What would we have done differently with hindsight? The main change would have been to pay more attention to the physical layout of the access control point, allowing better visibility for the staff. The Library was designed around a number of central supporting concrete pillars, which constrained the layout in the foyer. If funds become available, we would still consider exit turnstiles, as these would offer better security; the system could then be programmed to prevent two users entering on one card and to prevent users trying to enter via the exit gate.

The positives though definitely outweigh the negatives. Changing the staffing structure to accommodate access control has had the very beneficial side-effect that we have been able to extend opening hours by over a thousand hours per annum. Most importantly, though, in terms of security the Library provides a much safer environment, a factor which is likely to become increasingly important in the years ahead.

University of Cambridge: the Betty and Gordon Moore Library opens

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The Betty and Gordon Moore Library, located alongside the Centre for Mathematical Sciences and the Isaac Newton Institute at Wilberforce Road in West Cambridge, is the newest dependent library of the University Library and opened to readers on 1 October 2001.

The Moore library houses the University's main working collections supporting research in the physical sciences, mathematics and technology and brings under one roof print material from four separate locations. The Library, therefore, is a cornerstone of the University strategy to concentrate teaching and research in the physical sciences and technology within the West Cambridge development.

and access to both print and electronic information.

There are several key requirements to delivering quality services within this hybrid model and these have been consciously built in to the design.

First was the need to accommodate growing conventional print collections. Scientific publishing, despite forecasts of an early demise at the hands of the Internet, shows no sign of slowing. More than 7,000 metres of custom designed open access shelving on four floors provide an initial capacity for over 156,000 volumes.

A second requirement was the provision of over 70 public computer workstations and power and data connections to all seats within the library so that the library can respond quickly and flexibly to future changes in the balance of print/ electronic library use.

Encompassing these two needs and probably the most important factor in the success of any library, is that the building offers pleasing yet functional spaces to visit, work and interact within. The Moore Library has been designed very much as a living social space.

Although the library was designed by Edward Cullinan Architects as one element of the Centre for Mathematical Sciences development, a distinctive circular form was proposed. The design is reminiscent of the library designed by Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia in 1817. Jefferson believed the layout liberating and conducive to both private study and the cross fertilization of ideas. Revisited for the twenty-first century, the design provides space, light, flexibility in use and environmentally sensitive natural ventilation and cooling.

On the upper three floors, shelving radiates from the centre of the building towards the natural light at the perimeter of the building where the majority of reader places are located. Natural light also passes through the core of the library initially from the lantern on the second floor and then around the central lift shaft between floors. In response to the original brief, the architects have ensured that lighting and other services have been installed with a view that, in the future, seats may be replaced with shelving or vice-versa.

The upper two floors house the main book collection, a current periodical display and the Stephen Hawking Archive. The ground floor accommodates library staff work areas and service functions of user registration, circulation, reference and general assistance behind a single service desk, the print and electronic reference collections and a new acquisitions display area.

The lower ground floor extends beyond the circular footprint of the upper floors providing space for over 5,000 metres of shelving for bound periodical volumes and 50 computer workstations.

The opening of the Moore Library marks the completion of the first stage in a broader strategy to build a modern infrastructure to deliver quality information services to support science at the University. Plans to re-develop the present Scientific Periodicals Library as a Central Science Library covering the Biological, Chemical, Earth and Environmental Sciences are currently being developed.

Moore Library Facts and Figures

Reader spaces:	297
Public computer workstations:	74
Periodical titles:	2000
Open access shelving:	7000 linear metres
Gross internal floor area:	3320 square metres
Subject coverage:	Pure and applied mathematics Astronomy and astrophysics Computer science Engineering Materials science Physics Technology