

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2015

The British Library: United Kingdom

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General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

The period under review was particularly significant for the launch in January 2015 of Living Knowledge¹, an ambitious vision of the British Library's future as it looks towards its 50th anniversary in 2023. Living Knowledge sets out a vision of the British Library as an open, creative and innovative institution, committed to supporting research, culture and growth in the UK. Our mission is to make our intellectual heritage accessible to everyone, for research, inspiration and enjoyment. Living Knowledge makes the case for the British Library's growing importance at the heart of the UK's national system of knowledge and innovation, at a time of transformation in technology and data science. And it defines the Library's enduring public purposes:

Custodianship	<i>We build, curate and preserve the UK's national collection of published, written and digital content</i>
Research	<i>We support and stimulate research of all kinds</i>
Business	<i>We help businesses to innovate and grow</i>
Culture	<i>We engage everyone with memorable cultural experiences</i>
Learning	<i>We inspire young people and learners of all ages</i>
International	<i>We work with partners round the world to advance knowledge and mutual understanding</i>

Living Knowledge sets out the Library's priorities for 2015 – 2023 as follows:

Custodianship

- Address the growing preservation and access challenges for our historic audio and recorded music collections
- Work with our UK Non-Print Legal Deposit partners to develop the national collection of born-digital content and ensure its long-term preservation
- Develop our collection management capacity at Boston Spa in Yorkshire to offer shared services that help deliver efficiencies for other public organisations.

Research

- Ensure that the Library's on-site facilities and Reading Room services keep pace with the changing needs of researchers

¹ Living Knowledge: The British Library 2015-2023. <http://www.bl.uk/projects/living-knowledge-the-british-library-2015-2023>

- Develop our remote access services to become a trusted and indispensable resource for fact finding, research and analysis for researchers everywhere
- Leverage the Library's collections and expertise to drive innovation in large-scale data analytics, for the wider benefit of UK research
- Work with partners to increase the Library's capacity as an independent research organisation.

Business

- Work with partners to secure funding to grow the network of regional Business & IP Centres to a total of 20 UK city libraries
- Develop and open up our St Pancras campus to maximise its potential for knowledge exchange and innovation at the heart of the Knowledge Quarter.

Cultural

- Grow the profile, diversity and creative impact of the Library's cultural activities, both on-site and online
- Develop an increased programme of loans, touring exhibitions and digital collaborations, with public libraries and others, that open our collections to new audiences across the UK and internationally.

Learning

- Improve and expand our on-site capacity to grow the numbers of school students, young people, families and local communities able to engage with our collections
- Expand the range of teaching resources and primary source material available online.

International

- Increase our engagement in those regions of the world, including South Asia and the Middle East, whose cultures and histories are reflected most strongly in the Library's collections
- Take a professional leadership role in the national library network of Europe to contribute to the development of a global distributed digital library
- Grow our capacity to support other institutions whose collections are at risk from war or civil emergency

Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the Library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

The British Library Act 1972 established the British Library as the national library of the United Kingdom. The Library is a Statutory Corporation, a Non-Departmental Public Body operating at arms' length from Government. Government sponsorship responsibility (i.e. for funding, policy, and oversight) for the British Library resides with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The Library makes an important contribution to DCMS's key objectives: in supporting and sustaining both the research excellence of the UK and its commercial competitiveness the BL also contributes to the policy objectives of the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS). Inter-Departmental mechanisms are in place to reflect the cross-cutting nature of the BL's contribution to UK government policy objectives.

Legal Deposit in the UK is governed by the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003. This legislation gave the Secretary of State power to extend, via secondary legislation, the scope of legal deposit progressively and selectively to cover various non-print publication media, including digital publications, as they

develop. The Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013 came into force on 6 April 2013 giving the British Library and the five other UK Legal Deposit Libraries the right to receive a copy of every UK electronic publication, including websites.

The Government transferred the functions of the Registrar for Public Lending Right (established under the Public Lending Right Act 1979) to the British Library Board with effect from 1 October 2013.

Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

Total collection holdings: 112,505,998 items including
370,396 manuscripts (single and volumes)
8,280,939 philatelic items
4,574,521 cartographic items
1,618,761 music scores
1,531,844 sound discs
33,210 prints and drawings
323,039 photographs
68,634,309 patents
10,433,593 reports in microform

Printed items received 2012/13 via legal deposit: 429,406 items

Storage: Kilometres of shelving and percentage occupied: 801 lin km (87%)

Staff: 1,591 full-time equivalents

Number of items consulted onsite / supplied remotely: 11,510,158

Use of www.bl.uk: Remote hosts served: 10,841,860

Digital images created: 36,152,657

For 2013/14, the Library received £95.1m of Government Grant-in-aid funding (revenue and capital). This was supplemented by £29.6m of other self-generated funds, including donations, grant and sales income.

New developments in creating and building collections.

Using the digital legal deposit powers contained in the 2013 Regulations under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act, the UK Web Archive carried out its second annual UK domain crawl during the year under review, collecting a total of 57TB of data. For the first time, the Archive also collected in its crawl a large quantity of content from non- .uk domains. 2.5 million non- .uk domains were included in the domain crawl. Working together with the other UK Legal Deposit Libraries, the Archive also carried out focused crawls to build thematic collections on major current events, including: the Referendum on Scottish independence, the Commonwealth Games, the European Parliament elections, the centenary of the First World War and the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa. The Archive is also a partner in the AHRC-funded 'Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities (Buddah)' project, which is working closely with scholars who use archived web material for a wide range of research, and will develop understanding of research requirements and co-developed access services.

In addition to the continued routine growth in collections, through both legal deposit and purchase, the Library made a small number of important heritage acquisitions during the year.

New developments in managing collections.

The new long-term home for the UK national newspaper collection officially opened in January 2015, marking the culmination of a £33 million programme to move, preserve and provide access to the newspaper collection for generations to come. The National Newspaper Building, located at the British Library's northern site at Boston Spa, now holds approximately 750 million pages of newspapers (the equivalent of 33km of traditional shelving) in ideal environmental conditions. Constant temperature and humidity, and a dark and airtight low-oxygen environment, will ensure longer-term preservation of newspapers and eliminate the risk of fire. The newspapers are stored in high-density racking 20 metres high and collection items are retrieved by robotic cranes, which transfer stacks of newspapers via an airlock to a retrieval area where staff can remove requested items and send them either to the Newsroom, a new newspaper reading facility, at St Pancras or the on-site Reading Room at Boston Spa. Alongside the completion of the new newspaper storage building, the British Newspaper Archive now offers access to over 10 million digitised pages of newspapers at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

A key strand of Living Knowledge is the Save Our Sounds programme. The British Library is home to the nation's sound archive, an extraordinary collection of over 6.5 million recordings of speech, music, wildlife and the environment, from the 1880s to the present day. The sound collections are under threat, both from physical degradation and as the means of playing them disappear from production. Archival consensus internationally is that we have approximately 15 years in which to save our sound collections by digitising them before they become unreadable and are effectively lost. We need both to ensure that the existing archive is properly preserved, and that there are adequate systems in place for the acquisition of future sound production in the UK. The Save our Sounds programme has been created to answer this imperative. It has three major aims:

- To preserve as much as possible of the nation's rare and unique sound recordings, not just those in our collections but also key items from partner collections across the UK.
- To establish a national radio archive that will collect, protect and share a substantial part of the UK's vibrant radio output, working with the radio industry and other partners.
- To invest in new technology to enable us to receive music in digital formats, working with music labels and industry partners to ensure their long-term preservation.

New developments in providing access to collections.

During the year the British Library Labs project continued to work with its community of researchers, artists and software developers to actively engage users with the Library's digital content and data through competitions, events and projects. This year's winners of the British Library Labs Competition were showcased at the British Library in November 2014. Desmond Schmidt and Anna Gerber at the University of Queensland developed a Text to Image Linking Tool, linking digitised handwritten manuscripts to transcribed texts. Bob Nicholson of Edge Hill University created the Victorian Meme Machine, creating a database of Victorian jokes from our digital archive, and using social media to renew their comic appeal online. The 1 million illustrations, drawings, and photographs released to Flickr in December 2013, extracted from a public domain collection of 65,000 digitised books, were viewed over 230 million times by February 2015, and incorporated into many artistic, commercial, and research activities. San Francisco-based artist David Normal used hundreds of images from the collection as part of a major installation at the 'Burning Man' festival in September 2014, seen by over 70,000 people.

Work continued under our partnership with Google to digitise 250,000 out-of-copyright books (up to 40 million pages) from the Library's collections by the end of 2016. The project will digitise a huge range of printed books, pamphlets and periodicals dated 1700 to 1870, the period that saw the French and Industrial Revolutions, The Battle of Trafalgar and the Crimean War, the invention of rail travel and of the telegraph, the beginning of UK income tax, and the end of slavery. It will include material in a variety of major European languages, and will focus on books that are not yet freely available in digital form online. Under the terms of the partnership, Google will cover all costs of digitisation. Under the terms of the contract the BL can make the content available to third party non-commercial use e.g. Europeana.

The Library's public programme offered a diverse range of exhibitions and events throughout 2014/15, attracting 911,393 visits in 2014, a 63% increase on 2013.

In 2014, *Comics Unmasked: Art and Anarchy in the UK* attracted 54,324 visitors and was hugely successful in attracting new audiences to the Library. The average age of visitors to *Comics Unmasked* was younger than that of previous exhibitions, and 48% of visitors to the exhibition were first time visitors to the British Library. *Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination* received 64,460 visitors, exceeding its target of 50,000. Both exhibitions were accompanied by groundbreaking programmes of public events. *Enduring War*, one of the Library's major contributions to the commemorations of the First World War centenary, examining how people coped with life during the war at home and on the Front, was our most successful Entrance Hall exhibition ever, with 93,197 visitors against a target of 40,000.

The major exhibition in 2015 *Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy* explored centuries of dramatic history from Runnymede to the present day, and includes two of the four original 1215 Magna Carta documents, as well as major loans including Thomas Jefferson's handwritten copy of the Declaration of Independence and one of the original copies of the US Bill of Rights, both on display in the UK for the first time. On 2 February 2015, the British Library, Lincoln Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral invited 1,215 members of the public to the PACCAR gallery at St Pancras to see the four original surviving Magna Carta manuscripts together for the first time. Over 40,000 people from over 20 countries had applied.

Discovering Literature, a major new website to enhance the study and enjoyment of English literature, aimed at school students, teachers, undergraduates and lifelong learners, was launched in May 2014. Covering the Romantic and Victorian periods, the site brings together for the first time a wealth of the British Library's greatest literary treasures, including numerous original manuscripts, first editions and illustrations alongside rich contextual material, such as newspapers, diaries, letters and photographs.

Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

The Library has continued to focus on developing productive strategic partnerships.

In December 2014 it was announced that the British Library had been selected as the location for the headquarters of the new Alan Turing Institute. The future of the British Library is increasingly digital and data-driven, and our purposes are strongly aligned with those of the Institute which has been created to promote the development and use of advanced mathematics, computer science, algorithms and big data for human benefit. It will be headed by the universities of Cambridge,

Edinburgh, Oxford, Warwick and UCL. Initially the Institute will be based within the Library's main building, and in the long term it will occupy a bespoke space in the new development at St Pancras.

The British Library's £8.7 million programme in partnership with the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development resulted in the launch of The Qatar Digital Library in October 2014. The new bi-lingual online portal provides access to previously undigitised British Library archive materials relating to Gulf history and Arabic science, and will help teachers and academics to educate students about Arabic cultural heritage and the modern history of the Gulf, using contextual material to help teachers and students make the best use of the 500,000 digitised pages available. The portal includes 475,000 pages from the India Office Records and 25,000 pages of medieval Arabic manuscripts, demonstrating the significant influence of Arabic scholars in the fields of science, medicine, astronomy, mathematics and geography dating back to the 9th Century. The BL and Qatar Foundation are now extending their partnership to take the project into a second phase until 2018. This will triple the size of the Qatar Digital Library, including over a million pages of historical material related to the Gulf in addition to the 500,000 pages already digitised.

As previously reported, the model established by the Library's Business & IP Centre in London is being extended beyond the BL to other regional centres in the UK to benefit small businesses, inventors and entrepreneurs, and to support growth in the local and national economies. This year saw the completion of the first phase of the Business & IP Centre network, with four centres opening their full service in Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool. Thus the first 'wave' of six centres in city public libraries, plus the centre at the British Library at St Pancras, is now fully operational.

The Library continues to play a pivotal role in the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) programme (www.ukrr.ac.uk), housing the Research Reserve collection on behalf of 29 universities and institutions in the UK Higher Education sector, and making it accessible to researchers through our Document Supply Centre. Through this, we are protecting the research information infrastructure, and releasing 100km of shelf space in HE libraries allowing them to use the space for other purposes. The programme is made possible through funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England.