



# 24

# 25



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY &  
LEARNING SERVICES

## **Key Data & Insights Report**

### **2024/25**

**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

# Coral Black

*Director of Library & Learning Services*



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the Library and Learning Services 2024/25 Key Data & Insights Report, which provides insights into how we have supported the activities of the School over the past twelve months.

You will notice some changes in the format this year, as we have adopted a more data-driven approach alongside specific case studies that highlight the value and impact of our services for your teams and students. It is encouraging to see continued strong engagement with our spaces, programmes, and resources. We were also delighted to retain our 90% positivity score in this year's NSS for the question on how well the Library's resources, services and spaces have supported students' learning.

Of course, there is always more we can do. Alongside the LLS team, I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months as we introduce a new Library Plan to guide our priorities, enhance our services, and ensure we continue to meet the evolving needs of your School and the broader academic community.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and support.

# Contents

## Supporting the Student Experience

# 01

- Library and Study Spaces
- IT and Library Queries
- Media Loans
- The Loft

## Enhancing Student Academic Skills

# 02

- In-Curriculum Teaching
- Skills Support
- International Students
- New Online Tool

## Developing Digitally

# 03

- Digital Systems
- Digital Learning
- Ultra
- Generative AI

## Discovering and Accessing Content

# 04

- Acquiring Content
- Reading Lists
- Use of Library Resources
- Non-Users

## Supporting Research

# 05

- Researcher Development
- Research Training Programme Sessions
- Published Research Outputs and eTheses

## Building Our Future Library

# 06

- Our Purpose
- Our Strategic Themes

# 01

# Supporting the Student Experience

## Library and Study Spaces

The Sheila Silver and Headingley Libraries provide a range of resources, study spaces and equipment.

- Total student footfall **295,584**
- Total number of unique student visitors **17,798**
- Students of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences swiped in **42,853** times



HSS as a proportion of total student entry figures

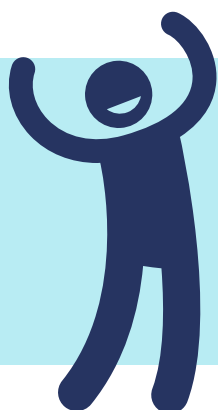
## IT and Library Queries

The Library & Student IT Advice Team are the first point of contact for queries about basic referencing and Quote Unquote guidance, borrowing, passwords, MyBeckett, email, wi-fi, Turnitin, online meeting tools, Office 365 and more.

- The team answered **13,997** face to face queries and **20,035** remote interactions.

Students engage with our FAQs, benefitting from the 24/7 support.

- Total number of FAQ views **411,564**.



*“Hugely impressed and grateful.”*

Student feedback about Library & Student IT Advice  
(February 2025)

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

## Media Loans

LLS is now running the Media Loans service from the Welcome Points in both libraries. This includes voice recorders, mics, cameras, projectors and more.



We are adding new kit to our collection following recommendations from Schools. Pre booking is recommended.  
<https://medialoans.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/>

## The Loft, Headingley Campus Library

We're always looking for ways to enhance our library spaces to better support our students. Our latest addition, The Loft (JG250) at Headingley Campus, is a newly redesigned study area that offers a flexible and inspiring environment for collaboration, connection, and focused work. With a blend of computer stations, group seating, and individual study zones, The Loft has already become a popular choice for students. Its design reflects and complements the natural beauty of the Headingley surroundings, creating a calm and creative atmosphere.

We'd love for you to visit and explore the space — whether you're looking for somewhere to host a student event or just seeking a new place to study, The Loft could be exactly what you need. Let's work together to use our libraries in inspirational and unexpected ways.

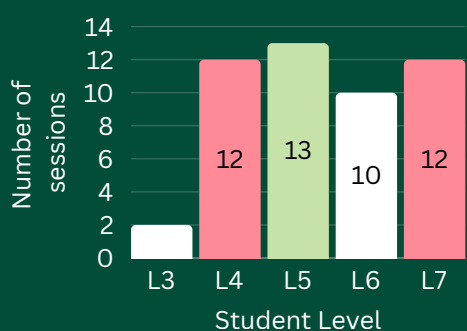


# 02

# Enhancing Student Academic Skills

## In-Curriculum Teaching

Across all Schools, **10,636** students attended **463** tailored teaching sessions within modules to develop the academic skills needed to get good grades in their assignments.



HSS Teaching Delivered

Students rated the usefulness of these sessions

**4.8/5**



### Most Common Sessions

Uni-wide, the most popular topics are

- Finding Information
- Referencing
- Critical Thinking
- Academic Writing



**DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2024/25, we've been working with academic colleagues to reach more students to help them develop skills to support assessment and beyond. We've seen an increase of **8.7%** in the number of sessions provided on the previous year.

### Why?

Both local and wider evidence indicates that appropriately embedded in-curriculum sessions are the most effective way to develop student academic skills and support continuation and completion. Feedback from academic colleagues this year notes that student response to team sessions is "always incredibly positive".

### What next?

We have a flexible approach to embedding academic skills in the curriculum and can work with you to suit your student cohort. Book a session directly via our form or get in touch with your Academic Librarians to find out more.

# Opt-In Skills Support Open to All



## Workshops and Webinars

- **5,566** unique viewers of on-demand recordings.
- Predominantly **L7** students.
- **250** attendees at live events.
- Most popular sessions: Referencing, Using generative AI Responsibly, Dissertations, Academic Writing.

## Appointments

- **836** appointments delivered university wide.
- Most popular topics: Academic writing and Finding information.
- **8** appointments provided to School of Humanities and Social Sciences students.

## Academic Skills Modules

- **9,557** LBU users enrolled.
- **4,071** external users additionally engaged with Study Ready.
- Most popular elective module: Academic Honesty.

## Website Usage

- **97,056** Skills for Learning website visits.
- Most popular sections: Dissertations, Workshop recordings, Research Skills, Essay Writing.

## International Students

- **39** specific in-curriculum sessions.
- **301** attendees at open events.
- **1,252** students spent at least 30 minutes in the International Students' Academic Introduction module.
- Guidance is also available on how to best support students with academic writing in English.

Students rated the usefulness of the ISAI module

**4.6/5**



## New Online Tool - Skills Reflection

**What:** A new online tool that helps students prioritise areas for academic and digital skills development. It's a diagnostic assessment of their individual skills which also signposts them to relevant help.

**Why:** Students better understand what skills they need to develop for their course, as they get results based on their level of study and specific needs. They are then linked to all the resources on the particular skill they want to develop.

To find out more contact [skills.for.learning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:skills.for.learning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

# 03 Developing Digitally

## Digital Systems

### MyBeckett Submissions

Over **124,240**  
(**39,146** assignments plus  
tests, discussion boards,  
blogs and journals)



### Turnitin Submissions

Over **164,704**

SUBMIT



### PebblePad

Over **183,768** logins by  
**9,675** active users



## Digital Learning

We logged over **5,401** support queries (including **843** student queries) this year.

**260** staff attended **18** training sessions, spending a total of **158** hours in self-paced training modules. **117** hours were spent solely on the most popular module: Getting Started with MyBeckett Ultra.



## Ultra

As part of the University's upgrade to **MyBeckett Ultra**, all course communities and modules will transition to Ultra view by **Summer 2026**. More than **2,000** MyBeckett modules are now using Ultra view.

We are working closely with Schools, subject groups and course teams to ensure a smooth transition during your preferred upgrade window.



## HSS will move to Ultra in Summer 2026

Digital Learning will follow up with further information about the project in early 2026. If you would like to book a MyBeckett Ultra briefing for your School, let us know.

For more details about the project, please visit the **MyBeckett Ultra page** (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/teachlearn/mybeckett-and-digital-learning-guides/mybeckett-ultra/>) or contact [digitallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:digitallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).



## Generative AI

**Problem:** Academic colleagues were finding it difficult to communicate to students about the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence tools in their assessed work.

**Solution:** We created a page on the Library website covering the LBU guidance around responsible use, linked in every MyBeckett module, and created a new teaching session, Good Academic Practice, incorporating responsible use of AI. We updated the University's Academic Honesty module to incorporate more detailed information on paraphrasing and Grammarly, based on feedback from academic colleagues and the Students' Union, and developed a process to enable Schools, subject groups, and course teams to request bulk enrolment on the module and receive information on student engagement.

**Impact:** Feedback from students indicated that they had an increased understanding of the rules around AI use, and on how it could be used responsibly. Academic colleagues reported that they saw a decrease in academic honesty issues on modules where they had embedded the Academic Honesty module as a course activity. Academic Honesty Leads and the Students' Union have advocated for mandatory completion of the module by all students and have encouraged others to arrange for delivery of the Good Academic Practice session.

This year, our online resources on artificial intelligence and academic honesty saw:

- **2,854** students engaged in the Academic Honesty module
- **22,221** views of the Artificial Intelligence webpage
- **11,101** views of our FAQs (including 2235 views of our Grammarly FAQ)



***“I like that this taught how to utilise AI and to be in alignment with academic integrity.”***

Student feedback on the Academic Honesty module

## Acquiring Content

This year, **£1,597,399** was spent on Library resources including: **£58,000** on print books, **£133,383** on eBooks, **£868,249** on electronic journals and **£465,038** on databases.

### Print/eBooks purchased

- **32% (279)** of eBook purchases were made for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- **16% (284)** of print purchases were made for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

### Digitisations

In total, **£4,425** was spent on digitisations. **1,200** digitisation requests were received from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. **1,064** users in the school accessed digitisations **5,781** times (**47%** of all university accesses).



### Request It!

There were **331** requests for resources not already in stock from the School. These were purchased or acquired via Inter-Library Loans. This is **25%** of all requests made in 2024/25 (down **2%** from 2023/24).

## Reading Lists

Total number of reading lists: **3,391**, of which **435** were from HSS.

### Most Popular School of Humanities and Social Sciences Lists

| Module Code                                      | Accesses | Course      |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice (SOCY680) | 2360     | Criminology |
| Critical Issues in Criminal Justice (SOCY508)    | 1903     | Criminology |
| Terrorism, Policing and Security (SOCY636)       | 1334     | Criminology |
| Becoming a Criminologist (EDUC472)               | 1234     | Criminology |
| Criminological Intersections (SOCY501)           | 927      | Criminology |

# Student and Staff experience using online reading lists

## Online Reading List System

This year, we've carried out a survey and focus groups with students with the aim of improving the student experience of online reading lists. Student suggestions:

- Organise lists by week, topic, or assignment to reduce overwhelm and 'where to start?'
- Set importance and add clear notes: what chapters to read, what's core vs. optional.
- Use consistent layouts across modules to reduce confusion.
- Refer to readings in module teaching and learning and make sure materials are up-to-date and relevant.
- Links to videos, podcasts, practical tutorials, diagrams, or other media alongside readings are popular!

***"[Reading lists] reduce stress by showing exactly what to read. Clear instructions make studying easier and less confusing."***



***"I feel like I am spending more time trying to figure out what to read, than actually reading."***

Student feedback

We're also finding out about staff experience of the online reading list system and we'll be sharing some top tips on using the system, incorporating student suggestions and good practice examples.

**Contact us for help at [readinglists@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:readinglists@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)**

# School of Humanities and Social Sciences Use of Library Resources

- **89%** of users accessed at least one electronic resource.
- **21%** of users borrowed at least one print book.

## Top 3 Most Used Electronic Resources

| Resource | Format           | Accesses | % of Uni Total |
|----------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| EBSCO    | Journal Platform | 94389    | 24%            |
| VLEBooks | eBook Platform   | 46307    | 23%            |
| Springer | Journal Platform | 19672    | 28%            |

## Top 3 Most Used eBooks

| Title                                                                       | Author      | Accesses |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| SPSS survival manual : a step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS | Pallant, J. | 3019     |
| Social Psychology                                                           | Hogg, M.    | 1050     |
| Lifespan Development                                                        | Boyd, D.    | 1042     |

## Non-Users



**10% (307)** of users in the School didn't borrow any books or access any of our electronic resources. This percentage doesn't take into account usage of book reference material or non-standard eresource logins.

We can help promote library spaces and resources to your students.

**Contact us: [HSSLibrary@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:HSSLibrary@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)**

## Researcher Development

We can support you to manage your research outputs and make them openly available through use of the Symplectic Research Management system, the Research Repository (ePrints) and the Thesis and Research Data Repository (Figshare).

## Research Training Programme Sessions

32 workshops were run in this year with a total of **1090** bookings.

### Top 5 most popular sessions:



1. Writing for your PhD Part 3
2. Writing for your PhD Part 1
3. Literature searching for researchers
4. Research Data Management Part 1
5. Zotero to manage references

**994**  
**minutes**  
of workshop  
recordings viewed



We run a course of sessions for PGR students on academic writing for PhDs. These cover critical reading for stronger writing, tips for getting started and in-depth academic writing guidance. Sessions run twice a year, including over the summer vacation, to allow PGR students who are also teaching staff to attend. In 2024/25, **129** PGRs attended live sessions and many more watched recordings.

# Published Research Outputs and eTheses



**200** School of Humanities and Social Sciences outputs were recorded in Symplectic.

A total of **1,915** outputs were recorded for the whole University.

|                  | Book | Chapter | Conference Contribution | Conference Proceeding | Journal Article | Report | Other |
|------------------|------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| <b>HSS</b>       | 6    | 30      | 9                       | 5                     | 118             | 4      | 28    |
| <b>Uni Total</b> | 39   | 208     | 165                     | 55                    | 1185            | 77     | 186   |

Leeds Beckett Repository – total downloads: **594,684**



**DOWNLOAD**

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences' most downloaded article was: 'Sport, Discrimination, and the Olympic and Paralympic Games: Introduction to the Special Issue' with **469** downloads.

## Overall rate of Open Access compliance

(January 2021 - July 2025)

**79.8%** of all Symplectic users were compliant.

**82.1%** of Symplectic users with SIGRES were compliant.

Remember, for REF OA compliance, submit your Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) on acceptance. Our Rights Retention policy supports OA by allowing AAMs to be made immediately available via our institutional repository which raises the visibility and reusability of research outputs.



## eTheses

There are now **202 eTheses** live in Figshare

This year they had:



**59,956** views



**39,542** downloads

# 06

# Building our Future Library

We have been working on a new Library Plan for 2026-30, aligning with University priorities. Our purpose and strategic themes are outlined below and the full plan will be shared shortly.

## Our Purpose

Library and Learning Services stands as a trusted partner, collaborator, and connector - delivering user-centred services that empower students to achieve academic success and career readiness and support academic staff to enhance their teaching and research excellence.

## Our Strategic Themes

### Accelerating Academic and Digital Capabilities

**We will** create a focal point for academic and digital skills work, becoming a centre of excellence for staff and students, focusing on academic success, curriculum enhancement and contributing to the career-readiness of our students. We will support and champion the development of impactful practices in blended and online learning, with a focus on flexible digital pedagogies to improve the student experience.

### Re-imagining the Library as Place: Physical and Virtual

**We will** transform our physical and virtual library spaces to deliver high-quality and engaging experiences. Enhancing existing study and group space, we will introduce spaces for content creation to support creativity and to foster connection and build community. Technology will be intrinsically linked, delivering innovative, inclusive spaces, learning platforms and tools, and services.

### Building an Outstanding Student Experience: Students as Partners

**We will** deliver student-centred services, partnering with others to deliver a collaborative approach. A new 'students as partners' framework will embed the student voice in all we do, help us co-create employment and internship opportunities, and build a wellbeing and belonging library programme.

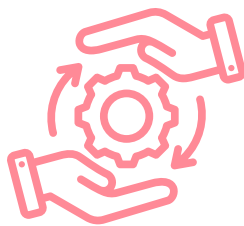
### Empowering Information Discovery and Research Success

**We will** take a 'digital-first' approach to provide access to easily discoverable, high-quality content which enhances student learning and research activity. We will promote open scholarship, optimising resources for teaching and increasing the visibility of university research outputs.



**Key Data and Insights Report  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
2024/25**

**Contact us:** [HSSLibrary@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:HSSLibrary@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY &  
LEARNING SERVICES