

## Details of how to apply

For further information, and details of how to apply for a grant please send the attached or equivalent to the Awards Administrator:

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

Enquiry (please state):

## Laser Foundation information

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Trustees and a Chairman, who have experience in Public Libraries, Universities and University Libraries, e-learning, literature, the commercial sector and professional bodies related to the book world and libraries/information. Several have been or are working at senior levels in libraries in the 'old' Laser region.

The Patrons represent literature and education with a focus on ICT.

Awards from the Laser Foundation are administered by the British Library's Co-operation and Partnership Programme. All enquiries about awards to be made to the Awards Administrator.

c/o The British Library, Co-operation and Partnership Programme,  
96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB E-mail: [co-operation@bl.uk](mailto:co-operation@bl.uk)

**Laser**foundation 

**The Laser Foundation**

Company Secretary, c/o Martin House Farm, Hilltop Lane,  
Whittle-le-Woods, Near Chorley, Lancashire PR6 7QR

**Tel:** 01257 274 833 **Fax:** 01257 266 488

**E-mail:** [frances@laserfoundation.org.uk](mailto:frances@laserfoundation.org.uk)

[www.bl.uk/concord/laser-about.html](http://www.bl.uk/concord/laser-about.html)

Registered Address: The Laser Foundation, c/o Merchant and Co.,  
Fourth Floor, 84 Uxbridge Road, West Ealing, London W13 8RA

Company No. 1991362. VAT No. 233106019 Charity No. 293864

**Laser**foundation 

A grant making trust  
whose mission is:

TO IMPROVE  
LIBRARY  
FACILITIES  
AVAILABLE TO  
THE PUBLIC

[www.bl.uk/concord/laser-about.html](http://www.bl.uk/concord/laser-about.html)

## Grant Making Policy

The Trustees expect to approve up to 3 small projects and 1 major project each year for 3 years.

For rough guidance, a small project could be awarded up to £40K; a major project up to £200K (or more for an exceptional, ground-breaking proposal).

The Foundation expects to primarily fund project proposals that take a focused, planned approach aimed at making a real difference to the library landscape, i.e. proposals that focus upon bringing together new systemic arrangements to create reach, scale and economy, and that avoid scattered individual activities.

The Trustees will be prepared to consider projects ranging from the purely theoretical to the completely practical, and could involve 'Blue Sky' research or be relatively small 'Quick Win' projects.

Proposals will be judged on merit, how they fit with the General Principles for Funding, and the overall priorities as seen by the Trustees at the time.

## General principles for considering proposals for funding by the Laser Foundation

The Laser Foundation will be guided by a set of general principles.

These are:

**Eligibility – Bids for funding will normally only be considered from:**

- 1 Individual libraries or library authorities, and researchers or consultants working in the library and information sector and in partnership with libraries and library authorities;
- 2 Consortia of libraries proposing collaborative projects;
- 3 Cross domain and cross sectoral projects.

**General – The Foundation will:**

- 4 Consider proposals over the whole spectrum of library activity;
- 5 Encourage applications for funding of original and imaginative projects;
- 6 Favour proposals covering areas for which funding is not currently available;
- 7 Give preference to projects proposed by ex-LASER member libraries or library authorities, or consortia including ex-LASER members.

**Conditions – The Foundation will:**

- 8 Strictly confine awards to non-recurrent funding;
- 9 Expect applicants to demonstrate that sources of matching or supplementary funds have been investigated and indicate how the project will be sustained beyond the period of financial support from the Foundation if applicable;
- 10 In general, not favour projects extending over more than 2 years.

**Use of funds – The Foundation will not award funds for:**

- 11 Maintenance of equipment or property beyond the time period of the project;
- 12 Renting or buying property; investment purposes;
- 13 Day to day running costs, including the costs of existing staff.

## Origin of the Laser Foundation

LASER (The London and South Eastern Library Region) was an operational company which had served for more than 70 years the co-operative interests of public libraries predominately in London and the South East.

The Laser Foundation was created from the transfer of the LASER company, into a Grant Making Trust.

The Foundation will continue the ethos, principles and focus of LASER in its grant making policies, and offer its capabilities to the whole of the UK and beyond.