

## British Library Annual Report for CENL – July 2004

### 1. Management of the Library

#### Strategy

During the past twelve months we have undertaken a substantial corporate strategy review. This has been broadly discipline-based to ensure that we take account of the differing characteristics and needs of people doing research into different areas. Our workstreams have considered the Library's strategy in: Science, Technology & Medicine; Social Sciences; and Arts & Humanities. In addition to these we have also had a fourth workstream to review our overall Product & Service strategy. All four workstreams have involved extensive consultation outside as well as inside the Library. The assessment will help us develop the strategic priorities that will guide our development in the coming years

#### Economic Impact Assessment

The Library commissioned an independent economic study to estimate the British Library's impact on the UK economy. The study showed that for every £1 of public funds it receives the Library generates over £4 of value to the UK economy. The findings also show that the Library adds £363 million of value to the UK economy each year - £304 million indirectly and £59 million directly. The results of the study will help inform the Library's programme of modernisation and innovation and will also form a useful benchmark for further studies.

### 2. Electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

#### Extension of legal deposit

The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 is now on the statute book, having received Royal Assent on 31 October 2003. It was introduced as a Private Members Bill by Chris Mole MP in December 2002 following a joint campaign with publishers and other legal deposit libraries to bring the law up-to-date with the current world of publishing which was led by the British Library, on behalf of all the legal deposit libraries and in association with Government. The Act extends previous legal deposit legislation passed nearly 100 years ago and enshrines the principle that electronic or e-publications and other non-print materials will be deposited in the future under secondary legislation. It ensures that these publications can be saved as part of the published archive - and become an important resource for future generations of researchers and scholars. The British Library is a lead member of the joint committee of publishers and the legal deposit libraries, ensuring that the interests of both are presented to government to inform the regulations developed under the Act.

### 3. Buildings

#### Additional storage programme

The British Library is at an advanced stage of planning the construction of a new storage facility which will provide an additional 150 km of storage space meeting the required environmental conditions for archival material. This will provide capacity for collection growth to 2014/15. An innovation for the Library is the use of high bay, high density shelving. Research has also been undertaken by the Library in order to project its collection growth and physical storage needs to 2020, which will inform future plans.

### 4. Staffing matters

To achieve our strategy, the Library has identified the need to create a supporting culture and organisational climate. Our focus this year has therefore been on designing and implementing a new performance management process which aligns our staff's objectives and behaviours with the strategy. The new process identified 'core competencies', skill and

behavioural standards which apply to everyone, 'role competencies' which apply to groups of jobs and 'professional competencies' which apply to specific jobs. In this way, levels of performance can be differentiated and training and development needs identified and acted upon, all of which support the desired strategy and culture.

Also in support of the core competencies, the Library has run a pilot Leadership programme ('Excellence in Leadership') for 150 operational managers which will be extended to a further 270 managers in 2004-05. Further training and development activities will be implemented for other staff.

## 5. Digital library

### Digital Object Management Programme

The DOM Programme has been set up to provide the British Library with a way of handling the ever-increasing number of digital items in our collections, in accordance with business needs and strategy. 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

Work is well under way on designing and developing the core storage functionality. The system architecture and incremental approach to development will enable us to build on this preservation-quality digital store by delivering additional services through subsequent, regular, releases. A key design requirement is that the system should be able to mix storage hardware from different manufacturers, permitting procurement every few months and simplifying the replacement over time of older units. A second requirement, achieving an acceptable level of disaster tolerance within a reasonable budget, has led to the adoption of a multi-cluster design.

High-level business requirements have been scoped, with functional requirements detailed for the initial releases. Currently we are ingesting electronic materials received under the Voluntary Deposit scheme, but the aim is to be ready to handle whatever arises from the implementation of the Legal Deposit law passed in 2003 (described in section 2 above).

The general direction of our work was validated by a 5-strong international panel of experts in March 2004.

### Digitisation

The **Collect Britain** Web site went live in May 2003. It contains many images and sounds from the British Library, including maps, prints, photographs, documents and rare early sound recordings from around the globe. Collect Britain enables the user to interact with content in specially selected collections, themed tours and virtual exhibition. Examples of content on the site include: over 11 hours of recordings of regional dialects and accents, and maps from the Crace Collection charting the transformation of London over three centuries. In total 100,000 objects will be available when the project completes in September 2004. [www.collectbritain.co.uk](http://www.collectbritain.co.uk)

The **Archival Sound Recordings** Project is a £1m project made possible through funding from the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The project seeks to deliver high-quality sound content online for long-term use by the further and higher education communities in the UK. By 2006 the academic communities will be able to access material from the Library's Sound Archive that is currently unavailable online. In total approximately 3,900 hours of content will be made available. Examples of content to be made available include: performances of Beethoven string quartets, offering the opportunity of research into the evolution of performance practice; interviews with UK jazz players and promoters and visual art interviews from the 1990s.

The project commenced in March 2004 and will run until September 2006; further details are available on the project web site. [www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/archsoundrec.html](http://www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/archsoundrec.html)

**British Newspapers** - within the same funding stream as the above Archival Sound Recordings the British Library has secured £2m to digitise up to two million pages of British national, regional and local newspapers. The content will initially be made available to the UK Higher and Further Education Communities by 2006. The newspaper titles to be included is still being decided. Examples under consideration include: The Examiner; The Morning Chronicle; Group of Chartist Newspapers. The project commenced in March 2004 and will run until September 2006.

### Web Archiving Programme

The Web Archiving Programme is a collaborative effort, with national and international partners, to extend the British Library's responsibilities for the national published archive to the web.

The BL is leading a UK consortium (<http://www.webarchive.org.uk>) on a selective permissions-base project to collecting selected UK web sites. The Library is also part of an international consortium (<http://www.netpreserve.org>) to develop web archiving technologies to meet our long term needs, i.e. national domain level archiving, to enable the BL to collect occasional snapshots of the entire UK web, with selected more frequent archives of sites of importance.

The BL has an engineering team in place, working on archival web crawlers, archiving access tools and scheduling systems. We also have a web archive curator working on the collection policy and subject/site selections.

The British Library is actively archiving in an experimental capacity to build experience, test new technologies and begin the process of capacity planning, scalability planning, crawl scheduling, etc. We have completed a draft collection policy and are actively working with a range of subject experts in the library to build our site selection.

### Web initiatives

A number of new web-based initiatives were launched in 2003/4. These included:

- A digital catalogue of the BL's illuminated manuscripts. A pilot site has been launched and eventually all of the BL's 9,500 western illuminated manuscripts will be represented. [www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts](http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts)
- Online digital versions of treasures from the Library's collection, including:
  - The first two editions of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*
  - The Library's two copies of Johan Gutenberg's Bible
  - Ten treasures in Turning the Pages format, including the *Diamond Sutra*, *Lindisfarne Gospels* and Leonardo da Vinci's *Notebook*. Usage of the Turning the Pages 'library' has been exceptional since the 20 April launch. Over 3,000 people a day from over 120 countries have been viewing the volumes. There has been a 20-fold increase in the daily amount of British Library data viewed over the web since the launch.

### Digital Library Federation

The British Library has joined the Digital Library Federation making it the Federation's first partner outside the United States. This will enable the BL to share information and explore the potential for collaboration on digital information resources.

## **6. Acquisitions**

### Literary papers

During the past year the library has strengthened its modern literary archives with the acquisition of seven previously-unpublished Virginia Woolf autograph manuscripts, the papers of Laurie Lee, Ted Hughes' correspondence with Leonard Baskin, and the Punch Magazine Archive, which includes letters from Dickens and Thackeray as well as cartoons and drawings from the magazine's 160 year history. The British Library has also received a generous bequest from playwright Sir Tom Stoppard, who has chosen to donate the manuscript of four of his recent plays to the Library. The gift comprises the original scripts of three plays that make up the Coast of Utopia Trilogy and The Invention of Love.

#### Digital material

We are continuing to collect offline digital material on a voluntary basis prior to implementation of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act, and working with publishers and the other legal deposit libraries on mutually beneficial arrangements for the voluntary deposit of e-journals.

### **7. Services to readers**

#### Integrated Library System

The British Library has successfully launched its new Integrated Library System (ILS). The new Web OPAC – the public face of the ILS – was successfully launched on over 150 computer terminals in the eleven St Pancras reading rooms at the end of June. The integrated catalogue provides significant improvements in accessing the Library's collections by uniting a number of previously separate sources to list over twelve million items in the British Library's collections.

#### Secure Electronic Delivery

The Library's new document supply service, Secure Electronic Delivery (SED), was launched at the International Online Meeting in London in December last year. This new service gives secure access to over 100 million documents which can be delivered securely in electronic format to customers' own PCs in as little as 2 hours. The secure Electronic Delivery service is based on Adobe Reader® 6.0 software and Relais™ International scanning and delivery technology. Investment in specially adapted digital scanning stations means the Library can provide high resolution electronic documents, whilst the addition of high speed Xerox printers ensures top quality hard-copy documents for postal delivery.

#### Business and Intellectual Property Centre

The Library has launched the Business & Intellectual Property Centre (formerly Science Reading Rooms 1 and 2 North). The Centre is aimed at innovators, entrepreneurs and small businesses within the scientific and creative industries. The aim is to be the first stop for people looking for intellectual property and business information. The Business & Intellectual Property Centre is a pilot approach, adopted to market and test ideas and proposed services to be delivered through the Innovation Centre, which we plan to open to support small businesses and entrepreneurs, particularly from the creative and scientific industries

As well as providing access to resources such as UK and international patents, electronic databases, market research reports, and high value online business databases, the Library's IP experts will be running new workshops designed to ensure that businesses understand the importance of IP. The workshops will cover trade marks and registered designs, complementing the existing programme in patents.

#### Wireless Internet Access

The Library has launched a Wi-Fi service to provide fast wireless internet access in the St Pancras restaurant, café, and Conference Centre. Following a successful two-month free trial, users can now subscribe to the service to gain wireless internet access in the public areas of the Library.

The Library has made available its bibliographic catalogue records to Amazon.co.uk, so that rare, antiquarian and pre-ISBN books can be made easier to identify and to buy online. The BL has added details of over 2.55 million unique bibliographic records to the Amazon.co.uk books catalogue, with 1.7 million of these dated before the 1970 introduction of ISBN.

## **8. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing**

### Exhibitions

Major exhibitions during the past year include:

- *Chinese Printmaking Today* – featuring almost 200 20<sup>th</sup> century woodblock printing artworks.
- *Illuminating the Renaissance*, a collaborative exhibition between the Royal Academy, the Getty and the BL. The show featured over 130 works of art, including illuminated manuscripts items from the Library's own collections.
- *The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith* is the library's major show this year and our most successful exhibition to date. The exhibition brings together some 400 objects from the Library's own important collection and from other national and international institutions. The exhibition tells the story of people who travelled along the route linking Europe to Central Asia 1,000 years ago. To complement the exhibition, the Library has organised a varied events programme, including open air celebrations on the Piazza with dance, music and storytelling.

### Publications

- Vocal treasures from the BL sound archive were published in a series of CDs: Poets, Writers and Children's Writers. The poets & writers CDs feature rare and early sound recordings of writers such as Robert Browning (1889) reading their own works. The Children's CD features 10 of the best-loved children's authors, including the only known recording of A.A. Milne reading 'Winnie the Pooh'.
- *1000 Years of English Literature*, was a major new book offering fascinating insight into the world of writers at work, from *Beowulf* to Harold Pinter plays.
- Our new series of introductory biographies - 'Historic Lives' –proved popular this year with four titles: Nelson, Churchill, TE Lawrence and Elizabeth 1. Historic Lives titles in 2004 will cover: George III, Oliver Cromwell, Francis Drake and the Duke of Wellington.

## **9. Library co-operation**

### National

#### Research Libraries Network

The Research Libraries Network (RLN) was launched in July and is set to transform the way research information is collected, organised, preserved and accessed across the UK. RLN will bring together the UK's four Higher Education funding bodies, the British Library, the National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, and the eight members of Research Councils UK to develop the UK's first national framework aimed at addressing the information needs of researchers as a discrete group.

Set up following the recommendations of the Research Support Libraries Group (RSLG) and endorsed by the House of Commons Select Committee on Education and Skills, RLN will:

- Provide strategic leadership for collaboration between publicly-funded research information providers and their users – to develop effective, efficient and integrated information resources and services to support UK research.
- Coordinate action to propose and specify solutions to meet researchers' changing needs – building on the earlier studies into UK researchers' needs carried out by RSLG.
- Act as a high-level advocate for research information, across the UK and internationally.

RLN will be set up in Autumn 2004, initially for three years up to the end of July 2007. It will be led by an executive unit, with a budget of up to £3 million, which will be based at the British Library and take strategic guidance from an Advisory Board.

### **International**

- The European Library project (TEL), led by the BL, concluded successfully in January 2004 with the signing of an agreement and commitment of €1m over three years to provide integrated access to catalogue data and digitised resources in major European national libraries, including the British Library. Post-project activity has been centred on the establishment of a governance and management structure for the new service which will be developed by a team based at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in the Hague reporting to a newly-formed European Library Management Board chaired by Elisabeth Niggemann of Die Deutsche Bibliothek
- Members of the New York Public Library and British Library executive teams met in London last summer to discuss potential areas for knowledge sharing and future collaboration. This has been made possible by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
- The Executive Teams of the Bibliotheque National de France and the British Library met for a full-day meeting in October 2003. A number of activities for future collaboration were identified and a return visit is planned within the next 18 months.
- The BL was invited by the National Library of Russia to a bilateral seminar in St Petersburg in October. The seminar was themed around digital developments, and a number of presentations were given by both libraries on topics related to this theme.

### **Local / regional**

Through its regional strategy the British Library aims to deliver its collections and services to new and diverse audiences in a way that enhances and enriches local and regional collections and services. The British Library also supports the wider library and information network, underpinning local and regional provision.

Highlights of the past year include:

- a range of activities and events relating to the Lindisfarne Gospels, including:
  - the development of schools resources and assembly plans based on the gospels, which were distributed to schools in the North East;
  - a touring facsimile copy of the Gospels which went to towns and villages in the North East, enabling thousands of local people to get a closer look ;
  - free public lectures on the Lindisfarne Gospels given by library curator and Gospels expert Michelle Brown,
- an exhibition on “National Treasures of the British Library with a Yorkshire Flavour” in Leeds Central Library June/July 2004 – this is the first of an annual exhibition series
- the launch of an online training package for public library staff, designed to give them a greater insight into the BL’s collections and services and help make these available to public library users (see [http://www.bl.uk/training\\_package/introduction.html](http://www.bl.uk/training_package/introduction.html))
- BL involvement in the ‘Inspire’ referral and access scheme. The ‘Inspire’ initiative aims to develop a cross-regional library access map for adult learners, guiding adult learners to libraries with collections and materials relevant to their needs. The ultimate aim of Inspire is to create seamless access between public, national and higher education libraries, as well as special libraries and those in further education colleges and schools, and to build an effective interface to resources for learning with museums, galleries and archives. Inspire is currently being piloted in the south east with the intention of rolling out the programme nationally at a later date.

We are currently undertaking a fact finding exercise around the UK regions and home countries to inform our action plan for the next 2-3 years. Further details of current regional projects can be found at: <http://www.bl.uk/concord/reaching-about.html>)