



Corporate  
Membership  
at the  
British Library







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Ranked among the great libraries of the world, the Library of Congress, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, the Russian State and Chinese Libraries, the British Library's treasures span almost three millennia and come from all the continents of the world.

Everyday, thousands of researchers, visitors and school groups access the over 150 million items, representing every age of written civilisation and every aspect of human thought.

By becoming a Corporate Member your company can help us to achieve our aim of sharing 'the world's knowledge', whilst offering your clients, employees and community partner's privileged access to the Library's breathtaking collections.

Our Corporate Members can enjoy behind-the-scenes access to these treasures, contextualised and explained by our curatorial team.

The Library's elegant interiors provide a magnificent backdrop to entertain your guests.

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The British Library was established in 1973 by an Act of Parliament. Many of its collections were united 250 years earlier as the library departments of the British Museum.

Corporate Membership offers a select group of companies the opportunity to benefit from the British Library's collections, expertise and facilities in a way that is carefully tailored to meet their specific needs.



# The British Library – Who we are and what we do

The world's greatest research library.  
We are an essential treasure house of the history, technological development and culture of the world.

Global in breadth, we hold more than 150 million items, representing every age of written civilisation and every aspect of human thought.

International in reach, we welcome more than 1.6 million visitors each year to our Reading Rooms, exhibition galleries, Conference Centre and Learning Centre.

The British Library's website at [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) attracts 10 million unique users annually, and is growing year on year.

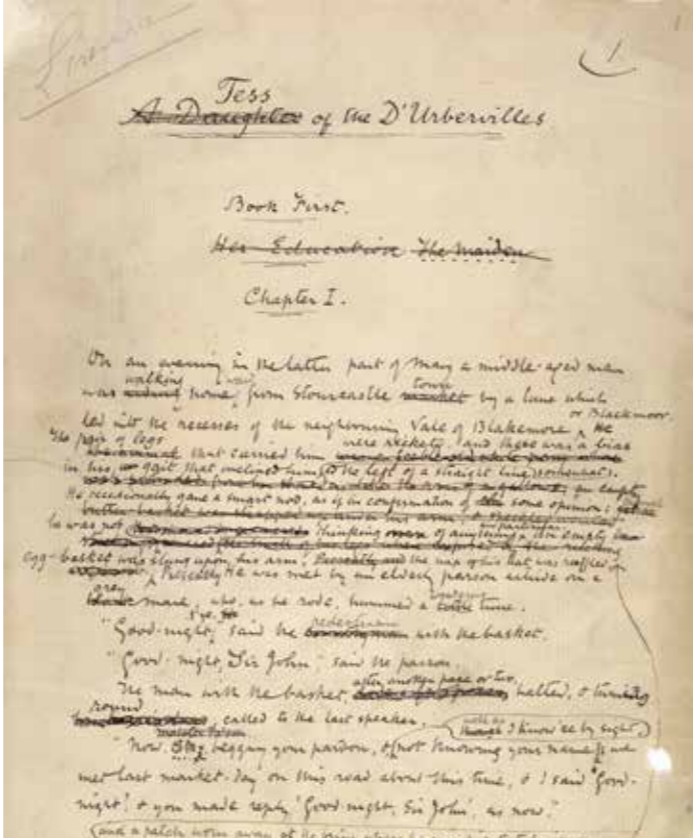
Our role is a dynamic one. We help to grow the world's knowledge base through the stimulation of fresh ideas and applied insights.

Our range covers both arts and sciences; our audiences are knowledge-seekers, inspiration-seekers and lifelong learners.

We produce an award-winning programme, including extensive digital content, for formal learners of all ages. Over 30,000 young people and teachers participate each year in free learning workshops and we host a regional and community programme through a network of partners across the UK.

Open to everyone, we produce two major exhibitions each year which attract in excess of 1,500 visitors daily and garner highly visible and positive coverage in press and broadcast media.

Our vision is one of innovation. We aim to guarantee continued public access to our content and new forms of digital content.





## Did you know?



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The treasures within the British Library's collection span 30 centuries, and come from almost every country and language since man stopped building the Tower of Babel.

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If laid end to end, the shelves that house the collections would stretch from London to Edinburgh. Every year they grow by 12 kilometres. 44 metres of new material a day, and rising.

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The collection includes many of the most celebrated documents and publications in existence, and countless more that are remarkable but unfamiliar: *Magna Carta*, the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, the *Diamond Sutra* (the earliest known printed book), and the Klencke Atlas. At five foot nine inches, it takes six people to carry the world's largest atlas.

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Gutenberg's 42-line Bible, considered one of the most valuable books in the world, and which set the standard for printing for seven centuries.

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Shakespeare's First Folio, Mozart's catalogue of his own works, and one of Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks can all be viewed at the British Library. The original manuscripts for *Beowulf*, *Alice's Adventures under Ground*, Jane Austen's *Persuasion* and Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes*, are here to be enjoyed.

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The archives of the British Empire, secrets of the Cold War, and historic documents relating to the independence of India, Egypt, Indonesia, and many more countries are available for you to experience. The British Library is not a museum, as a research organisation you can have the world's greatest literary treasures at your fingertips.

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The collection includes Britain's national sound archive and philatelic collections, and the world's most comprehensive archive of patents and related material.

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Our Business & IP Centre has helped create over 2,800 new businesses for London and 3,345 additional jobs. Overall these businesses have increased their turnover by £153 million. A recent study by Adroit Economics has shown that using the Business & IP Centre gives people a better than average chance of success: on average only one in ten businesses in our census had failed.

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We hold a unique collection of photographs, and the only large, integrated national newspaper service in the world.

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The great red-brick flagship of Britain's national library is the largest public building constructed in the UK in the 20th century. It has a total floor area of 112,000 square metres spread over fourteen floors – nine above ground and five below.

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Our Corporate Members can enjoy behind-the-scenes access to our treasures, and the use of the Library's elegant interiors to entertain their guests.



## Events and Corporate Entertaining

The elegant Entrance Hall and Galleries at the British Library are an ideal place to entertain your clients. The opportunity to hold receptions and dinners in these prestigious surroundings is reserved for the Library's Corporate Members and major sponsors. For many of your guests this will be the first time they have experienced a dinner or reception in this most impressive of settings.

Bespoke 'show and tell' evenings in the British Library's Reading Rooms or Board Room will offer your party unparalleled access to our vast collections. From precious sacred texts to Russian Futurist manifestos and from intricate illuminated manuscripts to the jottings of the world's greatest writers – our expert curators will display collection items on a subject of your choice, carefully chosen to inspire and entertain your guests.

- 'Show and tell' evenings for up to 20 people or private exhibition viewings for up to 40 people\*
- or
- A private dinner in the Library's Board Room for up to 40 people or Entrance Hall for up to 200 people each year \*

\*Subject to availability. Catering and AV costs to your specification at additional cost.

## Employee Benefits

The Library also has a permanent display of treasures from across the world, two temporary exhibition spaces, a café, restaurant and Shop. Our varied events programme of poetry readings, author talks and panel debates are hugely popular and attract world-class speakers. As a Corporate Member your employees will enjoy:

- 10% discount on all items in the British Library Shop and at [www.bl.uk/shop](http://www.bl.uk/shop)
- Tickets to exhibition openings at the British Library
- An allocation of free tickets to our priced events and a concessionary rate for additional tickets
- Behind-the-scenes tours of the Library on request
- Regular updates on our events through our *What's On* brochure

- Additional room hires including the Library's world-class Conference Centre, at discounted rates
- Dedicated British Library team member to service your membership and assist you with events.





# Acknowledgement

As a Corporate Member of the British Library:

- Your support will be acknowledged in our Annual Report which is received by key decision-makers in Government, business leaders and Library donors
- You will be acknowledged on our Donor Board in the Entrance Hall of our St Pancras building
- Your company name and logo will feature on our website (400,000 unique users per month)
- Your community partners can visit our exhibitions, participate in workshops and enjoy our collections.

**Annual subscription to our Corporate Membership Programme is £15,000 (plus VAT).** Our exhibition programme, education activities and digitisation projects also provide a range of opportunities for your company to benefit from working with the Library.

Your membership will help us achieve our mission of helping people advance knowledge to enrich lives.

We are central to the world of research, a trusted source of content that opens minds, solves problems and creates opportunities.

We provide services to anyone who wants to do research. We aim to provide both physical and digital access to world-class information where and when people need it.

We inspire people around the world with our outstanding content and expertise and we complement this by engaging the knowledge and expertise of others where it adds to the quality of experience for our users.

By providing these services effectively, the British Library fulfils a vital role in society and the economy, both today and for future generations.

If you would like to hear more about our current activities or are interested in becoming a Corporate Member, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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