**Simon Dixon, David Wilson Library (23.06.22)**

I’m Simon Dixon, I’m Head of Archives and Special Collections and Interim Associate Director in Library and Learning Services based in the David Wilson Library.

One of the beauties of working in Archives and Special Collections is that we meet researchers certainly from across the humanities disciplines; I’ve worked with researchers from the school of Art and the fantastic work that Emma Parker has done around Joe Orton and the Joe Orton collection over the last few years; we work with historians, providing images for their publications and supporting their research; and with Museum Studies as well - which is an interdisciplinary field in and of itself - both in supporting research and teaching too, with various projects that we have with their students, student workplaces and things that we host. And at the moment we’ve got a number of projects ongoing that are certainly interdisciplinary, we’re working very closely with Ross Parry and Andrew Hugill on the Institute for Digital Culture, which will be shortly launched - so lots going on, and we get to meet researchers from all sorts of different disciplines.

We’re a space that everybody uses on campus, so everybody comes here, so we’re not connected to a particular discipline, although I know our humanities colleagues regard the library as their lab, but we’re here for everybody, and it’s somewhere where you can come in on a given day and you can bump into a computer scientist in the cafe, a historian in special collections, or a museum studies specialist in the digital reading room. So we can kind of help with that, bringing researchers together from across different disciplines. Come and see us, and come and talk to us, and come and use our spaces and collections and you never know what you might discover.

Actually, a really nice place to go for a walk and if you want some peace and quiet on campus, is into the quads of the Fielding Johnson building, which I think are one of the best-kept secrets on campus. There are nice quiet places to sit and and reflect and eat your lunch,  and look at the pond to ponder the people who’ve passed through the walls of the building over the nearly 200 years since it was originally built to care for people with mental illness, it was originally built as an asylum, as most people know - to kind of immerse yourself in the history of that building and find somewhere quiet for contemplation and reflection, that’s a great place to go.

When you’re on your way to the quads of the Fielding Johnson building to quietly reflect, you will pass the Centenary Exhibition boards produced for the Our 100 project by the Archives and Special Collections team, which were actually - we talk about interdisciplinary projects and research and working with researchers from different disciplines, but that was also an interdisciplinary project in that it involved creatives, it involved working with an art studio, it involved submissions and contributions from across the university’s community, as well as working with a design agency and writers, and our project researcher and members of the Archives and Special Collections team.