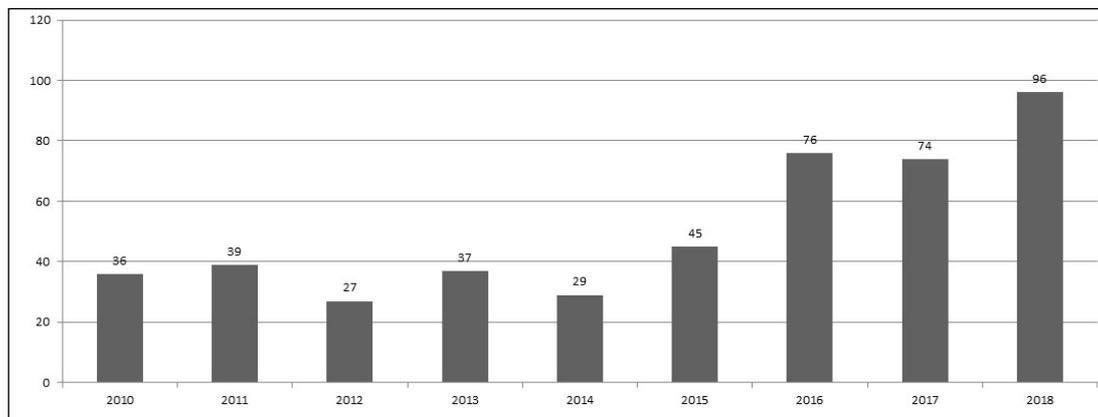


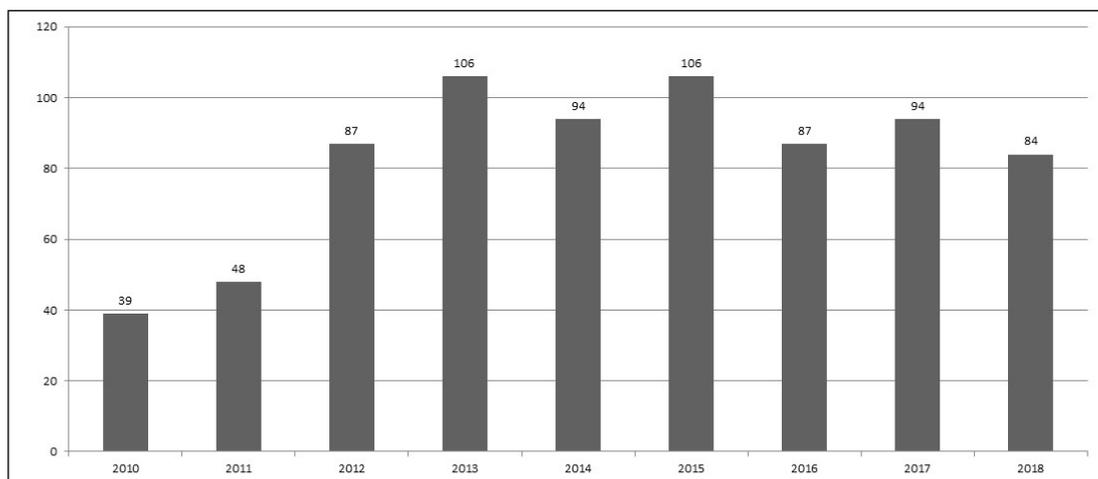
British Caving Library Report for BCA AGM 2019

Visits and Enquiries

Visits: The rise in visits reflects the increase in use by researchers, volunteers and meetings.



Enquiries: The number of enquiries was down in 2018. There were fewer requiring research too (research 30 copies 54). However, the nature of several research requests were time consuming and interesting. We have been promised reports as a result of several enquiry requests. Our help was acknowledged in the expedition report 'Namibia 2015' from the Gloucestershire Speleological Society. We also receive enquiries from abroad and, most recently, from the N. Yorks. Police Cold Case Investigation Team.



Progress

This year we have been lucky to have a number of volunteers working with us and, thanks to the additional grant from BCA, in July 2018 we were able to expand into a second room, which is dedicated to housing surveys and maps. Volunteers helped with furniture moving to set up the room and 2 more PCs have been donated so that we can have a working IT setup in the room linked to the main Library WiFi system.

We now have several local caver volunteers who are making significant inroads into cataloguing the vast collection of Peak District surveys and maps left to BCRA by John Beck. This will take some time to complete but there is now definite progress. A volunteer has also catalogued all the surveys and maps donated by Eldon P.C.; other volunteers are helping to catalogue both the existing backlog and new acquisitions of foreign and UK journals.

Again, our thanks go to Martin Lavery who created and maintains the Library On-line Catalogue and Bibliography, which relies on us emailing him our catalogue spreadsheets of both old and new material. We are now working out how to integrate the survey and map information into the on-line catalogue.

We currently have a volunteer looking at the current status of the British Caving Library (BCL) Website with a view to considering its future development. Another volunteer is investigating the current Library IT setup, much of which has been donated, with a view to making it more efficient.

With the extra space created by the move of survey material out of the main Library room, we are now able to offer facilities for meetings of up to about 12 people with access to WiFi, printing/scanning, digital projection, etc. The

Library is regularly used for meetings by the BCA Training Committee; it also hosted a Therion Training Course put on by BCRA Cave Survey Group in November and will be hosting another course by the Group again this year. We have recently taken over BCA equipment used to host video-conferencing at Nick Williams' office and hope to be able to offer a Peak District "hub" at the Library for the use of BCA and other caving organisations.

Donations and Bequests

As always, duplicate copies of items are made available to other caving libraries wanting them, or else they go into our "Lucky Dip" at caving events in return for donations. A total of £368.50 was donated to the Library in 2018 in return for duplicate copies and also for work done and research carried out - this money is being spent on publications for the Library.

*Jenny Potts,
BCRA Library Co-ordinator*