

LIBRARY EVOLUTION 2029

King's has set out a compelling vision to 'make the world a better place' in its strategy for 2029. The strategic drivers that will enable its delivery mean that Library Services must position itself as a provider of access to world-class resources and learning spaces in order to support research and teaching.

We will need to take a leading role in the emerging digital landscape at King's, create services to support the full research life-cycle and Open Research as well as empowering students in digital literacy. We must place our Archives & Special Collections at the heart of King's cultural offering and create opportunities for multi-disciplinary study in new learning environments.

In order to do this, we have recognised that our current services need to evolve and grow in full collaboration and partnership with the university. As the university changes around us, it is imperative that we work together to ensure that Library Services can realise and deliver the ambitions of Vision 2029.

Working with our stakeholders, we have created a plan, Library Evolution, which will enable us to fittingly transform our services, our resources and our spaces as we move towards 2029. Library Evolution is the journey along which we shall travel over the next decade to deliver a library for King's that is fit for the 21st century.





REIMAGINING OUR COLLECTIONS

We will take radical steps to reorganise our collections, moving a proportion of print stock off-site and housing our archives and special collections in one flagship location.

Using specialist software, the collection will be segmented into four areas, with each one managed and developed in different ways depending on university need and the way in which students and researchers interact with the resources. Some collections will be off-sited completely to make way for transformed library spaces where access to resources will be delivered either digitally or on request, creating space for collaborative, formal and informal study spaces. Print research collections will be consolidated at the Maughan and re-sequenced to allow for better access for students and to create a new interdisciplinary learning environment.

Collections of strength, including Special Collections and Archives, will be part of the learning experience for undergraduates as well as graduates, easily accessible at the Maughan library and an integral part of study and research. Students will attend seminars on the use of primary resources and partake in opportunities to be part of 'London's living classroom'. Housed in one building, our unique and special collections and Archives will create a cultural hub for the university and for the public, with a broad schedule of engagement events and exhibitions.



FULLY SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS

Research support for King's students and researchers will be delivered by all staff across the library. We will work in partnership with IT and e-Research to deliver a suite of services designed to support the full research lifecycle from application through to inclusion in the REF. We will be making a meaningful contribution to the external impact of King's research and strengthening the use of scholarly metrics within the university, reversing bias towards the use of quantitative metrics and journal influence towards next generation evidence-based quantitative and qualitative indicators for Open Research. We will provide leadership in enabling open data and open research skills and providing infrastructure, policy awareness and institutional repository facilities to enable compliance with our open data accountabilities as well as training and advocacy in skills and expertise regarding FAIR data (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) and the provision of standardised metadata services. We will enable the provision of long term research data preservation solutions and develop services for researchers in Humanities and Social Science fields.

The ability to facilitate knowledge discovery and understand the research impact of the university is a substantial and credible driver in achieving King's vision for 2029, specifically around showcasing our research to a global audience. We will contrive a shift in culture at King's towards Open Research and sustainable access to content via the development of appropriate infrastructures and services. It is desirable for King's to be seen as a major player in the open data landscape with such strong civic goals and a visionary Service Strategy.



NEW LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We will be completely re-thinking our physical spaces, making the best use of the opportunities presented by reassessing the location of our collections. The library is where students prefer to study so we will have the space to support the development of a 'community of learners' and to enhance multi-disciplinary learning – spaces designed to bring students together to learn and not to house print collections. A new medical hub will be created at Guy's campus. Print collections will be removed from New Hunt's House and a completely new library space will be developed in the current Wills Library basement (currently used to store print journals). We will also transform library space at St.Thomas' as we aim to provide space that will support medical students with tailored resources and services.

The Maughan will be completely reimagined and become the cultural heart of the library with a public showcase for Archives & Special Collections and be the focus for the study and research of Arts & Humanities at King's. The Maughan, as one of King's flagship buildings, is geographically well placed to help deliver the London strategy, connecting as it does, the City, Westminster and legal London.

As well as transforming our physical spaces, we will also understand what a virtual library service looks like in the context of digital education and blended learning at King's. We will create a virtual space where the King's community can access information resources from a library platform and obtain 24 hour help. Specialist teams will develop learning tools and work with faculty programme leads to embed digital skills into the curriculum.



ACCESS OVER OWNERSHIP

The growing quantity of information resources that are becoming available means that it is now unsustainable for Library Services to acquire outright ownership of everything that our students and researchers need to use. Library Evolution will move us from a scenario of the 'owned collection' to one of a 'facilitated collection' whereby our value is found in our ability to provide access to information in a seamless and timely manner. We will provide access to information resources in a number of different ways, including via transformational acquisition models that work on 'evidence of use' based data systems, via Open Access materials and by pointing students and researchers to appropriate external sources of reliable information. This will require our librarians to have full knowledge of the information landscape as well as holding local expertise on King's collections.

Collaborative collection development agreements will also be a feature of Library Evolution – King's is situated in the heart of London and is surrounded by world class libraries, so we will be encouraging our students to use London as their campus. We will be agreeing formal collection strategies with our colleagues across London to ensure that we use our location as an opportunity to maximise on access to print and digital resources by the King's community.



ENQUIRY MODEL

We have reviewed our enquiry delivery service and will be implementing a more nuanced model, taking into account the different requirements at our different sites and for different members of the King's community. We will remove the current 'one size fits all' approach with staff stationed behind enquiry desks and instead, offer three levels of help, when it is needed, ranging from one off simple questions to one-to-one appointments where librarians will engage students to develop the skills they need to discover information for themselves, evaluate the information sources that are available to them and make judgements on their accuracy and validity.



UNDERSTANDING FACULTY DRIVERS

Library Services regularly engage with our users, listening to their feedback and working with them to develop services and spaces. For Library Evolution, we will need to fully collaborate with all of our colleagues within faculties, both academic and professional, to ensure that we are getting it right for them and for the university. We will be an integral part of faculty planning processes, curriculum design and research development. We will use strategic drivers for faculties and departments to make certain that our priorities are right and that we are clear on how we must work with them to deliver the education and research strategies.



REBALANCE OUR RESOURCES

In order to ensure that we can deliver the changes we need to make throughout our Library Evolution journey, we are committed to ensuring that we have the right people, resources and budgets in the right places to deliver our goals.

By 2029, our Library Evolution project will have completely transformed the physical and digital learning environment in which our students study and the way our community of learners and researchers access and interact with information resources. We will be working alongside the university to deliver an outstanding education and research experience in an academic library that is fit for the 21st century and which befits King's as a world class university.