'New' books leading to new readers

Louisa Yates
Director of Collections and Research









@gladlib





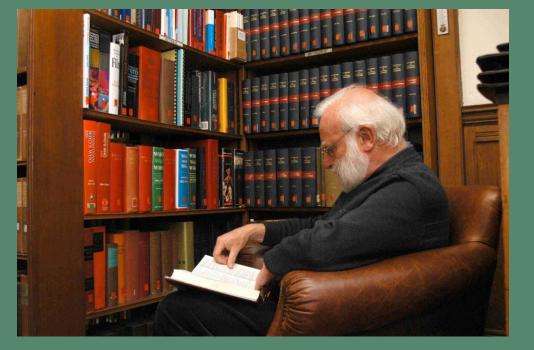


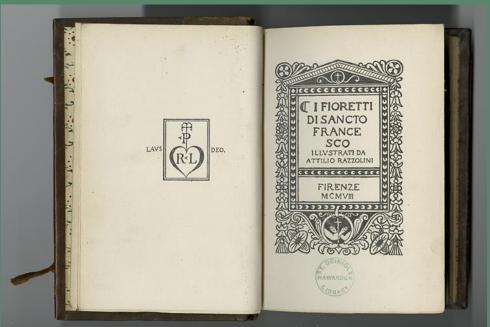




















1889-1930

- Foundation texts from WEG and family
- Collections understood as wide, capacious spiritual AND secular
- Foundation Collection discrete, coherent

1930-1990

- Emphasis on WEG Christianity and theological collections
- St Deiniol's funding derives from CoE, CoW
- Foundation Collection dispersed across Reading Rooms

1990-2020

- Scholarly emphasis on Victorian reading practices, material print culture
- Name change to Gladstone's Library (2010)
- Foundation collection returns to coherent (online then physical)







WEG as vicar, theologian, devout Christian

Collections overwhelmingly theological

St Deiniol's Library visitor = clergy WEG as omnivorous reader and collector

Collections spiritual AND secular

Gladstone's
Library =
reflective of
WEG reading







- 1800-1900
- 20 classmarks
- All owned by WEG
- 1889-2012: dispersed across collection
- 2012- held together in History Room
- From 2006-09: OPAC

• Supporting the Foundation Collection

 Replicating Gladstone's acquisition principles

Foundation Collection

Circulating Collection

Rare Books and Special Collections

Archives

- c. 15c 1800
- Bishop Moorman Franciscan Collection
- Hills History of Technology (emphasis 19c)

- Gladstone and Glynne families
- Radical theology
- Women's ordination
- Rural theology







WEG as vicar, theologian, devout Christian

Collections overwhelmingly theological

St Deiniol's Library visitor = clergy WEG as omnivorous reader and collector

Collections spiritual AND secular

Gladstone's
Library =
reflective of
WEG reading





	Class List		
A	Prolegomena to the study of the Bible	<u>P</u>	<u>Classical Literature</u>
В	The Bible (Old & New Testament)	Q	European Literature
C	Patristics, Church Fathers & Gnosticism	R	Literature
D	Philosophy and Psychology	<u>S</u>	Bibliography and Librarianship
E	Christianity: Doctrine	<u>T</u>	Natural Science
F	Christianity: Practice, Ministry, Ethics, Spirituality, Mysticism	U	Sociology, Political Theory, Economics, Economic and Social History, Cultural History, Gender Studies, Education, History of Libraries, History of the Book
G	Christianity: Worship (inc. hymnals & prayer books)	V	Art, Architecture, Music, Theatre
I	Church History	$\underline{\mathbf{W}}$	Topography and Travel
K	Anthropology (inc. world religions)		
<u>L</u>	Classical History and Archaeology		
M	History		
<u>N</u>	Law; Secular and Ecclesiastical		
<u>o</u>	Language and Literature: General		











Collection contents/acquisition

Understanding of WEG/Library's purpose

Catalogue/OPAC

Public perception

Readers, scholars, researchers (the audience)

Generates research/scholarly understanding









Collections and average annual circulation:

Public access in the Reading Rooms:

Circulating collection (1880-): 7,653 issues (2019)

Gladstone Foundation Collection: 3,391 issues (2019)

Main collection but in store: 127 items across 26 requests

Request in advance, with form:

Other special collections: 978 items across 84 requests

Archives: 11,259 items across 293 individual requests







Second-hand catalogues rained in by every post, and were always carefully scanned, and marked for immediate purchase. Subjects such as witchcraft, strange religious sects, duelling, gipsies, epitaphs, the ethics of marriage, not to mention Homer, Shakespeare, and Dante, invariably commanded an order. Quickly the room filled; one by one each piece of extraneous furniture disappeared to make way for low bookcases suited to serve as tables and to hold volumes of abnormal size. Like Browning's rats—

Great books, small books, lean books, brawny books,
Brown books, black books, grey books, tawny books,
Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,
Families by tens and dozens.

They overflowed into the vestibule, they ran along the passage into the billiard-room; this involved the disappearance of the billiard table. Prizes were offered for the discovery of possible new spaces for bookcases. Often pondering, as he did, how best to benefit his fellow creatures, how to bring together readers who had no books and books who had no readers, gradually the thought evolved itself in his mind into a plan for the permanent disposal of his library. A country home for the purposes of study and research, 'for the pursuit of Divine learning,' a centre of religious life, a resident body of students, men of studious mind and habit, unfitted by various causes for active life or the turmoil of great cities.



Ever since I began to pass out of boyhood' he wrote, 'I have been feeling my way, owing little to living teachers, but enormously to four dead ones, over and above the Four Gospels'. It was a quartet made up of Aristotle, Augustine, Dante and Joseph Butler, and they show how vast his range of reading was. His diaries record that range from Pusey's 'The Improvement of Farming' through Buchanan's 'Memoirs of Paintings' in two volumes, pausing for the poetry of Milton or a novel of Sir Walter Scott, to Edward's Libraries and Founders of Libraries'













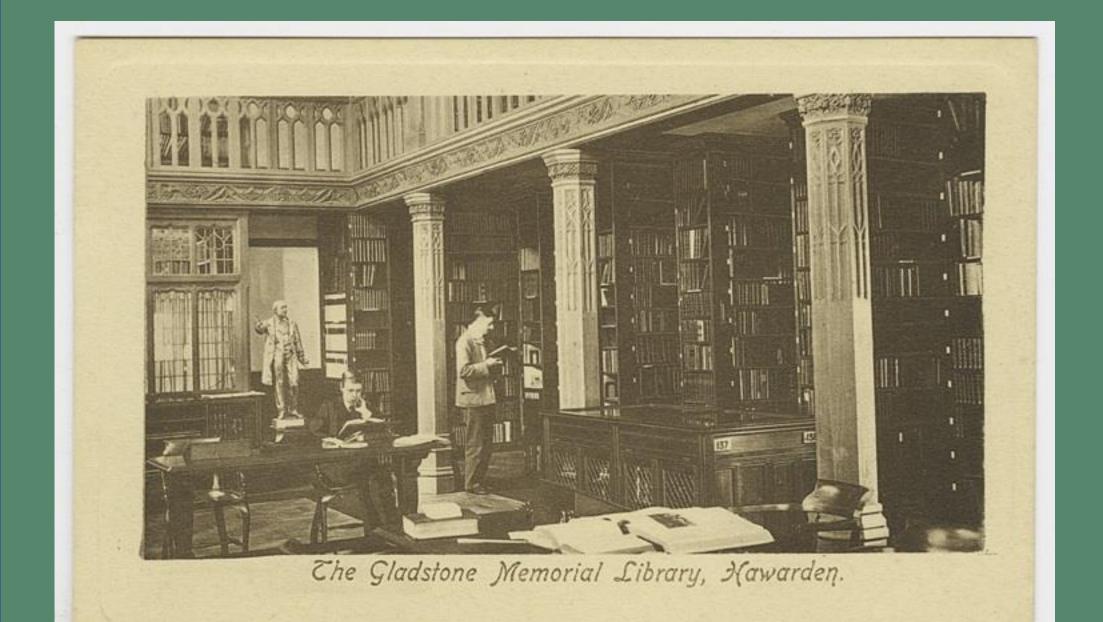


















Ruth Clayton Windscheffel, Reading Gladstone (2008):

'The Temple of Peace as a lending library boasted a very broad range of borrowers who read books from all categories in Gladstone's collection. The library was not a space designed for and used by upper-class men. There were clearly identifiably male and female users, as well as representatives from a variety of social classes among the list of borrowers.' (p. 127)

Gladstone did draw up a leaflet to advertise the library at an early stage. It was broad in its characterization of suitable readers: 'students (lay and clerical, of any age), inquirers, authors and clergy, or others desiring times of rest' but this information was evidently still only 'sent to such of Mr. Gladstone's friends as are interested in the scheme' (p. 133)

Mary Drew suggested her father's primary intention was 'to bring together readers who had no books and books who had no readers' (p. 133)

www.gladstoneslibrary.com

@gladlib (Twitter)

@gladstoneslibrary (Instagram)

Gladstone's Library (Facebook)

louisayates@gladlib.org @louisayates (Twitter/Instagram)





