

# **37<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES (CDNL), GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN, 12 AUGUST 2010**

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

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010**

### **Scotland**

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

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### **Key Facts and Figures**

Print collections	14.6 million items
(Plus extensive digital, film and manuscript collections)	
Reader visits	79,138
Visitors to exhibitions, events etc	72,084
Digital images created	334,953
Number of staff	340 (including part time)
Total expenditure (2009/10)	£14.886 million

### **Strategy development**

We recently completed a research project exploring the role of national libraries in twenty years' time – 2030. The report concludes that the three key challenges for NLS are to manage the transition to the digital environment, to develop a clear outward-looking focus and to increase organisational agility, so that change can be managed effectively. The report is available at <http://www.nls.uk/about/policy/>

### **Governance**

The Scottish Government is consulting over legislative changes which will reform the governance of NLS, and set out its powers and functions on a statutory basis. The legislation, expected to be enacted in early 2011, will replace the Library's founding 1925 National Library of Scotland Act.

### **Legal deposit**

NLS was active in lobbying for the introduction of effective Legal Deposit regulations over the year, in partnership with other UK libraries. We are optimistic that suitable legislation will be made in the near future.

NLS took over management of the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries, which supplies collections to the five Legal Deposit libraries in the UK and Ireland (apart

from the British Library) early last year. This was the first full year of operation in NLS and work continues with streamlining of claiming and collection management processes.

### **Visitor centre**

The Visitor Centre opened in June 2009, including a new café and shop which provides for the first time, an informal drop-in experience for visitors to the Library and a clear signal that NLS is welcoming and accessible to all.

### **Digital developments**

The digitisation of over 3,000 Gaelic language books put over half a million pages of rare material online for the benefit of researchers and audiences worldwide.

NLS piloted online reader registration, enabling people to become a reader of NLS remotely, and to providing access in Scotland to a wide range of digital resources, without having to visit the Library in person.

We have also developed a number of innovations in our digital maps, one example being the inclusion on our website of World War Two aerial maps of Scotland which can be viewed with a Google maps overlay

<http://www.nls.uk/maps/os/air-photos/index.html> .

### **Exhibitions and events**

The Treasures exhibition attracted queues of visitors to our main public building, and worldwide publicity, especially the showing of the iconic last letter of Mary Queen of Scots for one week in September 2009. This was written in the hours before her execution.

Other major exhibitions included 'The Original Export', focussing on six personal stories of Scottish emigration; 'Curtain Up' a celebration of Scottish theatre over the past 40 years, and our new (May) exhibition on the life of JM Barrie, creator of Peter Pan.

### **Awards and media**

We were delighted to have received a Fair Trade Award from Edinburgh's Lord Provost, a Trustee of the Board, for the Visitor Centre café. Our magazine *Discover NLS* received the Customer Magazine of the Year Scottish award from trade association PPA and Best Corporate Publication at the 'CorpComms' award.