The National Library of Scotland is about to break through the forbidding grey stone walls of its George IV Bridge Building and become a Library for all of Scotland and beyond.

The National Library – one of the oldest cultural and learning organisations in Scotland and amongst the oldest in the UK – is developing a new strategy for excellence of collections and excellence of access.

One of Europe’s leading research libraries, with world-class collections, services and expertise, the National Library will encourage many more people into its buildings for personal, informal research and promote the heritage to be found there through the remarkable and comprehensive collections which have been built up over more than 300 years.

As Martyn Wade, National Librarian, explains: ‘From our origins in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates (founded in 1689) the National Library has come to play a unique role at the cultural heart of Scotland.’

‘Academics and scholarly researchers worldwide have always made good use of the collections and we shall continue to provide them with the service they need. Now, however, in the rapidly evolving environment of modern Scotland, we need to meet new challenges and to increase our role and also extend our services in a variety of ways to make it possible for the National Library to touch the lives of everyone in Scotland.’

Specifically this means:

- extending access to a new and much wider audience
- developing a ‘Virtual’ National Library of Scotland
- seeking and developing partnerships and collaboration with information and cultural organisations
- maximising the Library’s contribution to key Scottish Executive priorities including lifelong learning, enterprise and social justice
- developing the buildings to provide better visitor facilities and more reading room facilities
- extending remote access in a variety of ways

‘This is an immensely important time for us,’ says Martyn Wade. ‘At the heart of this strategy lies the core of our work: collections and access. And the focus is on working in partnership with people outside the Library, consulting users and would-be users, and responding to their views.’

The opportunities are immense. At a time when there is a considerable emphasis on the increasing role of libraries in lifelong learning and research, the National Library of Scotland is in a unique position to foster relationships and work with other libraries to ensure that many more people can access the rich resources which constitute such an important part of Scotland’s heritage.

The Strategy can be viewed at www.nls.uk/strategy.
The Library is currently undergoing an organisational review, which is aimed at designing a staff structure which will better support and deliver the new strategy. At the moment the emphasis is on creating a new senior management team, with the result that we have recently been pleased to welcome to the Library three new colleagues who are filling vacancies at director level.

Director of Development and Marketing, Alexandra Miller, has over 25 years of experience in marketing and corporate communications in the civil service, the health service, local government, arts and culture, and both the private and voluntary sectors. From 1997 Alex ran her own consultancy, Clearview Strategy, providing strategic marketing services to public and private sector organisations. A recent project was a strategic review of marketing for Glasgow City Council. Previous positions include Director of Public Affairs, Telewest Communications plc, Marketing Manager for KPMG and Head of Press and PR at the Scottish Arts Council.

Alex is an MA graduate of St Andrews University and has an MSc in Marketing from Napier University Business School. She is a Chartered Marketer with the Chartered Institute of Marketing and a member of the Institute of Public Relations. Alex is a member of the BBC’s Broadcasting Council for Scotland.

Alex has been a user of the National Library’s services for both business and academic research.

Director of Corporate Services, Duncan Campbell, comes to the Library from Strathclyde Police, where he held the post of Principal Administration Officer from 1992. He was Head of Department there, responsible for the strategic development of information and administrative support services, 250 staff and a budget of £3.5m. In addition to his functional remit, Duncan was responsible for delivering a number of Organisational Development projects, including Job Evaluation and Competency Frameworks, and creating a new broadband management structure for Force support staff.

Duncan previously worked for the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, based in London, where he held a number of positions within Social Survey and Finance Divisions and five years with the General Register Office as HM Inspector of Registration (Births, Deaths and Marriages). His final two years were spent in the Census Division where he was Project Manager for Input Processing and Data Communications on the 1991 Census.

Duncan is a BA Business Organisation graduate of Heriot Watt University, has an MSc in Personnel Management and is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Director of Customer Services, Gordon Hunt, was previously Head of Information Services at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where he was responsible for providing library and information services to support the staff, students and Scotland’s performing arts community. Prior to RSAMD, Gordon was Head of Learning and Information Services at Westminster College, Oxford and Sub-Librarian at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he managed the move of the college library into the historic Cockerell Building.

Gordon is a graduate of Durham University and has an MA in Librarianship from Sheffield University. One of the founding directors of Glasgow theatre company Gadabout, as a writer he has had plays performed at the Edinburgh Fringe. The Arches in Glasgow and various venues around Scotland.

Gordon is a former member of the Business Committee of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries, secretary of Higher Education Information Directors in Scotland and has acted as a libraries advisor to the Scottish Community Drama Association.

Alex, Duncan and Gordon join Cate Newton, Director of Collection Development, to complete the senior management team. Other new appointments include E-Services Development Manager Simon Bains; Education & Interpretative Services Manager Nat Edwards; and ICT Manager David Dinham, who will all be taking up their posts within the next month.
THE TURBULENT YEARS of the Revolution and Civil War (1917-1921) saw a great upsurge in both the quality and quantity of political poster production in Russia. Thousands were produced in this period with some of the more striking images having an influence on art and design worldwide. Posters reflecting peacetime economic and social issues continued to appear in the decade following the Civil War, though their overall quality was not as high.

Thanks to the Scottish Labour politician Arthur Woodburn, the National Library possesses a small but fascinating collection of posters from the years 1919-1930. Woodburn, an MP for over 30 years and Secretary of State for Scotland from 1947-1950, visited the Soviet Union in 1932 and brought back with him some 70 posters which he later donated to the Library. They include some pro-Bolshevik posters from the Civil War period highlighting the achievements of the Red Army and calling on the population to support it against the forces of counter-revolution. The majority, though, date from the NEP (New Economic Policy) period, which began at the end of the Civil War, and from the industrialisation drive of the late 1920s. Many of these are concerned with welfare issues such as childcare, public health and sanitation. A few support particular campaigns, such as those promoting literacy and reading or warning against the dangers of alcohol. Others, sometimes using photomontage techniques, promote the goals of the first Five Year Plan (1928-1932) and the transformation of agriculture. There are, too, a small number of film posters.

While containing only a tiny proportion of Soviet poster production, this collection does provide a graphic illustration of some of the concerns of the new communist state during its formative years.

John Bowles, Overseas Collections
Science’, stated the French biologist and bacteriologist Louis Pasteur, ‘knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.’ This sentiment lies at the heart of the National Library of Scotland’s collection of science materials and, in particular, the endeavours of the Library’s Science Information Service.

The National Library of Scotland’s Science Information Service was established in 2001 after the closure of the Scottish Science Library. Its staff of three curators, Catherine Booth, Janice Rhodes and Linda Jansen, have their office in the Causewayside Building at Salisbury Place, but work particularly closely with Enquiries and Reference Services colleagues at George IV Bridge. The science curators are committed to the development of the Service. Catherine sums up their aims: ‘We want to develop and exploit our collections to meet the needs of all those who wish to use them. We are happy to help users identify what they are looking for and will answer more specific enquiries sent to us by telephone, email or letter. We are conscious that many people in the community do not know about the wide range of scientific material available in the National Library, and we are keen to increase awareness throughout Scotland of what we can offer.’

The National Library of Scotland has one of the largest collections of scientific publications in the country, with the strengths of the collection being in its comprehensive coverage of British printed material – from academic texts and scholarly journals to popular science works received through the legal deposit privilege. These extensive British collections are supplemented to some extent by purchase of foreign material – suggestions for acquisition are always welcomed – and donation.

In subjects ranging from agriculture to zoology, the Library holds over 5,000 current scientific and technical journals and historical runs of most UK journals. To aid users, key reference works have been selected and placed in the Reading Room. Guides to electronic resources have been prepared and are available in the Reading Room. As well as the indexes, abstracts and databases held in the Library, science staff can access the STN range of scientific databases to answer users’ enquiries. This resource covers virtually all the major databases in the field, including Chemical Abstracts and Biosis.

One much-used category of material in the Library is its complete set of both current and retrospective British Standards. To trace international and foreign standards, the Library also subscribes to the Standards Infobase database. This can often answer a reader’s enquiry by pointing to an equivalent British Standard.

In the current financial year, the Library has allocated a substantial proportion of its annual purchase grant to electronic publications, so raising the profile of this format within a largely print-based Library. It also gives a boost to the existing electronic collections, developing their reputation as an important resource. Cate Newton, Director of Collection Development at the National Library of Scotland, says, ‘We are subscribing to major databases of science publications which enable our users to find this information much more easily than in traditional print-based formats. The electronic publications provide access to a much wider range of periodicals than in print.’

Janice Rhodes adds, ‘We can offer access to these electronic resources to anyone who registers as a reader. This is of particular benefit to those – retired academics, practising
The Library has just agreed with the major international publisher, Elsevier, that it may have access throughout 2004 to the entire range of some 1,700 science titles in Elsevier’s ScienceDirect resource. The Science Information Service further expects to benefit from the extension of legal deposit to cover electronic publications, as the 2003 legislation is implemented, and is already adding to its collections such publications deposited under the present voluntary arrangements.

The Library makes its electronic resources available via its Electronic Resources Network. This allows networked access to more than 30 CD-ROMs and to several online databases via staff workstations and in the Reading Room. Scientific databases on the network include the ISI Web of Science, which indexes around 8,500 different journals in the field of science, social science and humanities from 1997 to date. This database continues Science Citation Index, which the Library holds on CD-ROM from 1980–1996, and in printed form from its inception in 1945. Another product from ISI held on the Internet in the Library is the Journal Citation Reports, a useful tool for researchers and librarians alike for the analysis and evaluation of journals. It provides data such as which journals are the most frequently cited, or which have the highest impact factor.

The curators are particularly concerned with the collection of current material to meet users’ needs, they are also proud to be responsible for a major historical resource. This is a large collection of scientific journals previously owned by the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and consisting of non-British titles, many of which are long runs, some dating as far back as the mid-eighteenth century. Of over 5,000 titles in the collection, about 500 are still currently received. About half of the total collection has been catalogued and added to the main NLS online catalogue; the rest can be traced with the help of the science staff.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh was founded in 1783 and over a period of two centuries its Library acquired a large collection of periodicals, many of which were received by means of exchange of the Society’s publications with those of learned institutions all over the world. In 1981 the RSE transferred its foreign periodicals to the National Library of Scotland. Since then the collection has been maintained by the Library. The exchange policy of the RSE is still active and the collection is growing constantly.

The Science Information Service promotes its activities through its pages on the Library’s web site. These include an ‘In the headlines’ section which offers the latest information on, for example, Mars exploration, the MMR vaccine, and sports medicine, and it offers a list of web sites dealing with topical issues. There are also lists compiled for specific scientific subjects from acoustics to zoology, science festivals and centres, and sites with information for young scientists looking for help with a project. The curators have a programme of visits to other libraries throughout Scotland, to increase knowledge of the collections and services they can provide, and to foster cooperation with colleagues in the field. They are always glad to receive invitations for more visits of this kind.

To return to Louis Pasteur: ‘Science is the highest personification of the nation because that nation will remain the first which carries the furthest the works of thought and intelligence.’ With its extensive collections and focus on Scotland, the Science Information Service is indeed promoting the highest standards of thought and intelligence in the access and development of scientific publications in Scotland.

All scientific material can be consulted in the General Reading Room at George IV Bridge. As most material is held in storage, the Science Information Service would advise readers to check the Library’s web catalogue and order material in advance where possible. Electronic resources are available for personal users in the Catalogue Hall and the General Reading Room. Alternatively, the science curators can undertake searches on behalf of those not able to visit the library in person. For further information, please refer to www.nls.uk/collections/sciencetech, or email: science@nls.uk.
**Scottish Portals for Education, Information and Research (SPEIR)**

SPEIR – Scots for ‘to ask’ or ‘to enquire’ – is the acronym for ‘Scottish Portals for Education, Information and Research’. The SPEIR project began work in February 2003 and will run until July 2004. Funded by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) the project will integrate the activities of a number of past and current projects to develop an infrastructure to support internet portal-based access to Scotland’s information resources. A key element of the work will be compliance with accepted and developing standards in the area, in order to ensure that the different elements can inter-operate at a Scotland-wide, UK-wide and world-wide level.

In common with many of the projects it will integrate and coordinate, SPEIR is based at the Centre for Digital Library Research (CDLR) at Strathclyde University in Glasgow. To support portal-based access the project is co-ordinating a range of initiatives within and outwith SPEIR, allowing any portal adopting SPEIR standards to integrate their facilities within its range of services. These initiatives include projects which allow the cross-searching of the catalogues of different libraries, and which create and bring together detailed descriptions of collections held in libraries and elsewhere. The project is closely associated with CoSMIC (the Confederation of Scottish Mini-Cooperatives) and will be developed in the context of the CoSMIC Task Group. The National Library is a founder member of CoSMIC and strongly supports its work.

Further information on SPEIR and its associated projects can be found at http://cdlr.strath.ac.uk/projects/projects.htm.

**NEWSPLAN Scotland**

The NEWSPLAN 2000 Project is a national large-scale microfilming project designed to preserve historic local newspapers on 35mm archival-standard microfilm. In 2001 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded a grant of £5 million in support of the programme and, with matching funding coming from the newspaper industry and Libraries across the United Kingdom, around 1,700 original newspaper titles will be microfilmed.

NEWSPLAN Scotland, based at the National Library of Scotland, is one of 10 regional groups participating in the Project and is committed to preserving local Scottish newspapers and to promoting awareness of, and access to, these invaluable historical resources.

Many titles will be filmed from original newspapers already held by the Library, which also recently announced its intention to purchase a copy of all the Scottish newspaper titles to be filmed by the NEWSPLAN 2000 Project. This purchase will result in an extensive, centrally-held collection of historic Scottish newspapers on microfilm and will add around 800 titles and around 10,000 reels of microfilm to the collection as well as complementing the holdings of local libraries across Scotland. As some of the original newspapers are unique and copies are held only by the British Library, this will offer the opportunity to access the content of some titles which have not been read in Scotland since they were first published.

This marks a significant financial commitment by the Library, and Martyn Wade, National Librarian, commented, ‘This is a unique opportunity for the Library to acquire an extensive microfilm collection of historic local newspapers, allowing the originals to be preserved whilst offering access to anyone wishing to consult them. The NEWSPLAN microfilms, together with titles already held by NLS, will offer an unrivalled collection in Scotland.’

To date, a total of 304 Scottish newspaper titles have been successfully preserved by the Project, which amounts to 5,174 reels of microfilm. A full listing of titles can be found on the schedule page of the www.newsplan2000.org website, which also houses a wealth of information on this invaluable project.

Donna Bebbington of NEWSPLAN Scotland checks a reel of newspaper microfilm.

*(Photo © Donna Bebbington)*
Russian libraries in the third millennium

The National Library of Scotland is a partner in a project to create a consortium of the five largest Russian libraries – the Russian State Library, the National Library of Russia, the Russian State Library for Foreign Literature, the Parliamentary Library and the Moscow State University Scientific Library. The project will support these libraries in the integration of their human and electronic resources more closely into the European library network, as well as the development of a joint virtual catalogue. In January, fifteen representatives from the Russian library network (pictured left) visited the National Library of Scotland and other libraries across the UK.

Shanghai visit

A group of librarians from Shanghai Library, led by their deputy director Mr Wang Shiwei, visited the Library in October as part of a study tour of the UK. Their particular interests included library co-operation, collections, service delivery and inter-lending services. They are particularly keen to establish a co-operative partnership with the National Library. Mr Shiwei is pictured here with George Green of the Library’s Bookfetching Unit.

An evening with Alexander McCall Smith

Over 200 people packed into the Causewayside Building for Alexander McCall Smith’s delightful talk and book signing in November. As well as charming his audience with his anecdotes and secrets about the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series, he very kindly donated two letters from the Etrick Shepherd, James Hogg, which he had inherited, and agreed to donate the ‘entire contents of his attic’ to the Library.

Saltire Awards 2003

At a ceremony held at the Library on 28 November, the Saltire Society announced the winners of a new literary award – the Saltire Society/Scottish Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature. Novelist Robin Jenkins and poet Edwin Morgan shared the honour. Scottish Book of the Year went to James Robertson’s Joseph Knight. The Saltire Society/Royal Mail Group First Book of the Year was awarded to Martainn Mac an t-Saor for Aith-Aithne. The Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection (editors Patrick Shuldham-Shaw, Emily B. Lyle and Katherine Campbell) was awarded the Saltire Society/National Library of Scotland Research Book of the Year.
The Summer Reading Challenge

For the second year, the Library has worked with Aberdeenshire Library & Information Service to provide a prize for the Summer Reading Challenge in Aberdeen. The Challenge involves children reading six books over the summer holidays and submitting a book review to their local library. The overall winner of the competition was Patricia Hazley of Ballater, whose prize included a trip to Edinburgh and a visit to the National Library's summer exhibition, Wish You Were Here. Patricia and her family were given a tour of the Library and some souvenirs of what they described as a ‘truly memorable’ visit.

Be a Friend!

The Friends of the National Libraries is dedicated to helping the libraries and record offices of Britain acquire books, manuscript treasures and archives for the nation, especially those which might otherwise be exported. It has been doing this valuable work since 1931, and has helped the National Library of Scotland on many occasions. Annual membership is £15: contact Dr Iain G Brown of the Manuscripts Division for information on joining the Friends.

Remote ECCO

A new online resource called Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) has recently been published, which will provide (by mid-2004) access to almost 33 million digitised pages from 150,000 books published in Great Britain & Ireland during the 18th century. As well as unlimited on-site access for all NLS registered users, the publisher, Gale Group, has also co-operated with the Library to allow remote access to ECCO for NLS registered users who are not affiliated members of a university or further education institution. Another Gale product, The Times Digital Archive (a searchable digitised edition of The Times, 1785-1985), which has been available on-site since 2003, will now also be available remotely, on the same basis as ECCO.

StAnza

On 21 January, the Library welcomed bestselling author Louis de Bernières, who launched the 2004 programme of Scotland’s Poetry Festival, StAnza, and discussed the impact of poetry on his life and work. StAnza is the only regular festival dedicated to poetry in Scotland. It takes place in St Andrews from 18–21 March 2004. For further information, see the website – www.stanzapoetry.org – or join the mailing list by e-mailing list@st-andrews.ac.uk.

A world of wonders from Denmark

The work of some of Denmark’s most outstanding children’s authors and illustrators was on display at the Library at the end of 2003. Workshops were held in the Library by illustrators Lilian Brøgger and Dorte Karrebæk, and Lene Kaaberbøl, winner of the 2002 Disney Writer of the Year Award, went to Wester Hailes Education Centre to give a reading to schoolchildren there.

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
EDINBURGH
EH1 1EW

National Library of Scotland
Causewayside Building
33 Salisbury Place
EDINBURGH
EH9 1SL

Telephone (general enquiries) 0131-226 4531
Fax 0131-622 4803
E-mail enquiries@nls.uk
Internet www.nls.uk

If you have any comments or enquiries regarding this newsletter please contact Jackie Cromarty, Deputy Head of Public Programmes (tel: 0131-226 4531, or e-mail: j.cromarty@nls.uk)