

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2014/15

Name of Country: Scotland

Name of Library: National Library of Scotland

Name of Chief Executive: Dr John Scally

Name of contact person
for international matters: Dr John Scally

Mailing address: National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh,
EH1 1EW, Scotland, UK

Telephone: +44 (0)131 623 3700

Fax: +44 (0)131 623 3701

Web address of the Library: www.nls.uk

Email address for contacting the library: enquiries@nls.uk

General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library

Dr John Scally took up the position of National Librarian in September 2014 and immediately began work on developing a new and ambitious five year strategy for the Library. A draft was produced by December and a near final version by March. The vision of the strategy is for the National Library of Scotland “to be recognised as one of the leading national libraries in Europe by using our collections and spaces to generate opportunities for learning and research while improving understanding and participation in Scotland’s rich cultural life.”

The strategy identifies six priorities for the Library including improving access to the collections, primarily through increased digitisation; promoting research and learning; delivering public engagement programmes and developing the Library as a memorable onsite and online destination.

Major renovation works continued throughout the year on our two main buildings in Edinburgh and further progress was made in developing a new base for the Library in Glasgow which is due to open in 2016.

A two-year project began to collect as much physical and online material as possible from the historic referendum on Scottish independence that took place in September 2014.

The Library was named GLAM of the year by Wikimedia UK for its contribution to sharing information and knowledge. The award is given to galleries, libraries, archives and museums for work to support the open knowledge movement.

Five new members were appointed in February to the Library's Board, the membership of which has been completely refreshed since early 2014.

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 moving image 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

The budget for 2014-15 was £19.5 million and the Library employed a total of 321 staff (291 full time equivalents).

New developments in creating and building collections

Significant additions to the Library's collections included:

- One of the first ever books to be printed in Scotland 500 years ago – the Aberdeen Breviary.
- The final instalment of the archive of the internationally renowned Scots-born writer Dame Muriel Spark;
- Literary papers and note-books of the contemporary Scots poet Kathleen Jamie.
- Volume 5 of Blaeu's 17th century "Atlas Novus," often referred to as the first "Atlas of Scotland".
- The first American collected edition of the poems of Robert Burns

- A rare early edition of Michael Scotus's work on human physiognomy's relation to intercourse, pregnancy, and embryology, first printed in 1477. No other copies of this edition are recorded in Scotland.

New developments in providing access to collections

A project was agreed to digitise the Library's collection of 19th century House of Lords papers that will provide an unprecedented insight into British political history. They will be available free to the Library's registered users.

The number of bibliographic records that the Library has uploaded to the Heritage of Printed Books database increased from 24,117 to 408,144 in early 2015. The database contains records of books printed in Europe before 1830 from libraries around the world.

The Library is a partner in a project called Digimap for Schools which gives schools across the UK easy access to a wide range of Ordnance Survey mapping using a simple login and password. The service is now being used by 20% of all UK schools.

A campaign to change copyright law in the UK which is restricting public access to a range of historical documents was supported by the Library. We put a blank piece of paper on public display in place of a letter from a First World War soldier which is subject to copyright restrictions.

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;
- hosting visits for representatives of various national libraries;
- developing closer working with higher education institutions across Scotland including moving towards a memorandum of understanding with the University of Edinburgh.