

Hello to all new and returning students and fellows

We hope that the term has gone well for everyone so far. It has been great to welcome students back into the student library (WML) which, with 25 reader spaces (up from 8 last year) is beginning to feel much more normal. With additional [study spaces](#) available in the Erasmus Room and Fitzpatrick Gallery we hope there will be enough for everyone but we are monitoring the situation carefully and will find further space if necessary. We are delighted that graduates are able to make use of the newly refurbished [Armitage Room](#) as a new communal graduate space in which to work together. We are also pleased to see that many are enjoying using the new (and growing) general interest collection of library books in the Armitage (see [here](#) for further info).



The newly refurbished Armitage Room for graduate study.

For those who find they need to work from home or isolate we are continuing to provide [remote services](#) that include posting books, scanning book chapters and delivering books to student rooms, etc..

For more information about Q library services, including [new borrowing rules](#), [accessibility](#) and the [Old Library](#), please see our [Library pages](#). In case of queries please do not hesitate to get in touch: library@queens.cam.ac.uk. We wish everyone a wonderful and successful year at Queens'!

Exciting new project to digitise Queens' medieval manuscripts



Thanks to a most generous gift from Dr Virge James in memory of her late husband Dr Nigel James (Q 1963), our precious collection of medieval and early modern manuscripts will shortly be digitised and made freely available via the [Cambridge Digital Library](#). From there students and scholars from across the world will be able to consult, study and enjoy our wonderful collection. This project represents a long-awaited and essential step in our plans to make the Old Library's collections fully accessible and realised as a teaching, learning and research resource. On completion of the digitisation, a celebratory event will be advertised together with a public exhibition in the Old Library of the finest examples from the collection. We are most grateful to Dr James for making this project possible.

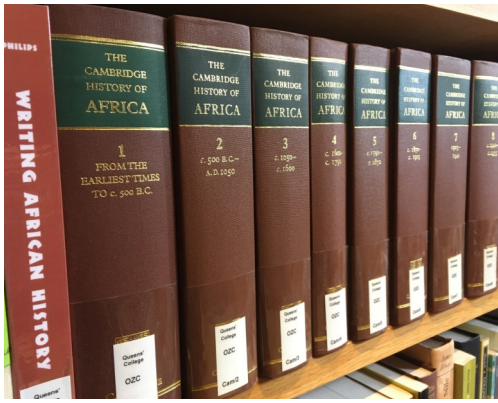
Illuminated 'Q' initial from Gilbert of Poitiers' *Super Psalmos* (12th century) [MS 18].

'How do I Research Thee? Let me Count Six Ways...'

Q Library Research/Study Skills programme returns in November with six sessions specially tailored for grads and undergrads covering lit searching, referencing, Zotero software, publishing your research. See the full programme [here](#).



Classification and decolonisation



As part of our work to decolonise WML collections we have begun to consider how classification perpetuates outdated and Western-centric viewpoints. Our classification system ([Bliss](#)) was first devised in the US over 70 years ago and adapted by UK librarians, resulting in a decided focus on British and Western perspectives. With no significant revision since the 1990s, it lacks or incorrectly locates classmarks for key topics such as gender, sexuality and race. We are currently seeking to identify these issues and devise solutions alongside other Cambridge librarians. This is

particularly important as we continue to develop our General Collection and the main collections, to ensure the books are placed correctly and sensitively on the shelves. We are eager to work with students and fellows on this, as well as on developing decolonised collections and related book displays, so if you would like to know more or get involved, please contact library@queens.cam.ac.uk.

William Woodis Harvey and Queens' Legacies of Enslavement project

The library team has of late been busy exploring the college's archives as well as assessing the careers and backgrounds of hundreds of 18th- and early 19th-century Q members in preparation for a project exhibition in Lent. In support of that we are delighted to report the recent acquisition (generously assisted by [Friends of the National Libraries](#)) of a copy of *Sketches of Hayti* by William Woodis Harvey (1798-1864) [Y.1.8]. Written up whilst a student at Queens' in 1824-7, Harvey provides an eyewitness account of the aftermath of what was perhaps the most important event in the history of enslavement: the Haitian revolution (1791-1804) in which an uprising of enslaved people brought about the establishment of a new nation state. Read more about this fascinating account and the project: [William Woodis Harvey, Sketches of Hayti \(1827\) and Queens' Legacies of Enslavement Project developments](#).



Detail from the engraved frontispiece of Harvey's *Sketches of Hayti* depicting Cap-François, now Cap-Haïtien.



Graduate Writers' Space is back this term! Join Emma (Library Graduate Trainee) every Tuesday, starting 2nd November, from 9:00-17:00 (break for lunch 13:00-14:00) in the Armitage Room where you and your graduate friends and colleagues can work in a relaxed and sociable workspace with tea/coffee and biscuits to keep you motivated!



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