

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2013

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 legislation finally came into effect 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. This is a tremendously important step forward, and will ensure that the fullest possible record of life in the UK in the 21st century is collected and preserved for future generations of researchers.

This year we also unveiled an ambitious partnership with the Qatar Foundation to transform people's understanding of the Middle East, and the region's relationship with Britain and the rest of the world. It will result in the digitisation of over 500,000 pages from the archives of the East India Company and the India Office, including 25,000 pages of medieval Arabic manuscripts. The work is now under way in the Library's St Pancras building, and the material will be made freely available online for the first time.

During 2012-13 the Library has made continued progress towards delivering our Vision for 2020 as set out in our strategy, *Growing Knowledge: The British Library's Strategy 2011-2015*.

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 and 3% in 2014/15 were announced during the year and, at the time of writing, the Library had just learned that there was to be an additional cut of 5% in the Grant-in-aid for 2015/16.

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 announced its intention to transfer 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: 111,037,617 items including
359,935 manuscripts (single and volumes)
8,276,859 philatelic items
4,572,306 cartographic items
1,615,966 music scores
1,517,529 sound discs
33,200 prints and drawings
314,784 photographs
67,496,679 patents
10,433,593 reports in microform

Printed items received 2012/13 via legal deposit: 475,059 items
Storage: Kilometres of shelving and percentage occupied: 798 lin km (86%)
Staff: 1,568 full-time equivalents
Number of items consulted onsite / supplied remotely: 10,297,319
Use of www.bl.uk: Remote hosts served: 8,069,746
Digital images created: 12.149,100

For 2012/13, the Library received £104m of Government Grant-in-aid funding (revenue and capital). This was supplemented by £22m of other self-generated funds, including donations, grant and sales income.

New developments in creating and building collections.

The period under review was particularly significant for the fact that legislation finally came into effect 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 blogs, e-books, e-journals and the entire UK web domain. This is a tremendously important step forward, and will ensure that the fullest possible record of life in the UK in the 21st century is collected and preserved for future generations of researchers.

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.

We reported last year that construction had started on a new Newspaper Storage Building to house the National Newspaper Collection on the Library's Boston Spa site. The new Newspaper Storage Building at Boston Spa, to be fully operational in late 2013, 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. At the time of writing, the exterior had been completed and work on installing the automated storage systems was under way. We began moving the first microfilm material from Colindale in North London in February, with major collections due to follow later this year. Going forward, access to newspaper content will be made available via microfilm or digital copies in a dedicated Reading Room in the Library's St Pancras building. Where no copies exist, original print copies can be requested to be brought from Boston Spa.

New developments in providing access to collections.

We reported last year the launch of the British Newspaper Archive. This is a partnership between the British Library and brightsolid online publishing to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection over the next 10 years. Digitisation activity continued during 2012/13

Our partnership with Google aims to digitise 250,000 out-of-copyright books (up to 40 million pages) from the Library's collections. 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. Work started in April 2012, and we made good progress during the year with planning, workflows and resourcing aspects of the programme. By the end of March 2013, Google had already digitised more than 7,000 books from our collections and made them available through Google Books.

In the Europeana Collections 1914-18 project we are working with nine partners to create a substantial digital archive relating to the First World War in time to commemorate the centenary of its outbreak.

We continued to make more digital sound and moving image content available, both online and in our Reading Rooms. In October we launched our Broadcast News service, giving Reading Room access to the television and radio news content we have been capturing daily since 2010, which already totals 25,000 hours. We also introduced the BBC Pilot Service, which gives access to more than two million BBC television and radio catalogue records and 190,000 playable programmes. Our Reading Rooms now offer 120 terminals with sound and moving image facilities, a big increase, and we are working to provide an integrated service across all of them.

Interest in the Library's public programme of exhibitions and events continued at a very high level. Nearly 533,000 visitors participated, exceeding the 400,000 target. We held two major temporary exhibitions. Writing Britain: Wastelands to Wonderlands, our major summer exhibition, examined how our greatest authors have been inspired by the spaces and places of Britain. Attendance totalled

almost 32,300 people. Mughal India: Art, Culture and Empire opened in November to excellent reviews including 'spectacular' (The Times) and 'a revelation' (Daily Telegraph). It told the story of the entire Mughal period through more than 200 exquisite objects from a jewelled flywhisk, imperial portraiture and imposing warrior armour, to domestic manuals, early cookbooks and personal memoirs. The exhibition received almost 51,000 visitors. Smaller exhibitions included a display of the St Cuthbert Gospel, acquired by a recordbreaking fundraising campaign, which explained its significance as the oldest, intact European book. Throughout the summer we hosted Olympex 2012: Collecting the Olympic Games in partnership with the International Olympic Committee. Memorabilia on display traced the way that Olympic iconography has evolved over more than a century with stamps, letters, postcards, posters and artwork showing how the Games have touched the lives of competitors and the public. In October, the Library displayed Jack Kerouac's 120-foot long manuscript scroll of his iconic work On the Road as part of an exhibition of our printed and sound collections.

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. More than 40 staff have been recruited and we have constructed key facilities including conservation and digitisation studios. Ultimately the programme will enable us to digitise half a million pages from our East India Company and India Office archives including 25,000 pages of medieval Arabic manuscripts, all of which will be made freely available online for the first time.

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. An agreement signed with six UK city libraries will enable similar centres to open in Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield. This initiative will benefit small businesses, inventors and entrepreneurs, and support growth in the local and national economies.

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.