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# New and refurbished library buildings

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When we put out the call for submissions for this issue on library building projects, we were delighted to receive articles on some of the most exciting recent or planned developments in the United Kingdom, including excellent photographs. We have been able to feature buildings at the universities of Exeter, Aberdeen, Birmingham, Manchester, City University London, Leicester and the Robert Gordon University, providing a very good overview of current trends in academic library development. A much older library which has undergone significant change recently is the glorious Gladstone's Library at Hawarden in Wales: Maxine Melling has sent an article describing its accommodation and services, which will tempt many people to book a peaceful retreat there.

Sarah McNicol, then at the National Union of Students (NUS), sent us a very interesting piece on student attitudes towards intellectual property. I am not aware that this topic has so far been explored in much depth and Sarah's article has a number of recommendations on how we can support students who may not be aware of its importance. Other articles on the student experience in this issue cover support for international students, mobile services for distance learning students and involving students in service development, advocacy and stock selection.

Some time ago we were asked by one of the companies that handles withdrawn library stock whether we would accept an advertisement for their services. We do not carry adverts in Focus, but we thought that it would be useful to provide an overview of the services available to libraries. Lys Ann Reiners has written a very useful article on this topic and we received another piece from Nora Hegarty and Therese O'Neill on the Books for Africa project they have been involved with.

Staff development issues are always popular and in this issue we have an article on one example of the '23 Things' model for development of skills in web technologies and another on the benefits of volunteering. We have several very regular

contributors to the 'News from member libraries' section of Focus but we would like to hear from more of you. We send out reminders to the list of contact we have, but our list does go out of date quite quickly so please get in touch with any member of the editorial board if you have news you'd like to share.

You will have noticed that when the SCONUL web site was redesigned, not all the back issues of Focus were uploaded immediately. This is a very big task and the content will be added gradually. The online version and the cover of the print edition of Focus have been redesigned in the new corporate style and we will work on updating the rest of the content over the next few months.