Mother of Invention 2022 - Virtual Tour of the British Library

Virtual Tour
By Seema Rampersad & Jeremy O’Hare
Welcome to the British Library!

The History of the current main building at St Pancras
History of Round Room of the British Museum
Physical Buildings and Architecture
Legal Deposit Library for the UK and Ireland
The Knowledge Quarter
British Library with a focus on Intellectual Property, Scientific and Business Innovations
Background to the British Library

• National Library of the UK
• Established in 1972
• Over 150 million items held
• Services include:
  • Reading Room Services
  • Document Supply
  • Imaging Services
• New building in St Pancras opened in 1997
Road to the Business & IP Centre

- **1852**: Creation of Patent Office Library
- **1973**: Formation of British Library
- **1997-1999**: Opening of British Library St Pancras building.
- **2002/3**: BL Chief Executive visit to New York Science Industry & Business Library (SIBL)
- **2005**: London Development Agency gives £1 million to help BL create Business & IP Centre
- **March 2006**: Business & IP Centre opens
- **April 2012**: Launch of Innovating for Growth
The British Library is for everyone who wants to do research – entrepreneurs, academics, commercial, creatives or personal
Hand over to: Jeremy O’Hare - Intellectual Property Expert
History of the Business & IP Centre

1852 - Creation of the Patent Office Library

1973 - Creation of British Library

1982 - Business information collection

2006 - Opening of Business & IP Centre
The British Library & Patents

• We are the national patent library
• We have a comprehensive collection of British & foreign patent documentation
• Our current physical collection is diminishing.
• Interest in our historic collection remains high
Patent Application Trends

• Last 20 years have seen steep decline in applications with the IPO. The drop has stabilised in the last 10 years, with signs of a small upturn in 2020.
• The curves for publications and grants are lower than that for applications
• Smaller portfolio applicants have halved since 2000 – (those with 1-10 applications).

This means that those who are applying are more serious about seeing it through - so therefore will be looker at a more rigorous search and feasibility early on.
Industries with highest applications

- Civil Engineering
- Computer Technology
- Transport
- Telecommunications have dropped.

Source UK Intellectual Property Office.
Trends the Business & IP Centre are seeing

• A drop in demand for patent searching*
• A high interest in Intellectual Property protection.
• A look at alternatives to patenting.
Trends in technology – The top 10*

1 MEDICINE
Microneedles for Painless Injections and Tests
Fewer trips to medical labs make care more accessible

2 CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
Sun-Powered Chemistry
Visible light can drive processes that convert carbon dioxide into common materials

3 HEALTH CARE
Virtual Patients
Replacing humans with simulations could make clinical trials faster and safer
Trends in technology – The top 10*

4 COMPUTING
Spatial Computing
The next big thing beyond virtual and augmented reality.

5 MEDICINE
Digital Medicine
Apps that diagnose and even treat what ails

6 ELECTRIC AVIATION
Enabling air travel to decarbonize
Trends in technology – The top 10*

7 INFRASTRUCTURE
Lower-Carbon Cement
Construction material that combats climate change

8 COMPUTING
Quantum Sensing
High-precision metrology based on the peculiarities of the subatomic realm

9 ENERGY
Green Hydrogen
Zero-carbon energy to supplement wind and solar
Trends in technology – The top 10*

10. SYNTHEtic BIOLOGY
Whole-genome Synthesis


Image by Konstantin Kolosov from Pixabay on a CC licence
Patlib Network & EPO

They are often referred to as "PATLIB centres", standing for PATent LIBrary. However, not all PATLIB centres are actually libraries.

There are over 300 patent information centres spread regionally across the EPO's member states.

PATLIB centres provide local access to patent information and related issues. They are familiar with the local industrial, economic and business landscape, and provide valuable services to entrepreneurs, SMEs, private inventors and students.

Many PATLIB centre employees are experienced patent search experts. They may also offer other patent information services. These can include technology and competitor watches, patent statistics, patent valuation/audits, advice on patent strategy, guidance on commercialisation/technology transfer.

PATLIB centres can also provide practical assistance on other intellectual property rights.
Programmes: Innovating for Growth

Innovating for Growth: Scale-ups

Receive £10,000 worth of business advice

If you are an exciting and ambitious start-up looking to scale up, we will provide you with three-months of free tailored support to turn your growth idea into reality.

Covering everything from intellectual property to reaching new markets and much more, our dedicated Relationship Managers will be on hand to guide you through every step to achieve your growth potential.

Apply by Monday 25 April

Find out more and apply
www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre/innovating-for-growth

The programme is fully-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the British Library.
Innovating for Growth: Case Studies

Case Studies

“CompliMed - A PHARMALEX Company
“The Innovating for Growth Programme helped CompliMed to realise our potential and grow in line with our values and beliefs.” Dr Rina Newton, Managing Director

“Stitch & Story
“The 14G programme helped me to scale the business and turn it from a kitchen table start-up to a global business.” Jennifer Lam CEO & Co-Founder

“Longcroft
“The British Library Innovating for Growth programme helped us to reflect on our progress and scrutinise every aspect of our business whilst supporting both personal and professional growth. The one-on-one mentorship was particularly beneficial in planning for future growth with a fresh perspective and innovative approach.” Abi Purser, Founder

bl.uk
Programmes: Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

ONLINE AWARDS

Are you thinking of starting your own business, or have you recently done so? Or perhaps you are already running a successful business and would like to expand it to new markets, or get fresh ideas? Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs could be for you!
Back to Seema...
Photos of the Main Entrance
Entrance Hall & Knowledge Centre
Architect

British Library architect Colin St John

Librarian

First Librarian of the British Library - Anthony Panizzi.
By Elliott & Fry. - [1], CC BY 4.0,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=33241543
Founders

Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753)

Hans Sloane was born in Ulster, in the north of Ireland, and trained as a physician. He and his collection of objects from an early age. He acquired over 250,000 specimens, 71,000 birds, and over 10,000 books, manuscripts, prints, and drawings. He also founded the Jamiaca Company.

Sloane travelled to Jamaica in 1687 as physician to the island’s British colonists and Governor and worked as a doctor on slave plantations. Using the expertise of enslaved West Africans and British system, he collected hundreds of plant and animal specimens. When he returned to London, Sloane married Elizabeth Langtry Rose, an heiress to sugar plantations in Jamaica. He was a shareholder in the Royal African and South Sea Companies, both of which profited from the slave trade. His medical income, his investments, and the profits from the forced labour on his wife’s plantations enabled Sloane to build such a large collection.

20th-century replica after Michael Rylands, 18th-century block

“It is too often said that the transatlantic slave trade is long behind us. An untold number of our ancestors’ lives were completely ruined by men like Hans Sloane. Every one of their waking moments filled with violent abuse, torture, unpaid manual labour, rape and treatment as if less than human. That pain and trauma is still with us as we fight to make a world that is truly anti-racist. We cannot allow the glorification of enslavers and their legacies to continue through succeeding generations. We must remember these men for who they truly were, for their crimes as well as their accomplishments.”

Reuben Massiah, Learning Facilitator, British Library
Chantelle Richardson, Chevening British Library Fellow 2019–2020
Librarian, National Library of Jamaica
Living Knowledge

Living Knowledge sets out the British Library’s vision for its future development as it looks ahead to 2023, the year of its 50th anniversary as the national library of the United Kingdom.

Custodianship
We build, curate and preserve the UK’s national collection of published, written and digital content.

Research
We support and stimulate research of all kinds.

Business
We help businesses to innovate and grow.

Culture
We engage everyone with memorable cultural experiences.

Learning
We inspire young people and learners of all ages.

International
We work with partners around the world to advance knowledge and understanding.
Library as spaces
Renaissance to Industrial Revolution

Explore our collections

A replica of an 18th-century printing press (located on the Lower Ground Floor)

We may be a library but we're a lot more than just books. Take a look at some of the curious objects lurking around the building and in our archives.

A small selection of these include:

- Jane Austen's writing desk on display in our Treasures Gallery
- Miniature 'pocket globe', small enough to fit inside a pocket, on display in our Treasures Gallery, or try giving them a spin virtually
- A replica of an 18th-century printing press (located on the Lower Ground Floor)
- One of the world's largest atlases, on display outside the Maps Reading Room on the third floor
Treasure’s Gallery – Free without a Pass
The King’s Library

What is the King’s Library?

At the heart of the building, a tall glass tower – the King’s Library – houses the collections of King George III (reigned 1760-1820).

It was one of the largest libraries in Europe by the King’s death, with nearly 64,000 printed books and 14,000 pamphlets, together with manuscripts, maps and topographical views dating from the mid-15th to early-19th centuries.

Subject areas of the Library include history, geography, agriculture and military strategy, topography and literature in many European languages.

Alongside copies of the Gutenberg Bible and William Caxton’s first edition of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, you can find a copy of Micrographia (1668) by Robert Hooke, one of the earliest scientific books in English. This work contains detailed illustrations of various specimens – often rather bizarre – which Hooke viewed under his microscope. These include the surface of frozen urine, the eye of a grey drone-fly, a piece of moss and the body of a louse, ant and flea.

How did the King’s Library begin?

George III, who became King of Great Britain in 1760, believed he should have a library worthy of an 18th-century monarch.

He started his collection in 1766 by buying a large library from Joseph Smith, the British Consul in Venice, and spent the rest of his life adding to it. The King’s librarian, Frederick Barnard, travelled all over Europe to buy books and even sought advice from writer and lexicographer Dr Samuel Johnson on what to collect.

Look out for George III’s bust on the First Floor by the King’s Library.
Events & Talks – What’s Going On…
Reader Registration and Visitor Process
Digital Collections

Maps

Maps of the UK
A fascinating sampling of 19th and 20th century maps depicting places in the United Kingdom.

The Unveiling of Britain
This selection of maps and views traces the growing awareness of the form of British Isles and their place in the wider world from 800 to 1600.

Crace Collection of Maps of London
Over 1,200 maps and plans of the capital: a fascinating collection compiled by Victorian designer, Frederick Crace.

King George III Topographical Collection
Over 2,500 watercolours, drawings and prints from the vast collection amassed by King George III.
Special Digital Collections

Our digital collections
The Library subscribes to a variety of database and other electronic resources. Some are freely available but most can only be accessed in our Reading Rooms.

**Digitised manuscripts**
View digitised copies of selected manuscripts and archives including Beowulf and Leonardo da Vinci’s Notebook.

**Sounds Online**
Over 95,000 selected sound recordings from the Library’s extensive collection of music, spoken word and nature.

**EThOS**
Browse our online record of all doctoral theses awarded by UK HE institutions. Free access to around 160,000 full text thesis.

**Endangered Archives Programme**
Explore archives, manuscripts, photographs and sounds from around the world.

**Business and management**
Download research reports, summaries, briefings, working papers and articles from key publishers.

**Social welfare**
A single point of access to our collections of research and information on social policy and the welfare state.

**British Newspaper Archive**
Over 10 million searchable pages, from more than 200 newspaper titles from UK and Ireland.

**Electronic resources**
The Library collects a variety of electronic, or non-print items, and provides access to most of this content via subscriptions.
Physical Reading Rooms by Subject
Helen’s research takes her through the rich collection of correspondence, notes, papers and notebooks that are part of the British Library’s scientific archives.

She is contributing to the processing and cataloguing of born-digital material (material on floppy disks and hard drives) contained within the archive.

Working with Undercurrent Theatre, she has scripted and performed a reading of letters from three major evolutionary scientists whose archives are held at the British Library. She has also given a popular lunchtime talk and writes for the Library’s Science and Untold Lives blogs.
Science Reading Rooms & Events

Science Reading Rooms
Floor 2 focuses on Medicine and Life Sciences, Floor 3 focuses on Physical Sciences and Engineering.

- Find information on the open-access shelves
- Access online databases and electronic books and journals
- Order collection items to the Reading Rooms via our catalogues

If you need help, please ask our Reference Specialists at the Enquiry desk or contact the Science Reference Service Team.

We offer a range of free Reader sessions and 1-2-1 consultations to help you make the best use of the Library’s collections.

You’ll need a Reader Pass
Mon: 10.00 – 20.00
Tue – Thu: 09.30 – 20.00
Fri – Sat: 09.30 – 17.00
Sun & English Public Holidays: closed

Opening hours for all Reading Rooms
Science Technology & Medicine Resources – Physical & Digital

Collection guides

Science overview

Subjects

Science
Our resources support the needs of specialists working in academia and business, and can support multidisciplinary research interests.

About the collection

As the national library we have most of the scientific monographs published in the UK and a large proportion of the English-language journals published in Europe and North America. We have an extensive collection of journals including scholarly peer-reviewed journals and trade and professional journals.

What is available online?

We also have available the faster to find material including large collections of conference proceedings, research reports and statute series as well as access to UK Doctoral thesis through EThesis online. This is in addition to the wide ranging collections of patents, market research, trade and business directories, company and financial information.

What is available in our Reading Rooms?

Access to our extensive range of material is available in our dedicated Science Reading Rooms. Also, an increasing amount of our journals are available electronically within our Reading Rooms.

You can perform detailed searches of your subject area using our wide range of electronic databases and indexes, such as ScienceCite, MarketWatch, and Find Articles.

FIND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Title  Subject  Advanced search

Subject                         SubCategory
Remote access   All subcategories (88)  
Science          Agriculture (5)    
Science, Technology and Medicine  Biology (16)   
Slavonic & East European Studies  Chemistry (9)   
Social Policy and Welfare  Dissertations and Theses (3)   
Social Sciences     Engineering (11)  
Sociolinguistics  Environment (9)    
Sociology          Food (2)        
Southeast Asian Studies  General (27)   
Statistics         Geography and Geology (1)   
Tibetan Studies     Information Technology (4)   
Women’s Studies   Medicine (31) 

Powered by SFX
Resources – Readers Remote Access

Results: 25

Agricultural & Environmental Science Database
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
A full-text database covering comprehensive scholarly output and indexing supported by a controlled vocabulary. This database includes AGRICOLA, Aquatic, Ecology Abstracts, EIS, ESPM and Risk Abstracts databases.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

BioOne Complete
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Search or browse biological, ecological and environmental sciences journals.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

Biosis Citation Index
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Bibliographic database covering all areas of life science research. Includes journal citations and abstracts from Biological Abstracts with non-journal coverage (conference proceedings, book chapters, meeting reports etc.) from Biological Abstracts Reports, Reviews and Meetings, 1996-present.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

Book Citation Index (Sciences)
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Part of Web of Science Core Collection, Book Citation Index includes over 104,500 editorially selected books, with 10,000 new books added each year. Containing more than 53.2 million cited references. Coverage: from 2005 to date.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

British Nursing Index
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Indices the most popular English language nursing journals published primarily in the UK, 1985 to date.

Science Citation Index Expanded
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Search across over 9,200 of the world’s most impactful journals across 178 scientific disciplines. More than 53 million records and 118 billion cited references date back from 1900 to present.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

SPORTDiscus
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Contains citations and abstracts on sport, fitness and related fields. Subject coverage includes: sports medicine, physiology, biomechanics, training techniques, coaching, physical education and physical fitness. 1880 to date.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

Web of Science Core Collection
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Collection of databases providing multidisciplinary literature coverage – including cited references – in all academic subjects, not just science. Provides access to the Science Citation Index Expanded (1990-present); Social Sciences Citation Index (1995-present) and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (1975-present). Also provides access to the Book Citation Index Science (2005-present); Book Citation Index Social Sciences & Humanities; Current Chemical Reactions (1993-present); Index Chemicus (1993-present) and information from the Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Science (2006-present) and Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Social Science & Humanities (2006-present).

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.

Zoological Record
Resources available on a personal device - Registered Readers
Comprehensive index to zoological and animal science literature. Covers journal articles, books, conferences and reports on all aspects of zoology. Covers 1864 to date.

NB: Reader Pass holders can access this resource on a personal device.
British Standards and how they define IT service standards are asked about.

Building standards and questions around structural material we get asked about. We also have the up to date building regulations that get used.

Engineering data sheets get used quite a lot – you get an idea of the scope of the resource from the catalogue record.

Popular Title: ESDU engineering sciences data.
Contributor: Engineering Sciences Data Unit; Royal Aeronautical Society.
Examples of Queries

- Do you have copies of any versions of ASTM D1857 (measurement of ash fusion temperature)?
- I am trying to access some Elektrische Bahnen articles. (Electrified rails) The reading room request service states that this is not possible as they are available at the Science open access shelves.
- Do you hold all parts of BS12913 please? This is a British Standard dealing with acoustics _ soundscapes.
- Availability of FEM (European Materials Handling Federation / Fédération Européenne de la Manutention) standards 4.001f, 4.001k and 4.001m.
Special British Library Digital Initiatives

Digital Research

The Digital Scholarship Department works to enable innovative research based on the British Library’s digital collections through:

- Getting content in digital form and online
- Collaborative projects
- Offering digital research support and guidance
- Events, competitions, and awards

Our team of cross-disciplinary experts in the areas of digitisation, librarianship, digital history & humanities, computer and data science, are here to help you with your digital research.

Contact us at digiresearch@bl.uk
Twitter: @BL_DigiSchol

Collection guides

- Digitised printed books (18th-19th century)
  Over 60,000 out-of-copyright digitised books from the 18th and 19th century available for viewing, search, download and digital research.

- Datasets for image analysis
  Image collections suitable for large-scale image-analysis-based research

- Datasets about our collections
  Bibliographic datasets relating to our published and archival holdings

- Datasets for content mining
  Content suitable for use in text and data mining research

- UK Web Archive
  Preserved web resources of scholarly and cultural importance from the UK domain

- Digital mapping
  Geospatial data, cartographic applications, digital aerial photography and scanned-in historic map materials
First World War Centenary, 2014-18

You are here: Topics and Themes / First World War Centenary, 2014-18

This collection includes a huge variety of websites related to the First World War (1914-1918), particularly the various ways in which memorialisation and critical reflection have been conducted. Read more

Search within "First World War Centenary, 2014-18"

Heritage Lottery Fund

This is a subsection of the First World War Centenary, 20...

934 sites in collection

1915 then and now
Alan Turing Institute in The British Library

The Alan Turing Institute

We believe data science and artificial intelligence will change the world.

Learn more → The Turing’s response to COVID-19

AI and data science in the age of COVID-19
Tuesday 24 Nov 2020
Times: 09.30 – 17.00

David Spiegelhalter | Devi Sridhar
| Neil Lawrence | Adam Kucharski
| Maxine Mackintosh | Christina Pagel

Understanding bias in facial recognition technologies
A guide to understanding bias and discrimination in facial recognition technologies


bl.uk
STEM & Data Science – Alan Turing & Enigma Code

**HOW ALAN TURING CRACKED THE ENIGMA CODE**

Mathematician

[Image of a machine and Alan Turing]

[Image of an Enigma machine]
Boston Spa – Document Supply & Future
Formats – Web Archive, Sound Archive, News, Maps, Electoral Registers, Patents etc
Sound Archive
Newsroom

Visualising Victorian News

Infographics are visual representations of information, often used to illustrate complex or unfamiliar stories. These seven infographics, created from digitised newspapers and other digital sources, bring together the visual aspects of 19th-century news writing.

We have worked with three designers:

Tiziana Alovì (Cine, Wave, Core: Maker) (AbolKhanoe, Make, Machin) (Erik Rylander: Maker, Machine, Maker)

Each infographic shows how the text-based images in the original newspaper were digitised to create visual stories. The posters here are based on research undertaken for the exhibition, the project Library of the Arts, or context cited on the poster.

Entry is free, but when you visit, we do not automatically allow you to take a copy of the original book, so please bring what you need from the digitised book. If you need to borrow a copy of the paper, please provide. No digitiser is to create true images.
From Wednesday 22 July the British Library has started to open some of our Reading Rooms as the first step of a phased reopening. We’re working really hard to open more of our spaces and services as quickly and as safely as possible. For more information, click here. If you are able to come to our Reading Room, you will be able to access our market research and company databases.

The Business & IP Centre will continue to run webinars and you can watch previous events on our YouTube channel. Our reference team are also running online one-to-ones on Intellectual property and business information.

These are all available on our website alongside articles, blogs and Industry Guides. We’re here for businesses and look forward to welcoming you back as we reopen.

We support small business owners, entrepreneurs and inventors like you. Our team are here to help you take the right steps to start up, protect and grow your business.

If you’re an ambitious business owner, with plans to scale-up, we also offer £10,000 worth of free support through our Innovating for Growth programme. Or if you want specialised start-up support we have a programme for that too.

What’s more we have a pilot programme, Start-ups in London Libraries, working in a hub and spoke model with 10 London boroughs to collaboratively provide support to aspiring entrepreneurs and early stage SMEs as well as 15 National Network Centres around the UK, in addition to our Centre at the British Library.
Democratising Entrepreneurship

Libraries as engines of economic growth and how Business & IP Centres have created over 12,000 new businesses between January 2016 - December 2018.

Click here for the full report, compiled by ERS (PDF).

Driving economic growth

- Helped to create 12,288 new businesses (47% in the Northern Powerhouse)
- 7,843 additional jobs
- £78m GVA* created
- "Gross Value Added"
- A payoff of £6.95 for every £1 of public money spent

Supporting diverse entrepreneurs

- Of those who started a new business: 55% were women, 31% were black, Asian and minority ethnic, 22% were from the most deprived areas, 17% were disabled
- 29% were aged 35 and under
- 22% were from the most deprived areas

Capitalising on existing assets

Delivered via the public library network

Source: ERS Research & Consultancy, based on a survey of 1,988 respondents conducted in March 2019
"I had no background in food and drink, so I spent six months in the Library researching the market and developing the business plan, including using the science collection to find out about the health-giving properties of pomegranates and how they could be processed to make juice."

Adam Pritchard
Founder & MD, Pomegreat

Pomegreat now has a 75% share of the market by value and two million litres of the juice is sold each month.
CreativeTech and Engineering
Living Knowledge Network

The British Library forms nationwide network of libraries to share knowledge, collections and creativity.

* Living Knowledge Network of 21 major libraries meets for the first time at the British Library
* National Library of Wales and National Library of Scotland also founder members

The British Library has launched the Living Knowledge Network, a nationwide partnership between the Library and 21 major libraries in cities and towns across the UK. The Network will combine local expertise and national organising power to share knowledge, resources and activities.

Funded by Arts Council England and the British Library for a two-year pilot period, the Living Knowledge Network aims to:

- Enable knowledge exchange – strengthening libraries’ collective ability to deliver world-class library services to diverse communities;
- Develop joint offerings for library users – collaborating on programmes, activities and shared content;
- Form a powerful partnership – working together on funding applications, evidence gathering and to share programmes of activity with a combined audience of 13 million.
British Library – Happy Staff & Job Titles

Case studies from our staff

“...Every day is genuinely different...”
Our award-winning Customer Services team is the first point of contact for many British Library users.

“...Technology here is unique. It ultimately helps preserve our history...”
We're a mixed-skill, multi-disciplinary unit that's responsible for delivering digital services for the whole Library.

“...I find my role hugely fulfilling...”
Semanis is a Business Librarian in the Business & IP Centre providing reference and research services to readers, entrepreneurs and other external business customers.

“...Our team is constantly learning and developing...”
We have been at the forefront of digitisation and digital preservation projects for over two decades.

“...You won’t find these kind of challenges in many other organisations...”
Whilst we’re structured like many other IT teams, what we do day-to-day ultimately leads to the preservation of our history and collective knowledge. And, because our collection is very diverse, it could be print or sound based.

“...I get to collaborate with some incredible people...”
Our programme of workshops, led by specialist educators, encourages curiosity, creativity and exploration. Sessions develop critical thinking, research skills and visual, verbal and information literacy.

“...The sheer size of the place means there are great development opportunities...”
We help people find and use material held in some of the most unusual and hard to search parts of our collection – answering questions from Readers as well as those phoned in or sent to us as emails and letters, or via our QuestionPoint and Chat services.
St Pancras Transformed & Community

Transforming the British Library

Last year, the British Library signed an agreement with SMBL Developments Ltd, a consortium led by Stanhope plc, to develop the 2.8 acre site to the north of our existing Grade I Listed building at St Pancras. The new development, which combines a 100,000 sq ft extension to the Library with 600,000 sq ft of commercial rental space, will create a global hub for research and innovation, including in data and life sciences.

This week, the Library and our development partners (SMBL) have signed an agreement with Transport for London (TfL) to design and deliver future Crossrail 2 infrastructure within the proposed scheme, concluding a complex negotiation and enabling the Library Extension project to move forward into a period of public consultation.
International Projects

International

We work with partners around the world to advance knowledge and understanding.

Scholarship has always sought, sometimes against the odds, to reach across boundaries of language, politics, faith and geography. Today, the international community of libraries is a powerful and resilient network of institutions with shared values and missions. What’s more, the digital era has delivered tools and platforms that are bringing this network closer together in compelling new ways. The British Library has a distinctive and important role to play alongside others in this global system, not least as our collection is perhaps the most international of its kind, with rare and unique items reflecting all major language groups and faiths.

Our priorities between now and 2023 to support our international purpose are to increase our engagement in those regions of the world whose cultures and histories are reflected most strongly in the Library’s collections. We also want to take a professional leadership role in the national library network of Europe so that we can contribute to the development of a global distributed digital library. And, we plan to grow our capacity to support other institutions whose collections are at risk from war or civil emergency.
Anti-Racism Project and Race Equality Plan

Enacting change – rolling out our Race Equality Action Plan

Over the course of 2021, staff at the British Library engaged in an unprecedented and powerful conversation about race and equality.

The Anti-Racism Project (ARP) involved members of staff drawn from all levels, across all areas of the Library, with the aim of enacting a generational shift so we become a more representative and diverse organisation that is welcoming and empowering for everyone.

Last autumn, the six working sub-groups of the project submitted their recommendations, which form the basis of a Race Equality Action Plan (click to download) which was presented to the Library’s Board and Strategic Leadership Team, for their input and endorsement.

Sponsored by our Chief Librarian, Liz Jolly, and strongly supported by all of our senior leaders, the project is now moving from the planning and analysis phase to an organisation-wide process of implementation.
SEEMA RAMPERSAD
SENIOR RESEARCHER AND SERVICE MANAGER
BUSINESS & IP CENTRE AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Tell us about your favourite conference theme:
I loved SLA’s Destination Everywhere as it highlighted the global network of information professionals and specialized libraries

@SeemaRampersad  LinkedIn: Seema Rampersad
SLA Europe 2021 Conference

REDESIGN | REFLECT | REBOOT

Catch up on our sessions

Blog
Stay updated with SLA Europe – visit our blog for interviews, events, and more!

Visit our blog ➔

Members
Join SLA Europe today and learn more about what you can do for the association.

Get involved ➔

Coronavirus Hub
Our dedicated hub collates resources to support out members during this pandemic.

Find out more ➔
SLA Europe Career Stories @ The British Library
Questions?
Contact Information

Seema Rampersad
Jeremy O’Hare

British Library –
seema.rampersad@bl.uk
jeremy.ohare@bl.uk
https://www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre

SLA & SLA Europe – seemarampersad@hotmail.com
https://sla-europe.org/
Thank you