

**ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2011****Name of country:** United Kingdom**Name of library:** The British Library**Name of Chief Executive:** Dame Lynne Brindley DBE**Name of contact person for international matters:** Mr Andy Stephens OBE, Board Secretary and Head of International Engagement**Mailing address:** 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB**Telephone:** +44 (0) 843 208 1144 **Fax:** +44 (0) 207 412 7268**Web address of the Library:** [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)**Web address for BL annual reports:** <http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/annrep/index.html>**Email address for contacting the library:** [chief-executive@bl.uk](mailto:chief-executive@bl.uk)**General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.**

The period under review was particularly significant both for the substantive progress made in moving towards regulation for non-print legal deposit within the framework of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 and also for the innovative partnerships entered into for mass digitisation of the Library's collections as reported below.

In September 2010, following a year of extensive research and consultation, we launched our *2020 Vision*, setting out the British Library's aspirations for the coming decade. The vision outlines five key themes that set out the priorities for the British Library: to guarantee access for future generations; to enable access for everyone who wants to do research; to support research communities in key areas for social and economic benefit; to enrich the cultural life of the nation; and, to lead and collaborate in growing the world's knowledge base. In February 2011, we published *Growing Knowledge: The British Library's Strategy 2011-2015*, which sets out how we intend to move toward delivering our vision over the next four years.

The outcome of the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review resulted in a 15% cut in real terms to the Library's revenue funding over the next four years, on top of an in-year 3% cut in 2010/11. The Library's core capital budget was also cut by 50%.

**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 Non-Departmental Public Body operating at arms' length from Government. Government sponsorship (i.e. funding, policy, and oversight) responsibility 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 currently governed by the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003; this legislation which extended the scope of deposit to certain categories of non-print, including digital publications, pending secondary legislation. Such statutory regulation will only be enacted after assessment of the effectiveness of any voluntary framework of deposit and of the likely economic impact on the affected publishing industry.

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

Total collection holdings: 107,792,967 items including  
355,767 manuscripts (single and volumes)  
8,268,432 philatelic items  
4,564,212 cartographic items  
1,611,424 music scores  
1,487,869 sound discs  
33,173 prints and drawings  
302,284 photographs

Printed items received 2010/11 via legal deposit: 483,473 items

Storage: Kilometres of shelving and percentage occupied: 798 lin km (84%)

Staff: 1,837 full-time equivalents

Number of visits to reading rooms: 530,400

Number of items consulted onsite / supplied remotely: 9,127,000

Use of [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk): Remote hosts served: 6,355,368

For 2010/11, the Library received £105.9m of Government Grant-in-aid funding (revenue and capital). This was supplemented by £32m of other self-generated funds, including donations, grant and sales income.

### **New developments in creating and building collections.**

During 2010/11, the UK Government undertook a public consultation on draft regulations and guidance for non-print legal deposit within the framework of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003. The Government subsequently announced its commitment to deliver regulations for non-print content during 2011/12. In particular, the Legal Deposit Libraries welcomed the Government's move to regulate on:

- The deposit of works on CD-ROM and other offline media;
- The harvesting of online content, which will allow a great deal of material and most UK websites to be archived and thus avoid a digital black hole; and
- Agreements with publishers for depositing the published digital equivalent of printed works in place of depositing the printed version.

In addition to the continued routine growth in collections, through both legal deposit and purchase, the Library made a number of important heritage acquisitions during the year. These included: a King Henry VIII prayer roll; the archive of letters from poet Ted Hughes to Sylvia Plath; the literary archive of J G Ballard.

### **New developments in managing collections.**

The Library's new £26m storage facility at Boston Spa is now operational. The most advanced in the world, it provides 262km of environmentally controlled storage and it will eventually house approximately 7 million items from the national collection. The ingest of collection items and associated 180 km of book moves will be completed by the Summer of 2011. Capital funding from the Government to move the national newspaper collection to a new Newspaper Storage Building to be constructed on the Boston Spa site and to be fully operational in 2013 has been confirmed.

### **New developments in providing access to collections.**

In last year's update we reported that the Library had concluded a public/private arrangement for mass digitisation of newspapers. The ten-year agreement between the BL and brightsolid is to deliver the

most significant mass digitisation of newspapers the UK has ever seen: up to 40 million historic pages from the national newspaper collection will be digitised. The digitisation will be undertaken at no direct costs to the BL: Brightsolid will create a commercial offering and assume the associated financial risks. The contract is non-exclusive. Under the terms of the contract, Brightsolid will select the content and will, as appropriate, secure permission to digitise material that is still in copyright. But access to the online service will be available free to users in the British Library's reading rooms and the BL will receive copies of all the scanned newspapers and a royalty on all out of copyright material accessed. On expiry of the contact, the British Library will be able to make the out of copyright newspaper images available to users on the BL website free of charge. By the end of the year, 350,000 pages had been digitised.

In June 2011 the Library announced a major partnership project with Google 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.

January 2011 saw the release of the British Library's first smart phone 'app'. The "Treasures" app presents a multimedia selection of over 100 of the Library's greatest collection items, 250 high-definition images, over 40 videos providing expert commentary, textual interpretation for deeper understanding, as well as up to date information about the Library's current exhibitions. A second app - the British Library 19th Century Historical Collection – featuring over 1,000 10th Century books, was launched in March.

Major exhibitions continued to draw large numbers of visitors to the Library. In the summer of 2010 'Magnificent Maps' attracted nearly 227,000 visitors. Following this, 'Evolving English' provided an opportunity for visitors to explore the evolution of the English language from Anglo Saxon runes to modern day rap. In total, the Library's public programme attracted over 810, 000 visitors. The Library's current exhibition is 'Out of this World: Science Fiction but not as you know it', the British Library's first exhibition to explore science fiction through literature, film, illustration and sound.

**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 signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Qatar Foundation has established a partnership to work together on a shared Gulf history Programme.

Also during the year a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Film Institute was signed with the objective of increasing public, professional and research access to audiovisual and broadcast content and integrating it with other knowledge collections. This initiative complements the MoU signed with the BBC in 2009.

The Library continues to play a pivotal role in the UK Research Reserve (UKRR) programme ([www.ukrr.ac.uk](http://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.

The British Library continued to play a major role in the World Collections Programme (WCP), a three-year, UK Government-funded initiative, involving six national cultural institutions – the British Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew), the Tate galleries, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the British Library. Its aim is to develop links and collaboration with institutions in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Projects the Library has undertaken with WCP funding include: a photographic exhibition in Afghanistan and audio visual workshops in Kenya and South Africa. This initiative also provided the platform for the signing in June 2010 of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Culture, India, and the British Library, British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum with the aim of strengthening and enhancing cultural relations between the two countries, deepening mutual understanding, and promoting cultural co-operation and exchanges.