



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Library & University Collections

Strategy 2020-25



Introduction



Jeremy Upton
Director, Library & University Collections

Library and University Collections (L&UC) is responsible for the University of Edinburgh's digital and physical collections.

We work in partnership with colleagues across our parent group, Information Services, to bring our collections to the University community and global audiences. Our collections are diverse and include Special Collections, Museum and Art Collections, and support learners and researchers across a wide range of disciplines. This Strategy is set in the context of the University of Edinburgh's Strategy 2030.

Vision Statement for Library & University Collections

We are a dynamic, collaborative and ambitious organisation, built around the strengths of our collections and the skills and creativity of our teams.

We deliver opportunities and services in support of the University's exceptional educational and research offering, and to the wider local, national and international community.



Purpose

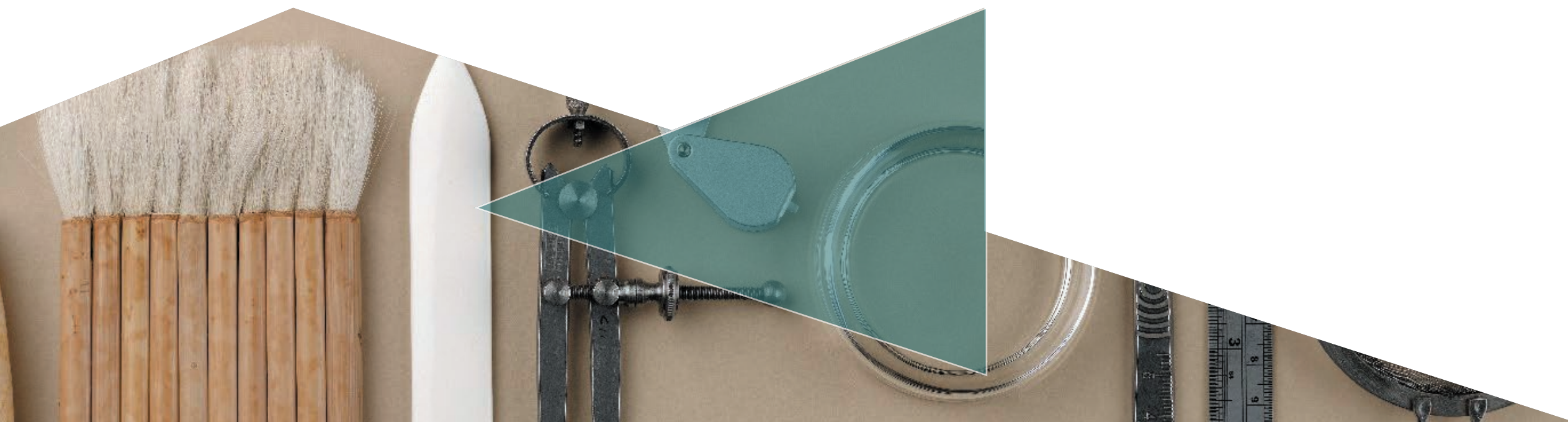
We...

- ▷ Provide first-class, open and accessible services.
- ▷ Are the University's collections and information experts.
- ▷ Support teaching and research, training and empowering users to become effective learners and researchers.
- ▷ Lead the University's transition to open scholarship.
- ▷ Preserve, interpret and promote the University's history and intellectual cultural heritage.
- ▷ Support the University's place in and relationship with the local and international community.
- ▷ Guide the University on the changing nature of research and its evaluation.
- ▷ Exploit the latest information technology to serve the University through innovation.

Values

We share the values of our parent group, Information Services. These are:

- ▷ **Delivering excellent services**
We take pride in providing a professional service, which meets the needs of our users.
- ▷ **Effective team working**
We contribute and collaborate effectively within and across our teams.
- ▷ **The individual**
Colleagues treat each other and service users with respect. We appreciate everyone's strengths and contributions.
- ▷ **Effective communication**
We recognise effective and open communication as critical to achieving success.
- ▷ **Continuous improvement**
We continuously develop and improve our services in line with our vision, mission and goals. We respond to innovations and developments in the University and beyond.





Strategy 2020-25

Built on our vision, purpose and values and our existing strengths, our strategy addresses the priorities set out in the University Strategy 2030 and the current Information Services Strategy.

The primary function of the University is to deliver excellent teaching and research, and this will always underpin the priorities we set out in our strategies.

This Library & University Collections strategy lasts for five years, giving us the opportunity for a review at the midpoint of the University's 10-year strategy. We recognise that over the next five years there will be a greater focus on delivering our services in an increasingly digital environment. We will partner more closely with individuals and organisations in our communities in Edinburgh, the UK and globally.

Our strategy addresses the four themes underpinning the University Strategy:

-  People
-  Research
-  Teaching and learning
-  Social and civic responsibility





People

Our people include our colleagues and our customers. We will invest in all our teams to ensure they are adaptable and empowered to provide the best possible services.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion underpins all of our service delivery and the choices we make. We value all our peoples' contributions equally.

The Library's services and buildings are some of the most heavily used across the University and support people from the University and the wider community in Edinburgh and beyond. Our work delivers and fosters the values set out in the new University Strategy 2030.

Over the next five years we will:

- ▷ Enact a range of measures to improve Equality, Diversity & Inclusion for all our people.
- ▷ Provide continuous professional development to ensure colleagues are supported to do their jobs effectively, and possess up-to-date, digital skills throughout their careers.
- ▷ Recognise colleagues' contributions to business as usual, as well as project and programme work.
- ▷ Support our students' health and wellbeing and sense of belonging through social prescribing and on-campus initiatives and engagement opportunities with our shared cultural heritage.
- ▷ Develop connections to our alumni and the University's philanthropic goals via our services and cultural heritage collections.



Research

We support research through three main areas of activity: supporting the University's transition to open scholarship; providing advice and guidance on best practice in research support; and active stewardship of University of Edinburgh collections.

Over the next five years we will:

- ▶ Increase the amount of University collections-focused research and partner with academic schools to develop collections-based research projects.
- ▶ Improve accessibility to, and discoverability of, collections for research and develop collections to support new research disciplines.
- ▶ Enable researchers and students to use library collections computationally, enabling innovative digital scholarship approaches to research.
- ▶ Help to shape the field of academic research support across the University and among international peers.
- ▶ Be the University's open research experts informing our responses to national and international policy and open research initiatives.



Teaching and Learning

We support teaching and learning for all of our students and external users by providing core Library services and resources, and new ways for students to engage creatively with heritage collections and technology.

Over the next five years we will:

- ▷ Provide and improve access to resources for students on campus and worldwide, prioritising online access to resources and enabling straightforward access to open digital resources where appropriate.
- ▷ Encourage curiosity by developing welcoming physical and digital spaces where people can explore our collections and where collections can challenge and inspire.
- ▷ Support teaching through greater use of our unique heritage collections, working with academic colleagues to provide object-based learning within library and museum spaces.
- ▷ Provide digital information skills training for all students, enabling users to access the resources they require to succeed in their studies and to operate as critical digital thinkers. We will collaborate with lecturers to embed data and information literacy skills into the curriculum, increasingly through online and interactive resources.



Social and Civic Responsibility

Social and civic responsibility is at the heart of the library and museum collection world.

The purpose of our collections, our services and our spaces has always been about providing the facilities and the opportunities for our university and wider communities to think openly, to understand each other's points of view and to be able to meet and debate.

Over the next five years we will:

- ▶ Apply an 'as open as possible and as closed as necessary' policy to collections and spaces.
- ▶ Build collections and resources that reflect the diversity of our University, local and wider communities and the diverse viewpoints contained within them.
- ▶ Preserve our collections, digital and print, for future users.
- ▶ Review our collecting practices to ensure they are environmentally sustainable.



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