



University of Essex

THE Awards 2019 – Outstanding Library Team

Institution/Nominee	University of Essex
Key personnel	The library team, University of Essex, led by Cathy Walsh, Director of Library Services.
URL	https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/student-facilities/library
Submission	<p>Recent extensions and refurbishments have transformed the Albert Sloman Library into a flexible learning space at the heart of the University of Essex. But it is the work the library team has done with staff and students to make sure the space really works for them, which make the improvements a real success story, with library use increasing by nearly 20,000 visits a year.</p> <p>Consultation with the Library Advisory Group has led to improvements including new IT-rich individual and team study spaces throughout the library, a huge expansion of the digital library, 24-hour opening, self-service kiosks, unlimited loans and the abolition of fines.</p> <p>Support for students has been crucial and includes easily accessible online reading lists for every course and a two-week programme, running in June, to help Master's students with their dissertations. Led by library staff, it incorporates input from across the university, including wellbeing and academic skills support.</p>