38th CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL), NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND, AUGUST 2012

(Country reports will be made available on the CDNL website http://www.cdnl.info)

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2012

Scotland

National Library of Scotland

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General overview of recent major developments

The Library is implementing changes in management structure which will streamline and reduce our levels of management from seven to four. A second Voluntary Early Exit Scheme was offered which reduce our staff by 15 posts. It is anticipated that restructuring will save £200-£250k per annum in management costs and match our structure much more closely to strategic aims.

National Library of Scotland: relationship to government

The NLS Bill was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament on 16 May 2012. A copy of the Bill, which sets out our function and mandate, can be seen at http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4 Bills/National%20Library%20of%20Scotland%20 Bill/b2bs4-aspassed.pdf.

Professor Michael Anderson, who has been chairman of NLS since 2000, has announced that he will step down from his position during the current year.

Key Facts and Figures (2011/12)

Print collections 256,539 items acquired

(Plus extensive digital, film and manuscript collections)
Reader visits 89,271
Visitors to exhibitions, events etc 91,410
Digital objects created 525,504

Number of staff 291 (including part time)

Total expenditure £14.832 million

New developments in creating and building and managing collections

Further large-scale projects by our digitisation staff have created the Addressing History online tool in collaboration with EDINA (http://addressinghistory.edina.ac.uk/) allowing a broad spectrum of users both within and outwith academia to combine data from digitised historical Post Office Directories with contemporaneous maps.

The Legal Deposit Libraries (non-print works) Regulations, which will govern compulsory deposit of electronic publications to be in named libraries including NLS, has regrettably suffered another delay in the next stage of consultation, which closed in May 2012.

As a result, the target of April 2012 will now not be met. This delay also affects the British Library, National Library of Wales and the three other UK legal deposit libraries. However, we have infrastructure in place and hope to begin receiving some e-legal deposit material during the coming year.

New developments in providing access to collections

A draft of our Gaelic Language Plan has been submitted to Bord na Gàidhlig and is expected to be approved during the course of 2012. A dual-language corporate logo has begun being extended across corporate publications, and a Gaelic language interface for the main catalogue will be available in summer 2012.

The re-launched Scotland's Places website (http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/) also allows users to browse and search across different national databases including the National Archives of Scotland as well as NLS, using geographic location.

This year's exhibitions programme topics have included The Bible in English and Scott's expedition to the Antarctic. We have held workshops on modern editing techniques, and talks on the reception of Shakespeare's work in Scotland (supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council) and Ossianic literature – a body of purportedly ancient Gaelic verse, published in the eighteenth century by James MacPherson, and which was admired by Schiller and Goethe. Later enquiry showed that MacPherson had liberally edited Gaelic poems and inserted passages of his own.

Collaborations

A project led by NLS, will develop a pilot for a National Sound Archive for Scotland. The proposed archive will be fully distributed – i.e. a portal will allow people to search for sound recordings, both spoken and music, and link directly to the digital recordings at the institution at which it is based. There will be longer term projects intended to increase the number of recordings available. Partners in the Project include BBC Alba, Edinburgh University, the National Trust for Scotland and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

We are delighted at the inclusion of the NLS Medical History of British India website as a resource for Dundee University's International Health Bachelor of Medical Science Degree.