

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2012

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Name of library: The British Library

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General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

The period under review was particularly significant both for the continued 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.

During 2011-12 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*.

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%.

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. It is now anticipated that secondary legislation relating to non print publications may be enacted with effect from 1 April 2013.

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

Total collection holdings: 109,608,428 items including
357,986 manuscripts (single and volumes)
8,273,558 philatelic items
4,570,018 cartographic items
1,614,063 music scores
1,503,465 sound discs
33,185 prints and drawings
309,784 photographs
66,352,307 patents
10,407,313 reports in microform
Printed items received 2011/12 via legal deposit: 517,828 items
Storage: Kilometres of shelving and percentage occupied: 798 lin km (85%)
Staff: 1,636 full-time equivalents
Number of items consulted onsite / supplied remotely: 9,942,500
Use of www.bl.uk: Remote hosts served: 7,073,470

For 2011/12, the Library received £101.9m of Government Grant-in-aid funding (revenue and capital). This was supplemented by £38m of other self-generated funds, including donations, grant and sales income.

New developments in creating and building collections.

During 2011-12, the UK Government undertook a further public consultation on draft regulations and guidance for non-print legal deposit within the framework of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003. This followed an earlier consultation during 2010-11 which resulted in the Government confirming in their response that they were committed to delivering regulations that covered non-print content and therefore proposed to develop the draft regulations to cover off line content and on line content that can be obtained through a web harvesting process. Moreover, the draft regulations would also cover on line content that was substantially the same as a printed work, removing the need to deposit print and reducing the costs to the publishing sector. A key difference between these draft regulations and the ones consulted on in 2010-11 was that micro-businesses and start-ups would be exempt from certain measures under a moratorium running until March 2014. . It is now anticipated that secondary legislation relating to non print publications may be enacted with effect from 1 April 2013.

In addition to the continued routine growth in collections, through both legal deposit and purchase, the Library made a number of very important heritage acquisitions during the year. These included: the 7th century St Cuthbert Gospel (the oldest surviving European book), the draft score of 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' by Benjamin Britten, the archive of poet Wendy Cope and the theatrical archive of actor Sir Alec Guinness.

New developments in managing collections.

We reported last year that 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 the associated 180 km of book moves into the new facility was completed in 2011/12. Meantime construction has started this year on a new Newspaper Storage Building to house the National Newspaper Collection on the Library's Boston Spa site. This will be fully operational in 2013.

New developments in providing access to collections.

This year saw the launch of the British Newspaper Archive website which provides access to up to four million pages from one of the greatest collections of historic newspapers in the world. This was the first outcome of the Library's ten-year public/private agreement between the BL and brightsolid for the mass digitisation of up to 40 million historic pages from the national newspaper collection. At launch in November 2011, the website contained 65 million stories from more than 200 newspaper titles mainly dating from the 19th century.

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.

The Library's new series of eBook Treasures enables iPad users to download entire manuscripts as high resolution digital facsimiles, complete with text, video and interpretation. Among the 52 titles are Shakespeare's First Folio, the Luttrell Psalter, Lewis Carroll's Alice, and Mercator's Atlas of Europe. The technology provides realistic page-turning and pinch-to-zoom features. There were more than 28,700 downloads through iTunes.

Major exhibitions continued to draw large numbers of visitors to the Library. 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, attracted 115,000 visitors. Following this, 'Royal Manuscripts: The Genius of Illumination', marked the start of the Library's policy to charge admission, and attracted 70,000 visitors. The Library's current exhibition is Writing Britain: wastelands to wonderlands explores through 150 exhibits how the landscapes of Britain permeate great literary works.

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.

Under the previously-reported Memorandum of Understanding, on 13 June 2012, the British Library signed a ten-year partnership on a shared Gulf history Programme with the Qatar Foundation. This will, over the first 30 months, create approximately 500,000 new digital objects from the Library's collections relating to the Middle East and Gulf History, available bilingually in Arabic and English, in a highly interactive way that will transform access for the public and research communities to this material. This work is fully-funded by the Qatar Foundation, and will create up to 43 new jobs at the British Library

During the year, plans went ahead to extend the model established by the Library's Business & IP Centre in London, to other regional centres in partnership with the UK Intellectual Property Office. The project aims to support start-ups and small businesses and to trigger a step increase in entrepreneurial activity.

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.