#### Public Engagement Richard Ovenden, Deputy Librarian Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford

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# Summary

- What is Outreach?
- Why do it?
- Types of Outreach
  - Exhibitions
  - Events
  - Online
  - Commercial products
- Public relations and Communication
- Fundraising and outreach



# What is Outreach?

- Challenge for today: how can libraries continue engaging with users in an increasingly digital world?
- Outreach means engaging with new communities of users
- Also getting important messages to existing users.
- Essential aspects of Outreach:
  - Thinking beyond the confines of the physical library
  - Identifying and segmenting users
  - Developing strategies for engagement with potential users
  - Moving the library into new communities

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# What is Outreach?

- Bring new communities into the physical and digital library
- Engage with existing users in a different way
- Reconceive the concept of the Library
- Get on the radar of Government and other funders. Make them see how libraries are a force for good in society.
- Build community support.
- Engagement with younger learners schoolchildren future users of libraries
- Special Collections are key device for doing this.
- Its about people as much as it is about collections
- Formulated in a 'Cultural Strategy' at the Bodleian

# Types of Outreach: Exhibitions

- Long tradition of showing collections in the Bodleian
- Currently mount two main exhibitions per year: 40-60,000 per exhibition
- Plus small displays change every month
- Single day events (World Book Day), normally over 1,000 attend
- Exhibition tours
- Exhibition loans











12/1/2011

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### Monthly displays









12/1/2011





## **Exhibition tours**

- Programme of travelling exhibitions to other parts of the UK, Europe, the the world.
  - New York Public Library
  - Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington
  - State Library of Victoria, Melbourne
- Reach new audiences, raise profile
- Collaboration with other institutions
- Library as a 'cultural ambassador'









## QR CODES



## Exhibitions as cultural ambassadors

- Arab Week in European Parliament
- Collaboration with British Museum
- Example of engagement with Arab League and Islamic countries, cultural and intellectual ties with Europe.
- Bodleian Exhibition of Magna Carta trigger to bring UK Minister for Culture and local political leaders (eg Mayor of Oxford) to the University 12/1/2011







# Types of Outreach: Digital

- Digital materials can be found and used by anyone – democracy of the web
- Use targetted digitization to reach new audiences
- Use digital communication, especially social media) to reach new audiences (Facebook, Twitter, RSS feeds)
- Institutional repositories
- Cultural repatriation
- Crowdsourcing









(SAHAJĀNAND SWĀMI) meditate in My heart upon Lord Shri Krishna, on whose left stands Rādhā, on whose bosom resides Laxmiji and who plays (with His Bhaktas) in Vrindāvan.

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### Treasures of the Bodleian





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Fragment of a Lyric by Sappho



Letter from an Egyptian boy to his father



Three rolls from Herculanaeum



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The Elements of Euclid



Early world map from The Book of Curiosities



The Selden Map



Part of the Laxton Map



The Marvels of the East



Marco Polo's Travels



Notitia Dignitatum

Codex Mendoza



The Gutenburg Bible



### Treasures of the Bodleian



#### More from Calculation

More Treasures











### Treasures of the Bodleian





Fragment of a Lyric by Sappho



Letter from an Egyptian boy to his father



Three rolls from Herculanaeum

#### The Elements of Euclid »

This is the oldest surviving manuscript of the commoner version of Euclid's Elements, as edited by Theon of Alexandria in the 4th century AD. This version, which became the standard version, aimed...

#### More about this treasure »



Early world map from The Book of Curiosities



Marco Polo's Travels



The Selden Map



Part of the Laxton Map



The Marvels of the East



















#### the making of THE KING JAMES BIBLE

from the Bodleian Libraries

In 2011, the King James Bible is 400 years old. The Bodleian Libraries in Oxford are marking this anniversary with an exhibition entitled *Manifold Greatness: Oxford and the Making of the King James Bible*. This mobile app accompanies the exhibition.

#### Introduction

The King James Bible

Before the King James Bible

**Origins of the Project** 

**Materials and Methods** 

The Oxford Translators

Afterlives

**Celebrating 400 Years** 



Portrait of John Rainolds, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 1598–1607, unknown artist, 17th century. Reproduced with permission of the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and The Bridgeman Art Library.

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The beginning of the Song of Songs in one of the earliest and most important manuscripts of the Wycliffite Bible, dating from c.1380-1390. Bodleian Libraries: MS. Bodl. 959 fol. 269v.

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#### 4,300 items \* 10 min each = ca. 20 weeks





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#### Old Weather: Our Weather's Past, the Climate's Future

#### Introduction

Help scientists recover worldwide weather observations made by Royal Navy ships around the time of World War I. These transcriptions will contribute to climate model projections and improve a database of weather extremes. Historians will use your work to track past ship movements and the stories of the people on board.



**Project Statistics** 

Old Weather transcriptions so far



490075 PAGES DONE 109 SHIPS COMPLETE









# Types of Outreach: Events

- Bringing people together
- Based around collections
- Excellent ways to attract new audiences and to keep the Library 'fresh' for existing audiences
- Partnerships and collaborations with other organisations

# Types of Outreach: Events

- Centre for the Study of the Book
- Bring scholars and librarians together to discuss and debate the role of the book in history and culture.
- Events: Masterclasses, Symposia, Conferences Projects
- New ways of engaging traditional audiences





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# Case Study: Shakespeare in the Quad

- Use space in the old Bodleian for different purposes
- Bring theatrical performance of Shakespeare in the open air
- Collaboration with the Globe Theatre, London (production)
- Collaboration with Oxford Playhouse (ticketing, marketing)
- Library exhibition, talks by Oxford English Faculty
- 450 tickets sold per night for 15 performances every year=6750 tickets per season









## Public relations and Communication

- Bodleian had no Communication Dept until 2001
- In 2008 It was enlarged to 5 full-time staff
- Covers External Communications, Internal Communications, Web, and soon Events.
- Intimate connection between Outreach and Communications
- Media coverage essential
  - Impact
  - Awareness
- Increasing importance of TV and digital media

### Queues gather to gaze at grubby Magna Carta

Heavy security is on hand - with every visitor being photographed - as the Bodleian library displays its four copies of the great charter. Maev Kennedy reports

Maev Kennedy guardian.co.uk, Tuesday December 11 2007 Article history · Contact us



12/1/2011

Four of the earliest surviving concessional Magna Carta on display at the Bodleian library, Oxford. Photograph: Martin Argles







# Outreach and commercial activity

- Importance of diverse income streams
- Cannot rely on government funding alone
- 'Bodleian Enterprises' (Turnover = 2m Euros in 2010-11):
  - Retail operations
  - Historic Venues
  - Publishing
  - Imaging Services

### **Brand Ambassadors**

• Not just income generation, also an outreach tool

CX0481 Annunciation to the Shepherds. Size: 5 x 7ins.



CX0489 Star and Mag. Size: 5 x 7ins



12/1/2011

#### Christmas Cards 2010 Bodleian Library, University of Oxford



CX0486 Through a Renaissance Arch Size 5 x 7ins



CX0488 Preparing the Feast Size: 3 1/2 x 8 1/2ins

GREETING INSIDE ALL CARDS: BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR





CX0493 Journey of the magi Size: 31/2 x 81/2ins



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## Fundraising and Outreach

- Intimately connected
- 'Adding value' to the core mission of the library
- Engagement with wider audiences
- Enjoyable opportunities to meet with potential donors
- Connect with alumni, Friends groups etc

### Magna Carta

April 26-May 5, 2011 This exhibition is organized by the Bodleian Libraries. University of Oxford, as part of Brit Week 2011, and is made possible by Oxalcourse and take to William and take





