

Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Digital Discoverability of Special Collections

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LEAN LIBRARY
Technology from SAGE

Agenda

- An introduction to the partnership between Lancaster University Library and Lean Library
- Librarian Futures Whitepaper Findings
- Bridging the gap between physical and digital assets
- Enhancing discoverability of the Jon Welch collection from Lancaster University Library

Creating a New Vision: The Library Towards 2025



The Library Towards 2025

we connect, we innovate, we include



A Library at the heart of Lancaster University's community,
local and global. We connect, we innovate, we include.



The Library Towards 2025
we connect, we innovate, we include

We will position the library where there is no separation between digital and physical, inhabiting and engaging across both spaces.



The Library Towards 2025
we connect, we innovate, we include

We will be a thriving, dynamic and people-focused library that brings our communities together to co-curate, co-create and share knowledge that leads to greater understanding, insight and innovation.



The Library Towards 2025
we connect, we innovate, we include

We will represent all the diverse communities that make up our University. We will provide an inclusive, supportive and safe environment where everyone belongs and can contribute to our distinctiveness.



The Library Towards 2025
we connect, we innovate, we include

Through disruptive innovation, we will bring lasting change, both within the University and the library sector. We'll be active in areas that are not traditionally seen as library business.



The Library Towards 2025
we connect, we innovate, we include

We will think and act in a global context and engage at a local level to maximise the reach and impact of the Library.



The Library Towards 2025
we connect, we innovate, we include

“

...to help **redefine** and **amplify**
the **power of the academic**
library to advance student
learning and researcher impact.

LEAN LIBRARY MISSION

#REDEFINING



LIBRARIAN FUTURES

Charting the future of the librarian-patron relationship.

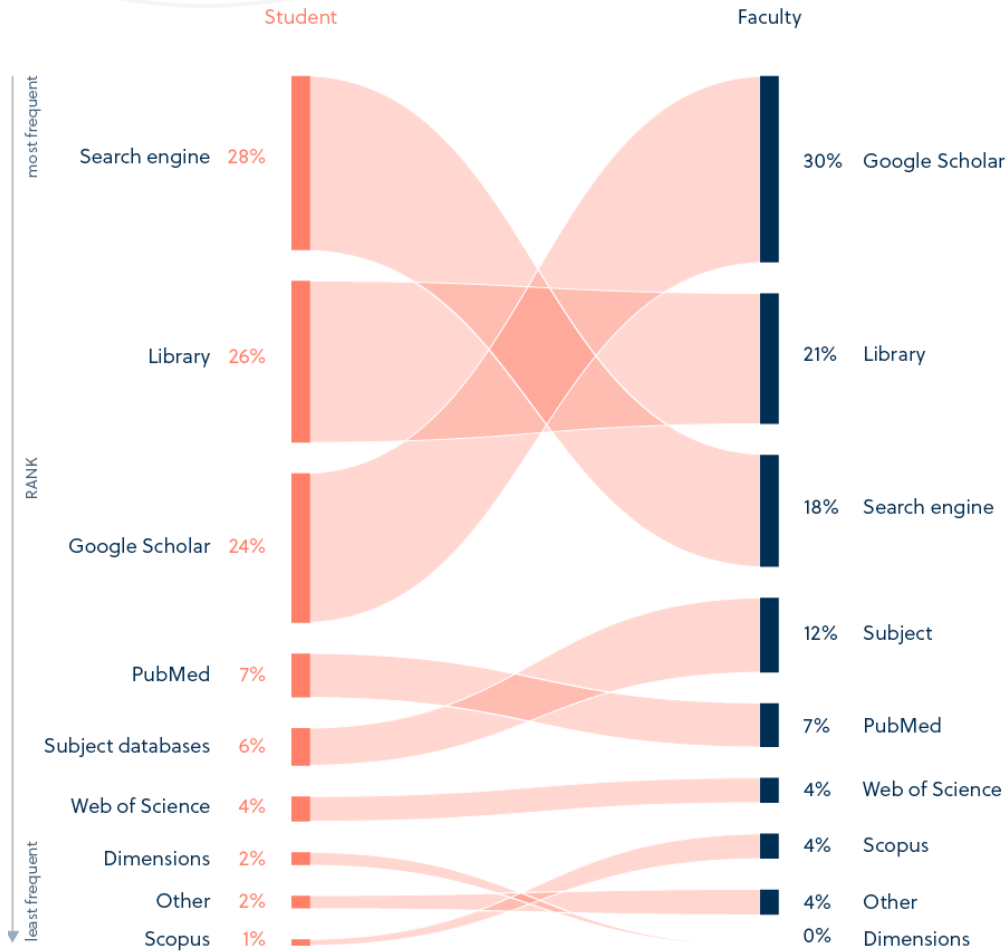
- The library **'in the life of the user'**
- Key data points:
 - Survey of 4,000 librarians and patrons across 1,500 institutions
 - Interviews with librarians and other stakeholders
 - Contributions from Springshare, scite, OCLC and other Lean Library partners
 - Data from Lean Library on user workflows
 - Student studies conducted for Lean Library at Pearson College London

Download now at

www.librarianfutures.com

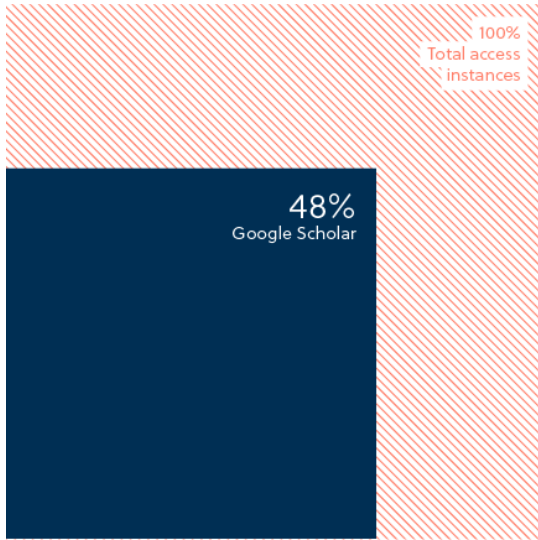
Modern patron workflows begin outside the library...

Fig 1. Where do patrons begin discovery?



- 79% of faculty and 74% of students begin discovery outside of the library.
- 30% of faculty and 28% of students begin discovery on Google Scholar

Fig 2. % of Lean Library users beginning their discovery process on Google Scholar



← Lean Library data shows **48% of patrons begin on Google Scholar**

...and most students are unaware of the full extent of librarian support.

→ Students use Wikipedia as much as their librarian

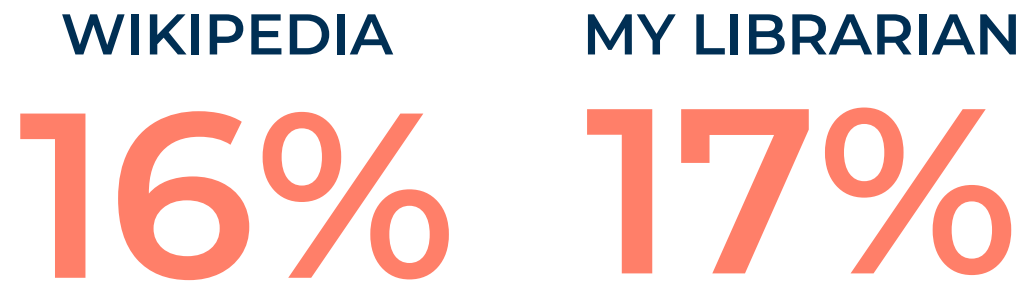


Fig 1. Sources of information students use 'often'

→ 42% of students from the UK said they 'never' use a librarian or deemed their librarian 'not relevant to me'

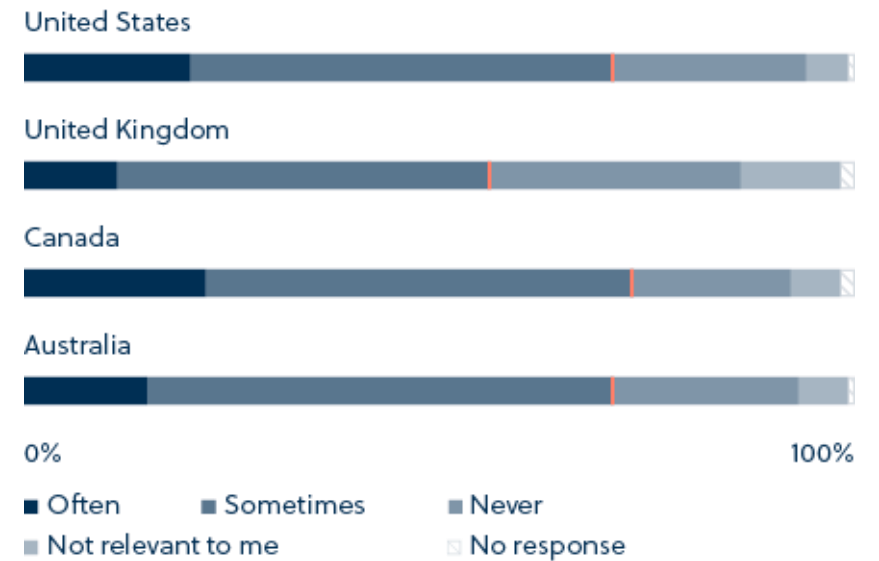


Fig 2. How often students use their librarian

However, patrons want the library more deeply embedded in their workflows.

Fig 3. Would patrons and librarians adopt a comprehensive digital application of their library?

82%

OF LIBRARIANS

'definitely would'
or 'probably would'

88%

OF PATRONS

'definitely would'
or 'probably would'

→ Contrary to any notions that patrons 'just want to be left alone', **88% of patrons want the library more deeply embedded in their workflow**



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Exposing unique collections in 3 steps – John Welch

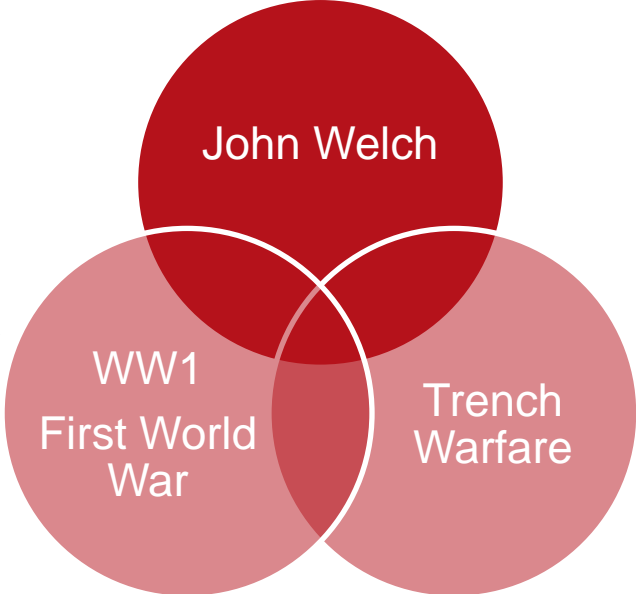
Step 1: Identify Collection



Step 2: Create Keywords, copy descriptions and link to collection

<https://digitalcollections.lancaster.ac.uk/collections/welch/1>

John Welch (1884-1966) was a Lancaster solicitor who joined the Officer Training Corps in January 1915 and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant 4th (T.) Battalion King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment on 13th June 1915 and promoted to captain in July 1917



Over 300 letters and other items such as field postcards, photographs, menu cards and other ephemera. The collection offers a compelling, personal impression of life at the Front in the First World War. Conversational in tone, the letters bring to life the experience of an officer in the British Army during one of the defining conflicts of modern history.

Step 3: Deploy



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



Google Scholar



Step 1: Identify Collection

Lancaster Digital Collections



[Home](#) [Browse](#) [Search](#) [About](#)

John Welch

“*I don't know if you are keeping my letters, but they might be an interesting reminder later on*”

— *To his father, William Welch, 20 February 1916*

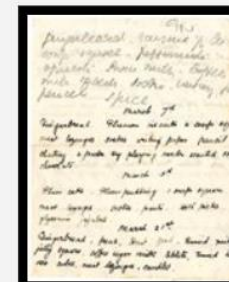


John Welch (1884-1966) was a Lancaster solicitor who joined the Officer Training Corps in January 1915 and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant 4th (T.) Battalion King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment on 13th June 1915 and promoted to captain in July 1917. He served in France from January to August 1916 and was wounded during the Battle of the Somme on 8th August 1916. He returned to France from May 1917 to April 1919. After the war, he returned to being a solicitor but retired early to pursue his community interests and became a county councillor.

< 1 2 3 4 ... 42 >

[Inventory] list supplies of food and clothes (MS-WELCH-14009)

Inventory of food and supplies ... [more](#)

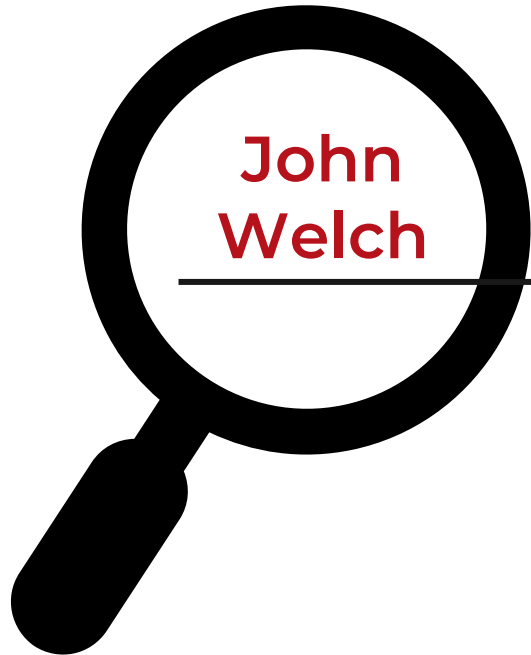


[Letter] [1915]
[from] John Welch
1884-1966 [to]
William Gibbins
Welch (1849-1929)
(MS-WELCH-03011)

... [more](#)



Step 2: Keywords (11)



John
Welch

Trenches
Trench
Warfare

WWI
First World
War

Army Officer

War letters
War photographs
War postcards
War menu cards
War ephemera

Step 2: Create compelling descriptions to enrich patrons reading and entice them to the special collection.

WW1 First World War

Over 300 letters and other items such as field postcards, photographs, menu cards and other ephemera. The collection offers a compelling, personal impression of life at the Front in the First World War. Conversational in tone, the letters bring to life the experience of an officer in the British Army during one of the defining conflicts of modern history.

War Letters

My legs were suddenly shot forward from under me, and I skidded along the trench, and then with the explosion my legs seemed to be doubled up from the right, the full pressure coming against the knees.

-
From John Welch
to Welch Family

Army Officer

My Dear Father,
I must address this home once more as the posts are so erratic from here. Many thanks for your letter. I have had quite a strenuous week as I found that there were many more duties for an Orderly Officer than those in which I was instructed

Trenches

The John Welch letters give a vivid insight into life in the trenches, of days spent “drudging through the trenches for hours on end through slush and slime at places up to one's knees with mud caking to your coat” and the conditions faced by soldiers at the front, “We had 4 days in the front line with 2 dug outs for the Battalion.

[READ MORE](#)

Step 3: Finalise and Deploy

Trenches

Keyword

<https://digitalcollections.lancaster.ac.uk/collections/v>

Link to collection:
<https://digitalcollections.lancaster.ac.uk/collections/welch/1>

The John Welch letters give a vivid insight into life in 1

Description

CANCEL

SAVE



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Google Google Scholar

Activate

Activate from the Workflow Librarian

