The value of the support received from individuals, trusts, foundations and corporations this year has been more significant than ever before. World-class conservation facilities have been funded, a groundbreaking international digital collaboration set up, and unique materials bought – including one of the finest Renaissance miniatures, lost to history until now. The generosity of our supporters helps fund key aspects of the Library’s strategic purpose in widening access to the world’s knowledge.

Centre for Conservation
A hugely successful campaign secured funding for a new £12.5 million building alongside our St Pancras headquarters. The Centre for Conservation will bring together all of the Library’s book and sound conservation facilities to enable the Library to take a leading role in training the next generation of conservators. We are working with the University of the Arts to offer the first Foundation Degree in Book conservation. An integrated Visitor and Learning Centre will help us raise public awareness of the vital work of the Collection Care department, with displays, events and demonstrations that will bring to life the challenges of conservation.

Codex Sinaiticus Project
The world’s oldest Bible is to be digitised. This groundbreaking initiative will achieve the virtual reunification of the Codex, and involves a unique collaboration with the three other organisations holding portions: St Catherine’s Monastery in Sinai, Leipzig University and the National Library of Russia. Written in Greek by hand in the mid-fourth century, the Codex’s extreme age and fragility mean that currently none of the partners can allow access to the manuscript. The pages will be conserved and then digitised to enable virtual versions to be created.

Stavros S Niarchos Foundation has awarded a £150,000 challenge grant to the Centre for Conservation, a number of important acquisitions were made possible, including John Darby’s map of Smallburgh, 1582, the earliest local English map to use a consistent scale.

Ladder of Giving
A new fundraising initiative has been launched to draw attention to the importance of private support to the Library’s future, and to make it easier for those wishing to contribute. The Supporters programme offers the opportunity to make regular gifts.

Our Friends
The Friends of the British Library have contributed more than ever before, through a combination of increasing membership and a generous bequest from former volunteer co-ordinator Mary Willic. In addition to a commitment of £190,000 to the Centre for Conservation, a number of important acquisitions were made possible, including John Darby’s map of Smallburgh, 1582, the earliest local English map to use a consistent scale.

Missing leaf returns
Stolen five hundred years ago, the final leaf of the Sforza Hours rejoins the Renaissance masterpiece.

Attracting substantial support
The National Impact of Their Contribution is immense.