



MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES

Summary Review

2003/04



The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives and advising government on policy and priorities for the sector.

MLA's roles are to provide strategic leadership, to act as a powerful advocate, to develop capacity and to promote innovation and change.

Museums, libraries and archives connect people to knowledge and information, creativity and inspiration. MLA is leading the drive to unlock this wealth, for everyone.

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Investing in Knowledge

Museums, libraries and archives are the nation's treasure troves: gateways to new worlds of knowledge and understanding. Their collections evoke excitement and inspiration. They offer fresh experiences and opportunities to people of all ages, offering a better understanding of the world around them.

And they belong to everyone. Already almost every household in the land has some experience of museums, libraries and archives – through formal education, homework support, personal study, the pursuit of hobbies, or in developing new vocational skills. Whether for inspiration, research or entertainment, museums, libraries and archives attract large and loyal audiences. Now they have the capacity to do much more to make an even bigger difference to people's lives.

In March 2004 MLA published *Investing in Knowledge*, its five-year vision for the future of the sector.

We believe passionately that access to knowledge is what empowers people to learn and to be inspired. Knowledge stimulates economic growth and regeneration. It underpins learning, enabling people to develop new skills. And knowledge helps build better, stronger communities. *Investing in Knowledge* is about investing in the future wellbeing of our society, by helping to bring about developments in the sector that really will make a difference to people's lives.

Investing in Knowledge outlines how, working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and other key partners, MLA has been working on major programmes which will help achieve the vision described.

- Renaissance in the Regions, MLA's groundbreaking programme to revitalise England's regional museums and connect people to the wealth of knowledge contained in their collections.
- Framework for the Future, the government's ten year vision for public libraries. Framework has three central priorities: promoting reading and learning; encouraging access to digital skills; and tackling social exclusion in our communities. MLA is leading the implementation of this strategic plan.
- The Archives Task Force, which set out to unlock our archival heritage and open it up to all citizens to educate and inspire them. The major catalyst for change is the process of making archives available for electronic searching. During 2003/04 MLA led the Task Force's investigation and published its major national report.

82% of people feel it is important that their local town has a museum or art gallery.

Background information, and key developments of 2003/04 on these and other work programmes are available to download from our website. The following pages outline some of the milestones of 2003/04.



MLA in 2003/04

MLA's roles are to provide strategic leadership and promote innovation and change, to advise on best practice, and to act as an authoritative advocate and champion of museums, libraries and archives. Here are the organisation's headline events and achievements for 2003/04.

2003 April

- MLA welcomes the Chancellor's Budget announcement that he is to review tax measures to help national and regional museums and galleries to acquire works of art.
- MLA announces £70 million funding for regional museums under its ground breaking Renaissance in the Regions programme.
- MLA welcomes an influential report from the Broadband Stakeholder Group (BSG), recommending government provision of broadband access at all points of learning, including museums, libraries and archives.
- Bill Macnaught, Head of Cultural Development at Gateshead Council, joins the MLA board.
- People's Network film wins silver at the International Visual Communications Association Awards.

May

- MLA announces £8.5 million funding for nine English Regional Agencies for museums, libraries and archives for 2003/04.
- The National Centre for Citizenship and the Law in Nottingham wins the Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year, UK's biggest arts prize, worth £100,000. MLA provided £15,000 funding for the prize, to help raise the profile of and promote outstanding achievement among the UK's museums.
- The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich wins the first Jodi Mattes Access Award, funded by MLA, which recognises museum, gallery and heritage websites which emphasise access for all in their design and content.
- Launch of Museums & Galleries Month, supported by MLA. Nearly 1000 special events are registered under the 2003 theme of *Pop Into Your Local!*.

June

- ITN Chief Executive Mark Wood is appointed Chairman of MLA, taking up his four-year post with immediate effect.
- DCMS announces grants totalling £2.5 million to be shared between 11 national museums for children's education programmes and community projects as part of MLA's Renaissance programme.
- A national conference is held at Tate Modern to celebrate the success of Designation, MLA's scheme for outstanding museum collections. DCMS announces further funding of £4 million for the Designation Challenge Fund to help support the collections.
- MLA launches the Disability Database to help all museums, libraries and archives find specialist help on disability issues.
- MLA issues new national security guidelines to help prevent theft.

95% of users believe that libraries are amongst the most valuable services to local communities.

“Archives provide the bedrock for our understanding of the past. They show us, and future generations, how we came to be what we are as a nation, a community or an individual.”

Vic Gray, Archives Task Force

July

- The People’s Network is awarded £500,000 lottery funding from the New Opportunities Fund for its next phase of development, as a national online library and a major provider of access to e-learning and e-government services. At the same time, MLA launches the People’s Network Management Toolkit to help public libraries develop new services for the information age.
- MLA launches the Acceptance in Lieu (AIL) annual report and announces that outstanding heritage objects worth £40 million have been acquired for the nation under the scheme during 2002, including works by Titian, Barbara Hepworth, Edward Lear and Anthony Powell.
- Launch of the biggest ever children’s summer reading challenge, The Reading Maze, which combines books and IT to inspire young readers. MLA funds The Reading Maze website which allows children to discuss the books, learn more about them and meet their favourite authors.
- Launch of *Coordinating Digitisation in Europe*, a new report presenting an overview of national digitisation policies in EU member states. One of its key findings is the considerable progress made in the UK relative to other Member States.
- To mark the European Year of Disabled People, MLA publishes the *Disability Portfolio*, which contains new guidelines on 12 topics to help museums, libraries and archives improve access for disabled people.

August

- MLA makes six new grants totalling £10,000 to sponsor six places for frontline and non-managerial staff at the sector’s major professional conferences, to help exchange ideas and skills across museums, libraries and archives.
- The Pilgrim Trust Conservation Awards 2004, funded by MLA, are launched to reward excellence in preserving cultural heritage. New for 2004 is the Digital Preservation Award.
- MLA and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) launch *Better Public Libraries*, a report highlighting how innovation and creativity in the design of public libraries can bring them into the 21st century and make them more popular with the public.
- A new survey shows the success of the MLA funded 24 Hour Museum website in reaching new museum visitors.

September

- MLA publishes a national action plan for the implementation of Framework for the Future, the government’s ten year vision for public libraries.
- Launch of the MLA sponsored Gulbenkian Prize for Museums and Galleries 2004.
- Archives Awareness Month 2003 is launched. Funding of £40,000 from MLA supports over 400 grassroots projects at local and national archives across the country.



© Homiman Museum

85% of parents believe visits to museums should be part of the National Curriculum. More than half a million children participated in activities in Renaissance Hub museums in 2003/04.



“Knowledge is indivisible. When people grow wise in one direction, they are sure to make it easier for themselves to grow wise in other directions as well.”

Isaac Asimov

Public spaces can help determine the success of communities and local economies. Museums, libraries and archives are the backbone of the creative industries. They are major drivers for cultural tourism, and can help regenerate cities and neighbourhoods.

- MLA awards a grant of £90,000 to promote cultural diversity across museums, libraries and archives, channelled through the Regional Agencies for activities during the Cultural Diversity Festival in autumn 2003.
- A reception hosted by Cherie Booth at 10 Downing Street is held to mark the achievements of Bristol museums as part of Renaissance in the Regions.
- Gina Lane is appointed to MLA's Executive Board as Director responsible for standards, workforce and collections.

October

- A reception at 11 Downing Street is held to launch Treasures for our Future, a new panel established to assist with the retention and public display of important cultural works which might otherwise be sold outside the UK.

November

- MLA awards further funding of £25,000 to the National Council on Archives (NCA) to support the third phase of Access to Archives (A2A), which allows people to search and browse archival information online.
- The World Book Day Online Festival, funded and hosted by MLA, presents 12 authors available online for chats and interviews, including JK Rowling and Jacqueline Wilson, the country's 'most borrowed' author.
- MLA publishes the results of a consultation exercise on the scope and needs of the library and information domain, including libraries in the corporate, private health, government, school and HE sectors.

December

- Arts Minister Estelle Morris unveils the Bronze Age hoard from Hollingborne Kent and other discoveries highlighted by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the nation's most popular community archaeology project.
- MLA, in partnership with Arts Council England and the UK Film Council, publishes *Focus on Cultural Diversity*, a survey of the cultural life of ethnic communities in England.
- MLA launches a new disability database for museums, libraries and archives, providing details of 200 trainers, auditors and consultants specialising in disability issues.
- *Mapping the Territory*, a new report funded by MLA, highlights the important contribution to the government's targets for adult basic skills being made by museums, libraries and archives.
- MLA and partners in the Home Countries announce a new Joint Forum for collaboration and co-operation on museum, archive and library issues across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- The Vital Link, a strand of Framework for the Future to bring together the library and adult education sectors, receives three-year government funding package.
- Chris Batt is appointed Chief Executive of MLA.

There are 55,000 staff and 22,000 volunteers working in museums, libraries and archives.

2004 January

- MLA welcomes the recommendations in the Goodison Report into the incentives that could help museums, libraries and archives acquire important heritage items.
- MLA announces its sponsorship of three Fellowships under the Clore Leadership Programme for 2004/05.
- Online voting via the People's Network begins for the public to identify the WH Smith People's Choice Book Awards 2004.
- MLA publishes research into the current and potential relationships between Initial Teacher Training Providers and museums, libraries and archives.

February

- Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, praises the ground breaking work of UK museums and galleries in getting to grips with the Disability Act at a national conference co-hosted with the Museums Association.
- The Moving Here website project, led by the National Archives, releases a new training manual to help learners of all ages become confident IT users.
- MLA appoints four new members to its board: Sir David Henshaw, Sir Geoffrey Holland, Nicholas Kingsley and Virginia Tandy.
- MLA announces its new, simplified name, changed from 'Resource: The Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives', to 'Museums, Libraries and Archives Council'.

March

- MLA hosts a major national conference at Banqueting House to launch its pioneering *Inspiring Learning for All* programme.
- Museums across the country unite to publish *A Manifesto for Museums* which calls for a five-year programme of investment to sustain their current success and build for the future.
- MLA, working in partnership with Department for Trade and Industry and the Countryside Agency, announces ten pilot sites in public libraries across England which are to provide wireless access to the internet.
- Launch of *Listening to the Past, Speaking to the Future*, a new report from the Archives Task Force which highlights the importance and diversity of British archives, and suggests ways in which access can be developed.
- MLA awards grants totalling £3.8 million from its Renaissance in the Regions funding towards the development of collections in 39 of England's museums and galleries.
- MLA launches its five-year vision for museums, libraries and archives, *Investing in Knowledge*.



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72% of archive visitors see archives as strengthening family and community identity.



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CORPORATION

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PASSENGERS
CAN BE INJURED
IF THEY FALL OFF

Summary Financial Statement

(year ended 31 March 2004)

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This statement is only a summary of information in MLA's Annual Report and Financial Statements, a full copy of which is available from the Company Secretary at 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. The auditor's report on the full financial statements was unqualified and did not include a statement under either Companies Act 1985 sections 237(2) (accounting records inadequate or accounts not agreeing with accounting records) or 237(3) (failure to obtain necessary information and explanations).

MLA is a company limited by guarantee, a registered charity and a non-departmental public body receiving grant-in-aid from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Councillors appointed by the Secretary of State as directors of the company and trustees of the charity who served during the year were:

Mark Wood
David Barrie
Lynne Brindley
Ajay Chowdhury
Dr Maurna Crozier
Victor Gray (retired 24 March 2004)
Vivien Griffiths (retired 20 April 2003)
Loyd Grossman, OBE
Sir David Henshaw (appointed 1 January 2004)
Nick Hodgson (retired 20 April 2003)
Sir Geoffrey Holland (appointed 1 January 2004)
Mark Jones
Nick Kingsley (appointed 1 January 2004)
Dr Bob McKee
Neil Macgregor
Bill Macnaught
Jane Ryder (resigned 1 December 2003)
Michael Stevenson
Virginia Tandy (appointed 1 January 2004)
Alan Watkin

MLA's key objectives are to: provide strategic leadership and promote change; to advise on best practice and the delivery of specific objectives; and to act as an authoritative advocate and champion of the museums, libraries and archives sector. During the year MLA distributed grants of £23.9 million to institutions. These included the first awards to Regional Museum Hubs under the Government-funded Renaissance in the Regions programme; to library authorities and organisations to take forward the DCMS strategy for public libraries Framework for the Future; and to archaeological services in England and Wales under the Heritage Lottery Fund supported national rollout of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The report of the Archives Task Force, *Listening to the Past, Speaking to the Future* set out a convincing case for long-term investment to improve access to archives' treasure house of community and personal history, while *Inspiring Learning for All* set out a framework for securing effective exploitation of the sector's collections and *Investing in Knowledge*, a coherent ten-year vision of the sector's role.

**The UK's museums
receive more than 100
million visits each year
more than all the
country's live sporting
events combined.**

Statement of financial activities and analysis of net assets

	Unrestricted funds <i>£ million</i>	Restricted funds <i>£ million</i>	Total 2004 <i>£ million</i>	Total 2003 <i>£ million</i>
Grant-in-aid	11.5	15.2	26.7	23.8
Other income	0.2	2.8	3.0	0.8
Incoming resources	11.7	18.0	29.7	24.6
Grants paid	6.4	17.5	23.9	20.3
Other expenditure	5.5	1.1	6.6	5.5
Outgoing resources	11.9	18.6	30.5	25.8
Net outgoing resources	(0.2)	(0.6)	(0.8)	(1.2)
Transfers between funds	(0.3)	0.3	0.0	0.0
Net outgoing resources after transfers	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.8)	(1.2)
Funds at start of year	0.8	0.9	1.7	2.9
Funds at end of year	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.7
<i>Represented by:</i>				
Tangible fixed assets	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Current assets	3.4	4.7	8.1	7.1
Current liabilities	(2.6)	(4.2)	(6.8)	(5.4)
Provisions	(0.5)	0.0	(0.5)	(0.2)
Total net assets	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.7

Other expenditure includes emoluments of £32,000 (2003: £32,400) paid to one (2003: two) of the Councillors.



70% of children believe that a library is one of the best places to learn, outside school.

Independent Auditors' Statement

We have examined the summary financial statement set out overleaf.

Respective responsibilities of Councillors and Auditors

The councillors are responsible for preparing the Summary Financial Statement in accordance with the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice on Charity Accounts. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the Summary Financial Statement within the MLA Summary Review with the full Annual Report and Financial Statements and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and the regulations made thereunder. We also read the other information contained in the MLA Summary Review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the Summary Financial Statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6, The Auditors' Statement on the Summary Financial Statement issued by the Auditing Practices for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the Summary Financial Statement is consistent with the full Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2004 and complies with the applicable requirements of section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and the regulations made thereunder.

Baker Tilly
Registered Auditor
Chartered Accountants
2 Bloomsbury Street
London WC1B 3ST

26 May 2004

Current news, developments and information are available to view or download from:

www.mla.gov.uk

Copies of this publication can be provided in alternative formats. Please contact MLA publications on 020 7273 1458.

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