



BRITISH  
LIBRARY

# International Library Leaders Programme

**9 – 16 July 2025**

An intensive week-long programme for  
mid-career library and archive professionals





**Join us in July 2025 for a week-long intensive professional development programme for library and archive professionals.**

Our International Library Leaders Programme presents a rare opportunity to join an intimate group of mid-career library professionals at the British Library. Throughout the week, you will gain valuable insights into our initiatives, strategies and programmes.





# About the programme

With over 170 million items in the collection, from Magna Carta to Shakespeare's First Folio, the British Library is one of the world's largest national libraries. Our intensive week-long programme offers the opportunity for an intimate group of international library professionals to meet our experts and learn from their experiences of dealing with the everyday issues facing the sector today.

## Highlights include:

- Discovering how our expert curators use library collections to engage with researchers and broader audiences
- A visit to our conservation studio to learn how we care for our collections
- Learning how we design and manage digitisation projects
- A unique opportunity to visit our high-density storage buildings in Boston Spa, Yorkshire
- Exploring the potential of new tools and services to engage researchers
- Using library collections in learning programmes and exhibitions to engage a wide range of audiences.

You'll also meet peers from around the world to share and discuss key issues in contemporary collection management through a series of workshops, case study reviews and focus groups.

Shakespeare's First Folio

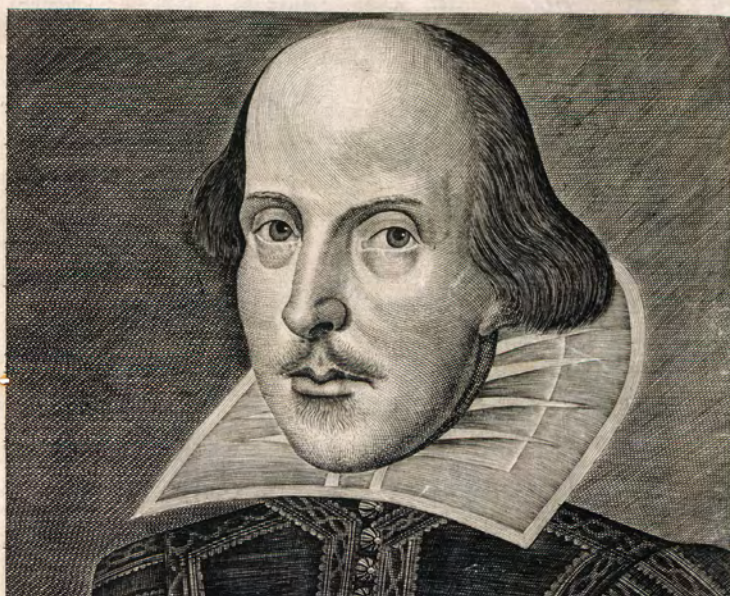
MR. WILLIAM  
**SHAKESPEARES**  
COMEDIES,  
HISTORIES, &  
TRAGEDIES.

Published according to the True Originall Copies.

## To the Reader.

This Figure, that thou here seest put,  
It was for gentle Shakespeare cut;  
Wherein the Grauer had a strife  
with Nature, to out-doo the life :  
O, could he but haue drawne his wit  
As well in brasse, as he hath hit  
His face ; the Print would then surpasse  
All, that vvas euer vvrit in brasse.  
But, since he cannot, Reader, looke  
Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.





# Who is the programme for?

We're looking for library professionals who:

- are aspiring leaders or mid-career managers
- have a minimum of three years' relevant experience in libraries or archives
- are proficient in English as the course is fast-paced and will be delivered in the English language
- want to gain insights into the breadth of operations in a national library
- are keen to exchange knowledge with library peers.

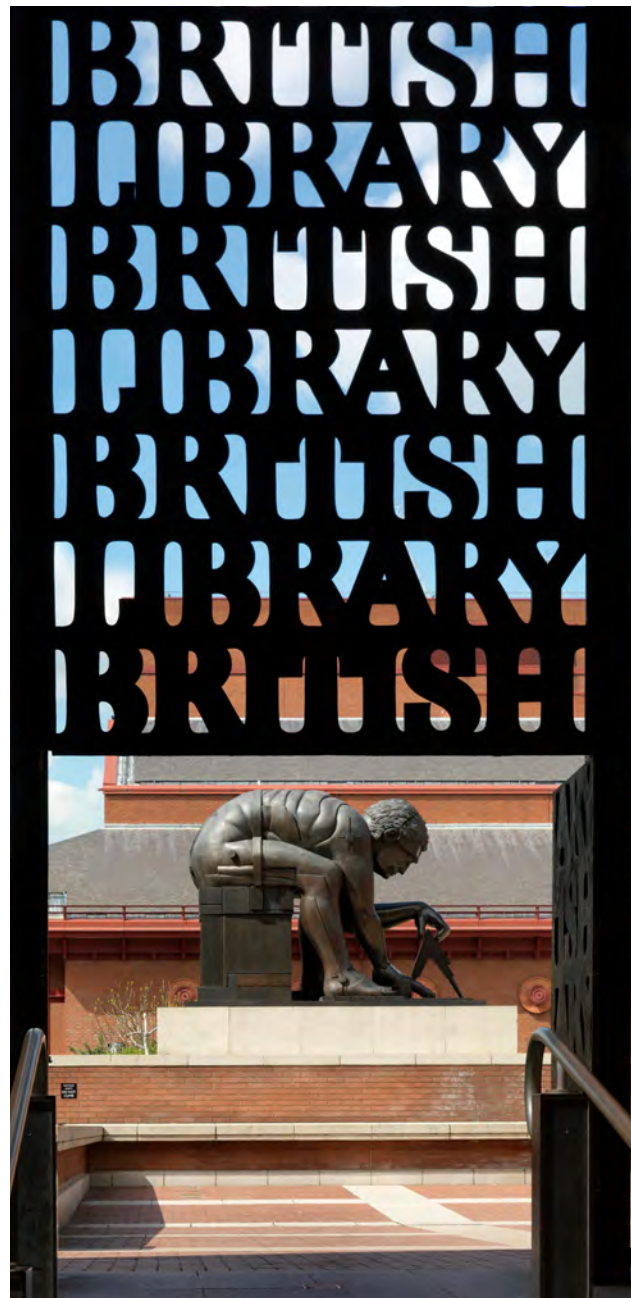
We welcome a wide variety of library sector colleagues to the programme. Examples of just some of our previous delegates' roles include:

- Special Collections Librarian
- Head of Archives, Special Collections and Digital Initiatives
- Head of Research Services
- Chief Librarian
- Head of Documentary Heritage Preservation.

The programme is capped at 23 delegates. Our preference is to limit places to one delegate per institution, but we will hold a waiting list for second delegates.

This is an international programme and is open to applicants from anywhere in the world outside of the UK.

A selection of images taken during our International Library Leaders Programme in 2024.





# Itinerary highlights

## Induction

**Wednesday 9 July, afternoon**

Welcome and orientation to the British Library.

## Day 1

**Thursday 10 July**

An overview of our strategy, vision and key projects.

## Day 2

**Friday 11 July**

Tour our digital preservation and collection management facilities in Boston Spa, Yorkshire.

## Day 3

**Monday 14 July**

Curating our collection; an overview of digitisation projects and workflow management.

## Day 4

**Tuesday 15 July**

Conservation and preservation; digital scholarship; library management and leadership.

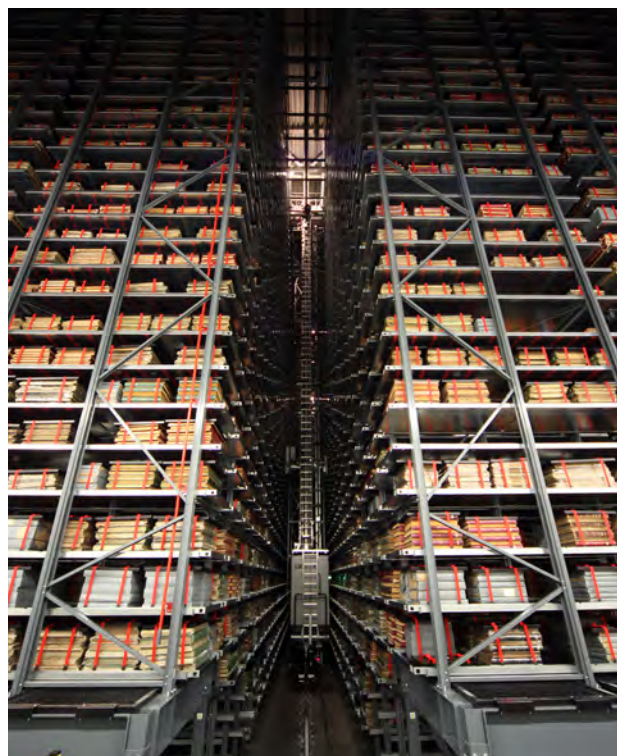
## Day 5

**Wednesday 16 July**

Explore the Library as a cultural institution; events, exhibitions and learning programmes.

Opt in to join visits to cultural institutions over the weekend  
12 – 13 July.

From top: Boston Spa Reading Room; the National Newspaper Building at Boston Spa; image from the International Library Leaders Programme 2024; Boston Spa Reading Room.



# Key speaker profiles



## **Liz Jolly**

Chief Librarian

Liz Jolly has been Chief Librarian at the British Library since September 2018. She is responsible for teams delivering core activities such as collection development; services for researchers, learners, businesses and entrepreneurs; research strategy and digital scholarship.



## **Andy Appleyard**

Director of Operations North

Andy manages a portfolio of services, including British Library On Demand (Document Supply), Digitisation Services, Customer Services, Copyright and Licensing. He also has responsibility for the Public Lending Right, which administers payment of government funds to authors, illustrators, and other contributors whose books are borrowed from public libraries.



## **Xerxes Mazda**

Director of Collections and Curation

Xerxes is responsible for building, managing and promoting the understanding of our collection of published, written and digital content, covering all formats, periods and geographical areas. His department comprises three large collection areas: Asian and African, Contemporary British and Western Heritage collections. He also oversees the Research Development team, the Eccles Centre for American Studies, and the Endangered Archives Programme.



### **Jerry Shillito**

Director of Operations South

Jerry is responsible for all of the Library's Reader and Reference services, including our 12 Reading Rooms and the provision of research and reference services to Readers and remote customers. He is also responsible for the development of our St Pancras site, which is a major part of our future strategy to, amongst other things, expand our culture and learning programmes, as well as our business services.



### **Hugh Brown**

Digitisation Project Manager

Hugh is responsible for managing large digitisation projects with our commercial partners and working with their vendors onsite to digitise content. Hugh is Co-Chair of our Race Equality Action Plan, set up to investigate, develop and implement an action plan for race equality at the Library.



### **Maja Maricevic**

Director of Science and Innovation

Maja is responsible for the strategy, policy and partnership development across science and innovation, including our AI Strategy. She was the lead for the Living with Machines project, using British Library collections on a large-scale, collaborative AI research project delivered in collaboration with Alan Turing Institute. Maja chairs the UK Green Libraries Campaign, a partnership of UK libraries working towards a better future for planet and people.



# How to apply

The programme runs from 9 – 16 July 2025. Sessions take place at the British Library in St Pancras, London every weekday except for Friday 11 July, when we will visit our site in Boston Spa, Yorkshire. Over the weekend of 12 – 13 July, delegates may opt-in to visit other cultural institutions in London.

## Fees

The fee for the programme is £2,300 per person. This includes all course materials, return transport to our Boston Spa site in Yorkshire, refreshments and lunch during the five full days of the programme. The fee does not include international travel costs to and from the UK, accommodation costs or any other expenses.

## Sponsorship and funding

The Library is not able to subsidise or sponsor individuals, and we encourage applicants to secure funding in advance to cover travel, accommodation and the programme fee.

## Submitting your application

Apply to join the International Library Leaders Programme via the **online application form before the deadline of 12.00 GMT on Thursday 6 February 2025**. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 28 March 2025.

For more details and to apply online, visit [bl.uk/about-us/international](https://bl.uk/about-us/international).

## Confirmation of your place

Your place is not confirmed until you have received an email of acceptance from us. As soon as your place has been confirmed and an invoice has been issued, we ask that payment be made **within 30 days**. If payment is not received within this time period, we reserve the right to reallocate your space to another applicant on our waiting list.

## Accessibility

We aim to provide an accessible and inclusive environment for all our visitors. Please contact us with any questions regarding specific requirements or adjustments that we can make. More information about accessibility can be found at [bl.uk/visit](https://bl.uk/visit)