Oxford background reading
There are pamphlet & pocket guides available on a multiplicity of topics but below are more in-depth treatments to look out for in your local library or bookshops

Architecture

History
Victoria County History A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 3, the University of Oxford
http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol3
Victoria County History A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 4, the City of Oxford
http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol4
Prest, JPM Illustrated history of Oxford University (1993)
Morris, J Oxford (3rd edn, 2001)
Clapinson, M Brief history of the Bodleian Library (2015)

There is of course OUP’s 8 volume History of the University of Oxford ….

Fiction
Wholly or partially set “in Oxford” or about Oxonians/Oxfordians Oldest works first
Bede, C The adventures of Mr Verdant Green, an Oxford Freshman & Further adventures … an Oxford undergraduate (1853) Of its time & so popular then continued by Further adventures (1854) and concluded by Mr. Verdant Green married and done for (1857)
Hardy, T Jude the Obscure (1896)
Beerbohm, M Zuleika Dobson, or, an Oxford love story (1911) A satire of Edwardian Oxford
Waugh, T Brideshead Revisited (1945) Begins in 1920s Oxford
Larkin, P Jill (1946) A northerner’s experience of 1940s Oxford
Byatt, AS The game (1967) Stress between sisters – one is an Oxford don, the other a successful writer.
Stewart, JIM A staircase in Surrey a quintet - The Gaudy (1974); Young Pattullo (1975); A Memorial Service (1976); The Madonna of the Astrolabe (1977); Full Term (1978)
Willis, C To say nothing of the dog (1998) It’s 2057 & OU’s time travel research falls into wrong hands…
Skelton, M Endymion Spring (2006) Written for juvenile audience but in the name of research…
Alderman, N The Lessons (2010) College students
Harkness, D A Discovery of Witches (2011)
Huth, A Laughter in the willows (2011) A short story on the idyllic second year summer of an undergraduate
Acland, Simon The waste land (2011) a Holy Grail quest which starts with the contents of a college library
Flitcroft, I The reluctant cannibals (2013) OU academics when away from their books

Whodunits
Masterman, JC *An Oxford tragedy* (1933)
Blake, N *A Question of Proof* (1935)
Sayers, DL *Gaudy Night* (1935)
Crispin, E *The Case of the Gilded Fly* (1944)
Innes, M *Operation pax* (1951) Includes the Bodleian; *Death At the President’s Lodgings* (1959)
Dexter, C Morse novels published 1975–1999 *The wrench is dead* (1989) includes Oxford libraries
Caudwell, S *Thus was Adonis murdered* (1981) Amateur detectives are an Oxford Legal History Don, & some fledgling barristers
Dibdin, M *Dirty Tricks* (1991)
Stallwood, V *Oxford Exit* (1994)
Strong, T *The poison tree* (1997)
Pears, I *An instance of the fingerpost* (1998) Set in 1660s
White, M *Equinox* (2006)
Blake, V *Jumping the cracks* (2008)
McDermid, V *Trick of the Dark* (2011)