

The Preservation Advisory Centre enables people working with library and archive collections to take a long-term approach to access. It promotes the benefits of good preservation practice and provides support in the form of reliable, up-to-date information, skills-development opportunities, and a range of tools which enhance critical-thinking and the ability to take effective preservation decisions for the benefit of future users.

Our vision is of ensured continuity of access to library and archive collections by all, for all.

The Preservation Advisory Centre was formed in April 2009 by the integration of the National Preservation Office (NPO) with the British Library department of Collection Care. Its goals for 2009-12 are:

- to build a community of people working with library and archive collections with the knowledge, tools and support to actively take part in preservation
- to create an environment in which the public value of investment in preservation is recognised by users and funders
- to build on the work of the National Preservation Office and establish the Preservation Advisory Centre as a leading provider of preservation guidance and services

Work towards these goals takes place along four strands: extending existing services; developing new services; working in partnership; and awareness-raising and advocacy.

Achievements in 2009-10 and plans for 2010-12 are given below.

<p>1 Extending existing services</p> <p>We will do this by improving communication and increasing awareness of our services, by offering training at locations throughout the UK and Ireland and by refreshing our guidance information</p>
<p>Achievements, 2009-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NPO renamed British Library Preservation Advisory Centre clarifying the relationship with the British Library and the Centre's role as a provider of preservation training, tools and information to libraries and archives of all sizes and type. Attractive new visual identity produced. ▪ Communication strategy drawn up to support the delivery of objectives. The strategy identifies methods of communication, purpose and audience. ▪ E-newsletter launched November 2009 to highlight Preservation Advisory Centre news and services. 864 subscribers by issue 3, sign-up: https://forms.bl.uk/newsletters ▪ Annual Forum held November 2009 titled 'Doing more with less?' Focused on skills development for the care of physical and digital collections. Presentations made available online for the first time www.bl.uk/blpac/forum.html ▪ Twelve training days on eight different topics run for the benefit of 212 participants. Training included six new programmes, four of which formed part of the collaboration with Research Libraries UK: strategic and practical issues for physical and digital collections represented. New monitoring and evaluation systems created to measure delegate benefit. Programmes and feedback from participants now posted on the Preservation Advisory Centre website www.bl.uk/blpac/events.html ▪ Guidance booklet on the preservation of photographic materials updated to coincide with the major British Library exhibition, 'Points of view'. New booklet 'Damaged books' produced in March with over 5,000 downloads in the first month. Use of guidance continues to grow with over 63,000 electronic and hard copies accessed in 2009-10. ▪ Seven workshops on use of the Preservation Advisory Centre's unique preservation management tool, the Preservation Assessment Survey held at locations in London, Leeds, Southampton, Winchester and Edinburgh.
<p>Plans for 2010-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to our training materials by sharing presentations online where appropriate • Explore web 2.0 communication tools and how they can best be used by the Preservation Advisory Centre to support the development of a community of preservation practice • Work with partners to provide training events at more locations throughout the UK and Ireland • Update and add to the series of preservation guidance booklets in response to feedback, gap analysis and popularity of existing titles. Apply the Preservation Advisory Centre visual identity to existing guidance booklets and seek new ways to increase their availability.

<p>2 Developing new services</p> <p>We will develop new support services to assist organisations with the Preservation Assessment Survey. We will investigate new methods of delivery for products and services, exploring the opportunities available for e-learning and remote access to preservation management tools. We will seek to develop new preservation management tools in the areas of prioritization and use of life-cycle collection management models.</p>
<p>Achievements, 2009-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Preservation Assessment Survey is our flagship service for measuring an organisation's approach to preservation, providing evidence of strengths and weaknesses and identifying steps for strategic development. New services launched to support use of the ▪ Preservation Assessment Survey include bespoke on-site training, help with setting up the survey and staff to assist with carrying

out a survey. Case studies, sample reports and full information on the benefits are available at www.bl.uk/blpac/paslib.html

- New products include six new training days: Preservation of photographs; Including conservation in funding bids; Preservation policies; Prioritization for conservation, preservation and digitization; Emergency response and salvage techniques; Damaged books and bound archives.

Plans for 2010-12

- Development of a prioritisation tool to enable organisations to align preservation activities to institutional priorities
- Development of a 'Preservation review' service to provide a high level audit of preservation measures against best practice
- New training courses on the themes of: Promoting good handling; Cleaning programmes and the use of volunteers; Risk management as a collection care tool; Using Lifecycle models; Preservation prioritisation tools; Handling for digitisation
- New visual guidance on recognising damage to physical collections to be produced to accompany the Preservation Assessment Survey
- Development of e-resources for the handling and use of collections, and preservation induction. Piloting of remote access to events and preservation management tools.

3 Working in partnership

We will build partnerships with like-minded organisations and work with these organisations to achieve maximum impact and avoid duplication. Our collaboration with Research Libraries UK in the field of preservation training is an exemplar. Our partnerships will support the sharing of expertise and improve access to the services we provide.

Achievements, 2009-10

- Collaboration with Research Libraries UK to develop a three-year preservation learning programme. Focus groups and an online survey identified demand for strategic and practical topics, and highlighted the need for advocacy at all levels within research and HE libraries. Six events have been held on four topics. Events have been held at the British Library, the National Library of Scotland and University of Leeds Library www.bl.uk/blpac/rluk.html
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) focusing on skills development. The Preservation Advisory Centre and DPC will work together to ensure that those who care for collections have the expertise and support they need to deal confidently with the digital domain.
- Collaboration with the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) to increase understanding of the preservation needs of archives in Scotland. Using the Preservation Advisory Centre's established methodology of the Preservation Assessment Survey, conservation support from NAS, and funding of 15 surveys by the SCA a three-year programme of collaboration seeks to raise awareness of preservation need and provision, and to strengthen local initiatives to address need.
- Joint event with National Council on Archives 'Including conservation in funding bids'

Plans for 2010-12

- Continued development of preservation learning programme in partnership with RLUK
- Joint event with Digital Preservation Coalition, 27 July 2010, as the first in a series of collaborative events to generate better understanding of preservation approaches to digital objects
- Year 2 of collaboration with NAS and SCA to provide evidence of preservation need and provision for archives in Scotland
- Review of preservation landscape to identify gaps and opportunities, and development of relationships with key stakeholders

4 Awareness-raising and advocacy

We will provide a focus for preservation activity by raising awareness of preservation need and advocating for support and investment. We will use findings from the Preservation Assessment Survey to work towards publishing an updated picture of the preservation needs of the UK's library and archive collections in 2012. We will use the picture of need to inform the direction of our own work and to support the case for investment in preservation. We will work with funding organisations to support best practice in preservation.

Achievements, 2009-10

- Launch of Preservation Advisory Centre gathers senior figures from libraries and archives to mark the transition from the National Preservation Office to the Preservation Advisory Centre
- Creation of Advisory Group to provide expert advice, national and international perspectives to support the direction and operation of the Preservation Advisory Centre, and to provide a means of exchanging best practice in preservation and facilitate the development of a community of practice.
- Contribution to the British Library Centre for Conservation public programmes through input to programme development and availability of guidance booklets at exhibitions and events
- Representation on working groups and committees

Plans for 2010-12

- Roadshow to be held at six locations: Edinburgh, Manchester, Aberystwyth, Dublin, and London. Aim: to raise awareness of the services of the Preservation Advisory Centre, highlight ways in which preservation supports institutional priorities, show how using the Preservation Assessment Survey provides evidence for institutional decision-making and contributes to the UK overview of preservation need, and showcase local networks, support, and opportunities for funding for preservation and conservation.
- Annual conference on theme of measuring the impact and value of collection care activities, 15 February 2011
- Sessions at external events and conferences to raise awareness of preservation and how to put policy into practice

The Preservation Advisory Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of the British Library, Research Libraries UK, the National Archives of Scotland, the John Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, the Marsh Christian Trust