

## **36<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL), MILAN, ITALY, 26 AUGUST 2009**

(Country reports will be made available on the CDNL website <http://www.cdnl.info>)

### **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009**

#### **Scotland**

##### **National Library of Scotland**

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#### **Strategy development**

The past year has marked the implementation of our refreshed corporate strategy Expanding our Horizons. After long consideration, our Integrated Collecting Strategy has been published (available at <http://www.nls.uk/about/policy/docs/2008-collecting-strategy.pdf>). It lays down our guiding principles for collecting, and our response to the digital revolution and the implications of a distributed national collection. We also agreed a research strategy which guides our approach to the research outputs of library staff and the Library's wider contribution to the outputs of research communities and a People Strategy for the organization.

#### **Legal deposit**

A major undertaking during the past year has been the relocation of the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries after its move from London to Edinburgh as a wholly owned subsidiary of NLS. The Agency is the central receiving point for the entire intake of UK published material under legislation by all Legal Deposit libraries in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England (apart from the British Library) and is responsible for monitoring and claiming all eligible new publications in all formats. The development of efficient streamlined claiming and handling procedures to improve comprehensive acquisition of and speedy access to the contemporary UK imprint will be a challenge and a privilege in the coming period. (<http://www.legaldeposit.org.uk/>)

#### **Visitor centre**

We look forward to the imminent launch of the new Visitor Centre this summer in its final phase as an open access gateway to NLS information services. Users will be able to benefit from staff expertise and digital resources which are presently available only to ticket-holders. A new shop and café will enhance the attraction of the Library as for both 'drop in' visitors and in-depth researchers. The opportunities for promoting and raising awareness of the collections to new audiences in new, less formal surroundings are, we believe, tremendous.

## Digital developments

Our Trusted Digital Repository now offers a hosted service to academic bodies which cannot maintain their own repositories, following Stirling University's joining the vanguard of institutions requiring their academics to deposit research outputs in its Institutional Repository.

The NLS Digital Archive (beta) has been released (<http://digital.nls.uk/>), providing public access to a subset of our vast digitised resources. In addition, Scotland's Images - [www.scotlandsimages.com](http://www.scotlandsimages.com) - is a collaboration with National Archives of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and National Museums of Scotland with a remit to promote image collections, especially to business markets for re-use.

A website launched in January 2009 (<http://www.nls.uk/bartholomew/index.html>) promotes and provides access to the archive of John Bartholemew and Son, one of the most extensive cartographic archives available in a public institution. Continuing the cartographic theme, our new maps website allows users to overlay Scottish Victorian town plans (the most detailed, six inch Ordnance Survey maps ever published) upon modern satellite imagery (<http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/6inch/>).

## Exhibitions and events

The Robert Burns exhibition, *Zig-Zag: the Paths of Robert Burns* is currently touring the country. Designed to contribute to the Homecoming Scotland initiative (<http://www.homecomingscotland2009.com>), it brings together for the first time treasures from the NLS National Burns Collection and many partner bodies. It attracted our highest-ever number of visitors for a winter exhibition.

## Preservation

We experienced a serious flooding incident in February 2009 from sprinkler system malfunction; fortunately this resulted in little damage to collections, and a full review has been conducted.

## Awards and media

This has been a distinguished year for awards. Our magazine *Discover NLS* (<http://www.nls.uk/about/discover-nls/index.html>) won the Periodical Publishers' Association award for Best Magazine Design (Business & Professional category); the Arts and Business Scotland annual awards for Partnership with Small Business; the 2008 Lighting Design Award for the John Murray Archive permanent exhibition (<http://www.lightingawards.com>); won Best In-house PR team and were shortlisted for two other categories for the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Scotland Pride Awards.

NLS received significant media coverage for the world premier of J.K. Rowling's *Tales of Beedle the Bard* at the Library. The Zig-Zag exhibition (see above) was used as the backdrop for the First Minister's New Year Message to the Nation.