

BL CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC VALUES

Personal enrichment: The British Library exists for everyone who wants to do research – for academic, personal or commercial purposes. Different types of research and different types of researchers require different resources with access provided in different ways. The Library tailors its services to support varied approaches. The Library is refining its diversity strategy which will be developed and delivered in partnership with key national and regional stakeholders and with partners across the museum, library and archive communities.

A great start in life: The British Library's Learning Programme offers: a range of workshops, onsite and on tour (using exhibitions digital images, creative activities & object boxes); online resources (for young people, teachers & the wider public); and developmental projects (testing new technologies & learning methods).

Including everyone: The British Library exists for everyone who wants to do research – for academic, personal or commercial purposes. Different types of research and different types of researchers require different resources with access provided in different ways. The Library tailors its services to support varied approaches. The Library will continue to broaden and open up access to the collections, and to develop services that engage new audiences.

Listening to people: The Library is taking forward a fundamental programme of change to modernise the Library in order to deliver better and more responsive services. The Library will undertake consultations as appropriate, and ensure through its governance and other structures that it remains open and accountable.

Better places to live: The British Library has developed a regional strategy to optimise usage of the Library's assets at regional level. The Library's regional strategy is UK wide, covering both the nine English regions and the three home nations. The strategy is being delivered through working in partnership with a variety of key national and regional stakeholders, in particular public libraries.

Looking after the nation's cultural assets: The British Library is one of the world's foremost repositories of the written record and a uniquely great storehouse of the record of human intellectual achievement. Its rich and diverse holdings of books and manuscripts could be said to contain the DNA of civilisation. The Library is a particular symbol of Britain's rich literary culture and achievement and is a holder of the national memory. But its scope is unconstrained by either subject or geography - if the sum of human knowledge can be said to be found anywhere it would probably be in the British Library. The Library will continue to focus its resources on its stewardship role for its analogue and digital collections: building the collections through purchase and legal deposit; and storage, conservation and preservation of the collections.

International prestige: The British Library is a world class cultural institution, one of the greatest libraries in the world, an international resource for scholarship and research, and a leader for the international library and information community.

Economic prosperity: The British Library is an integral component of the national research infrastructure and plays a correspondingly significant role in ensuring the research excellence of the UK and in supporting creativity and innovation. The British Library is a key supplier of information to the UK's top 100 R&D Scoreboard companies. In addition it has potential to provide particular benefit to smaller firms that are less able than large companies to hold substantial collections of scientific

journals and other publications. Over 10,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are registered customers of the Library's priced information services. Nearly half of all UK SMEs are within 2 hours travel from the British Library at St Pancras.

Value for money: The Library is taking forward a fundamental programme of change to modernise the Library in order to deliver better and more responsive services. This has included for example rigorous cost reduction through the modernisation of the Document Supply Service. The Library is determined to continue to modernise its structures and services to ensure that the Library remains relevant and cost-effective. The Library is committed to making targeted efficiency savings over the three-year period 2005 to 2008. An intensive programme of internal scrutiny was established in which savings of £36.9 million (at 2004/05 prices) were identified. The great majority of the savings represents cash savings and for a sizeable proportion of these savings the Library is dependent upon the retention of current funds and allocation of new funds to make the headcount reductions. A recent independent economic impact study commissioned by the British Library suggests that the total value added to the UK economy by the Library each year is £363 million, or £4.40 for every £1 of public funding.¹

Advancing knowledge: The advance of knowledge brings cultural, social, intellectual and economic benefits to society and it enriches lives. The task of the Library is to enable knowledge to be used – both now and in the future – since when knowledge is used it adds to the sum of human understanding. In helping those who use its collections to advance their own knowledge, the Library is helping to advance the whole body of knowledge and thus bring benefit to all UK citizens.

¹ *Measuring our Value: Results of an independent economic impact study commissioned by the British Library to measure the Library's direct and indirect value to the UK economy* (December 2003)