

# INCREASING OUR VALUE THROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARIES

*"NEMLAC's partnership with the British Library reduces the distance between the Library in London and the 2.5 million people in the North East. We are delighted to be working with the British Library on Reaching the Regions, a major partnership which aims to provide access to the Library's world-class collections through a range of innovative and collaborative projects and initiatives throughout the region."*

**Sue Underwood**

Chief Executive, NEMLAC

NE Museums Libraries and Archives Council

## FACT FILE

- Government has set out its long-term strategic vision for the public library service encouraging "imaginative innovation and greater operational effectiveness and efficiency, adapted to local need and circumstance"\*
- The British Library is proactive in reaching out to the regions and has developed strong collaborative relationships with public library networks
  - British Library interlending is available to all 3,947 libraries and 656 mobile libraries across the UK
  - 2.7 million items supplied remotely by the British Library (02/03)
  - Remote users make around 9,600 searches of the British Library's online catalogue every day
  - The British Library is active in the regions promoting exhibitions, lending materials and engaging in partnership projects.

\* Framework for the Future 2003

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## SERVICES

- **Information Supply and Inter-library Lending**
  - Over 50% of UK inter-library loans are supplied by the British Library (see chart)
  - 160,000 British Library items requested through UK public libraries (02/03)
- **Catalogue and Bibliographic Services**
  - British Library catalogues can be accessed by all regional libraries
  - Remote searches of the online British Library Catalogue rose from 6.9 million (01/02) to 8.2 million (02/03)
- **www.bl.uk**
  - Provides online sources of information and enables online delivery of discovery tools and content
  - Gives access to virtual exhibitions and *Turning the Pages*.

## INITIATIVES

- Working with the People's Network to deliver nationally relevant content eg. *Collect Britain* NOF-funded (£3.2 million) digitisation project.
- Partnering the National Archives-led NOF project *Moving Here*
- Cooperating with *Newsplan* to preserve and improve access to local/regional newspapers throughout the UK. The programme makes newspapers available in microform to local historians and lifelong learners
- Contributing to regional and touring exhibitions eg. *Lindisfarne Gospels Facsimile Tour*
- Developing a football exhibition with city library partners in Newcastle, Birmingham and Liverpool
- Collaborating with Leeds Central Library to become the public face of the British Library in the North
- Partnering SEMLAC and NEMLAC on *Reaching the Regions* – a programme developed to promote resources such as *Our Saturdays*, *Thames Pubs* and *Journeys through Wonderland*
- Supporting and hosting the *Full Disclosure* initiative – developing and implementing the national strategy for retrospective cataloguing and catalogue conversion
- Working with the Library's Co-operation and Partnership Programme which funds regional projects such as *Widening Access to Resources in Merseyside (WARM)*
- Increasing links with the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries and key regional hubs to facilitate improved marketing to regional libraries.

## INTER-LIBRARY LENDING (00/01)

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS RECEIVED	from libraries within the region	from the British Library	from other libraries outside the region	Total items received	Total requests satisfied
London & S. East	54,256	26,196	7,192	87,644	92.9
S. West	29,309	26,569	11,250	67,128	93.0
W. Midlands	5,988	16,460	10,226	32,674	93.9
E. Midlands	8,901	17,751	6,101	32,753	88.6
Yorkshire/Humberside	4,393	24,093	8,110	36,596	90.9
Northern England	8,969	17,725	6,382	33,076	90.1
Scotland	8,373	46,643	8,859	63,875	92.8
Ireland (incl. Eire)	5,571	22,052	3,610	31,233	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,760</b>	<b>197,489</b>	<b>61,730</b>	<b>384,979</b>	<b>92.7</b>

Source: LISU Annual Library Statistics 2002