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A building as a catalyst for change: The British Library new Centre for Conservation

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A BUILDING AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The British Library new Centre for Conservation

HELEN SHENTON

Head of Collection Care, British Library

LIBER Conference, WARSAW

5 July 2007

A BUILDING AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

British Library building at St Pancras London 1998

Four main elements of BL Centre for Conservation 2007

1. Book & Sound state-of-the-art studios
2. Public Access
3. Training
4. Research

Three intertwining strands of the project

- A. Construction
- B. Fund raising
- C. Change Programme



BRITISH
LIBRARY

BRITISH LIBRARY
PORTICO
EUSTON ROAD



BRITISH LIBRARY ENTRANCE HALL



BRITISH
LIBRARY

BRITISH LIBRARY KING'S LIBRARY TOWER



BRITISH LIBRARY EXHIBITION GALLERIES



BRITISH LIBRARY HUMANITIES READING ROOM





BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

1. Book Conservation & Sound Preservation studios
2. Public access
 - behind the scene tours
 - visitor display
 - demonstrations, workshops
3. Training and development
 - funded internships in book and sound preservation
 - Foundation Degree with University of the Arts
 - skills audit and staff development
4. Applied conservation research

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

1. Book Conservation & Sound Preservation studios

- Book Conservation remained at British Museum
 - not fit for purpose
 - Paper Conservation already in St Pancras
 - bring all together with collections for first time
 - north light for Conservation studios
 - separate wet/dry, clean/dirty, quiet/noisy processes
- Sound Preservation Technical studios offsite
 - not fit for purpose
 - high acoustic specification for Audio Preservation
- Quarantine facilities, Loans Marshalling

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

2. Public access

- behind the scene tours of the studios for the public
- permanent visitor display about conservation
 - linked to Treasures exhibition gallery
- public events
 - weekend family history archive days
 - demonstrations, workshops
- professional events
 - “unlocking audio; sharing experience of mass digitisation” 26-27 October 2007
- web micro site <http://www.bl.uk/conservation>

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

3. Training and development

- funded 1 year internships in book conservation
- funded 1 year internships in audio preservation
- 2 year Foundation Degree with University of the Arts
 - committed to 5 placements in second year
- skills audit of 80 staff in Conservation
- staff development
 - professional accreditation
 - training the trainers vocational qualification
 - customer service/visitor training
- 21st century stewardship development programme

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

4. Applied conservation research

Distributed

National and international institutions

Collaborative

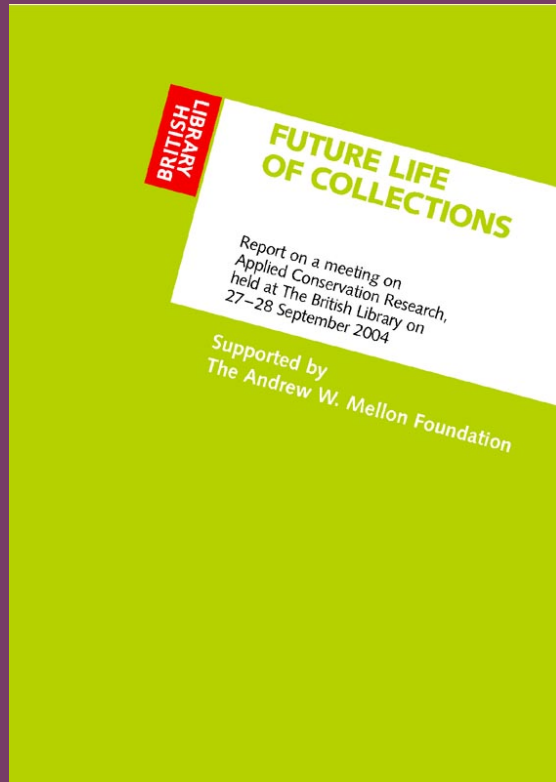
Links to EU INFOSAVE, SurveNIR,
PaperTreat

Network including industry eg papermaking
AHRC Independent Research Organisation

Adaptive

Applied Conservation Research Framework
for UK Libraries and Archives

Mellon-funded projects





Brand-new St Pancras Station and the British Library

SITE OF THE NEW CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION











← British Library
Centre for Conservation

Conservation Uncovered

The art and science
of conserving the world's
recorded heritage



Sewing



Repairing



Cleaning

Assess decide conserve

Assess the condition of the object and decide on the best way to conserve it. This involves a careful examination of the object and a decision on whether it is worth conserving. If it is, a plan of action is developed and the object is conserved.

Making decisions

Conservation is a decision-making process. It involves a careful examination of the object and a decision on whether it is worth conserving. If it is, a plan of action is developed and the object is conserved.



FORMATION
COVERED

Making decisions

When you are making a decision, you are often faced with a choice between two or more options. This is a common situation in life, and it is important to be able to make a decision that is in your best interests. There are many factors that can influence your decision, and it is important to consider all of them before you make a choice. This is a skill that is essential for success in life, and it is one that you can learn to improve over time.

Wood
inside
concrete













A BUILDING AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Three intertwining strands

A. CONSTRUCTION

B. FUND RAISING

C. CHANGE PROGRAMME

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

A. CONSTRUCTION

- 2-stage design and build
- primary contractor Sir Robert McAlpine
- Long & Kentish architects
- Arups engineers
- 3000 square metre
- 3 storey, above underground line, free-hold site
- very complex, bespoke building
- emphasis on design and quality
- construction started August 2005

Opened on time and on budget May 2007

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

B. FUNDING

- €19.65 million / £13.25 million
- public and private funding
- €8.5 million / £5.7 million sale of library building
- substantial fund raising
- first capital fundraising for British Library
- about 20 donors
- naming opportunities for studios
- sponsored benches
- funded internships
- public access and training most popular

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

B. FUNDRAISING

Heritage Lottery Fund, **The Wolfson Foundation**

The Dorset Foundation, The Foyle Foundation

The Weston Family, **PACCAR Inc**

The Friends of the British Library, The Headley Trust

The Clothworkers' Foundation, **Sound Archive Trust**

Dr Naim Angoor OBE and The Exilarch's Foundation

The American Trust for the British Library

The Annenberg Foundation, The PF Charitable Trust

The Rayne Foundation, **The Mercers' Company**

The BAND Trust, The Bloomsbury Publishing plc

BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

C. CHANGE PROGRAMME

35 work streams of modernisation for example

- conservation treatment review
- skills audit, skills development
- equipment, maintenance, materials
- environmental practices, facilities management
- dissemination, knowledge transfer, profile-raising
- documentation system, imaging
- bidding, estimating, programming
- disability friendliness
- quarantine process
- organisational change, culture, professionalism

· FIRE EXIT ·





BRITISH LIBRARY CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

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