

INCREASING OUR VALUE TO HIGHER EDUCATION

"The world class research carried out in UK HE is dependent on resources provided by the British Library. We have built a strategic alliance between our two organisations to cement the relationship between the Library and HE. It prepares the ground for further joint activity to ensure that UK researchers have the resources they need, and to hold our lead in exploiting the full potential of new digital information sources."

Sir Howard Newby

CEO, HEFCE

Higher Education Funding Council for England

FACT FILE

- **The British Library plays a pivotal role in underpinning the nation's Higher Education**
 - Over 50% of the Library's activities support HE
 - 63% of all registered readers are academics
 - 10,000 items are accessed in the British Library Reading Rooms by HE readers every day
 - The Library's services are available on the basis of 'need to use' to all two million students and 120,000 university teachers across the UK
 - All 169 HE institutions in the UK use the British Library's Document Supply Service
- **The British Library is well placed to foster relationships between business and universities to the benefit of the UK economy**
 - The British Library is the *only* organisation with a statutory public good remit to collect, preserve and provide long-term access to research information for the *whole of the UK*
 - *Investing in Innovation 2002* underlined the value the Library adds to the nation's scientific and technical R&D
 - £30-40 million cost savings are achieved each year by the HE sector through use of surrogate document supply services
 - Extension of legal deposit and progress with e-licensing agreements provide HE and business with unparalleled access to e-resources
 - The British Library is aiming to become recognised as a trusted, first choice global provider of content, through navigation and research services accessible through its planned Innovation Centre (05/06).

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SERVICES

- **Reading Rooms**
 - Staffed by experts to guide users to relevant information and materials
 - Free access to unique collection spanning 3,000 years of world culture and creativity – books, journals, market research, newspapers, images, maps, music manuscripts, voice and sound recordings
 - A recent Reader Survey (Q3/03) showed that over 93% of all users were completely/very satisfied on a wide range of criteria, including comprehensiveness of collection, working environment and staff expertise
- **Information Supply**
 - Largest and one of fastest document supply services in the world including 24 hour electronic delivery and 2 hour turnaround
 - Provides systematic access to materials to which HE does not subscribe
 - Creates opportunity cost savings for HE sector not having to duplicate non-core materials
- **Catalogues and Bibliographic Services**
 - British Library catalogues disclose contents of the Library's collections, allow them to be discovered and used by HE researchers, and are re-used by HE libraries to avoid duplication of effort and reduce costs
 - Searches of the British Library Catalogue rose from 6.9 million (01/02) to 8.2 million (02/03)
 - ZETOC provides an alerting service to HE. An independent evaluation of the project conducted by Loughborough University reported outstanding results and statistics show that demand for the service continues to grow.

INITIATIVES

- **BL/HEFCE Strategic Alliance**
 - Promotes information exchange and expertise sharing
- **BL/AHRB Concordat**
 - Identifies shared strategic priorities
 - Promotes framework for development of intellectual infrastructure and training of postgraduate researchers
- **RSLG/RLN**
 - With HEFCE, co-sponsors the Research Support Libraries Group
 - New RLN Office to be based at the Library
- **Monograph Interlending**
 - Collaborative development with CURL of *DSC Plus*
- **Digital Preservation**
 - Joint founders of Digital Preservation Coalition with JISC
 - Joint participants in UK Web Archiving Consortium
 - Creating digital infrastructure to ensure preservation of scholarly materials generated in digital form
- **Collaboration on Technical Infrastructure/Resource Discovery**
 - COPAC (union catalogue of CURL libraries)
 - SUNCAT (national union catalogue of serials)
 - ZETOC (electronic tables of contents/alerting service)
- **Access to Digital Content of benefit to HE**
 - Digitisation of key scholarly treasures - *Beowulf*, *The Gutenberg Bible*, *Caxton's Chaucer*, *Shakespeare in Quarto*
 - Digitisation of scholarly materials – *Early English Books Online* etc
 - Incorporation of lifelong learning content – *Collect Britain* – £3.5 million New Opportunities Fund project
 - JISC digitisation programme – agreement of £3 million funding for Library's digitisation of newspaper and sound materials.