

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2014

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 fact that on 6 April 2013 new regulations came into force under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act enabling the British Library and the other five UK Legal Deposit libraries (the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, Bodleian Libraries, Cambridge University Library and Trinity College Library Dublin) to create a resource that contains 4.8 million UK websites, blogs, e-books and e-journals, and to make them available in our Reading Rooms. E-journals began appearing in our Reading Rooms in May 2013. By the end of March 2014 we had 140,000 available to access, and approximately 1.3 billion URLs were also available as a result of a comprehensive domain crawl of the .uk domain.

A programme of strategy development and culture change – the BL50 Programme - was initiated, and will run from March 2014 to January 2015. BL50 is to deliver two key published outputs: a vision paper building on the 2020 Vision but taking the story through to the Library's 50th anniversary in 2023; and a strategic plan with indicative objectives for the years 2015/16-2018/19. A key internal product will be a new framework for business planning and a new annual strategy cycle incorporated into business planning activity.

As previously reported, the outcome of the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010 resulted in a 15% cut in real terms to the Library's revenue funding over the four years 2011-14, on top of an in-year 3% cut in 2010/11. The Library's core capital budget was also cut by 50%. Additional cuts of 2% in the Grant-in-aid for 2013/14, 3% in 2014/15, and 5% in the Grant-in-aid for 2015/16 were announced subsequently. During the year, the Government announced some relaxation in its spending controls for Museums and Galleries across the sector, and the British Library was chosen to take part in a four-year pilot programme. Under the 'freedoms' the Library is exempt from a number of controls including Government procurement policy, the 1% pay award limit and control on property spend and it also allows the Library to use its reserves in a more flexible way.

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.

During the year under review, 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.

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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.

Our £33m Newspaper programme to safeguard the long-term future of the national newspaper print collection and to improve access to it continues. The Newspaper Library in Colindale closed on 8 November 2013 and the newsprint collection is currently being moved into a purpose-built, environmentally controlled Newspaper Storage Building at our Boston Spa site in Yorkshire. This will enable us to keep our historic newspaper collection in optimal archival conditions for the first time, safeguarding this precious resource for future generations. Approximately 750 million pages of newspapers, many in fragile condition, will be preserved in controlled conditions of temperature and humidity in a giant airtight storage chamber.

On 28 April 2014, the British Library Newsroom at St Pancras was officially opened by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP. The Reading Room and Reception areas in Boston Spa have also been updated to provide an improved environment for Readers and visitors.

New developments in providing access to collections.

At the end of March 2014, 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 was ahead of schedule. 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.

Europeana 1914-1918 is the most important pan-European collection of First World War source material and is the result of three years of work by 20 European countries. The British Library led the UK's contribution to the site, and we have contributed 10,000 items from our own World War One collections to the site, including trench journals from foreign troops, iconic war poetry and London schoolchildren's accounts of Zeppelin raids. The Library has also produced a new *World War One* website offering curated access to over 500 digitised historical sources from *Europeana 1914-1918* for schools.

The Library's public programme offered a diverse range of exhibitions and events throughout the year, and the visitor target of 500,000 was exceeded by 48% with a total of 737,805 visitors.

Our *Propaganda: Power and Persuasion* exhibition, which opened in May 2013, used posters, films, sounds and texts to uncover hidden agendas. The exhibition received 59,000 visitors against a target of 50,000, and the events programme which ran alongside ranged from *Speakers Corner at the British Library*, where we hosted four public debates, to *Write, Camera, Action*, an interactive event which encouraged families to create and decorate a personal slogan. Our noteworthy *Audience with Noam Chomsky* was filmed, and to date, has been watched by over 50,000 people.

Celebrating 300 years since King George I was crowned, *Georgians Revealed: Life, Style and the Making of Modern Britain* explored the revolution in everyday life that took place between 1714 and 1830. As well as allowing us to showcase our rich and rare collections of illustrated books, newspapers, maps and advertisements alongside loaned artworks and artefacts, we were able to bring to life the stories of the ordinary people who transformed Britain forever. Nearly 42,000 people visited the exhibition, and although this fell short of the 50,000 target, we had 110,000 visitors to our major exhibitions across the year against a target of 100,000.

The Folio Society Gallery in our Entrance Hall continued to bring our collections to audiences of all ages with over 186,000 visitors during the year. In June 2013, *Poetry in Sound* celebrated the centenary of Benjamin Britten. In October 2013, *Picture This* explored how illustrators have interpreted and re-interpreted some of our favourite children's classics. And in February 2014, *Beautiful Science*, sponsored by Winton Capital Management, explored how our understanding of ourselves and our planet has evolved alongside our ability to represent, graph, and map the mass data of our time.

Over 100,000 visitors were welcomed to the *Lindisfarne Gospels Durham* exhibition in Durham during the summer of 2013. The culmination of several years of planning and collaboration between the British Library, Durham University, Durham Cathedral and Visit County Durham, the St Cuthbert Gospel and the Ceolfrith Bible went on display alongside the Lindisfarne Gospels.

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.

The British Library's £8.7 million programme in partnership with the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development seeks to transform people's understanding of the Middle East, the history of the Gulf and Arabic science. At the heart of the programme is a portal where a wide range of digitised material relating to the Islamic world, Arabic cultural heritage and the modern history of the Gulf will be uploaded to provide a major new bilingual resource. The portal is set to launch later in 2014 and the project has already digitised over 300,000 images including 1,200 archive files from the India Office Records, 50 Arabic Science manuscripts, and 350 maps and photographs depicting the Arabian Peninsula and its people.

During the year, plans to extend the model established by the Library's Business & IP Centre in London, to other regional centres in the UK in partnership with the UK Intellectual Property Office were advanced. The aim is to establish similar centres in Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester,

Newcastle and Sheffield to benefit small businesses, inventors and entrepreneurs, and to support growth in the local and national economies. During the year, centres opened in Newcastle and Leeds and the Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield centres were operating in pilot mode.

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.