

## PANEL DISCUSSION 2

4.45-5.05pm: **Sandra Collins, National Librarian of Ireland**

*'The National Library of Ireland and the role of National libraries today'*

5.10-5.30pm: **Jessica Gardner, University Librarian, Cambridge University**

*'Owning the past, seizing the present'*

5.30-6.00pm **PANEL DISCUSSION AND MODERATED QUESTIONS**

END OF DAY TWO

## FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

2.00-6.00pm.

A short introductory video will be available for participants to view ahead of the conference

2.00-2.15pm Welcome by **Stephen Friend, Visiting Professor of Connected Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford**

## SESSION 3

'A library could be ...' considers the potential role of libraries in the future of society, a future where the challenge of the digital will threaten, but also provide opportunities.

2.20-2.50pm Keynote Three: **Mark Thompson, Former CEO, New York Times, former Director General, BBC**

*'Cultural Institutions and The Challenge of Digital'*

**2.50-3.00pm BREAK**

*PANEL DISCUSSION 1*

3.00-3.20pm **Eric Klinenberg, Helen Gould Shepard Professor in the Social Sciences, Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University**

*'The Library as Social Infrastructure'*

3.25-3.45pm **Shoshana Zuboff, author of *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*, and Professor Emerita Harvard Business School**

3.50-4.10pm **Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information (CNI)**

*'The Future of the Research Library: Stewardship for today and tomorrow, not just yesterday'*

4.10-4.45pm **PANEL DISCUSSION AND MODERATED QUESTIONS**

**4.45-5.00pm BREAK**

CLOSING SESSION

5.00-5.10pm **Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford**

5.10-5.30pm - TBC

5.30-6.00pm Closing Keynote: **Richard Ovenden OBE, Bodley's Librarian**

END OF CONFERENCE