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# CHANGING PLACES

## Collaboration and Exploration Across Three Faculty Libraries

At the start of this academic year, the English, Philosophy and Divinity Faculty Libraries embarked on a bold new project: creating two new cross-library posts.



### EXPLORATION

*Learning to work in three Faculty Libraries*



#### How to navigate three Faculty Libraries?

The prospect of working in three libraries was formidable. Initially, even the simplest tasks – such as remembering which location to choose on Alma – were a challenge. Yet the greatest difficulty of these cross-library posts was also their greatest strength. Working across three libraries has provided a wide variety of tasks and with that, a great deal of experience. As a result, the cross-library posts have enabled us to further explore some of the fantastic library services offered in the School of Arts and Humanities whilst challenging us to adapt to a unique style of working.

The benefits of working in cross-library posts have not been restricted to us as individuals. As we learn more about how each library operates we are able to draw upon their strengths, helping the libraries we work in to collaborate more closely on improving the service they offer.

For example, when it came to reorganising the dissertations and extended essays being held in the English Faculty Library, we were able to draw upon the resources that had already been created in the Philosophy Faculty Library. Moreover, we were able to pass on the feedback from a short library survey about why example works are used, helping the Philosophy Faculty Library to review their own procedures.



### COLLABORATION

*The wider benefits of cross-library experience*



## SHARED ROLES: THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY WORK?



#### KEY CHALLENGES

- ⚠️ *Difficult to gain in-depth knowledge of the collections across the three libraries*
- ⚠️ *Requires a flexible and dynamic approach to working*
- ⚠️ *Managing time and tasks can be especially challenging given the limited hours in each library*

#### KEY POSITIVES

- ✅ *Wider variety of library experience gained*
- ✅ *Closer collaboration across libraries*
- ✅ *Greater understanding of student experience*

#### CONCLUSION

The cross-library posts have certainly provided numerous challenges and have not always been easy to adapt to. However, the experience of doing so has, and will continue to be, thoroughly rewarding. Above all, the key to making these posts work is great organisation and effective communication.