



MARSH'S LIBRARY

STRATEGY DOCUMENT

1. The Vision, Mission and Values of Marsh's Library.

The Library is an important repository of a shared European cultural heritage and a wider history of human thought and experience. The Library will preserve its important collections for the benefit of local, national and international visitors. In terms of numbers, most visitors are non-academic tourist visitors, and facilities should be developed to enhance their experience while in the building.

However, in terms of the intellectual and cultural importance of the institution, the Library must become widely seen as a 'must use' collection for all scholars interested in the early-modern period. The Library will use technology to facilitate the sustainable use of its resources by different groups of users.

1.1. Vision

To secure the place of Marsh's Library among the great small libraries of the world.

1.2. Mission

To preserve and maintain our rare books and manuscripts, to acquire similar by donation, to cherish our distinctive building heritage, and establish Marsh's as a cultural and intellectual hub for visitors, students and scholars.

1.3. Values

In seeking to accomplish these objectives the Library must be:

- **Welcoming** - to a variety of users, including local communities, tourists, students and other interests
- **Dedicated** -to a belief in the cultural and societal value of learning and knowledge and providing a secure and stimulating environment for study and research
- **Dynamic** - in using new and emerging technologies to shed light on the treasures of

the Library

- **Ambitious** - in terms of making Marsh's Library a learning studio for the most influential scholars and the best students of the early-modern period from around the world
- **Collaborative** - in working with other libraries, cultural and tourism institutions and academic partners nationally and internationally on a variety of research projects, events and initiatives.

2. Strategic Plan for the Library, 2022-2027.

Our priorities for the Library are built around four related and overlapping themes.

2.1 Collections

- to protect and conserve our significant collections of rare books and manuscripts
- to acquire similar collections by donation
- to augment the catalogue records with provenance and ownership information for each item in the collections
- to digitise all unique printed items and manuscripts in the collections

2.2. Engagement

- to sustain and improve tourist visitors' experience through enhanced facilities
- to develop the Library as a "learning lab" for national and international students and researchers
- to secure a consistent, positive message across all European and international guide-books and online sources which advertise and promote Marsh's Library
- to deepen feedback from visitors, students and scholars about their experiences in the Library

2.3 Discovery

- to encourage exploration of the collections through offering annual Research Fellowships to national and international scholars
- to develop expertise in the French and European context of our collections, with a particular emphasis on our Huguenot holdings
- to improve the interpretative tools for our major exhibitions, both physically and online
- to use digitisation to deepen opportunities for discovery across key areas of our collections

2.4 Built Heritage

- to preserve the original eighteenth-century building and its furnishings
- to protect the collections with modern security infrastructure which is sensitive to the architecture of the building
- to refurbish key areas within the Library and its precinct, so as to enhance its eighteenth-century character and improve our 'tourist offer'.
- to provide appropriate office space for staff and quality teaching and reading facilities for scholars and students.scholars and students.