

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT BNC AGM October 2022

With the Library now emerging from the effects of the Covid lockdowns, we find ourselves also facing issues about its future as the redevelopment of the Barracks site moves forward.

The issues we face in our present site are:

ACCESSIBILITY: With the Library at present being up several flights of steep stairs, accessibility is a problem. The room itself does not encourage research as there is very little space for readers and limited access to the stacks. Possible solutions are dependent on what happens to the Museum and whether this would be beneficial for the BNC

SPACE: Even within the present space available, the shelves are filling as we receive periodicals, donations and other items.

To deal with both issues of space and user access, we could look to offer more digital items. At present the History is available online except for the most recent copies. There could be the opportunity for some members to receive digital copies of the History if that would be more useful for them.

The growing numbers of BNC published books have created a further issue over storage as has the large collection of overruns of the History produced by the printers to guarantee there are the requisite numbers of copies available.

ACQUISITIONS : We could be more pro-active in acquiring books and other publications that represent our interests in both the archaeology and natural history of our 'vicinage'. This would really depend, if we purchase them, on how effectively they will be used. Otherwise, our main acquisitions will be corresponding societies, donations from members and our own periodicals.

At present I have two donations of books to follow up, one of the reasons I am not pushing this forward is the lack of space and another is the uncertainty over our re-location.

SO...

I would welcome input from members as to how they would like to see the Library develop.

PHIL ROWETT

BNC Librarian