

‘An academic island in swirling tides of traffic, a world of learning in a world of affairs’
Lord Beveridge



Senate House Libraries Strategy 2011 – 2013



**SENATE HOUSE
LIBRARIES**
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Introduction



Christopher Pressler FRSA
Director of Senate House Libraries
University of London

Senate House Libraries, University of London constitute one of the world's most significant collections in the arts, humanities and social sciences. The eight collaborating libraries, at Senate House and for the Institutes of the School of Advanced Study together provide services to over 100,000 registered readers every year, from Colleges of the University and from the UK and international research base.

Located in the centre of London and with a strong online presence, Senate House Libraries deliver essential services to individuals, research teams, students and partners from almost 200 countries.

Clarity and purpose are essential to the prospects of wider humanities research. Our future depends on confidence and authority concerning who we are, why we are here and on the broader contribution that collecting in, and teaching and studying of, the social sciences, arts and humanities make to society.

What has so often been perceived as a difficulty, namely the attempt to store and use extensive quantities

of printed arts, social science and humanities knowledge, is in fact a defining strength. Our libraries in London, and by default our researchers are at the centre of the greatest concentration of collections anywhere in the world. The galleries, museums, societies, universities and libraries in the centre of London are a remarkable, unique and shared resource.

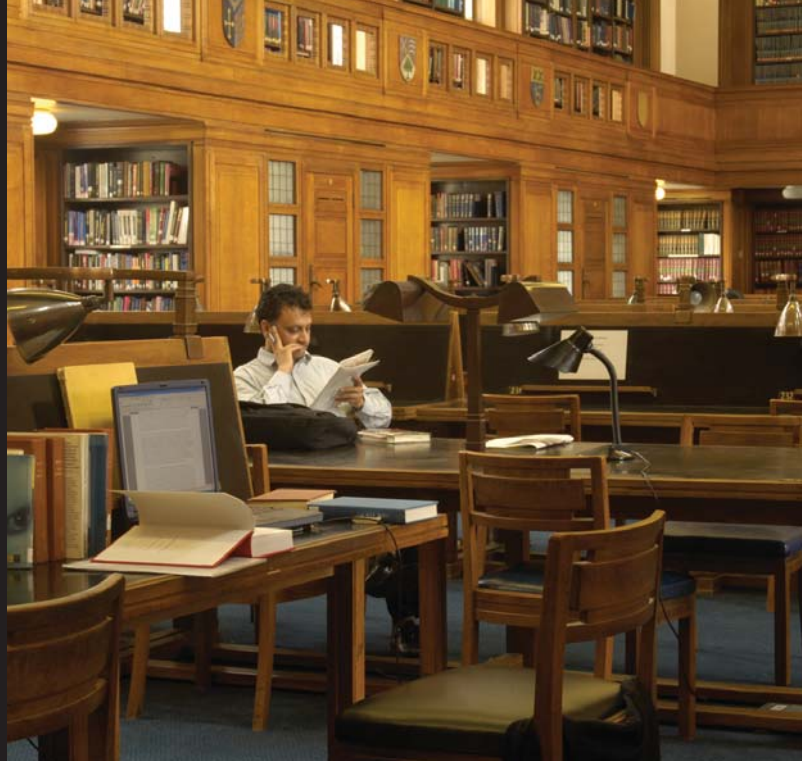
Senate House Libraries, as is the case with all of the world's most significant collections will adapt to and exploit the digital age whilst also providing exceptional reading rooms of the highest quality.

Finally, the development of our collections and of the staff who interpret them will be guiding aims for the future.

This strategy takes our services from 2011 to 2013 and beyond. Thank you to all who visit, support and research with us.

Christopher Pressler

Governance and management



Senate House Libraries Governance

Reflecting the complexity and scale of the libraries at the centre of the University of London, itself a federal institution, Senate House Libraries is accountable to a number of key stakeholders. Ultimately, the libraries report to the University of London Board of Trustees via the University of London Collegiate Council. The Senate House Libraries Board oversees strategic developments.

Operationally, Senate House Libraries reports to the Vice Chancellor. In addition to this, key liaison points exist at School of Advanced Study Directorate level in the School Libraries Committee and at College Chief Librarian level across the University of London.

Senate House Libraries Management

From 2011, a new Leadership Team coordinates the libraries and is primarily responsible for delivering the Senate House Libraries Strategy 2011–2013.

The Leadership Team is as follows:

Christopher Pressler Director of Senate House Libraries.

Christine Muller Deputy Director of Senate House Libraries, Reader Services and Engagement.

Jules Winterton Associate Director, Research Collections and Scholarship, School of Advanced Studies.

Joe Honywill Associate Director, Digital Environments and Partnerships.

Christine Wise Associate Director, Historic Collections and Keeper of Special Collections.



Purpose, aims and strategic priorities

Purpose

To support the federal, regional, national and international research communities in the arts, humanities and social sciences by providing outstanding environments and collections in the heart of London and online.

Aims

Senate House Libraries will:

- 1 Respond to and advance the needs of our readers from Colleges and Institutes, and from the national and international research base.
- 2 Be innovative and collaborative in delivering research depth through our collections.
- 3 Lead on best practice for the care and development of the collections held on behalf of the University of London.
- 4 Support library staff in their role as ambassador and expert.
- 5 Provide exemplary reading room and web environments.

Strategic priorities

- 1 Provide printed, historic and digital **collections** that enhance the academic excellence of the federal University.
- 2 Provide highly effective **services** to the Colleges, School of Advanced Study, University of London International Academy and the University of London Institute in Paris, offering excellent value for money.
- 3 Contribute to and lead on national and international **partnerships** in library, archival and web innovation.
- 4 Develop **staff** with the necessary culture and competencies to deliver world-class research and learning environments.
- 5 Develop library **infrastructure** (space, digital space), to ensure financial sustainability of Senate House Libraries.



Strategic priority I

Provide printed, historic and digital collections that enhance the academic excellence of the federal University.

Objective: To support research by scholars and students.

Actions:

- > Provide onsite and online access to the widest possible collection of materials in the arts, humanities and social sciences.
- > Retain holdings in journals and monographs that reflect the national role of the libraries.
- > Support collaborative collection development across the federal University of London.
- > Develop new synergies between the collections and University of London research projects.
- > Promote the research potential of unique historic manuscripts and special collections.
- > Establish an internal digitisation strategy and promote digitisation services by Senate House Libraries and outsourced options where appropriate.
- > Actively support the delivery of content through open access repository environments.
- > Establish a feasibility programme to investigate the migration of all classification schemes to Library of Congress.

Key Result >>>

Senate House Libraries is proven to **enhance federal research.**



Strategic priority 2

Provide highly effective services to Colleges and Central Academic Activities, offering excellent value for money.

Objective: To enhance the quality of the research and learning experience.

Actions:

- > Provide valuable environments for College students in support of the National Student Survey.
- > Deliver services that enhance College responses to the Research Excellence Framework.
- > Improve the integration of library catalogues within the federal University.
- > Increase student contact with the collections through guides and seminars.
- > Promote innovation in library e-learning technologies through the University of London International Academy.
- > Participate in as many College committees as appropriate, and in liaison with College subject librarians.
- > Work closely with the School of Advanced Study, the University of London International Academy and the University of London Institute in Paris in the delivery of services.
- > Assist in the delivery of shared service initiatives for the federal University of London.

Key Result >>>

Senate House Libraries is proven to be **essential to its readers.**



Strategic priority 3

Contribute to and lead on national and international partnerships in library, archival and web innovation.

Objective: To collaborate with national and international partners in delivering library services.

Actions:

- > Develop collaborative initiatives with cultural institutions and organisations in London and beyond, in particular with The British Library.
- > Promote rare and historic collections through publications and exhibitions.
- > Increase digital access to historic collections.
- > Develop further ways of engaging Friends of Senate House Library and relevant supporting bodies in Institutes and Colleges.
- > Establish Senate House Libraries as a major destination for the public discovery of historic collections.
- > Participate in national and international collection management schemes.
- > Engage with commercial suppliers of content, tools and infrastructure to exploit technology partnerships in the global information economy.

Key Result >>>

Senate House Libraries is proven to **contribute nationally and internationally.**



Strategic priority 4

Develop staff with the necessary culture and competencies to deliver world-class research and learning environments.

Objective: To support an adaptable and forward-looking workforce.

Actions:

- > Invest in training and opportunities for staff in the digital world.
- > Extend accountability and transparency through the monitoring and evaluation of services.
- > Develop agreed criteria for demonstrating impact on College and Institute priorities.
- > Strengthen the capacity of the Historic Collections and Digital Environments departments.
- > Produce supporting documentation for the dual curatorial / liaison roles of subject specialists.
- > Ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the marketing and branding of Senate House Libraries.
- > Improve internal communication and engage staff at all levels in strategic planning.

Key Result >>>

Senate House Libraries is proven to **engage and support its staff.**



Strategic priority 5

Develop library infrastructure (space, digital space), to ensure financial sustainability of Senate House Libraries.

Objective: To balance space demands with the need for quality reading rooms and a strong web presence.

Actions:

- > Deliver a coherent web presence for Senate House Libraries.
- > Ensure that high-quality, memorable reading spaces and flagship reading rooms are available and promoted to relevant communities.
- > Complete Phase 3 of the Senate House Project and engage creatively with Phase 4 planning.
- > In consultation with relevant bodies, periodically review collection management procedures to support open stack availability aligned to space demands.
- > Ensure public computing services are state-of-the-art both for desktop and wireless access.
- > Provide multi-use rooms such as the Durning-Lawrence Library for research and benefactor engagement.
- > Establish criteria for the use and financial management of storage facilities at Egham, Surrey.
- > Work closely with the University of London Computing Centre on services development.
- > Design-in cost effectiveness and savings into all activities.

Key Result >>>

Senate House Libraries is proven to be **financially sustainable.**





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london.ac.uk/libraries



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 LIBRARIES**

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