

# UNITED KINGDOM: SCOTLAND

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

MARTYN WADE — CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

This year has been one of major change for the National Library of Scotland. Over the past year and a half the Library has undertaken a strategic review of its priorities and how these are delivered. A new strategic framework was agreed by the Board of Trustees in February 2003 which confirmed the Library's mission and vision, values, and key functions. Between August and December 2003 the senior management of the Library was restructured to reflect the new approach outlined in the framework. A new emphasis on education, interpretation and e-services will enable the library to improve access for both visitors and remote users, and a new department of Development and Marketing will provide a focus on researching the needs of our customers, and raising awareness of the Library's collections, services and expertise.

During 2003 the strategic framework was further developed into a new strategy for the National Library of Scotland. A draft strategy was published for public consultation; with the final strategy "Breaking through the Walls" agreed by the Trustees in March 2004 and will provide the foundations for the Library's development over the next 3 – 5 years.

The strategy has at its heart two principal commitments: to continue to develop the excellence of the Library's collections, and to widen access ensuring that everyone who can benefit from using the Library is able to do so. As part of this the Library will focus on removing barriers to use – whether actual or perceived.

Details of the new staff and structure of the Library, and the new strategy can be viewed on the Library's website <http://www.nls.uk>.

The development of the new strategy is informing a developing debate within Scotland, promoted by the Scottish Executive (the devolved government of Scotland) on cultural rights and entitlements. This has taken substance in the establishment of a new Cultural Commission, to report in June 2005, to "explore the notion of cultural rights for the Scottish citizen... (and) redefine the infrastructure and governance of the Scottish cultural sector". All libraries and archives are included in the remit of the commission.

The major service development over the past year has been the expansion of our digital library. Firstly we completed the Resources for Learning in Scotland project. Part of a GBP50m project funded by the UK lottery for digitisation and content creation, the National Library Of Scotland led a GBP4m project that brought together partners from across Scotland to create over 120,000 datasets. Thumbnails of all the datasets have been included in the SCRAN (Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network) website <http://www.scran.ac.uk>.

The Library has also continued with its digitisation of maps in Scotland, with extensive coverage for much of the country from 1560 to 1928 using zoomable software.

For further information on the digital library can be viewed at <http://www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/index.html>

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