

<p><b>Institution: The University of Edinburgh</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: 29 English Language and Literature</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b>        English Literature at Edinburgh is privileged in its exceptionally long and distinguished history. In 2012 the University celebrated 250 years since the seminal appointment of Hugh Blair to the first Regius Chair of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, initiating the study of English Literature as a university discipline in the UK. Today the department comprises 35 members of staff, with 4 Research Fellows, forming one of the major divisions of the <i>School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures</i> (LLC) within the <i>College of Humanities and Social Science</i> (CHSS). English Literature is actively involved in a number of research centres and networks: <i>The Centre for the History of the Book</i> (CHB), <i>Carlyle Letters</i>, <i>Scottish Writing in the Nineteenth Century</i> (SWINC) and <i>Scotland's Transatlantic Relations</i> (STAR) are all based in the department; our staff also work closely with College-wide interdisciplinary centres: the <i>Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities</i> (IASH, led by Manning until her sudden death in 2013) and the <i>Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies</i> (CMRS). Beyond the university we have research links with such institutions as the <i>National Library of Scotland</i> (NLS), the <i>National Records of Scotland</i> (NRS) and the <i>Scottish Poetry Library</i> (SPL), and active links with the UNESCO <i>Edinburgh City of Literature</i> trust.</p> <p><b>(Names in bold in the following sections signify current members of the department.)</b></p> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b>        We are committed to the discipline of English Literature as expansive and outward facing, interacting with other disciplines and new modes of study, and reaching beyond the university into the cultural life of society. Our overriding objective is to enable our researchers to engage actively and responsively in this dynamic and shifting field of literary study. Since 2008 our strategy has therefore taken two main directions: first to facilitate modes of collaborative and shared thinking, both within and beyond the department; and secondly to promote more direct engagement with institutions and organisations beyond the university. In this we build on the achievements of RAE2008, which recognised our especially strong base in individual research. Focus on three strategic priorities – <b>individual research</b>, <b>groups and networks</b> and <b>outward engagement</b> – has supported our contribution to new developments in the discipline in ways outlined below.</p> <p><b>Individual research:</b> Promoting excellent individual research in whatever field remains our prime foundation. In our 12 new appointments since 2008 we have deliberately looked to the future, concentrating on bringing in a new generation of scholars rather than replacing professorial positions. We worked to maintain, but also expand the breadth of the department's research expertise. Appointments in Victorian, Postcolonial, and 20C all strengthened already flourishing PhD areas; but all open exciting new research directions within their fields: e.g. <b>Vaninskaya's</b> revealing interdisciplinary work on Victorian literature, <b>Farrier's</b> on the theoretical challenges imposed on postcolonial thinking by asylum, and <b>Crosthwaite's</b> at the interface of economics and literary/cultural criticism. We have significantly expanded the field of Creative Writing: <b>Stack</b> and <b>Thompson</b> (prose fiction), <b>Gamble</b> (poetry), and <b>McCartney</b> (theatre writing) have supported a major expansion of postgraduate activity, with increasing demand leading to the introduction of PhD and distance-learning MSc degrees. The creative writers are pushing the boundaries of their genres: the historical and literary research base of <b>Jamieson's</b> and <b>Stack's</b> fiction and <b>Rose's</b> opera libretto has contributed to new kinds of work of great critical acclaim, while <b>McCartney</b> is recognised as one of the country's most innovative and successful young playwrights. The department reinforced its commitment to individual excellence by hosting seven prestigious competitive postdoctoral research fellowships during the period. These outstanding young researchers were all working on projects at the forefront of the field, looking beyond traditional modes, such as Anderson (Leverhulme) on the Early Modern Extended Mind, or <b>Cooke</b> on 'English as a Foreign Literature'. Such new departures expand our well-established continuing strengths in literary history and theory (e.g. monographs such as <b>Milnes'</b> on Romanticism, and series such as <b>Stevenson's</b> <i>Edinburgh History of Twentieth Century Literature in Britain</i>). Encouraging individual research excellence, to continue to shape the discipline, remains a key element of departmental strategy.</p>
--

**Groups and networks:** From this primary ground of individual excellence, we have worked to build more collaborative modes of research. Since 2008 we have promoted the intellectual and social value of groups and networks – formal and informal, within and beyond the department. Already active groups (e.g. STAR, estab. 2001) have been joined by successful new networks such as SWINC. Such groups organise active programmes of seminars, workshops and reading groups, in Edinburgh and (in the case of SWINC) across the Scottish universities. New initiatives continue, such as the College-wide Edinburgh Environmental Humanities Network convened by **Farrier**. IASH offers our researchers an international and interdisciplinary reach. A strong strand of English Literature interest is encouraged within its broad intellectual themes, through fellowships, seminars, conferences and public lectures by internationally renowned writers such as Nobel Prize winners Wole Soyinka and Amartya Sen. IASH fellows bring an international dimension to local groups (e.g. Professor William Christie (Sydney), working with both SWINC and CHB). New College-wide research networks such as the *Renaissance and Early Modern Discussion Group* bring together staff and postgraduates in workshops. For early period researchers, the CMRS (estab. 2008) offers a forum and support for research ranging beyond English Literature.

Participation in such groups has demonstrably enhanced research activity, the networks providing support for many of the individual items appearing in REF2. Most significantly, this approach has supported a notable increase in larger, collaborative initiatives. The *Edinburgh Studies in Transatlantic Literatures* series (editors Manning and **Taylor**, 15 volumes so far) was established by STAR; SWINC now supports the major new Edinburgh Stevenson edition (**Fielding**), an international print and digital project funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The longstanding and internationally respected *Carlyle Letters*, recently expanded into fully-searchable digital form, has been joined by a range of externally funded projects, often involving collaboration with other institutions and employing dedicated researchers. Examples with major AHRC funding (in addition to the Impact Cases) would be **Loxley's** multidisciplinary project on an exciting manuscript discovery in 'Ben Jonson's Walk to Scotland', and **Walker's** practice-based project recreating early modern dramatic performance in Scotland. The trend is also widely seen in smaller-scale funded collaborations, on Pacific literature (**Keown**), early women's poetry in Scotland, Ireland and Wales (**Dunnigan**), Shetland (**Jamieson**). Our promotion of research groups and networks has thus enabled a growing culture of collaboration and expansion.

**Outward engagement.** This collaborative culture informs our second initiative: to promote projects which look outward, both beyond the traditional academic discipline and to engage with institutions and audiences beyond the university. This is the outcome, in broader form, of the 'Edinburgh Consortium' planned in RAE 2008. Two major examples serve to demonstrate the scale and scope of these new research directions. The first involves theatre and performance. In 2012 we launched MScs in Performance Studies (LLC-wide) and in Playwriting, both establishing exciting new partnerships with Edinburgh's professional theatres and performance communities (e.g. Playwrights Studio, Traverse Theatre). The initiative builds on the acclaimed success of the IASH Edinburgh Festival Creative Fellows who have in recent years included David Harrower (award-winning *Blackbird*) and Stuart McRae (*Gaudete* at the Proms). The University has committed institutional support to this new research direction, financing new appointments and facilities, and actively promoting extra-university relationships. One striking example is the establishment of a **James Tait Black** annual prize for new drama to join the novel and biography prizes first awarded in 1919. Managed between the University and the National Theatre of Scotland (NTS), the new £10k award is for 'a significant and unique contribution to the art form', judged by postgraduates and staff experts from English Literature. It powerfully demonstrates the aim of this kind of research initiative: to enable new and established scholars, at the cutting edge of research, to work reciprocally with the professional community, to the advantage of both. The strength and range of this strategic initiative in theatre is seen in the theoretical studies by **Taxidou** alongside her work with the Edinburgh International Festival, the production and practice work of **McCartney**, and the major project 'Staging the Scottish Court' (**Walker**) in which university researchers work with Historic Scotland and professional actors to stage plays in historic locations. The innovative value of this project was recognised by an AHRC award of £939k in 2012.

The second key move beyond the traditional boundaries of English Literature has been into the

## Environment template (REF5)

growing field of medical humanities. During the REF period new projects across CHSS, including English Literature's 'Medicine in Literature' intercalating degree, led to the founding of the Medical Humanities Research Network, hosted by IASH (run by McKechnie, PhD 2011). The department won Edinburgh's first Fulbright Visiting Professor, Marianne Boruch, who led striking creative public projects in the area. These were followed by the 'Dissecting Edinburgh' programme, an AHRC-funded collaboration with the Surgeons' Hall Museum. Manning was appointed to lead a review of Medical Humanities in CHSS, considering not particular projects but the nature and boundaries of the discipline itself (a review to be resumed in the next REF period). To that end, English Literature won a competitive Chancellor's Fellowship in medical humanities: **Inglis** was appointed with the specific remit to promote reflection on this emerging discipline; her research advances our recognition of how literature can help to define its contribution to human self-understanding.

These two major initiatives are not isolated, but grow out of a wider pattern of outward-facing projects, large and small. At postgraduate level, this is seen in Collaborative Doctoral Awards with the Scottish Poetry Library (Scottish concrete poetry) and the NLS (C19 author-publisher relations through the Murray archive), and a Wolfson PhD award in medical humanities. Individual staff research has also increasingly engaged with outside organisations, enabling new perspectives. Examples range from **Farrier** ('Making it Home' with the Refugee Survival Trust) and **Loxley** ('Exhibiting the Written Word' with the NLS), to O'Neill (PhD 2013, Literary Walking Tours with UNESCO Edinburgh City of Literature), **Carpenter** (Makars Court at the Writers' Museum), **Jones** (Edinburgh LGBT Centre), **Hughes** (Black History Week). The range of projects testifies to an increasingly outward-looking culture being fostered in English Literature research.

Recent strategy has thus both responded to and consciously encouraged newly dynamic and productive research directions. One effect is that outputs in this REF period include not only the monographs and journal articles seen in RAE 2008, but many new kinds of publication arising from these more expansive and collaborative projects. Public exhibitions (**Stevenson, Loxley, Otty**), websites (Rycroft, Research Fellow), and performances (**McCartney, Walker**) – even a poetry phone app (**Gillis**) – are making the fruits of this research available to new audiences.

**Future:** English Literature is poised to develop these strategies further in coming years. The medical humanities, and theatre and performance initiatives, both strongly invested in by the University, are just beginning their activities. The widely respected CHB reached a watershed in 2012 with the end of Bell's successful directorship and the imminent completion of the *History of the Book in Scotland* series. The Centre's work is now expanding into an important new phase. A new senior appointment (**Mole**), along with a new post in digital humanities, will draw into association the many textual projects of the department (e.g. *Carlyle Letters*, Stevenson edition) and the wider School (e.g. Gadda project, in European Languages and Cultures). This will create a wide-ranging, fertile centre for *Book History and Textual Studies*, another major support for creative, interactive and outward facing research. Creative Writing, flourishing at both postgraduate and staff level, will expand its particular vision of creative research, in fruitful interaction with both the discipline of English Literature and the dynamic context of the UNESCO City of Literature.

The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of English Literature in Edinburgh in 2012 helped crystallise the department's awareness both of its role and its research trajectory. A significant research project in itself with a year-long programme of academic and public engagement events (managed by **Stevenson**, researcher Lawrie, PhD 2012), the celebration resulted in an important exhibition of the department's history, 'City of Words'. This emphasised the discipline's history in civic and public engagement as well as in literary scholarship. Following the University's original vision in appointing its first Regius professor, we aim, through the specific research strategies described above, to strengthen the civic and national engagement of English Literature at Edinburgh.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The department works to maintain a well-embedded and inclusive research culture across the whole subject area. All staff are both research-active and involved with PhD supervision, and strategies aim to support all stages of a research career. REF2 gives only a limited picture of the

individual research productivity this engenders. During the period current staff have authored at least 30 books, edited over 25, and published over 240 articles and book chapters, as well as new kinds of research output in public exhibitions, performances, websites and research-through-practice. The department believes that it is not only the institutional policies noted below, but also a culture of mutual support that enables such research productivity.

**Research career development policies:** A number of policies support research activity for all colleagues. Teaching and administration, for example, are managed through a Workload Allocation Model that enables departmental commitments to be shared equitably, allowing equal research opportunity to all. Individual workloads are reviewed each year, so overburdened colleagues can be rapidly identified. We use the University system of annual review to include dedicated reflection on each colleague's research plans, and any developmental support required. Review functions as a two-way process, in which ideas can be tested and evaluated between colleagues. The Head of Department considers research activity in the context of overall workload, managing teaching responsibilities and sabbatical leave to support the stages of a project. (e.g. annual review led to timetable adjustments for **Fielding**, enabling the initiation of the Stevenson project; **Kelly** was introduced to the University's Knowledge Exchange advisers, supporting development of his Working Class Fiction project linking to the Trade Unions).

Beyond such universally applied policies, targeted support is available for colleagues at different career stages. Newly appointed members of staff engage in a process of Professional Development and Review (PDR), including working with an individual mentor who helps integration into both the academic and social systems of the department. This process is in place for open-ended and time-limited staff, including postdoctoral and research fellows, leading to many positive individual developments: as a temporary member of staff (2008-10), Elliott was supported toward a successful application for a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship, since then gaining a permanent academic post; **Cooke**, appointed as a Research Fellow, has been enabled to expand his own portfolio, as well as local research culture, by taking on the role of Impact Co-ordinator. Responsibilities are reduced for early career appointees, who move from half-load teaching and no administration in the first year, to full workload by the end of the third year. This allowed **Vaninskaya** to protect research time from the inevitable demands of a first full-time post closely following maternity leave: during her first two years at Edinburgh, she was able to bring to fruition three significant chapters / articles. The department has benefited from the University's creation of the prestigious Chancellor's Fellowships which provide exceptional training and development support for the research careers of young proven scholars. Thus **Inglis**, starting on 85%-research, will gradually take on teaching and administrative responsibilities across a five year period.

All members of staff may apply for one semester of research leave following every six worked (expanding institutional policy of one semester in eight worked). To support the effectiveness of such leave, applications must include full research proposals. These often arise from annual review, are discussed with the departmental Research Advisor (RA), and vetted by the LLC Research Committee before leave is granted, with reports submitted on return. Research leave can be accelerated or decelerated to fit the timing of individual projects. Maternity / paternity leave is separated from research leave, and wherever possible integrated into colleagues' research careers. **Keown**, for example, followed a period of maternity leave with a semester of research leave, enabling significant publication and later promotion. Gender balance in the department is near 50:50, in posts at almost all levels of promotion. During this REF period seven current staff members started young families. The department has been able to support them during the inevitable fluctuation in research activity during the early years. All staff may apply for up to £750 p.a. research and conference expenses from the LLC Research Fund, facilitating research trips and participation at international conferences that can be crucial for particular research interests: e.g. North America (**Taylor, Cavanagh**) or the Pacific (**Keown**). Early career staff are helped towards targeted career development courses (Anderson, a course on public presentation). The fund also supports specific short-term research initiatives (e.g. **Loxley** employed independent expertise in early modern shorthand, contributing significantly to the Jonson's Walk project).

Postdoctoral fellows contribute important vitality to the department's research culture. Since 2008

## Environment template (REF5)

we have hosted seven fellows, funded by Leverhulme, BA, AHRC, RSE and the University. All are assigned mentors, integrated into the department with some advanced teaching opportunities, and share their ground-breaking projects through our Centres, networks and research seminars. Poleg's important published work on the medieval bible contributed significantly to the CHB as well as to the CMRS, while **Inglis** is a key player in the Medical Humanities network. Postdocs have opened important relations beyond the department with interdisciplinary projects: **Otty** worked with the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art on modernist small press publishing, while Anderson's public lecture series 'Mind across Disciplines' addressed disciplines across the College.

Different kinds of support are in place for scholars at later career stages. Colleagues are helped to identify appropriate funding schemes and offered advice to develop applications. **Milnes** was guided to a prestigious BA mid-career fellowship, his successful application one of the first to benefit from peer review both within the department and by the LLC Committee. Senior staff who take on demanding managerial roles are offered help to protect their continuing research. The Head of English Literature is given a dedicated budget to spend on research assistance to maintain activity while in post. Since, nonetheless, such central management roles inhibit sustained research focus, a full session's research leave is awarded at the end of a three year stint. **Stevenson** was able to use a year's post-headship leave to focus on two significant projects: editorship of the *Edinburgh History of Twentieth Century Literature*, and the planning of his 2013 monograph on the Great War.

The department encourages a shared engagement in research through all elements of its activity. All staff benefit from the mutual fertilisation of research and teaching. In a single example, **Kelly's** course 'Representing Northern Ireland' grew out of research from the last RAE period, since helping to shape his 2013 work on Class and Irish Culture. A weekly research seminar runs during teaching semesters, with a programme of papers presented by visiting national and international scholars as well as by local staff. Presentations of staff research to postgraduates (through research training workshops) and to undergraduates (during the University's 'Innovative Learning Week') also proved remarkably popular, actively promoting new generations of researchers.

**Research support:** Research strategy and support are led by the Head of English Literature and the Research Adviser, who also sits on the School Research Committee. This committee works to articulate and sustain research strategy across LLC, reporting to the College committee which develops policy for CHSS as a whole. LLC's new Research Office gives dedicated support through all stages of a project. While strategies are flexible, an underlying model supports the lifecycle of each English Literature research project. This begins when a researcher discusses scholarly ideas and plans with colleagues, through groups, and at annual review. S/he next approaches ERI (see Section c) for advice on structure and funding sources. A draft funding application is submitted for peer review to the LLC Research Committee, which assesses the scope and feasibility of the project, suggests new lines of inquiry, collaborators or technical help, and advises on the nature and emphasis of outputs. This system mediates between the various aspects of the project, ensuring that the scholarship is vibrant and original, the technical methods reliable and creative, the intended outputs communicative and effective, and the financial case robust. The department's ongoing success in funding applications, large and small (see Section c), testifies to the value of this support system and its ability to hold in balance all aspects of research development. Successful applicants are supported through the life of the project – administratively through the LLC Research Office, and academically through the culture of mutual support in the department.

## ii. Research students

The department strives to foster a lively research culture where staff and postgraduates can interact on an equal footing. The weekly research seminars provide a well-supported common forum, and the activities of the centres and networks all draw equally on staff, postdocs and postgraduates. Staff and students interact in a range of reading groups and in the Syreniacs early drama group. PhDs themselves run weekly Work-in-Progress sessions where research presentations find a supportive but critical arena. An annual 4-day reading party on Loch Tay engages staff with students in an intensive research and social programme. In such ways, we aim not only to develop excellent individual theses, but to offer opportunities to engage in all the

activities and skills that constitute an academic career.

**Recruitment.** In spite of the economic situation, PhD enrolments rose during the period: 76 in 2008-13 (2002-07 = 53); Research MSc numbers increased five-fold: 77 in 2008-13 (2002-07 = 15). We encouraged this growth by expanding our research degrees. New opportunities include: a PhD in Creative Writing (2008-09 = 3; 2012-13 = 11); more interdisciplinary PhDs; and a range of specialist 'pathway' MScRs – in Critical Theory, Medieval, Renaissance, Romantic, Victorian, Postcolonial, Scottish and US Literature. Almost a third of MScR students continue to PhD.

The department has held four PhD and one MSc AHRC block grant awards, two more for 2013-14, as well as a Wolfson scholarship, two CDA awards and a PhD studentship attached to the *Carlyle Letters*. Our PhDs have also won prestigious competitive funding from Pakistan, New Zealand, Sweden and Japan, the Carnegie Trust, and the University. We are proud that University awards have supported some excellent students from straitened circumstances right through UG, MSc and PhD study. The recent success of the Scottish Consortium AHRC Block Grant opens future opportunities. With measures in place to support successful and timely completion of research degrees, we are optimistic that Edinburgh students can continue to win competitive funding.

**Monitoring and support.** All research students are supported by two supervisors and a full programme of monitoring and development. PhDs undergo a formal first year review, where a specialist panel assesses a preliminary chapter, bibliography and full thesis-outline, and advises on progression. Supervisors, with students, present reflective reports on progress in each subsequent year. Training in research methods is incorporated into all programmes. An initial LLC-wide professional course is followed by a departmental programme geared to the student's dissertation. These strategies are helping enable a rising pattern of successful completion: in the last two years (2011-13) 36 PhD and 40 MScR students have graduated (RAE 2005-07 PhD = 16, MScR = 7).

Our PhD students profit from a wide range of courses run by the University's Institute for Academic Development (IAD) on topics in Research Management, Professional Development and IT. Our postgraduates themselves initiated a series of workshops covering issues such as giving conference papers, publication, job-searching, applications and interviews. Responding to this need, the department has now formalised this into a third-year professional development series. In its sessions senior and recently-appointed staff share perspectives with PhD researchers at the start of their careers. The workshops are valued both for their targeted advice, and for offering an open arena where postgraduates can discuss with staff the professional issues facing academics.

**Career development.** The research productivity arising from these strategies is evident: English Literature postgraduates 2008-13 delivered over 100 conference papers, internationally and nationally (supported by almost £15k from the LLC PG research fund). They published over 70 book chapters and articles, and creative work resulting in at least one play and film. At least 15 books were published by former PhD students. LLC's postgraduates themselves run an on-line journal, *Forum*, publishing contributions from both staff and students and have been involved in organising regular conferences, national and international.

We aim to develop all aspects of an academic career. All PhD students are offered training as Teaching Assistants, and those who take on this role have on-going support from a personal mentor, throughout their teaching. IAD offers further courses in extending teaching skills and there are opportunities for more advanced teaching, such as with the Scottish Universities' International Summer School (SUISS). Significant career support extends beyond the award of the PhD. Our postdoctoral students have frequently been appointed as Directors of SUISS, and as Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows in the department. At least ten have recently held postdoctoral bursaries at IASH, supported by institutional and trust funding. The School and College also fund a number of short-term Career Development Fellowships specifically for our recent PhD graduates. Such opportunities often provide the first steps into an academic career. Over the period, at least 8 have gone on to prestigious funded postdoctoral fellowships and 14 to university posts.

**Future:** In 2014 English Literature will move into a new building (£20m investment) that will bring

the whole School together. The vibrant but currently dispersed Graduate School of LLC will have superior dedicated research and social space, shared by staff. The architectural design encourages interaction while upgrading the technical and study facilities available. We expect the graduate school to expand yet further, especially with the new initiatives in Theatre and Performance. The new building involves spaces deliberately designed to enable practical and performance work alongside traditional study. This material and intellectual investment of the University in postgraduate study in LLC should reinforce even greater vitality at the postgraduate level of English Literature research.

#### d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

**Research income:** Research income has expanded and diversified since 2008. Research expenditure 2008-13 totals £1.8m. The total value of research grants awarded during the period, however, amounts to £2.6m, primarily from sources such as AHRC, BA, Carnegie and RSE. The major new collaborative projects have won significant funding (e.g. Ben Jonson's Walk: £322k, Edinburgh Stevenson edition £183k, Staging the Scottish Court £939k). Our research centres and networks continue to attract on-going funding from a range of sources, including the University itself, personal philanthropic donations, trusts and charities as well as the funding organisations. CHB hosts and facilitates funded research projects from across the University, with valuable research fellowships awarded to e.g. Poleg (BA £279k), **Otty** (AHRC £62k) and Elliott (Leverhulme £44k). Holding an AHRC grant until 2009, the Carlyle Letters project has since attracted £143k from the Binks Trust, the BA, the EUL Trust and generous individual sponsors. STAR and SWINC are similarly now maintained by institutional and personal donor investment, with contributions from Carnegie and BA. IASH has won significant grants for its themes, notably \$150k from the Mellon Foundation for its multidisciplinary series on 'Embodied Values'. Generation of research funding is not confined to larger projects but is now embedded at all levels. Colleagues have continued to win significant awards for individual research (e.g. **Milnes**, £80k (BA) for *Radical Empiricism*; **Rose**, £30k (Leverhulme) for *In the Land of the Unspeakable*). Many smaller project and research leave grants have been won by e.g. **Cavanagh** and **Dunnigan** (Leverhulme), **Jamieson** (Creative Scotland, RSE), **Carpenter** (BA), **Keown** (BA/ACU), **Inglis** (Wellcome). Colleagues have been awarded a total of £38.3k from LLC's own research fund, and £20k from the CHSS KE fund, for a wide range of smaller projects.

**Infrastructure and facilities:** English Literature's contacts within the University and City of Edinburgh ensure that staff and doctoral students in the department all have access to a research network stretching from the individual study desk through department, School, College and beyond to both city and national institutions. Literary research benefits from Edinburgh's world-class collections. The University Library has rich holdings in manuscript, print and digital access, which staff can supplement by ordering material essential for their own, or their postgraduates', research. The unique special collections of Halliwell-Phillips (early drama) and the Laing Papers (19C Scottish literature and scholarship) have been crucial to work by e.g. **Loxley** (Shakespeare in Scotland, 2008-11) and **Fielding** (SWINC, ongoing). Manuscript and original material contributes directly to postgraduate training and research, especially in the areas of Material Culture / Book History, and medieval / early modern. The NLS, Scotland's copyright library relied on by all English Literature researchers, has unrivalled holdings, especially in Scottish material and book-trade history. Its recently acquired Murray archive is currently the focus of a CDA with the department, and various staff work directly on NLS collections (e.g. **Trill**, early modern women's manuscript writing). The NRS also holds vital documentary material which informs various ongoing research projects (e.g. **Carpenter**, early Scottish theatre). The Scottish Poetry Library, host to a CDA on concrete poetry, offers valuable and distinctive modern and contemporary research holdings both for literary research, and for Creative Writing. Fruitful scholarly use is made of Edinburgh's outstanding resources not only by individuals, but through the Centres and major projects. The *Carlyle Letters*, which produced its 41st volume in 2013 led by the meticulous work of senior editors Christianson and Campbell, depends largely on Edinburgh collections. The CHB, its work rooted in collections in the University and NLS, has hosted a range of ground-breaking projects, e.g. BA fellow Poleg (Early Bible, 2008-11), Leverhulme Early Career fellow Elliot (C16 Bannatyne manuscript, 2011-13) and, in partnership between CHB and the Scottish National Gallery of

Modern Art, **Otty's** work on Small Press Publishing (2012-13).

The department continues to benefit from close ties with EUP, now one of the leading academic presses in the UK. Manning was a trustee, while **Fielding**, **Taxidou** and **Thomson** sit on its Press Committee; its literary studies editor and former Head of Book Publishing (currently an English Literature doctoral student) can advise staff on publication. In addition to individual monographs by staff members, EUP publishes several prestigious series initiated and edited from the department: *Transatlantic Literatures* (Manning and **Taylor**), the histories of the *Book in Scotland* (Bell) and *Twentieth Century Literature in Britain* (**Stevenson**), and the Stevenson Edition (**Fielding**).

**Organisational and administrative:** The growth and diversification of research activity, and accompanying funding successes have been supported by expanding organisational support structures. The School has recently established a dedicated Research Office, whose full time administrator works with staff through the lifetime of a project, from advising on funding applications and drafting budgets to financial administration, event management and internal publicity. This has been especially crucial in enabling more complex collaborative projects (**Loxley**, Shakespeare in Scotland; **Walker**, Staging the Scottish Court). An LLC marketing administrator has now been appointed to promote dissemination and public engagement. Institutional support includes the University's Edinburgh Research and Innovation (ERI) office which offers all researchers tailored pre-award advice on funding sources and personal application development. Seven staff in the CHSS Research and Knowledge Exchange Office (RKO) support projects in areas such as grants, IT, events, KE and publication. This has been particularly valuable for public engagement activities such as the 250th anniversary project. English Literature staff have also benefited from RKO workshops developing understanding of e.g. KE, Impact, Public Engagement.

Technical and IT support is increasingly vital both for our research projects and for new kinds of multi-media output. Digital editions (e.g. Stevenson project), and the exhibitions resulting from projects led by **Loxley** and **Stevenson** have all benefited from expert curatorial input from the EUL and NLS, and IT expertise from the University's IS Research Support Services. Recognising the importance of IT, we have now appointed a learning technologist. Initially supporting a new distance-learning MSc, this also offers a vital resource for research and its dissemination. The new building LLC will occupy in 2014 will not only offer advanced and dedicated technical facilities, but by the provision of much-needed common space will enable freer social and intellectual interaction across the School – an important and often underestimated facilitator of research activity.

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

Fostering internal collaboration has been an important strategy for the department in encouraging a fundamentally collaborative research culture. Several projects have been consciously aimed at involving colleagues in collaborative working. One, the *Edinburgh Introduction to Studying English Literature* (EUP, 2010) was edited and written by a team including almost all members of the department, with new colleagues now contributing essays to its second edition. While not a research work itself, it arose from the varied and co-operative research interests of its writers, and the royalties it engenders are committed to supporting research assistance for members of the department. Several of the series initiated within the department similarly draw current and former colleagues into research collaboration. **Stevenson's** *Edinburgh History of Twentieth Century Literature*, for example, will include volumes written by **Wild**, **Malpas** and former PhD Ferrebe alongside a range of new, established and eminent scholars.

Such internal projects reflect and support the wider collaborations now characteristically evident in much of our new research. **Loxley's** Jonson project involves partnership with scholars in Nottingham, **Walker's** 'Staging the Scottish Renaissance Court', academics from Brunel, Glasgow, Lincoln and Southampton, along with experts from Historic Scotland and the professional theatre. **Crosthwaite's** AHRC-funded exhibition on 'The Image of Finance' will be curated with colleagues at the universities of Manchester and Southampton. International collaboration, long-established in the *Carlyle Letters* partnership with Duke University, flourishes in the joint editorship of the Stevenson edition from the University of Virginia, transatlantic literature collaborations with North Carolina, Oklahoma and British Columbia, and postcolonial research with experts from Oceania

and Australia. Currently over half of our staff are involved in research projects with colleagues in at least sixteen different international and UK universities. Such partnerships not only benefit specific projects, but are often aimed at developing broader collaborations across the discipline. SWINC thus promotes new directions in Scottish Literature research through an active network across the universities of Scotland, while **Fielding** has won significant AHRC follow-on funding for 'Writing the North', a collaborative project with the Shetland Museum.

Collaboration is only one aspect of the contribution by colleagues to research excellence in the wider discipline. At one level this is seen in the enduring influence of scholarly work produced. The monumental series of the *Carlyle Letters*, supported by the department since 1964, is a lasting contribution to Victorian studies, testament to our sustained investment in this scholarly research project. Major works, such as **Stevenson's** 2004 volume of the Oxford English Literary History, *The Last of England?*, have had a widely-cited impact on literary study, while the work of Manning, **Walker** and **Loxley** is held in international esteem. Distinguished emeriti scholars, such as University Fellows Professors Alasdair Fowler, RDS Jack and Peter Garside, remain active researchers. But work in promoting research across the discipline is also seen more indirectly. Many staff make important editorial contribution to a wide range of academic journals. Several long-established journals are edited in the department (e.g. *Edinburgh Review* (**Gillis**), *Scottish Literary Review* (**Dunnigan**), *Medieval English Theatre* (**Carpenter**)), while staff sit on the editorial or advisory boards of over a dozen international journals ranging from *Renaissance Studies* to *Modern Intellectual History*. Virtually all staff are invited to peer review, acting for some 60 journals and 15 academic presses. Significant international conferences, such as Material Cultures (CHB 2010), or Stanley Cavell (2008), have not only promoted the discipline but led to important new publications. Book series founded and edited by staff – *Oxford Textual Perspectives* (**Walker**), *Scottish Cultural Review of Language and Literature* (**Dunnigan**), *Edinburgh Studies in Transatlantic Literatures* (Manning and **Taylor**), *Edinburgh History of Twentieth Century Literature* (**Stevenson**) – also contribute both to shaping the discipline, and to the research careers of others.

Direct engagement in such research and publication projects is extended by colleagues' contribution to the organisation and management of research excellence in the wider discipline. Many work with nationally operating research funding councils: in the AHRC both in leading roles (**Walker**) and at College and Panel levels (**Keown**, **Loxley**, Manning, **Taxidou**). **Milnes** and **Loxley** sat on BA and RS panels; Manning worked on the RSE council and as trustee of the Kennedy Memorial Trust Fellowships, **Stevenson** as expert advisor to the Australian Research Council. Contributions of strategic research expertise are seen in individuals' invitations to review research strategy at other universities (Manning, **Stevenson**), or to act as assessor for chairs and tenure, nationally and internationally (**Stevenson**, **Taxidou**, **Walker**). Recognition of individual contribution to the discipline is seen in fellowships and council memberships, of Royal Society of Arts (Manning), Society of Antiquaries and Royal Historical Society (**Walker**), English Association (**Carpenter**, **Stevenson**, **Walker**), British Association of Irish Studies (**Kelly**).

Throughout all levels of the department staff are working at the forefront of their specialisms, engaging with the discipline nationally and internationally. This is confirmed by the awards won by a wide range of staff (twelve works by colleagues were awarded or nominated for prizes during the period). A high proportion of staff, at all career stages, have edited or been invited to contribute to recent discipline-defining collections and histories in their areas. Works by members of staff have been translated into Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Korean and Chinese. Many have been sought as PhD external examiners, across the UK and internationally. Plenary lectures have been given at international conferences in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, N and S America, with further invited papers in an impressive range of institutions worldwide. Similar wide involvement is seen at home, with virtually all staff giving plenaries or invited papers at universities across the UK, and being involved in the organisation of national and international conferences.

The department's aim is that its own research culture and strategies, supported by investment and expertise at every level of the institution, should enable its members to fulfil their individual research potential in ways which sustain future generations of students, and contribute to the development of the discipline as a whole both within and beyond the university.