British Library Annual Report for CENL – June 2005

1. Management of the Library

Strategy: this year we have published the Library's strategy for 2005-08. We have reviewed research and disciplinary trends and consulted widely with our users to determine how we will reshape our services, collections and skills to meet emerging user needs. The six priority areas which will guide our activities over the next three years are:

- Enriching the user's experience
- Building the digital research environment
- Transforming search and navigation
- Growing and managing the national collection
- Developing our people
- Guaranteeing our financial sustainability

Our strategy document is launched at the end of June and will be available via the British Library website www.bl.uk

We have also begun two substantial reviews to address key questions arising from our strategy work. The reviews are looking at the intellectual and practical challenges of determining the right collection development strategy for the Library and the right skills and knowledge mix for our collection experts in the future.

Planning: we have introduced a balanced scorecard approach to monitor our progress against key objectives. The scorecard includes a mix of existing and new metrics which have been developed to provide a better balance across the range of activities we undertake, and to assess progress against our strategic priorities The metrics are grouped under the following headings: stakeholder, customer, financial, internal processes, employee learning and growth.

2. Electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

Following the passage of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act in 2003 there has been a lot of work this year to prepare for the implementation of the Act, which will ensure the perpetual preservation of the UK's digital materials. As co-chair of the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit, which helped steer legislation through parliament, the Library has played an active role in the UK Government's consultation exercise prior to the establishment of a Legal Deposit Advisory Panel. The Panel will further define the terms of the 2003 Act.

Meanwhile, working closely with the other Legal Deposit Libraries, we've begun developing the supporting technical architecture, and the Library is addressing the complexities of managing e-journals through a pilot scheme with publishers.

3. Buildings

Additional storage programme
We have received planning permission for construction of a high-density, fully automated low-oxygen storage solution on our freehold property at Boston Spa in Yorkshire. The building is likely to be the largest of its type for library and archive

use in the world, and is the first phase of work to provide us with 260 linear kilometres, sufficient storage until 2018. Work is planned to commence in 2006 with the building scheduled to be ready for occupation in the autumn of 2008

Centre for Conservation
We have received planning permission for a purpose-built Centre for Conservation immediately to the north of the Library's existing building at St Pancras. The Centre will provide a world-class facility for all aspects of book conservation including education and training, as well as state-of-the art technical facilities for the nation's Sound Archive. We have nearly reached the capital fundraising campaign target for this project of £12.5million. Construction is expected to commence in August 2005 and the building is scheduled to be ready for occupation in early 2007.

Business & Intellectual Property Centre
We have received £1m funding from The London Development Agency, the Mayor of London's agency for business and jobs, to transform our Business & Intellectual Property Centre from a successful pilot project to a permanent resource. The Library is targeting this service at small businesses, entrepreneurs and innovators in London and beyond. Over 25,000 researchers and business people have used the Centre in the 12 months since it opened. This first phase of the Centre is due to be complete in Spring 2006 and will offer: a networking area; state-of-the-art meeting rooms; Library information experts trained in the needs of small businesses and entrepreneurs to guide users; large-scale events with successful role models to inspire, and guide users on setting up and running a successful business.

4. Staffing matters
52% of staff responded to our Colleague Opinion Survey, which we implemented in May and June 2004 to gather the views of staff on what is working well and where we need to focus attention and make improvements. One of the key drivers of the survey was to measure the impact of the Library's core values. Full results of the survey were shared with staff and action plans have been developed locally to address the key issues arising from the survey.

Our leadership programme 'Excellence in Leadership' which we piloted with 150 staff last year was rolled out across the library to a further 250 managers. For first-time managers, we have piloted a new course, aimed at providing them with essential management tools. We have also developed a Communications & Service course to help develop staff skills in these important areas. This will be piloted in the summer and we expect many of our front-line staff to attend the course when it is rolled out fully.

5. Digital library

Digital Object Management Programme
This year work has continued to develop the core storage functionality of our Digital Object Management (DOM) System. Our vision is create a management system for digital objects that will store and preserve any type of digital material in perpetuity, provide access to this material to users with appropriate permissions and ensure that users can, where possible, experience material with the original look-and-feel.

Digitisation
We have begun work on our two major projects: Archival Sound Recordings and British Newspapers. The projects have been made possible through funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) and will digitise c. 4000 hours of audio and 1.8m pages of British national, regional and local newspapers. Material will be available for academic communities to access in late 2006.

Web Archiving
The UK Web Archiving Consortium, of which the BL is a lead partner, launched in June 2004. Comprising six UK institutions, the UKWAC is working, with the permission of rights holders, on an experimental system for archiving selected key UK websites
Each consortium member will select and 'capture' content relevant to its subject and/or domain. The BL has selected 1018 sites and has obtained permission to archive 269 of these. To date the BL has archived 117 sites. These include: UK-related tsunami sites; London bid for the Olympics website; and sites relating to the 2005 general election. So far the consortium as a whole has archived 358 sites

As a member of the International Internet Preservation Consortium we are leading the procurement of an automated smart crawler with the Bibliotheque nationale de France, contributing to the development of an integrated Curator Tool, and actively participating in various working groups.

UK e-infrastructure
The BL is playing an active part on the e-infrastructure group being led by the Office of Science and Technology. This group was set up in response to recommendations in the UK Government's 10 year science and innovation investment framework (published July 2004). Owing in large part to BL efforts, the 10-year framework includes 3 paragraphs about 'Information Infrastructure' which incorporate an action for Government to: 'work with interested funders and stakeholders to consider the national e-infrastructure (hardware, networks, communications technology) necessary to deliver an effective system'

The remit of the group is to review the UK's current e-infrastructure in light of future requirements. We are jointly funding a piece of consultancy work with JISC and eScience to develop an e-infrastructure 'roadmap'. This will be used as a fact base to identify strengths and weaknesses in the UK's current provision, which ultimately will lead to recommendations. It is anticipated that these will be used to lobby government to recognise the importance of e-infrastructure to UK research and innovation.

Web initiatives
Some of the new web-based initiatives launched last year include:
  ▪ Shakespeare Quartos: digitised versions of 93 copies of early quarto editions of 21 plays, ranging from Titus Andronicus to Hamlet can be viewed and compared with one another at: www.bl.uk/treasures/shakespeare/homepage.html
  ▪ Texts in Context: this is a major new online resource which enables students to explore how English language and style have continually evolved and changed over time. It includes a wide selection of different types of text from the Library's collections, including: recipes, advertisements, letters, legal pronouncements, guide books and dictionary entries. *Texts in Context* was made possible by DCMS/DfES National/Regional Museums Education

Partnerships and was developed from a pilot project involving four regional museums, two archive/public record offices, six schools and eleven teachers in the South West of England.

- <u>Turning the pages</u>: two more treasures were converted to the Turning the Pages (TTP) format - the 'Golf Book' (a 16th-century Flemish Book of Hours) and Jane Austen's manuscript of 'The History of England'. The Library's TTP application won the International Information Industry's 'Best User Experience' award for 2004 and the 'Innovative' category in Yahoo! UK and Ireland's "Top 10 Finds of the Year" competition.
- This year we've opened up a significant proportion of our catalogue data and information about our 20,000 most heavily used journal articles to search engines. This means that our content is more easily discoverable via web searches.

<u>Codex Sinaiticus partnership agreement</u>

The BL has signed an agreement with St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai; the University of Leipzig, Germany; and the National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg, the three other institutions holding parts of the Codex Sinaiticus, the world's oldest Bible. The agreement is a critical step towards realising a £1 million project which aims to reunify the manuscript in virtual form. The project encompasses four strands: conservation, digitisation, transcription and scholarly commentary to make the Codex available for a worldwide audience of all ages and levels of interest. It is intended that this project will be a model for future collaborations on other manuscripts.

6. Acquisitions

Notable acquisitions of the past year include:

- *The Sforza Leaf*, the last missing leaf from the Sforza Book of Hours, one of the most lavish books of the Italian Renaissance, and one of the Library's greatest treasures
- The literary papers of the novelist Anthony Powell
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle papers
- *The Modell of Poesy* by William Scott, one of only four major treatises on poetry known to survive from the Elizabethan period
- *The Oscar Wilde collection of the late Mary, Viscountess Eccles*. Mary Eccles was a book lover and collector, who brought together a remarkable range of items relating to Oscar Wilde, including books, manuscripts, works of art and memorabilia, which she generously bequeathed to the Library.

7. Services to readers

<u>British Library Direct</u>

This is a new service which, for the first time, provides access to a fully searchable database of article titles from the top 20,000 international research journals. These records go back five years and currently number around nine million – with 150,000 new entries added each month. There is no need to subscribe in order to use the service and articles can be ordered singly or several at a time. Upon finding the relevant article, the user can order it online and pay by his/her credit card to have the full text delivered to their desktop within as little as 2 hours. Nearly 20% of the articles available can be downloaded instantly. Subject strengths include medicine,

pharmacy, engineering, science, food and agriculture, economics, environment, law and education.

8. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

Exhibitions
Major exhibitions during the past year include:
- *The Writer in the Garden* – over 91,000 visitors saw this exhibition, which explored the interrelationships between writers, writing and gardens from the middle ages to the present day. Highlights included John Milton's Paradise Lost, and Medieval manuscripts of *Roman de la Rose*.
- *Hans Christian Andersen* – this exhibition opened on 20 May and runs until 2 October. Using tales such as The Little Mermaid, and The Snow Queen as a focus, it explores Andersen's life from his humble beginnings in Denmark to the overwhelming success of his first visit to Britain in 1847. It also examines his contribution to the development of the fairy tale, his association with Charles Dickens, and his literary legacy and reputation.

Live Music on the Piazza
- Reflecting the vast array of world music held by the British Library Sound Archive, we held a season of free lunchtime concerts on the piazza last summer. Featuring artists from the UK and abroad, the programme covered musical styles such as Trinidadian Soca, Kurdish, Celtic, and Indian, as well as Chinese classical music and Afro-Cuban jazz.

Publications
- *Voices of History CDs* – Following the success of *Spoken Words – Poets*, and *Spoken Word – Children's Writers*, we published a two CD set featuring historic recordings from the British Library Sound Archive of some of the most famous and influential people active from the early days of sound recording to the middle of the twentieth century. The CDs feature forty speakers including Prime Minister Gladstone (1888), Lenin, Roosevelt. Suffragette Christabel Pankhurst, and Gandhi.
- To celebrate 'Einstein year', one hundred years since the great scientist's theory of relativity and fifty years since his death, the British Library has released 'Albert Einstein – Historic Recordings 1930-1947', in which Einstein talks about his life and work, the Jewish people and the world of science. It contains what is believed to be the first commercial release of Albert Einstein explaining his Special Theory of Relativity, the formula $e=mc^2$.

9. Library co-operation

National

Research Libraries Network
The RLN was launched in July 2004 to ensure 'joined up' information services for UK researchers. Dr Michael Jubb has been appointed as Director of the RLN, based at the British Library (supported by two other colleagues), and Professor Robert Burgess has been appointed as Chair of the Advisory Board.

The title of RLN has been changed to the Research Information Network, so that it more accurately reflects the role and scope of the new organisation, which is intended to cover all kinds of information produced and used by professional researchers across all subjects and disciplines.

The RIN's draft strategy was approved at an initial meeting of the Funders' Group (the Advisory Board will meet in July) and, once finalised, will be published in hard copy and on the new RIN website. The strategy reflects the mission of the RIN to "lead and co-ordinate new developments in the collaborative provision of research information for the benefit of researchers in the UK".

In addition to the provision of advocacy and advice, key focuses of activity over the coming three years will be on co-ordination in the management and development of physical collections of research materials in libraries and elsewhere; on the development of catalogues and finding aids; on digitisation strategies; and on arrangements for the handling and management of research data, published and unpublished.

International

We have held discussions with and provided support to the Iraqi National Library and Archives in their efforts to reconstruct the lost collections of rare books and archives. We also committed to sending the National Library appropriate management documents on strategy development, on legal deposit legislation, and on other pertinent matters that would assist in reconstruction.

We are working with the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and other partners on a European Task Force to define a strategic framework for action on digital preservation in Europe. The aim is to develop a framework which can be accepted and acted upon by stakeholders, including governments, libraries, archives and publishers. It is hoped that the work will ensure that the EU's 7th Research Framework Programme will provide space for research and development work in this critical area.

Members of the New York Public Library and British Library executive teams met in New York in February 2005 to discuss potential areas for knowledge sharing and future collaboration. This has been made possible by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Endangered Archives Programme – in partnership with the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund the Library has launched a £10 million joint initiative to help save the world's endangered archives. The largest of its kind ever undertaken in the world, the programme will be administered by the British Library in conjunction with a panel of international experts deciding on the allocation of the grants. Institutions and academic researchers will be able to apply for grants to help identify endangered records and re-locate them to institutional archives in their local region. A copy will be maintained in a master archive at the British Library. This will ensure no original material is removed from its cultural home and copies will be accessible on an international basis. The Programme will also provide bursaries for overseas librarians and archivists for work attachments at the British Library to foster better archival management and preservation in the longer-term.

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