

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2013/14**

Name of Country: Scotland

Name of Library : National Library of Scotland

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### **General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library**

#### New National Librarian

Dr John Scally was appointed in June 2014 as the new Chief Executive and National Librarian. He succeeds Martyn Wade who retired in March after 11 successful years leading the organisation. Dr Scally was previously Director of Library and University Collections at the University of Edinburgh.

Seven new Board members were appointed in February 2013. Their role will be to determine the strategies, policies and priorities for the Library in the coming years.

The new Board has been formed as a result of the passage of the National Library of Scotland Act 2012 by the Scottish Parliament. The legislation strengthens the Library's role in collecting, preserving and sharing information for the benefit of people in Scotland and further afield. It also creates a modern governance structure, led by a streamlined board.

#### Non-print Legal Deposit

In April 2013, regulations came into force allowing the Library to begin collecting UK electronic publications. This includes eJournals, eBooks, as well as the UK web domain. The infrastructure to collect, process and make available this digital content has been developed jointly by all six legal deposit libraries across the UK and Ireland, co-ordinated through the British Library.

Electronic publications are received either via moderated ingest through Portico, via direct publisher deposits through our own-built portal, or via web harvesting. The latter is carried out once a year for the entire .uk domain while news sites and other key sites are harvested at a more regular basis, as frequently as daily. In addition, we can accommodate up to six focussed crawls per year to react to events of national importance, such as the death of Margaret Thatcher in 2013 or the Scottish Independence Referendum in 2014.

In 2013, we concentrated on ingesting eJournals with content being made available at article level and in 2014 we started receiving eBooks from a number of publishers.

## **Note of the reporting library's relationship to government**

The National Library of Scotland is a non-departmental public body which is directly funded by the Scottish Government and answerable to the Scottish Parliament. It is governed by a Board, appointed by Government Ministers. It is managed by a team under the guidance of the National Librarian.

## **Key facts and figures**

The collections at the National Library of Scotland span the centuries, from early times to the digital age, housing millions of books, manuscripts, music, maps and films covering virtually every subject. They total more than 24 million items and around 5,000 new items are added every week. More information is available at [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

The budget in 2013-14 was £16.8 million and the Library employed a total of 315 staff (280 full time equivalents).

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

Significant additions to NLS collections included:

- personal and literary papers of the author and Booker Prize winner, James Kelman. This constitutes the only collection of manuscripts and papers of a Booker Prize winner in NLS and covers his literary, political and humanitarian activities;
- further additions to the collections of archives of Scottish writers and cultural figures including Alison Fell, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Alasdair Gray, Alastair Reid and Muriel Spark;
- the archive of the Ernest Press, a specialist mountaineering publisher;
- a number of printed items relating to the activities of Scots overseas included a very rare Canadian publication from 1791, Rules for the regulation of the North-British Society, in Halifax, Nova-Scotia.

We also purchased a copy of the first Italian translation of Adam Ferguson's 'History of the progress and termination of the Roman Republic', which was published in Venice in 1793-4.

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

### Mass digitisation of books

The latest contract for the mass digitisation of bound books started in 2014. It will run for an initial 15 months and will see circa 1.2 million pages digitised at NLS premises by our Dutch contractor Picturae at cost of £150,000. The contract has potential to extend to 51 months overall and a maximum budget of £510,000. Materials to be digitised include Gaelic books, Army lists covering WWI, trade directories, antiquarian Scottish books, and printed music collections.

Digitisation delivers greater access. In the last three years we have had one million downloads of the 5,000 books we have digitised from our own collections. In the same period the 4.5 million books available in the reading rooms only resulted in 300,000 issues of books to readers.

## Open Data

An “Open metadata and digital content policy” has been developed that enables metadata and digital content created by NLS (and without further legislative, rights constraints) to be released in to the public domain (CC.0), while still reserving rights over high quality TIFF images.

NLS has successfully put images and related metadata of photographs from the papers of Field Marshal (Earl) Haig (1861-1928) into the public domain by adding them to Europeana and The European Library. These black-and-white photographs mainly show scenes of the Western Front during the First World War. Further digital content representing tens of thousands of books, maps, and broadsides is planned to be delivered during 2014.

To raise awareness of open knowledge and the contribution that library staff and the profession can make to Wikipedia, NLS currently employs a Wikimedian-in-residence. Activities carried out by the post holder include edit-a-thons, workshops, and presentations. Digital images from the Library's collections are planned to be uploaded to WikiCommons.

## Gaelic catalogue

A project was completed to allow the Library's collections to be searched in the Scottish Gaelic language as part of its continuing commitment to promote the use of the language.

The new Gaelic feature on the Library's website covers the main catalogue which has almost five million records and includes the majority of the Library's printed collections. NLS has also produced its own Gaelic Language Plan which sets out how the Library will support the use of the language.

## Patron driven acquisition

A small trial of Patron Driven Acquisition for the purchase of e-books has helped us develop a much more efficient purchasing model. We now buy e-books which we know people want, rather than those we think people might want.

## **Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions**

The National Library of Scotland works in partnership with many organisations. This includes:

- working with the University of Glasgow and Glasgow City Council on plans to develop the city's Kelvin Hall into an exciting new museum/cultural centre
- regularly agreeing loans of material from our collections to other institutions to support their work
- working closely with legal deposit libraries across the UK and Ireland to develop the systems needed to collect material under electronic legal deposit
- exploring partnership working with the National Library Service of Malawi
- hosting visits for representatives of various national libraries.