

# UNITED KINGDOM

**THE BRITISH LIBRARY**

**MS LYNNE BRINDLEY – CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003**

### **EXTENSION OF LEGAL DEPOSIT**

A private member's bill has been introduced to the UK Parliament to allow the extension of legal deposit to non-print materials, including electronic publications. The bill passed its second reading in March 2003 and will be considered at the parliamentary committees stage in June 2003.

### **RESEARCH SUPPORT LIBRARIES GROUP**

The Research Support Libraries Group (RSLG), chaired by Prof. Sir Brian Follett, was established in 2001 by the four UK higher education funding bodies, the British Library and the national libraries of Scotland and Wales to advise them on strategies for promoting collaboration in, and integration of, the development and provision of library collections, their long-term management, and services to support research, and to make recommendations for a UK-wide strategic framework and co-ordinated delivery mechanisms for research information provision.

The key recommendation of the group's report (<http://www.rslg.ac.uk>) is that the UK should create a new body to lead and co-ordinate the provision of research information, to be called the Research Libraries Network (RLN). The remit would be to develop, prioritise and lead a UK-wide strategy for research information provision. Responsibility for the strategic formulation and prioritisation of these tasks would shift to the RLN. Three distinct roles are envisaged : i) to give strategic leadership to the provision of research information in the UK; ii) to have an executive function in ensuring that the programme is funded and implemented; iii) to act as a high-level advocate for research information,

### **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published a new strategic framework for the public library service: "*Framework for the Future: Libraries, Learning and Information in the Next Decade*". The policy document outlines the Government's long-term strategic vision for the role of public libraries. Its purpose is to help local and library authorities agree on the key objectives for the public library service with central government and local communities. The new strategy will enable libraries build on existing strengths and ensure they position themselves at the heart of the communities they serve. By clarifying key priorities Framework for Future provides a focus for future work across the sector. It provides a basis for authorities to prioritise and plan services to meet the needs of citizens, adapted to best suit local circumstance.

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive\\_2003/framework\\_future.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2003/framework_future.htm)

## **BRITISH LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS**

### ***INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM***

The Library has signed a contract with Ex-Libris to supply it with a new Integrated Library System (ILS), based on its Aleph system. Full-scale testing and training will be rolled out in the coming months. Implementation will begin in early 2004.

### ***INTRODUCTION OF SECURE ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT DELIVERY (EDD)***

The Library, has integrated Adobe Content Server® encryption and Adobe Acrobat® eBookReader® software into its electronic document delivery operations, allowing customers of the Library's inside service to order PDF files of articles from Elsevier Science and other publishers on a pay-per-view basis. Working together, the British Library and Elsevier Science have used Adobe's technology to answer publishers' concerns around ensuring the secure delivery of articles.

### ***FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ST PANCRAS***

November 2002 saw the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Library's first reading rooms at its new St Pancras headquarters. On 24 November 1997, staff served 304 readers, issued 170 reader passes and delivered 2,308 items. Since then staff have delivered 3.6 million items, have handled 915,000 reader visits and have issued over 200,000 new reader passes.

### ***WEB DEVELOPMENTS***

A number of major new web-based initiatives were launched in 2002/03. These included:

"*Images Online*", offering easy access to thousands of images from the Library's collections (<http://www.bl.uk/imagesonline>)

"*21st Century Citizen*", a website resource supporting the new Citizenship curriculum for school students aged 11-16 years (<http://21citizen.co.uk/live/citizenship/>)

"*Collect Britain*", funded by the New Opportunities Fund. The site will contain 100,000 images and sounds chart the changing face of Britain and her people. It will contain maps, manuscripts and topographical illustrations, books, photographs, rare sound recordings, and long forgotten advertisements and music hall songs. (<http://www.bl.uk/collectbritain>)

### ***EXHIBITIONS***

The Library's current major exhibition: "*Painted Labyrinth: the world of the Lindisfarne Gospels*" runs from May – September 2003, brings unprecedented public access to the life and thought of Eighth Century northern Europe through a new exploration of the Lindisfarne Gospels, one of the world's most important cultural and religious artefacts. The exhibition places the Lindisfarne Gospels in the context of the birth and spread of major World Faiths, and it is illustrated with a wide range of sculptures, manuscripts and carvings from NE England, elsewhere in the British Isles, Ireland, the Orient, Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

***CLOSURE OF THE IFLA OFFICE FOR INTERLENDING AND THE UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS CORE PROGRAMME***

Following discussions with IFLA, it was agreed to close the IFLA Office for Interlending and the Universal Availability of Publications core programme formerly hosted by the British Library, with effect from the end of March 2003.

It was agreed that responsibility for the administration of the IFLA international interlending voucher scheme would transfer from the British Library to IFLA Headquarters, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003.

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