

THE BRITISH LIBRARY'S CONTENT STRATEGY

Annex: Summary of responses to research area and special format templates

Introduction

This Annex provides a summary of the comments received on the 38 research area templates and eight special format templates, as presented in the Library's content strategy consultation paper. The research areas are numbered according to the Research Assessment Exercise (2008) panel structure. The special formats follow the research areas but are not numbered.

Unless otherwise indicated, respondents 'welcomed', 'agreed', 'supported', 'commended' our strategies for the different research areas and special formats. In addition, a number of respondents a) recommended proposed partners for collaboration, b) sought more information about plans for collecting or connecting to certain categories of materials and c) made drafting points. These detailed comments are not incorporated in this summary of responses but will be followed up by the Library's lead Content Expert for each template. Substantial comments made, which do not fall into the categories described above, are noted below. Where permission was granted, the full response is published on the British Library's website.

Section 1: Research Areas

30: Architecture and Built Environment

- No further comments.

31: Town and Country Planning

- No further comments.

32: Geography and Environmental Studies

- Expand the scope of areas of study to include the European environment and vulnerable small island states.

33: Archaeology

- Reduce emphasis on UK archaeology and related European civilisations as archaeology has a world-wide scope.
- Explore BL's role in collecting field data vis-à-vis other museums and accredited repositories.

34: Economics and Econometrics

- Consider creating a secure national archive of electronic documents and empirical data published by UK companies, charities or research institutes, not otherwise covered.
- Increase Asian research-level collecting on economic conditions and history.

35: Accounting and Finance

- Consider need for a secure national archive of electronic documents published by UK accounting and finance companies.

36: Business and Management Studies

- Consider need for a secure national archive of electronic documents published by UK management companies.
- Review national provision for collecting certain categories of business records, e.g. especially chemical and aerospace industries.
- Explore with other stakeholders strategies for the records of religious and charitable or voluntary organisations.

37: Library & Information Management

- No further comments.

38: Law

- Develop stable long-term partnerships, such as the one with IALS (the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies), and a broader development of the FLARE (Foreign Law Research) group to establish a national collection of foreign legal materials in order to save resources by avoiding duplication.
- Consider reciprocal agreements with other national libraries in the area of foreign law.
- Clarify what is meant by 'assuming a leading role' at national level for law.

39: Politics and International Studies

- Give greater emphasis to the collection of vulnerable official datasets.

40: Social Work, Social Policy and Administration

- Focus on collecting material which would be otherwise difficult for users to access and which becomes inaccessible due to changes in government policy nationally and internationally, e.g. grey literature in the case of social policy researchers.
- Be cautious of reliance on other institutions for access to official statistics.
- Broaden consideration of research agendas beyond the Economic and Social Research Council agenda in determining future purchasing.

41: Sociology

- Reconsider the proposed 'very selective' level of collecting of foreign language materials in relation to major thinkers and innovative methodologies.

42: Anthropology

- Make reference to strong interest in European ethnography.

43: Development Studies

- No further comments.

44: Psychology

- Consider proposals for psychology in context of overall STM strategy.
- Collect comprehensively e-journals and e-books in psychology.
- Mirror data archives of scientific journals in the area of psychology.

45: Education

- Create an online library for evidence-based resources in this area, possibly in conjunction with others.

46: Sports-related Studies

- Collect more material in this area (e.g. as this is a growth area in universities, in light of the 2012 Olympics and the likely increase in demand that this will bring)
- Take into account overall STM strategy to obtain a complete picture of collecting in this area.

47: American Studies, Anglophone Area Studies

- No further comments.

48: Middle Eastern and African Studies

- Address lack of availability of African newspaper titles in UK libraries.
- Consider the case for an increase in materials in support of Middle Eastern and African Studies in line with the proposed increases from China and India.

49: Asian Studies

- Model impact on BL's budget for when China and India come fully on stream in research terms.
- Evidence international research importance of China's published output (e.g. contains few world-class journals in English) and future accessibility (e.g. political censorship).
- Lead consortia buying with HEIs of electronic resources.

50: European Studies

- No further comments.

51: Russian, Slavonic and East European Studies

- No further comments.

52: French

- No further comments.

53: German, Dutch and Scandinavian Languages

- No further comments.

54: Italian Studies

- No further comments.

55: Iberian and Latin American Languages

- Include in rationale status of Spanish as world language e.g. importance in USA (and some UK cities).

56: Celtic Studies

- No further comments.

57: English Language and Literature

- Continue collecting of foreign-language materials relating to Anglo-Saxon, medieval and early-modern topics as much original work continues to be done by scholars writing in German, French and Italian.

58: Linguistics

- Consider expanding acquisition of sound material in linguistics beyond English to a wider range of languages, working in cooperation with other specialist archives.
- Maintain levels of collecting of research works in languages other than English (in some sub-fields of philology, literature in French, German, Italian, Russian, is at least as important as that in English).

59: Classics Ancient History, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

- No further comments.

60: Philosophy

- No further comments.

61: Theology, Divinity, Religious Studies

- Reconsider only very selective collecting of foreign-language materials.

62: History

- Broaden consideration of research agendas beyond the Arts and Humanities Research Centre agenda in determining future purchasing.
- Give more priority to European history.

63: Art & Design

- Explore co-operation to collect artists' websites.

64: History of Art, Architecture and Design

- Extend existing collaborations to cover house sale catalogues, trade literature, bindings, and typography.
- Explore co-operation to collect artists' websites.

65: Drama, Dance and Performing Arts

- Increase the collection of recordings of live performance.

66: Communication, Cultural and Media Studies

- Collect important manuscripts in area of media, journalism.
- Collect more moving image and digital/web based initiatives.

67: Music

- Consider collecting Sibelius/Finale-based electronic materials, but recognise that this will lead to long term accessibility problems.
- Urge change of Legal Deposit arrangements to obtain print-on-demand music.

Section 2: Special formats

Grey Literature

- Provide a tighter definition of grey literature (e.g. are quangos and NGOs covered?).
- Add to rationale the fact that effective scrutiny of government demands that access to significant grey literature, informal consultations and policy documents is maintained.
- Develop secure long term access both to UK and foreign grey literature now that much of this material is transient and published on the web.
- Co-ordinate responsibilities for collecting market-research reports and online company and product information.
- Consider role for Library in capturing research outputs through institutional repositories.
- Preserve and make available doctoral theses in digital form.
- Collect conference proceedings not just in English but also in major European languages as these often represent the cutting edge of research and are difficult to access.

Manuscripts and Archives

- Give greater prominence to a national leadership role in collecting and curating e-manuscripts and e-archives.
- Collect important manuscripts covering media, journalism and sports studies; historic and scientific papers; contemporary politicians and public figures.
- Do not collect excavation archives.
- Recognise explicitly existing and potential partnership opportunities with national, regional and local archive services.
- Develop an institutional strategy in collaboration with external academics to identify those writers and public figures whose work the BL is interested in acquiring.
- Avoid excessive investment in trends of academic enquiry which burn out in a few years.
- Explore a national strategy to collect certain categories of business and industrial records, e.g. especially chemical and aerospace industries; and records of religious and charitable or voluntary organisations.

Maps

- No further comments.

Newspapers

- Clarify whether future collecting of UK newspapers includes growing range of non-English or bilingual publications from the major UK language communities.

Philatelic

- No further comments.

Sound, Moving Image, Film

- Develop a more coherent national strategy for the archiving of film and moving image in collaboration with BFI, regional and sound and film archives, and other institutions.
- Increase activity on the collection of recordings of live performance [drama, dance and performing arts].
- Consider expanding acquisition of sound material in linguistics, extending beyond English to a wider range of languages, working in cooperation with other specialist archives.

Visual Materials

- Clarify BL contribution/role vis-à-vis other national institutions collecting in this field.

Websites

- Accelerate implementation of legal deposit legislation for UK websites.
- Consider a strategy for harvesting non-UK websites, e.g. Asian/African official publications only available in web form.
- Build on UKWAC (UK Web Archiving Consortium) to develop a UK collection framework for websites outside the UK domain.
- Give due consideration to the complexity and costs of clearing rights, e.g. for images.
- Clarify relationship of web archiving to collecting web-based documents e.g. grey literature.
- Clarify relationship of web archiving to databases and datasets.
- Encourage robust archiving policies in government departments and official bodies.
- License access to UK websites of research value rather than try to collect them through whole domain snapshots.
- Concentrate on collecting (as opposed to harvesting) websites that relate to England or to the UK as a whole, leaving Welsh and Scottish material to their respective national libraries.