The National Library of Scotland aims to enrich lives and communities by promoting learning, and widening access to the recorded knowledge of Scotland and the ideas and cultures of the world.
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Cover picture: the Library collaborated with the Danish Institute in Edinburgh to mount an exhibition of Danish children’s books at the end of 2003. Danish illustrators and writers took part in events associated with the exhibition.

( Photo: Mark K Jackson)
The National Library of Scotland is the largest, and one of the most historic, libraries in Scotland. With its origins in the library of the Faculty of Advocates, it has had a central role in collecting and making knowledge accessible for nearly 300 years.

This year has seen a major new step in the development of the Library, with the development of its new strategy *Breaking Through the Walls*. This demonstrates how the Library plans to continue to develop its role into the 21st century, maximising its impact for the people of Scotland and beyond.

In the past year the Library has put much effort into building its capacity to deliver this strategy, but, as this Review shows, there has continued to be a strong focus on maintaining and enhancing the collections, services and expertise. The Library remains committed to excellence, both in its own areas of scholarship and in the research environment it provides for its users.

The Library has also continued to develop its provision of digital publications. This year has seen a major development in this area, with the passing of the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003. This extends to electronic and digital publications our existing right to request a copy of every print publication in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This important legislation also presents us with one of our greatest ever challenges, and the Library is now at the forefront of a national effort to prepare, collect and preserve such material and make it available now and for future generations.

Within this rapidly changing world our staff have continued to show their dedication and support for the work of the Library, and I would like to record my thanks, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, for their huge contribution to its continuing success.

Professor Michael Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The past year has been both challenging and stimulating for everyone at the National Library of Scotland, and as we reflect on our progress I would like to thank all our staff for their contribution to the work of the Library. Without the commitment and hard work of the many teams who work unseen by the public but who play a vital role in front line services, as well as those who directly serve the public, the developments outlined in this review would not have been possible.

The Library’s new strategy, *Breaking Through the Walls*, was agreed by the Board of Trustees in March 2004. This clearly establishes the Library’s role as a catalyst and support for information, research and life-long learning in Scotland. Excellence has always been at the heart of the Library’s activity – through our collections, expertise and services – and this will continue. The strategy sets out how the Library will continue to develop and preserve its collections in print and the developing digital formats, and ensure that they are accessible in new and exciting ways to attract those who do not currently use the Library, whilst maintaining our commitment to our current users and improving the quality of service that they enjoy.

During the year I was delighted to welcome several new colleagues to the Library, including three new directors who joined our senior management team. As we continue to develop the organisation and structure I am confident that we will have the skills and vision to support the development of the Library into the future. I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to recently retired colleagues for their valued service and major contribution to the Library over the years.

Martyn Wade
Lesley Mulholland is a Primary 7 teacher at Towerbank Primary School in Edinburgh. Classes from the school visit the Library regularly to learn more about the history of the book.

“Our school visits to the National Library of Scotland reinforce and bring to life the children’s classroom-based work.”
Breaking through the Walls – a new draft strategy for the National Library of Scotland – was released for public consultation in December 2003, and the Trustees approved a revised version in March 2004.

To meet the aims set out in this document, and provide strong foundations for development, we need to make intelligent service and organisational changes. The first phase of this process has created a new senior management and departmental structure, and our challenge now is to develop this in detail to ensure that we continue to meet the changing needs of our users.

In order to map and monitor our progress, we have carried out research into the needs of users and non-users, and begun the process of consulting with under-represented groups.

Our aim continues to be to enrich lives and communities by promoting learning, and widening access to the recorded knowledge of Scotland and the ideas and cultures of the world.

We are committed to ensuring that all those who could benefit from using the Library see it as a source for their information needs; we need to extend awareness of our services whilst making them more relevant to all.
1. Vision and Mission

The Vision and Mission identifies the overall purpose of the Library:

- The National Library of Scotland will enrich lives and communities, encouraging and promoting lifelong learning, research and scholarship, and universal access to information by comprehensively collecting and making available the recorded knowledge of Scotland, and promoting access to the ideas and cultures of the world.

2. Core Values

The Core Values of the Library together clarify how the Library and its staff work to achieve the Vision and Mission:

- Service
- Excellence
- Learning
- Commitment

3. Principal Functions

The Library has five Principal Functions that enable it to achieve the Vision and Mission:

- To create, preserve and ensure access to a comprehensive collection of the recorded knowledge, culture and history of Scotland, for the benefit of the people of Scotland and throughout the world;
- To promote access to the recorded knowledge, culture and history of the world, particularly for the people of Scotland;
- To preserve, ensure access to, promote and, where appropriate, add to the National Library of Scotland’s major historical and heritage collections;
- To encourage and support research and scholarship;
- To provide support and leadership for the library and information sector in Scotland.
A new collection development policy

We are preparing a new integrated collection development policy, which will develop our selection criteria and take account of the new formats and methods of acquisition. It is important not only that we maintain the national research collection including local materials and publications in minority languages, but also that we support and collaborate on the development of national lending collections.

Legal Deposit and Modern Collections

The National Library of Scotland is one of only five legal deposit libraries in the UK. The original legal deposit privilege gave us the right to claim a copy of every book published in the UK and Ireland, and the new Legal Deposit Libraries Bill, enacted in November 2003, has extended the right to include electronic publications.

This is a vitally important development and we are collaborating with other legal deposit libraries, and with publishers, over the acquisition and preservation of the many scientific and academic journals which are now published only in electronic formats. We need to develop clear policies for selecting and archiving this material, as well as CDs, DVDs and many other kinds of digital and web-based material.

It will be several years before the legislation is fully operational – meanwhile we have joined a pilot project to preserve websites: our special responsibility is to select and describe websites of Scottish cultural and historic interest.

Our world-class collections range from early manuscripts and printed books to modern journals and electronic resources; and from the scholarly and arcane to football programmes and theatre posters.
‘In the fast changing world of business, up to the minute information is essential and that is what the Library delivers.’

Margaret Mackenzie is Advice & Information Officer at Ross and Cromarty Enterprise, based at Invergordon. She uses the Library to source a wide variety of business-related information in answer to enquiries from individual and corporate clients.
Business Information Service

The Library’s Business Information Service holds the largest collection of company and industry resources in Scotland. During the year we acquired three major new resources: Reuters Business Insight, the Datamonitor Business Information Centre, and AMA Research. These offer high quality business and marketing reports at industry, company or country level: AMA provides frequently-requested reports that are not available from any other publicly accessible library within the UK.

Science collections

The NLS Science Information Service provides information to businesses, academics and practising scientists, filling a need that is not addressed by any other Scottish institution.

We have one of the largest collections of scientific publications in the country: extensive British collections, including items received through the legal deposit privilege, are supplemented by purchases of foreign material. The Library holds more than 5,000 current scientific and technical journals, and is also a major historical resource, with journals dating back to the eighteenth century. Staff members have been visiting academic and public libraries throughout Scotland, in order to build awareness of our science collections and services.

Overseas publications

Overseas publications are not covered by the legal deposit privilege, so that most of these have to be bought.

One significant recent purchase from the United States was the Alexander Street Press database British and Irish Women’s Letters and Diaries 1500 to 1900, a collection of approximately 100,000 pages of published personal writings and 4000 facsimile pages of unpublished manuscript material, which is available to readers over the Electronic Resources Network.

We extended our collections of foreign non-print materials by purchasing The Presidential Recordings, vols 1 –3: John F. Kennedy: The Great Crises. This fascinating set of transcriptions and sound recordings includes the Cuban Missile Crisis, and is complemented by The White House Tapes: Eavesdropping on the President, recordings which range from Roosevelt to the Reagan era. We also acquired The Uncle Sam Movie Collection, a video collection of 21 original short films, including propaganda and documentaries, from the period of World War II.

Author J K Rowling donated a number of complete sets of the Harry Potter novels in ten different languages, including Dutch, Bulgarian, Finnish and Danish.
Manuscripts

Our most significant manuscript purchase this year was the final part of the papers of Thomas Graham, Lord Lynedoch (1748-1843), which had remained in private ownership whilst being on deposit at the Library for many years.

Other important purchases included letters from a young Scottish laird, Roger Robertson, on his Grand Tour, 1750-53 and a volume of sketches of Edinburgh and environs, 1824, by the Reverend William Paget. The Library also bought the literary papers of the poets Tom Pow, 1969-2003, and Alexander Scott, 1931-1981. We received deposits of papers of two Conservative politicians: David McLetchie MSP, and Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

A young man’s adventures in Europe are described in this bound volume of letters, 1750-53, of Roger Robertson, younger of Ladykirk, Berwickshire, written on his travels in England and on the Grand Tour. Acc.12244

This volume of sketches of Edinburgh and environs, by the Reverend William Paget, include several illustrating the great fire of Edinburgh, which took place in November 1824. Acc.12209

This portrait drawing of John Leyden was done on board ship off Madras in 1811. Acc.12193

Early recipe book belonging to Janet Maule, dating from 1701. Acc.12242
The Manuscripts Division has been deeply involved in the Library’s on-going bid to acquire the John Murray Archive. Murray was publisher to leading figures in the nineteenth-century literary establishment and the family archive includes original manuscripts and around 150,000 letters. This is a unique resource, and the Library is ideally equipped to promote its study and enjoyment by the widest possible range of people.

In March 2004 our campaign received a major boost when the Scottish Executive committed funding of £6.5m, and we have continued to work to acquire this remarkable collection.

A letter, written in 1591 in secretarial hand and signed by the king, of James VI to the Earl Marischal, announcing the proclamation of a Parliament and requesting his presence to discuss certain ‘enormities committed.’ Acc.12247

This lavishly-illustrated recipe book was compiled by Janie Ellice of Invergarry during the period 1847 to 1859. Acc.12266

The annotated typescript of the short story ‘The Search for the Perfect Hamburger’ by Alexander McCall Smith. Acc.12282

Papers and artwork of the poet, novelist and artist Angela Lemaire, from the 1960s to 2002. Acc.12221

(Top) Culture Minister Frank McAveety announced the Scottish Executive grant of £6.5 million towards the campaign in March.

(Bottom) Actors playing the parts of Lord Byron and Lady Caroline Lamb took part in the launch of a display on the John Murray Archive. (Photos: Mark K Jackson)
Rare Books

The book trade continues to turn up unique or rare editions of books printed in Scotland, Scots authors printed abroad in translation, or materials that demonstrate Scottish influence abroad. The year’s purchases included a unique Edinburgh 1696 edition of Erasmus’s *Colloquies*, a rare first (1890) French edition of R.L. Stevenson’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *Queensland Scottish Advocate*, Brisbane, 1908-1911, a journal produced for Scots in Queensland.

The Library has a fine collection of miniature books, and this year we were able to add eight mainly late nineteenth-century miniature books printed in Scotland, including a New Testament less than an inch tall.

There seems to have been a minor cult of printing on silk in Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century. Our newly-purchased copy of a Glasgow 1751 edition of the Greek text of Anacreon’s *Odes* (Glasgow, 1751) is outstanding for using silk in four colours: blue, pink, yellow and cream. Another spectacular book acquired this year is a very rare hand-coloured copy of George Richardson’s *A Book of Ceilings* (London, 1776).

The use of ‘surrogates’ allows free access to older material without any handling risks: we now subscribe to *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*, a new resource which will eventually provide our users with access to images and searchable text of more than 150,000 eighteenth century British books.
Maps

We were pleased to acquire a complete copy of John Cowley’s *The Geography of England*, dated 1744 but published the year before. The high demand for attractive small maps often leads to the ‘breaking’ of volumes by dealers, and the two other copies in legal deposit libraries are both incomplete.

We also bought a children’s atlas, with maps engraved sometime between 1825 and 1836, by Robert Scott of Edinburgh, who was noted for his topographic and landscape work. Although in miniature, the atlas follows the fashion of the day by including plates of the world’s longest rivers and tallest mountains.

Road map showing proposed improvements to the road between Fettercairn and Huntly in Aberdeenshire, dating from 1810. Map.Roll.a.48

The Queensland Scottish Advocate provides a fascinating insight into the Scottish community in Brisbane, Australia, at the start of the twentieth century.

Selection of miniature books, printed in Scotland in the late nineteenth century by David Bryce of Glasgow. ABS.4.203.09(1-5)

A German translation of a seminal religious work by John Abernethy, Bishop of Caithness, who modelled his ‘Physicke for the soule’ on medical treatises. This edition, from 1634, is bound in contemporary vellum. RB.s.2304

A sample book of engravings produced by William Home Lizars, c.1851, designed to illustrate the wide range of items available in his Edinburgh studio. ABS.8.202.36
In the autumn of 2003, we bought three coastal charts by John Ainslie (1745-1828), Scotland’s premier late eighteenth-century map-maker. As part of the campaign against smuggling, Ainslie was employed by the Commissioners of H.M. Customs to survey the coasts of east and south-west Scotland and engrave a set of six charts, which he completed during 1784-5. We already held three of these charts, and the new purchases – still tied with the original string – complete the set.

It is part of our acquisitions policy to create a general reference collection of maps from around the world, and especially of places with Scottish connections, or which are visited by Scottish travellers. A new series from the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group has allowed us to extend our coverage of the country: we now have about three-quarters of the 513 sheets in the series.

### Online ordering

The Library is developing a new ‘call-slip’ service which will allow users to order books online in advance of a visit. The system has been available to reference staff since the late autumn of 2003, and trials with Library customers began in February 2004. This small development is crucial for readers travelling to the Library.

### The Advocates Library

Simplified procedures introduced in the summer of 2003 have allowed readers much better access to early printed material from the Advocates Library, leading to a significant increase in the number of items delivered.

### Copyright licences

Recently introduced UK copyright legislation created a potential problem for the Library and its users. Copying for any kind of commercial purpose – which may include research for books – now requires clearance from the publishers and the payment of a copyright fee; but the Library has negotiated with the Copyright Licensing Agency to obtain a Document Delivery Transactional Licence, so we can now deliver copyright-cleared photocopies to Library users, and to other libraries via inter-library lending.
The Library is re-focusing its activities to make as much as possible available to as many people as possible – both in Scotland and around the world.

The Library is developing the electronic tools and services we need to widen access and transform our website into an integrated online gateway. Our existing website has proved exceptionally popular with researchers and the wider public, and we have begun the process of transforming it into a Virtual Library, providing an easy-to-navigate portal to our own collections and to other resources of national relevance and international importance.

These are ambitious plans which require strategic thinking and a robust technical framework that can sustain many years of site development. Alongside online catalogues and high quality images, we are developing collections of searchable text and geo-referenced materials, which can be discovered through online maps as well as text-based searching systems.

**Digitisation**

The Library holds many unique treasures, which deserve to be more widely appreciated. One obvious way of doing this is through a programme of digitisation and display, either on our website or in exhibitions.

A striking example of this process is our digitisation of some 2,000 broadsides – an early kind of popular journalism. This material has been developed as a website resource, in parallel with preparations for the Library’s 2004 summer exhibition, *Read all about it! The story of the news in Scotland.*

Resources for Learning in Scotland (RLS) projects funded by the New Opportunities Fund came to an end in May 2003. The Manuscripts Division contributed to scanning projects on David Hume, Thomas Carlyle, Scots and India, Scots and Africa, golf in Scotland, 300 years of food in Scotland, farm diaries from Barberfield, and images of war 1916-1918. The images were made available through the SC Ran website.

The Resources for Learning in Scotland programme also allowed us to set up a website with images of 250 playbills for Edinburgh’s first Theatre Royal, which was open from 1769 to 1859.

The extension of the legal deposit privilege brings us new challenges in the field of preservation, particularly for...
‘My work requires background reading in subjects including pharmaceutical chemistry, molecular modelling, and cellular biology. This wealth of information is afforded by the Library and further assisted by the kind co-operation of the staff.’

Manish Biyani is a PhD student at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. His work involves new drug development to help combat diseases such as HIV and cancer.
material that is ‘born digital’. Changes in software and the possible degrading of storage media means that we cannot take it for granted that material we receive will remain stable or accessible indefinitely.

The Library is collaborating with other libraries to find long-term solutions to this problem. As well as routine media checking and transferring of data, this may include using magnetic tape to store raw data.

**Mini websites**

We are already using mini, or satellite websites to complement our exhibition and educational programmes, to highlight key areas of our collections, such as the Pont Maps, and to provide remote access to purchased electronic resources.

**Auchinleck Manuscript**

One exciting new web feature is a colour facsimile and searchable transcript of the fourteenth-century Auchinleck Manuscript, one of the Library’s greatest treasures, and an item of great significance for the development of English language and literature.

**Maps on the website**

Amongst the highlights of our online maps collection is a large number of highly detailed nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey town plans. In early summer 2003, the maps section of the website almost doubled overnight when we added a further 1900 of these plans, which had been scanned under the Resources for Learning Scotland programme.

In May 2003 we enlarged our Pont Maps website with 50 images from Robert

The year 2003-4 saw the use of the Library’s website continue to grow at a remarkable rate, with the annual number of user sessions topping 1 million for the first time.

NB. These figures exclude users of the online catalogue.
Sibbald’s manuscript, Topographical Notices of Scotland. The texts were transcribed for us voluntarily by historian Dr Jean Munro, a descendant of Timothy Pont’s sister, and are now searchable by keyword.

In September 2003, a further 450 maps were added under the RLS scanning programme, including more OS maps and town plans, a 1776 road atlas of Scotland, Admiralty Charts and geological and county maps.

Scotland’s first atlas was published 350 years ago, in 1654, as volume 5 of Blaeu’s *Atlas Novus*. In January 2004 we launched a special Blaeu Atlas website, with texts specially translated from Latin by Ian Cunningham, another volunteer contributor, and formerly our Keeper of Special Collections.

**SCOTBIS**

Scotland has nearly 100,000 small and medium sized businesses, many of which could benefit from improved market and company information.

The SCOTBIS website is our principal means of promoting access to NLS business resources, and during the 2003/04 year we rolled out a new Members’ Area – a subscription-based service which has proved popular with libraries and smaller businesses, but has also attracted some high profile companies and public sector organisations.

**Catalogue development**

Our online catalogue facilities are particularly important for remote users, and are a key tool for improving access.

In order to build on the success of our online maps, we hope to have an online maps catalogue in place by September 2004. This requires the keying-in of many thousands of records, and as a first stage some 28,000 cards were dispatched to the Philippines in December 2003. A second consignment followed in April 2004.

Further manuscript inventories went online during the year, and we now have more than 4000 collection-level descriptions for NLS MSS collections on the SCAN (Scottish Archives Network) database, which went live late in 2003.

Books printed in Scotland before 1701 form one of our highest collecting priorities, and are the subject of a special catalogue originally compiled by H G Aldis. Our online version of Aldis now includes all known pre-1641 books, wherever they are held, and we are now revising it to cover the period 1641-1660.
Exhibitions, displays, events and educational activities are a valuable way for us to promote access and understanding and an area in which the Library has traditionally excelled. We will now expand this into a co-ordinated annual programme supported by complementary cultural events and educational activity.

The Library is an institution of huge complexity with many treasures and a great many stakeholders. We have been collecting evidence to provide a baseline against which we can monitor the progress of our strategies and actions, to serve the Scottish people. During the year we carried out qualitative research on how we engage with under-represented groups, as defined by the Scottish Executive: these include young people, the socially disadvantaged, ethnic minorities, those with disabilities and the over-65s.

Events and exhibitions

Almost 17,000 people visited our major summer exhibition in 2003. Wish You Were Here! Travellers’ Tales from Scotland drew heavily on the Library’s collection of journals and diaries, along with archive film footage, drawings, maps and artefacts. A travelling version of the exhibition, produced later in the year, will take these stories to an even wider audience around Scotland. An exciting programme of events was created to run alongside the exhibition. Entitled ‘As Others See Us’, it consisted of talks and discussions by people from other countries living and working in Scotland today, including American-born Susan Rice, Chief Executive of Lloyds TSB.
‘It’s a great advantage to have local access to the Library’s collections, through its travelling exhibition programme, and to get such positive feedback about it from our visitors.’

Christine Wilson is Property Manager for the National Trust for Scotland at Culross Palace, Dunfermline. Culross Palace was a venue this year for the Library’s travelling exhibition on holidays in Scotland, ‘Wish You Were Here!’
Scotland, Bashir Maan, President of the National Association of British Pakistanis, and rugby internationalist Sean Lineen.

In November, an interactive exhibition of contemporary Danish children’s literature went on show at the Library. Produced by the Danish Literature Centre in Copenhagen, the exhibition *World of Wonders* and associated events were organised in association with the Danish Cultural Institute in the UK. Two interactive workshops attracted young children, including schoolchildren from Abbeyhill Primary School in Edinburgh, while older children enjoyed storytelling readings by author Lene Kaaberbøl at Wester Hailes Education Centre.

Other displays included a travelling exhibition on the author Muriel Spark, which toured a number of Scottish venues including Aberdeen, Perth, East Kilbride, and Glenrothes, and a bicentenary display on the composer Hector Berlioz. In March, the Library presented a small exhibition of some of the highlights of the John Murray Archive.

The popularity of the NLS events programme continues to grow. Some of the highlights of the year were the visit by Alan Taylor, Associate Editor of the *Sunday Herald*, to talk about his friendship with Muriel Spark; a talk by author Dr Jenny Wormald to commemorate the quatercentenary of the Union of the Crowns; and an ‘Evening of Entertainment’ with Alexander McCall Smith, bestselling author of *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency*.

Our association with the Edinburgh Book Festival continued with two events. The NLS Donald Dewar Lecture was given by Peter Lederer, Chairman of VisitScotland, launched the Library’s summer exhibition *Wish You Were Here! Travellers’ Tales from Scotland 1540-1960* on holiday-making in Scotland over the centuries.

Peter Lederer, Michael Anderson, Olive Geddes (curator of the exhibition), and Alan Marchbank (Director of Public Services).

A corner of the exhibition. (Photos: Mark K Jackson)
Lord Steel on 18 August. This memorial lecture was created by the Library with the approval of Donald Dewar’s family as a way of marking the contribution of Scotland’s First Minister and his abiding interest in the world of books and intellectual effort. The second event was tied in to the theme of the Library’s summer exhibition: entitled ‘Edinburgh & The Enlightenment’, it was given by James Buchan whose new book *Capital of the Mind* concentrates on the era when Edinburgh was the intellectual centre of the Western world.

Tours and visits to the Library are also proving increasingly popular. Hundreds of people enjoyed guided tours of the Library’s George IV Bridge Building on Doors Open Day in September. Behind-the-scenes tours of the Library were also given to celebrate World Book Day in March. A number of school parties enjoyed sessions given by the Library on early printed books.

In May 2003, we collaborated with the British Cartographic Society, the Charles Close Society and Edinburgh University Library to organise the 15th Edinburgh 3-Day Event. This brought together amateur and professional map enthusiasts from all backgrounds: curators and collectors, researchers and bibliographers, and producers and publishers.

The winners of the annual Robert Louis Stevenson Award were announced in September. Administered jointly with the Scottish Arts Council, the award offers a unique opportunity for writers in Scotland to spend a two-month period working in the Hotel Chevillon, an international arts centre in France. This year’s winners were...
Louise Welsh (author of the acclaimed first novel *The Cutting Room*), Donal McLaughlin and Gavin Bowd.

**Loans**

The Library loaned rare printed material for exhibitions at the City Art Centre, Edinburgh (*Iona: Island of Inspiration*), MART, Roverto, Italy (*Montagna*), Edinburgh Castle/National Archives of Scotland (*The Universal King: James VI and the Union of the Crowns*) and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery for its exhibition *Patrick Geddes: The French Connection*. We loaned the last letter of Mary, Queen of Scots to The Art Fund’s centenary exhibition at London’s Hayward Gallery, and an important early sixteenth-century illuminated St Augustine manuscript to an exhibition in the Austrian city of Graz, to celebrate its election as European City of Culture.

*NLS award winners in 2003 included Willie Hershaw (top right), winner of the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award for poetry pamphlet publishing, and Louise Welsh and Donal McLaughlin (above), who were winners of the RLS Memorial Award. (Photos: Mark K Jackson and Graham Clark)*

‘As Others See Us’ was an events series programmed to support the exhibition *Wish You Were Here!* Talks included rugby internationalists Sean Lineen and John Beattie (above right), Mukami McCrum of the Central Scotland Racial Equality Council with Alan Taylor of the *Sunday Herald* (right), and environmentalist and author Sir John Lister-Kaye with Anna Magnusson (above).

(Photos: Mark K Jackson)

This year’s Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Award was won by Belgian bookbinder Jan Camps.

*This year’s Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Award was won by Belgian bookbinder Jan Camps.*
Partnership and collaboration

As Scotland’s national library we have a key role to play in nationwide collection development and access strategy. We already work closely with professional library organisations such as the Scottish Library Information Council and Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL).

We continued our active involvement in SCURL’s North American Studies Group, and have taken up full membership of the Association of European Migration Institutes (AEMI), in order to promote our Scottish emigration holdings in the context of European collaboration. We are also on the steering group for the Virtual Emigration Museum initiative, a project born out of developments in ancestral tourism and the Scottish Executive’s New Strategy for Scottish Tourism.

Scotland’s national Robert Burns archive is distributed between a variety of institutions, and the Library is part of a working group which aims to promote joint working to preserve the collections and promote public access.

The Library has a national role in improving the distribution of book resources, and ensuring that ‘last copies’ of material for inter-library lending are retained within Scottish libraries. After the Scottish Borders Library Service contacted us for guidance on its reserve stock, we checked some 37,000 of their records against known Scottish holdings, and the Library was asked to retain about 7% of the items.

The Scottish Books Exchange provides a mechanism for distributing surplus Scottish material within Scotland. We have now replaced the old paper system with a new electronic service: librarians can access the list of available items through a password protected website, and add any ‘offers’ of their own.

In the field of rare books, we have been working to create a network of specialists in libraries throughout Scotland.

Collaborative Academic Store for Scotland (CASS)

A common problem for high level and academic researchers is access to little-used material. Items may be available only in one or two locations, and be at risk of disposal due to shortage of space.

Using the Collaborative Academic Store for Scotland, infrequently-requested journals and books will be retained for future consultation, at a central storage and distribution facility. The service will improve access to specialist material, and at the same time reduce duplication and free up shelf space in libraries all over Scotland.

When the initial project proposal failed to attract funding from within the Scottish higher education sector, the Library stepped in to ensure that the pilot project could be set up. The Inter Library
‘The Library’s manuscripts and rare books collections are invaluable to me in my specialised area of research, especially the dazzling manuscripts of Sir Robert Sibbald’

Dr Brian Moffat is a researcher in the field of ethnobotany. Most of his work takes place at Soutra Aisle, near Lauder, where the remains of the once-powerful medieval hospital are sited.
Services division is responsible for processing and delivering material from the CASS store to member libraries in print and electronic formats. Using the Library’s Voyager system, online searches will give access to journals and other items, delivered electronically to the user’s desktop, and items can be ordered electronically using the Voyagers system’s ‘callslip’ facility. By the end of June 2004, six institutions had deposited CASS material at our Causewayside building, where it will be processed and made available for lending.

The project is attracting worldwide interest: although there are existing collaborative stores, this will be the first to operate through collective ownership of the material.

The most important outcome of the project will be that material that might otherwise have been lost will be retained in Scotland for the benefit of students, academics and general users. The future development of a full CASS service as a central part of academic information provision in Scotland is an integral part of the Library’s strategy.

**The Gale Project**

Working to a demanding target of 10,000 microfilm frames per month, the Library is supplying duplicate negative microfilm for the major microfilm series *The Eighteenth Century*, published by Gale International Ltd.

The project involves around 10,000 eighteenth-century English language and British published works, and the process allows us to check cataloguing of NLS items in the English Short Title Catalogue as we go. This will also provide us with a large quantity of preservation masters of unique or rare items.

As well as receiving royalties from *The Eighteenth Century*, our agreement with Gale leaves us free to use our copies of the microfilms for future NLS digitisation projects.

**Newsplan**

During the Newsplan project, millions of newspaper pages which might otherwise have been irrevocably damaged through age and handling are being preserved on archival standard microfilm.

The Library is co-ordinating the project for Scotland, and microfilms of early newspapers are now reaching public libraries all over Scotland. The Library has agreed to purchase a copy of all the Scottish newspaper titles, adding some 10,000 reels of microfilm to our own collections.

Following discussions with the State Historical Museum in Moscow, the manuscript of Sir Walter Scott’s *The Talisman* was brought to the Library to allow it to be studied by the team working on *The Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels*. Shown here are Dr Andrei Ianovski and Dr Iain Brown, the Library’s Scott specialist. (Photos: Mark K Jackson)
We wish to thank the following individuals and organisations whose generosity has added to the richness of our collections in the course of the year.

**Donors**

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
Robert Allan
David Baker
Michael Barnard
The late Dr Fiona Melville Bennett
Professor A Broadie DLitt FRSE
Hamish M Brown
Dr Jenni Calder
Christian Aid Book Fair, Edinburgh
The Rt Hon Lord Crathorne
P H De Pree
Mrs Elizabeth Dunbar
Professor A A M Duncan
The late Dorothy Dunnett (through the Curtis Brown Group)
Marco Fazzini
Ms M C Fraser
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Jonathan Osborne
The late Mr Michael C Penny CA
Mrs Jean Ramsay
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Cathiona J Newton
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• Manuscript Collections
• Map Collections
• Legal Deposit & Modern Collections
• Preservation & Conservation
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Duncan Campbell
• Estates
• Finance
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• Enquiries & Reference Services
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