

<b>Institution:</b> University of Liverpool
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 29 - English Language and Literature
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>The Department of English consists of 25 FTE permanent research-active staff, in a literature: language ratio of roughly 4:1. All staff deliver the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and work within the same administrative structure, reporting to the Head of Department (<b>Chapman</b>). Three members of staff, who have been seconded to University duties as Pro-Vice-Chancellors, are also returned within this unit. The Department is situated within the School of the Arts, which also includes Communication and Media, Philosophy, Music, and Architecture. The School of the Arts sits within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.</p> <p>Two further researchers returned here (<b>Shovlin</b> and <b>Arrington</b>) are from the Institute of Irish Studies, a multi-disciplinary centre of excellence within the University of Liverpool. The Institute is based in the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures which provides it with support similar to that provided to the Department of English by the School. <b>P. Davis</b> and <b>Billington</b>, also returned here, are members of the Centre for Research into Reading, Information and Linguistic Systems (CRILS), within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>Our research strategy focuses on the appointment, support and development of researchers of the highest calibre. Our internationally influential outputs across the range of English language and literature, our dissemination and outreach activities and our contributions and leadership within the discipline, reflect the success of this strategy. Through targeted recruitment (see section c) we actively seek to ensure wide coverage of the subject area, while building on and consolidating our established research strengths. These include: literary history from medieval to contemporary; creativity and creative writing; scholarly editing and book history; literature and religion; literature, science and medicine; philosophy of language; sociolinguistics; stylistics; history of language. Dissemination of our research to a wide audience through exhibition, broadcasting and other media work has been a key strand of our programme of activity.</p> <p>Our research achievements and key outcomes during the census period demonstrate continuity with the strategy and aspirations described in the Department's submission to RAE 2008. Many of the strongest outputs submitted in the present return, relating to the major research areas identified above, have resulted directly from the strategy described there. Our commitment to scholarly editing and editorial theory, for example, was evidenced by <b>Walsh's</b> edition of Swift's <i>A Tale of a Tub and other Writings</i> (2010) which offers a solution (referred to as 'definitive' by Tom Keymer in the <i>TLS</i>) to the special complexities of theory and practice offered by that text. <b>Walsh's</b> work on textual theory and practice in historical contexts has also yielded several further full-length articles on Steevens, Johnson, Malone, and others. <b>Everest's</b> edition of the <i>Poems</i> of Shelley (Longman Annotated English Poets series), and Bradley's edition of William James's <i>The Varieties of Religious Experience</i> by <b>Bradley</b> (2012) have also been completed within the REF 2014 period. Major editorial projects, by <b>Baines</b> and <b>Ferraro</b> (Pope), <b>M. Davies</b> (Bunyan's Church-Book) and <b>Peverley</b> (<i>Chronicle</i> of John Hardyng), continue. In the related field of book history, the AHRC-funded project to catalogue Gladstone's library at St Deiniol's, complete with annotations and marginalia, and provide a new <a href="#">publicly-accessible research resource</a> (described in 2008), is now complete.</p> <p>The Department's strengthening focus on creative writing has resulted in several major outputs, including <b>Redmond's</b> <i>MUDe</i> (2008), a book of poems adopting the form of a computer-generated Multi-User Dimension, and <b>Rees-Jones's</b> AHRC-funded chapbook <i>Falls and Finds</i> (2008), which was the genesis for <i>Burying the Wren</i> (Poetry Book Society Recommendation, shortlisted for the 2012 T.S. Eliot prize and the Welsh Book of the Year). Funding bids have been submitted to build on successful <i>Port of Call</i> Readings, making Liverpool a hub for attracting and disseminating the</p>

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work of internationally renowned poets. We are also committed to developing international and cross-disciplinary links with universities and cultural institutions, especially in the US. We will continue to draw on our growing expertise across the Department in broadcasting, travel writing and ecopoetics, running regular extracurricular seminars for students in writing for radio, travel writing and writing from nature.

We continue our commitment to research-based work aimed at a wider literary audience, as demonstrated by *The Oxford Companion to English Literature* (2009), edited by **Birch** with several associate editors in the Department, **Davis's** *Why Victorian Literature Still Matters* (2009), and **Harris's** *Romantic Moderns* (2010).

Significant publications in the area of language and philosophy have emerged in the REF period, including **Simms's** study *Hans-Georg Gadamer* (2013), and **Chapman's** *Language and Empiricism* (2008). **Hoey's** theory of lexical priming continues to generate new work inside and outside the University.

Major work produced outside the Department of English includes **Shovlin's** *Journey Westward* (2012).

Our programme of support and mentoring for both early career researchers (ECRs) and established staff has helped to ensure the timely publication of several outputs already under way during RAE 2008, including **Das**, *Renaissance Romance* (2011), **Lynall**, *Swift and Science* (2012), and **González-Díaz**, *Development of English Adjective Comparisons* (2008). Notable monographs by Corcoran (now Emeritus fellow) and John (moved institution, 2011) also came to fruition as a direct result of our support strategy.

The development and progress of our research strategy is aligned with national and international as well as with internal priorities and drivers. Since RAE 2008, we have actively invested in areas of English Language and Literature that are recognised as globally significant. Creative Writing was an area still under development in the Department in 2008, but recent strategic staff appointments reflect our developing commitment to these areas. Strong outputs from ECRs, such as **Lampropoulou's** *Direct Speech* (2012) and **Parmar's** *Reading Mina Loy's Autobiography* (2013), reflect this renewed focus. We continue to foster and encourage collaboration and interdisciplinary research through prominent placement of research active staff at all levels of seniority in leadership roles in University-wide research centres and groupings. These include long-standing collaborations with the Liverpool Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (LCMRS) (**Rudd, Peverley**); Eighteenth-Century Worlds (**Baines, Lynall, Walsh**); the India in the World Research Centre (**Das**); the Gender Research Network (**Parmar, Rudd**); and other research networks (Liverpool Travel Seminar, the Slavery Studies group, and the Institute for Cultural Capital), which explore the historical expertise and resources of the region.

We also encourage collaboration across the disciplines in the School of the Arts and the Faculty. In Architecture this has resulted in an AHRC-funded doctoral research project on cityscapes; with Modern Languages, a large two-year UKIERI-funded collaborative project on 'Envisioning the Indian City' (**Das**). More widely, we foster collaborations through University-wide research themes such as Living with Environmental Change, Personalised Health, and Changing Cultures. **Rees-Jones** has undertaken collaborative research with the Institute of Ageing (via the Liverpool University Centre for Poetry and Science). **P. Davis** and **Billington** now work with the Centre for Research into Reading, Information and Linguistic Systems (CRILS), located within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, a setting particularly suited to their work on reading, therapy, and the mind. Such activities enable us to utilise the full disciplinary and interdisciplinary potentials of the University's research environment, both in areas where links already exist (philosophy, languages, film study) and developing areas, such as Architecture and the [Centre for Architecture and the Visual Arts](#).

A further strategic priority is the support of wider engagement with non-academic institutions, public- and third-sector bodies ranging from the NHS to the British Library. The Department

continues its strong research relationship with Gladstone's Library in Hawarden. CRILS works on research projects with *The Reader Organisation* (which originated in the Department and became an independent charitable organisation in 2009), cultural institutions such as the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (FACT) in Liverpool, as well as with schools, hospitals and prisons. The Department is developing links with the Liverpool Athenaeum Library to facilitate research on the Athenaeum's holdings, and to contribute to their lecture series.

We are planning over the next five years to build on our existing areas of research strength and activity, supporting and producing work of the highest quality across the full range of our changing and developing discipline. This is already exemplified in two newly appointed research-active members of full-time staff who will join us during the academic year 2013/14: Slocombe (American Literature) and Cooper (English Language), and in a new post already in plan for 2014/15 (Renaissance Literature). Forthcoming publications, to take one major area of departmental focus as an example, include such substantial editorial projects as **M. Davies's** edition of Bunyan's Church-Book (now nearing completion) and **Das's** contribution to the large-scale Oxford edition of Richard Hakluyt, both supported by institutional leave and funding, as well as external research council (AHRC) funding. We will replace departing staff, and make additional appointments, in the context of the overall staff profile of the Department, to develop and extend our current research strength and range. Priority areas in our current forward planning of appointments include language; applied language; Medieval literature; Shakespeare; drama; and creative writing.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The appointment and development of researchers at the highest level is central to the Department's research strategy.

**Strategic recruitment of researchers:** in making new appointments in the current census period we have been particularly focused on recruiting and developing the potential of early-career researchers, namely: 2011: **Bradley** (predominantly 19th-century literature) and **Loh** (20th-century literature and postcolonial studies); 2012: **Marsden** (19th-century literature); **Regan** (earlier 20th-century writing); **Parmar** (creative and critical writing); **Lampropoulou** (sociolinguistics); 2013: **Clare** (appointed to a new writing fellowship (0.4, initially over two years); he will develop interdisciplinary writing and creativity workshops across the University. In areas where particular expertise has been required, we have chosen to appoint staff with greater previous experience: **Masuhara** and **Rosales Sequeiros** (applied linguistics).

**Supporting research potential of ECRs:** New academic staff participate in the Postdoctoral and ECR Staff Programme. The University has a Concordat for the Development of Research Staff and a HR Excellence badge. We support the implementation of this locally through, for instance, allocating lighter teaching loads to ECRs during their first year with us, usually through team-teaching, and giving them administrative posts designed to ensure knowledge of the research culture of the Department (library liaison, for example, or running a seminar series). Career development is aided by shadow roles or the division of responsibilities with a more senior colleague. The Library and Special Collections and Archives team helps them to plan a strategy for acquisition to support individual future research.

**Post-doctoral support:** We currently have nine post-doctoral staff, on permanent part-time contracts, who contribute to our commitment to research-led teaching. They are supported in their career development by access to all institutional facilities, research expenses funding, and PDR (see below). Where possible, the Department supports funded post-doctoral programmes: e.g. former postgraduate Jonathan Olson held a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship in the Department (2010-2012) to work on editions of *Paradise Lost*, with matching funds from the University; Maryam Farahani (an honorary research fellow of the Department) has initiated the inter-disciplinary research hub 'Embodiments and New Frontiers in Literature, Science, and Medical Humanities' and its associated journal, *The International Journal of Literature and Psychology*. David Hering, currently employed as a post-doctoral University teacher, recently won

a research award to visit the Harry Ransom Center at Austin, Texas.

**Career Development and Progression:** Staff at all stages of their careers benefit from the University's Professional Development and Review (PDR) process. This provides an opportunity to set key objectives, agree future research plans developed with the support of a research planning adviser, and establish a structured, supportive and consistent approach to research planning over an extended period. Research progress features prominently among the criteria for promotion: ten colleagues have been promoted to senior lectureships, readerships and personal chairs through this process during the census period. Other strategic moves include **Harris's** transition to part-time status for two years to enable her to fulfil a demanding public engagement programme alongside her current project on *The Weather Glass*. **Das** benefitted from an institutional Research Development grant which supported research trips to India and contributed directly to the success of her UKIERI grant application.

Staff are encouraged to apply to the School of the Arts Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee for a semester's period of leave every seventh semester to carry out major projects. All eligible staff (except recent arrivals) have had at least one period of leave during the REF period. On completion of funded research leave, grant holders are expected to assist other colleagues in the preparation of further grants. Timetabling of teaching allows for at least one research day per teaching week, to enable research momentum to be sustained.

**Equal Opportunities:** we appoint staff to the Department according to the University's diversity and equal opportunities criteria and processes. Staff across the department have been able to claim maternity, paternity and adoption leave, and parental, compassionate, domestic and personal leave. They are able to adjust their pattern of work according to their personal circumstances, in line with the University's flexible working policy. English has its own disability officer and equal opportunities officer, and PDR formally requires discussion of any issues that fall within those categories. Institutional and departmental policies provide a supportive environment. Staff in the Department come from a worldwide range of national, racial and educational backgrounds. The gender balance, from junior to senior staff, is almost exactly 50:50. The University's approach to the management of fixed term contracts complies with the Protection of Employment (Less Favourable Treatment of Fixed-Term Staff) legislation. Fixed-term staff have access to the same support and development as permanent staff and we proactively seek redeployment opportunities for fixed-term staff.

## ii. Research students

The Department of English places heavy emphasis on training the next generation of scholars, and fosters a research culture in which the graduate community is fully integrated, including by:

**Involving PGRs in scholarly debate:** The research student body reflects the make-up of the wider Department; we have PGRs undertaking research across the range of English Language and Literature. Activities both within the Department, and in engagement with the wider public, reflect this range and showcase areas of strength, providing support and networking activities for PGRs as well as for academic staff. PGRs work with academic staff on a wide range of projects and interdisciplinary research centres. They have collaborated closely with academic staff to organise events such as the recent visit by the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, and the Liverpool *Winter's Tale Festival* (both 2011), involving three major non-HEI partners, and have led initiatives in establishing various themed research reading groups for the PG community. The Department runs a seminar series designed to engage PGRs, to which external speakers, colleagues and PGRs are invited to give papers.

**Encouraging independent initiatives:** Our PGRs have organised national and international conferences and seminars, and produced peer-reviewed academic publications. Book publications by PGRs include David Hering's edited collection *Consider David Foster Wallace* (2010) and Steven Powell's edited volume *100 American Crime Writers* (2012) and *Conversations with James Ellroy* (2012), all completed alongside thesis work. Many others have contributed articles to

journals or essay collections or branched into creative work (e.g. O'Connor). Nichols, a part-time PGR student, publishes widely on Ray Bradbury and Science Fiction and has been appointed co-editor of the critical edition of Bradbury's stories (Kent State UP). Among recently-qualified postgraduates, Chris Pak, winner of the Science Fiction Foundation essay prize (2011) and the Mary Kay Bray award (2012) for best essay in the Science Fiction Review Association's *SFRA Review*, has organised two Science Fiction conferences in Liverpool (2011, 2012); the series continues in 2013 under the organisation of a current PGR, Morgan. Pak is taking part in the AHRC-funded collaborative skills project '[Silent Spring](#)', in collaboration with the British Association for Literature and Science. Farahani ran the large-scale interdisciplinary conference 'Paranoia and Pain: Embodied in Psychology, Literature, and Bioscience' (2012), the inaugural conference of the journal and research hub mentioned above. Two further conferences, 'Nineteenth-Century Aetiologies, Exoticism, and Multimodal Aesthetics' and 'Melancholy Minds – Painful Bodies' were held in April and July 2013 respectively.

**Offering access to facilities and infrastructure:** PGRs are fully involved in departmental affairs. PGR students chair and minute the PG Student/Staff Liaison Committee, which is attended by the Directors of Graduate Studies and of the Graduate Teaching Programme, and by the Head of Department. PGRs are accommodated in the recently refurbished School of the Arts postgraduate hub, offering desks, networked PCs, social areas and informal seating, allowing for social interactions with PGRs from across the School and with space for events. The Sydney Jones Library is open 24 hours a day in term-time; it has made available (January 2013), to PGR students and staff only, a dedicated and well-equipped researcher space, in part in response to discussion at the Department of English PGSSLC.

Approximately 25 of our *circa* 100 graduate students are PGRs. Students are regularly supported by major funding bodies, as well as institutional awards. The University of Liverpool was one of only three universities among the 48 holders of the AHRC's Block Grant Partnership awards to receive the highest grading (6) for the 'exceptional' quality of our strategy, vision, supervision, and training. English has had major success within this scheme, with seven research preparation masters and 11 doctoral awards allocated to the Department across the period 2009-2013. As a key member of the North West Consortium's Doctoral Training Partnership application to the AHRC, English has secured approval of a new doctoral pathway in Creative Writing, emphasising interdisciplinary study. In addition, The School is funding two full PGR bursaries, awarded by competition, and plans are in place to launch these as 'future career awards'. PGR and postdoctoral elements also have been built into research funding applications by **Das** (successful UKIERI application), **Gonzalez-Diaz** (£2K funding for her project with the Medical School) and **Lynall** (collaborative doctoral application, jointly with History and National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside).

Research studentships are also available at University level. Hanna has been awarded a Sir Joseph Rotblat Alumni Scholarship (value £10,000 p.a. for three years) for her literary-linguistic research into gender terms in Chaucer. Graduates in the Department have a strong record in winning Alumni scholarships, which are awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need. Recent holders include Irralie Doel (now Senior Lecturer and English Pathway leader at Brighton University), and Hana Leaper (thesis successfully examined, November 2013). Two externally-funded Allott Graduate Teaching Assistantships (£2,000 p.a. for three years) have been available since 2005 to support PhD students, encourage applications and provide grounding and experience in University level teaching as a foundation for future career development. There are also donor-funded Statham Graduate Teaching Assistantships. PGRs have won research awards to visit libraries elsewhere: Shmygol (three-month fellowship, AHRC International Placement Scheme at the Library of Congress), and Astbury (AHRC International Placement Scheme at Huntington Library). Yost was awarded a Mullen Fellowship grant to study at UCal Riverside (2013). Other awards have included the Theodora Bosanquet Bursary (Leaper, Shmygol), [Funds for Women Graduates](#) (Roberts), and travel grants from the International Shakespeare Association and Shakespeare Association of America (Shmygol, 2011-13).

Our PGRs are encouraged to develop their employability skills and broaden their awareness

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through our public engagement activities with voluntary organisations. This includes creative writing workshops with local charities for the homeless, public readings in bookshops, and research organisations based outside the HE sector (Wordsworth Trust). The HEIF scheme provides further pump-priming opportunities for developing KE activity, and English is looking at a potential bid with the Wordsworth Trust. A number of AHRC-BGP students (Day, Shmygol, Easterby) were selected for the HAPPEN programme, a public engagement training programme for PGRs from across the North West. Shmygol took part in the AHRC-funded 'sensory stories' public engagement activity at York. Easterby also secured AHRC Student-led Initiative funding for the Crossing the Line conference (Liverpool, 2010). Our collaborative doctoral student (Farrington), funded by AHRC, has conducted research on the medical evidence for bibliotherapy under combined supervision (CRILS and Merseyside Primary Care Trust). This forms a potential model for future funding applications.

**Providing excellent supervision, support and research training:** The recruitment of postgraduate students is overseen by institutional monitoring, including scrutiny of gender, sexuality, racial background and any disability issues. The PGR community is evenly split between the genders. Roughly 10% of the PGR intake is from beyond the EC; this is expected to increase as recent appointments in Applied Linguistics and in postcolonial studies extend the range of subjects for research.

PGRs are usually co-supervised by one primary and one secondary supervisor, with the student having access also to a departmental Independent Assessment Panel (consisting of two further members of staff), which meets once a year for full-time students to review progress. Students are expected to discuss their work monthly with at least one of their supervisors. Once students enter the Liverpool academic community, supervision, progress and quality of research are all monitored by the Annual Review processes. Students are offered full research and career skills training at a departmental, faculty, and institution-wide level. In addition to the departmental Research Skills module, which is compulsory for PGT as well as for PGR students, they are also offered specific training (e.g. Latin, palaeography, book history), where the need for such is signalled in skills audit meetings. Further research council and institutional Research Training Funds are available to support them in accessing external research and skills-training opportunities, and in presenting their research at national and international conferences. All full-time PGRs are required to give a paper at a multi-session departmental annual conference which is always rounded off by a keynote paper from an eminent external speaker. Once established in their research (normally in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study), students may request the chance to gain teaching experience by participating in our mentored Graduate Teaching Programme leading to bursary-funded tuition on a module relevant to their research. Such sessions supplement the University's long-standing PGR Development Programme that includes entry- and exit-level career skills training.

**d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

**Infrastructure:** Departmental, School and University policies and infrastructure actively encourage and facilitate applications for research funding. The School acts as a source of grant-writing workshops, peer mentoring and review of grant applications, and a databank of successful applications based on a model developed in English. Support with identification of likely funding sources, costing, project planning, peer review and ethics comes from dedicated teams at University, Faculty and School levels. In the Department, opportunities for individual and collaborative funding applications are identified in PDR discussions and informal mentoring discussions, and monitored through research planning.

The Head of English has responsibility for distribution of workload, using a workload model to assign administrative tasks and teaching, assessment and supervision hours. This allows protection of research time. Staff who undertake substantial administrative roles outside the Department but within the School or the wider University receive appropriate buy-out of teaching or financial support for their research, or both. The School provides financial support for conference attendance, visits to archives, reproduction fees and other necessary research expenditure. Financial support for individual research expenses is provided at School level (up to £400 p.a.;

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more where appropriate), and a Research Development and Initiative Fund which provides larger sums to seed individual and collaborative research projects.

**Income:** Main sources of research income for English, have been research councils (AHRC, £327k) and charities (£100k); UK local authorities, government bodies, and hospital trusts (£34k); EU official bodies (£84k). AHRC awards to support individual research were won by Thompson (now retired; *Conjunction in Discourse*), **Chapman** (*Susan Stebbing and the Language of Common Sense*, 2013), **M. Davies** (project on Bunyan's Church-Book, scheduled for 2014), and **Peverley** (editorial work on the *Chronicle* of John Hardyng, 2013). **Das** has concatenated recent successes with: (i) AHRC Fellowship (2012-2013) and Renaissance Society of America awards for an edition of Hakluyt's *Principall Navigations, Voyages, Traffikes, and Discoveries of the English Nation, 1598-1600*. Vol VI: 'Elizabethan Levant Trade and South Asia' (forthcoming, OUP), (ii) Leverhulme Trust Fellowship (2013-2014) for monograph-in-preparation, *Common Places: Travel and Cultural Memory in the English Renaissance*; and (iii) an Interdisciplinary UKIERI-UGC bid in partnership with Jadavpur University, India, to study representations of Indian cities. **Harris** received an 18-month Leverhulme fellowship to support a new project on *The Weather Eye* (forthcoming, Thames and Hudson). The Gladstone Project was funded by an AHRC project grant won in the previous RAE period (John, now moved HEIs), but continued into the current REF period by **Bradley**. Staff at the Centre for Research into Reading, Information and Linguistic Systems pursued project-based grants from NHS primary care trusts, the Nuffield Foundation, the National Personality Disorder Programme, and the Ministry of Justice. Other projects on bibliotherapy, reading for health, treatments for dementia and literature-based interventions in prisons have also received significant public funding. Watry's projects in data mining, digital preservation and heritage access (PrestoPrime and Shaman) have been externally funded to over £800k. The Department also helps staff to pursue small grants where useful. **Rees-Jones** was able to reduce teaching in order to complete a significant output on the basis of a small grant from the Society of Authors, and promoted the Poetry and Science website at Liverpool with a further small grant. Large-scale outputs such as **Birch's** *Oxford Companion to English Literature* (2009) also benefited from relatively modest funding. Further grant applications currently in progress include an interdisciplinary bid in collaboration with three UK and three international partners from the US, India and Europe to study cross-cultural encounters in European cities; and an H 2020 bid to work on long-term large-scale data archive management tools.

**Facilities:**

Major investment has been made during the current census period in newly-refurbished academic offices and research facilities, particularly library resources and associated facilities. The collections development policy of the Humanities & Social Sciences Library (the Sydney Jones Library) is driven in large part by the research activities and research-led teaching interests of the academic staff and PGRs. One of two large-scale libraries and information portals on campus, it houses some two million volumes of high-level primary texts and research monographs, collected and extended over several decades. It also acts as the portal to a huge range of online subscription databases. The University has made a £17m investment in the Sydney Jones Library, encompassing the creation of a postgraduate Researcher Reading Room and the development of a new BS5750 compliant Special Collections and Archives area on the ground floor, with dedicated reading room, teaching space and display facilities. Several of the University's manuscripts have been digitized as part of an ongoing programme, including our *Piers Plowman* MS and several Books of Hours. There are large holdings of modern literary manuscripts, including those of many local poets. The Science Fiction Foundation collection is the largest collection of Science Fiction material in Europe and is consulted by scholars from all over the world. It formed the basis of the British Library's Sci-Fi Exhibition 'Out of this World' in 2011, and is curated and developed by Sawyer. Special Collections and Archives is among the top ten most-visited research libraries in the UK. Where visitors are known to have a potential research link with departmental activity they are invited to give a paper in a suitable seminar series; an example is the Science Fiction scholar Andrew Milner from Monash University, Australia. Early modern and eighteenth-century researchers in particular are supported not only by the Library's extensive printed collections from incunabula through the hand-press period but also by the best UK portfolio of electronic resources outside Oxbridge, giving access to a huge searchable corpus of early printed material, including

Early English Books Online, Eighteenth-Century Collections Online and the Burney collection of British Newspapers. All researchers have access to an extremely wide range of journals and e-books both directly within and on the periphery of the research fields covered by the Department's research activities.

#### e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Engagement by members of the Department in key areas of the subject promotes and fosters work across the field of English Language and Literature. Research leadership and collaboration outside the institution are encouraged by departmental practice, which recognises such activities as part of an individual's contribution and workload, and by University policy, according to which such activities are recognised in the promotion process.

**External research networks.** **P. Davis** is a member of an AHRC-funded international research network on cognitive humanities, **Das** of a British Academy network on seventeenth-century fiction, an AHRC network on 'Textual Ambassadors', and the UKIERI-funded UK-India network on 'Envisioning the Indian City'. International collaborative projects include **Baines** and Pat Rogers (University of South Florida), working on a state-of-the-art historical bibliography of the publisher Edmund Curll, a follow-up to their 2007 biography, *Edmund Curll, Bookseller*. Funding has been sought by an international consortium of partners including universities in Europe and India for 'Before Empire', a project in which **Das** is involved; **Lampropoulou** participates in an EU-funded research project, 'Representation of language variation and language ideologies in mass culture discourse'; **Gonzalez-Diaz** is also part of a research network on 'Orality and Textual Characterisation of the Late Modern English period' funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education.

**Subject leadership.** **Birch** participated in the English Sub-Panel (57) of RAE 2008 and is Chair of Sub-Panel 29 in REF 2014, and Deputy Chair of Main Panel D. She was also on the judging panel of the 2012 Man Booker Prize. **Walsh** was Vice-Chair of CCUE and CCUE representative to the Board of the European Society for Studies in English until 2012. **Das** is a member of the HEFCE Reference Group on monographs and open access. **Rees-Jones** has strong connections with the Poetry Society (co-hosting the annual Allott Lecture) and the English Association (judging of the Michael Murphy Prize). Many members of staff have been members of the AHRC Review panel during the REF period (**Birch, Seed, Chapman, Billington, Rees-Jones, P. Davis, Walsh**), the AHRC Strategic Review Group (**Das**), the Irish Research Council, the Flanders Research Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust's Arts Awards scheme. Other research bodies for whom staff have acted as reviewers include the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD (2009), the Science, Technology and Society Program of the National Science Foundation, USA (2010), and the ESRC (2011). Staff (e.g. **Das, P. Davis, Baines**) have acted as referees for promotions at all levels and assessors for projects, grants and courses in the UK, USA and elsewhere.

**Editorial work.** Staff are members of a number of editorial boards (e.g. *English Historical Review, English, Journal of American Studies, Journal of Postcolonial Writing, Journal of Indo-Caribbean Studies, Literature Compass, Green Letters, Gaskell Society Journal, Cowper and Newton Journal, Open Applied Linguistics Journal*). Some are general editors of series such as Liverpool University Press's *Science Fiction Texts and Studies*, and the *Poetry &...* series, *Studies in Theoretical Linguistics* (Continuum), and *Popular Music, Culture and Identity* (Palgrave). Almost all staff act as expert readers for academic publishers, including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, Ashgate, and Broadview.

**Invited talks and lectures.** The T.S. Eliot lecture for 2011 was given by **Harris** in Cambridge and **Parmar** in the U.S. **Lynall** delivered a lecture at the Royal Society Centre for the History of Science in March 2013. Other plenary and keynote lectures delivered by staff in the UK include **P. Davis**, on literature and brain-imaging, North of English Education Conference (2013); **N. Davis**, 'The Heavens and King Lear', at Heavenly Discourses conference, Bristol 2011; and **Billington**, 'Reading and Health in Early Modern Europe', Newcastle 2013. International contributions include a keynote lecture at the International Conference on Virginia Woolf, University of Saskatchewan (June 2012) by **Harris**; invited talks by **Das** at Delhi University (April 2012), George Washington

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University (April 2013) and University of Melbourne (August 2013); a public lecture by **Birch** at Lund University (Sweden) in May 2013; and plenary lectures by **Walsh** at University of Toronto (April 2008), the Huntington Library, Pasadena (November 2011), and Jagiellonian University, Krakow (April 2012). **Loh** participated in the opening plenary panel of the conference for the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (Cyprus, 2010). Staff have been invited to speak in the media and at a range of literary festivals. These include **Harris, Das** and **Peverley** as BBC New Generation Thinkers at the BBC Free Thinking Festival, South Asia Literary Festival (**Das**), as well as the Hay on Wye literary festival (**Rees-Jones, Parmar, Harris**), and Oxford literary festival (**Birch**). Visiting scholarship and fellowship awards include **Billington**, Armstrong-Browning Library, Baylor University, Texas (2010); and **Gonzalez-Diaz**, University of Hamburg Centre for Multilingualism and Language Contact (2009).

**Public lectures, conferences and symposia.** Since 2008, the endowed series of Kenneth Allott Poetry Lectures has featured Anne Carson, C. K. Williams, George Szirtes, Christopher Reid, and Denise Riley. As its contribution to Liverpool's year as Capital of Culture (2008), the Department organised a literary festival called *Shipping Lines*, in which many well-known authors participated (Jacobson, Byatt, Pullman, Shapcott, McKendrick, Tallis, Phillips, and Blackman). This was followed by *The Winter's Tale* festival, in November 2011, celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first performance of Shakespeare's play. This festival linked research activities to cultural events, commissioned poems and poetry readings, involving the poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy. Notable contributions to seminar and lecture series have come from John Carey, Hermione Lee, David Bradshaw, Robert Hewison, Katherine Swift, Helen Small, Terry Eagleton, Laura Marcus, Claire Colebrook, Niall Rudd, David Crystal, Paul Kerswill and Clive Upton. Research centres such as Liverpool Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Eighteenth-Century Worlds enable us to host high-profile speakers (Paddy Bullard, Emma Clery, Helen Cooper, Pat Rogers), and to develop local and international networks in support of projects such as the 2014 Rushton anniversary. Locally-hosted conferences include 'Corpus Linguistics' (2009), the biennial main conference for Corpus Linguists from all around the world, with over 400 delegates, and the 'Renaissance Old Worlds' conference at the British Library, with about 80 delegates from 9 countries. **Bradley** organised two conferences at Gladstone's Library: 'Reading in the Age of Gladstone' (2009) and 'On Liberties' (2013). **Loh**, working with colleagues from Brunel and Royal Holloway, ran a conference on 'Love, Sex, Desire & the (Post)colonial' (London, 2011). **Gonzalez-Diaz** co-convened a conference at Chawton House (2012) on 'The Language of Women's Fiction 1750-1850' and is currently co-editing a Special Issue of *Women's Writing* (due 2014) based on papers from the conference. **M. Davies** is co-organiser with colleagues from Cambridge and Aix-Marseilles Université of three future international conferences on the theme of 'Dissenting Experience, Experiencing Dissent: The Collective Experience of Gathered Churches, 1600-1800', the first to take place at Dr Williams's Library, London, in November 2013. Also germane to the Department's core research groupings, the Harriet Martineau conference will be held in Liverpool in 2014, organised by one of our PhD students (Connor), as will the International Chronicle Conference, a joint endeavour between English (**Peverley**) and colleagues in Liverpool Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. There are also plans for the 2014 Harlaxton Conference to be run jointly by colleagues from English (**Rudd**) and History/Archive studies (Buchanan), again with input from Liverpool Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.