


FACTSHEET: Libraries in Higher Education Institutions in London

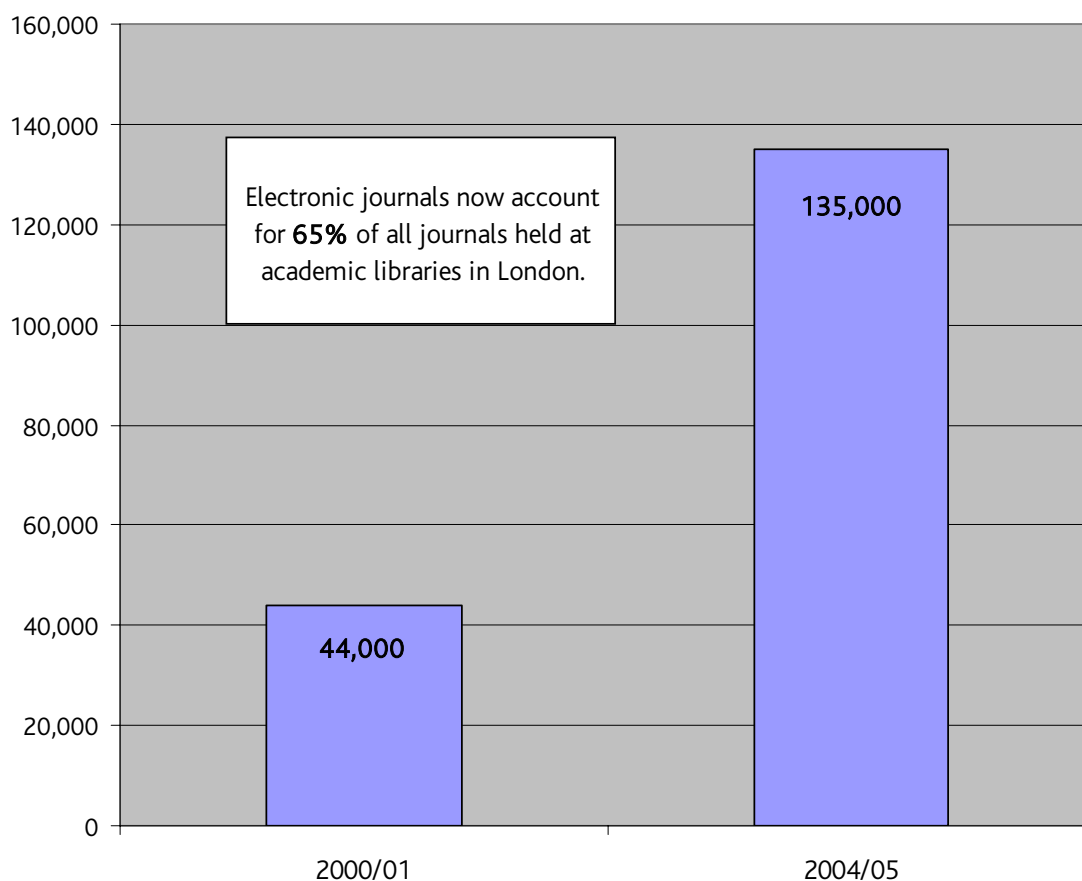
<p>There are 154 libraries in over 40 London higher education institutions (HEIs) - 23% of higher education libraries in the UK.</p>		<p>Over £7.6 million is generated in external revenue.</p>
	<p>Over 23 million visits are made to the libraries each year (21% of all visits to UK higher education libraries).</p>	
<p>There are over 21 million books within London's academic libraries (21% of UK total).</p>		<p>Over 21 million items are loaned.</p>
	<p>The largest library has 3.8 million items and the smallest just 3,000. Many of these libraries are within walking distance of one another or easily reached by public transport.</p>	
<p>Between them, the libraries provide over 33,000 study places, of which one quarter are equipped with PC workstations.</p>		<p>There are almost 230,000 journals.</p>

Regional, National and Global Impact

Regional Impact		National and Global Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Academic libraries are not just for students and scholars. There are over 100,000 external users of London's academic libraries including businesses and local communities. ➤ Open to all through Libraries & Learners in London, most academic libraries offer reference access to anyone with a public library membership card. ➤ Libraries are welcoming and accessible to those with disabilities and many have special equipment and services available. ➤ The University of East London's 'Together for learning' project seeks to enhance collaboration with libraries in East London boroughs and partner colleges. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investing in the UK's knowledge economy - between them, academic libraries spend £34 million on information provision. ➤ With some of the world's greatest collections, London's academic libraries attract some of the best researchers and scholars from around the world. ➤ Most London academic libraries allow part-time and postgraduate students and academic staff from other UK universities to borrow from their collections. ➤ World-wide, 24hr access to electronic resources. ➤ Professional staff spend 17,000 hours a year teaching students transferable information skills equipping them for employment as well as providing online help as demonstrated by Birkbeck College's online tutorial LIFE (Library Induction for Everyone).

Modern Times: The changing face of academic libraries

Number of Electronic Journals in London's Academic Libraries
(2000-2005)



➤ Spending on electronic resources has increased by 117% to £8.9 million in 2004/5 up from £4.1 million in 2000/1.

➤ Over 9 million journal articles were downloaded via academic libraries in 2004/5.

➤ 34% of the libraries' expenditure on information provision now goes on electronic resources, changing the way in which libraries support learning, teaching and research.

➤ In 2004/5 libraries added over 10,000 e-books which, although still small in relation to the 460,000 print books added, is estimated to increase significantly in future years.

➤ Libraries are investing in technology to improve services to their users with many library catalogues now providing a direct electronic link to full-text articles and electronic course packs now providing core reading materials.

Reading Matters – Creative, Health and Business

The collections highlighted here are only a small sample of the collections available in London's higher education institutions.

Creative Collections

- The Colour Reference Library at the [Royal College of Art](#) is the second largest specialist research library of its kind in the world and is devoted to all aspects of colour, from colour psychology to interior design.
- [University of the Arts London](#): with seven libraries across the six colleges, Library and Learning Resources include rare archival stock and some unique collections, magazines, videos and other media.
- The [Courtauld Institute library](#) is a specialist collection of literature on Western art and architecture from the time of classical antiquity to the present day.
- The library at the [Royal College of Music](#) contains a wealth of material, over 400,000 items, almost exclusively musical: musical literature, printed and manuscript music dating from 1492 onwards and recordings from all eras.

Business and Science Collections

- The libraries of [Imperial College London](#) support the work of one of the UK's and the world's leading universities in science, engineering and medicine.
- [Queen Mary, University of London](#) libraries provide access to thousands of e-journals to support the increasing reputation of their science and engineering, medicine and dentistry, and business management courses.
- [London Business School](#) is a world leader in management and business education and its library provides relevant and authoritative information to global users.
- The Learning and Resource Centre at [City University's Cass Business School](#) actively supports the School's aims as one of Europe's leading providers of business and management education.

Health, healthcare, medicine and allied subjects

- The [University College London library](#) has biomedical and health libraries collections which comprise over 90,000 books and monographs and, like several other London higher education libraries, also has close links with library services for the NHS.
- Research libraries at the [Institute of Cancer Research](#) contain 4,000 e-journals, 300 journals and 2,900 book items, covering the fields of molecular biology, genetics, chemistry, medical physics, health sciences, structural biology and oncology.
- The [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine library](#) has a comprehensive collection of books, journals and reports in the field of international public health and tropical medicine, and holds some 80,000 books and pamphlets and over 4,000 journal titles.
- [King's College London](#) houses one of several major medical and healthcare library collections in London, including the largest psychiatric library in Western Europe.

Reading Matters – Specialist Collections

The collections highlighted here are only a small sample of the collections available in London's higher education institutions.

Global reach

➤ The [School of Oriental and African Studies Library](#) has over 1.5 million volumes, significant archives and special collections and is one of the world's most important academic libraries for the study of Africa, Asia and the Middle East, which attracts scholars from all over the world to conduct research.

➤ The [University of London Research Library Services](#) hold important resources (including almost 3 million volumes) used by many communities across the University, and also exists to support the research needs of a wider national and international audience.

➤ Languages have been taught at the [University of Westminster](#) since 1856 and this strong association with language teaching continues through a library that has an excellent collection for taught courses in Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish.

Unique collections

➤ The [Women's Library at London Metropolitan University](#) is a library, archive and museum housing the most extensive collection of women's history in the UK covering issues from health, sexuality and popular culture to politics, history and human rights.

➤ The [Natural Resources Institute](#) at the University of Greenwich is a leader in natural resources research and houses a unique collection of scientific and development-orientated literature with over 1,300 journals and a large archive of maps.

➤ The [Institute of Education's library](#) has the largest collection in Europe of learned books and journals on educational studies.

Archive and manuscript collections

➤ The Historical Collections at the [Royal Veterinary College Library](#) include a collection of over 500 artefacts, a photographic archive, a rare book collection and a paper based archive representing the history of the veterinary profession in the English-speaking world.

➤ The [MacColl and Seeger collection](#) of folk songs is among the special collections at Goldsmiths College, University of London.

➤ The [Iris Murdoch Library](#) at Kingston University London.

➤ The [Comics collection](#) at Middlesex University.

➤ Brunel University houses the [Transport History Collection](#), representing a British railway history collection from earliest times to the early 1980s.



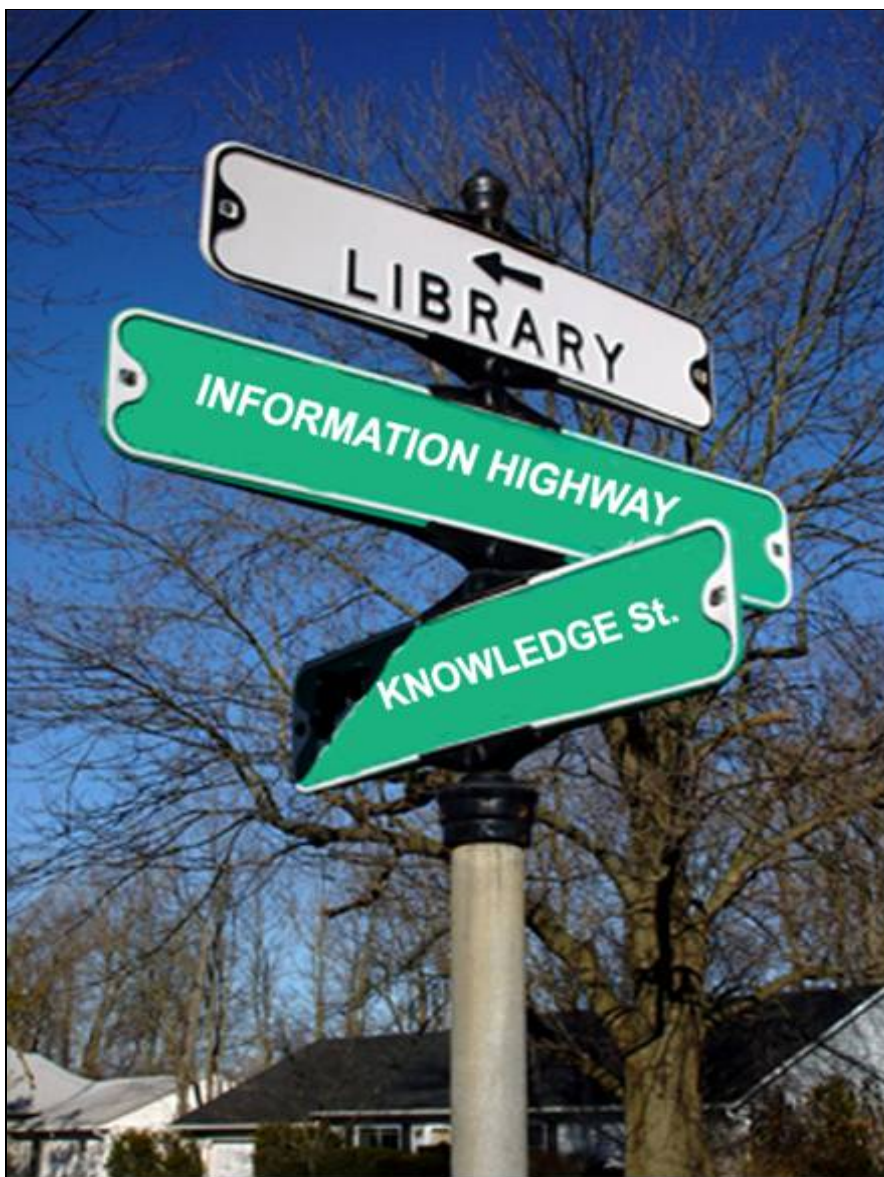
The Knowledge Capital of the World

London's higher education libraries are in close proximity to, and work with, other world class libraries and resources in London.

<p><u>The British Library</u></p> <p>The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest libraries and is the second biggest with 18 million books and a collection including 150 million items, in most known languages covering 625km of shelving. The earliest dated printed book, the Diamond Sutra, is also held here.</p>	<p><u>Guildhall Library</u></p> <p>The original library at Guildhall was founded in the 1420s under the terms of the will of Richard Whittington. Today, it is a major public reference library which specialises in the history of London, especially the City, as well as having other significant collections.</p>	<p><u>The Wellcome Library</u></p> <p>One of the world's greatest collections of books, manuscripts, archives, films and paintings on the history of medicine from the earliest times to the present day. A unique photographic library includes over 160,000 images of the history of medicine from antiquity to the birth and development of modern Western medicine.</p>
<p><u>Natural History Museum</u></p> <p>The Museum's Library and Archives hold the world's premier collections of literature and original drawings and manuscripts relating to natural history. The collection is international in its coverage and is one of the foremost resources providing world coverage of the biological and earth sciences for researchers.</p>		<p><u>Bishopsgate Library</u></p> <p>The library's particular strengths include printed and archive material on London, freethought and the labour movement, developed by Charles Goss, librarian from 1897 to 1941. The London Collection includes books, directories, maps and visual material relating especially to East London.</p>
<p><u>Science Museum Library</u></p> <p>The Science Museum Library has an international reputation in the history and public understanding of science and technology. The Library is primarily a research library for the history and public understanding of the physical sciences and all branches of engineering.</p>		<p><u>The National Art Library</u></p> <p>The National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum is a major public reference library. Its strengths include documentary material concerning the fine and decorative arts of many countries and periods.</p>

*The collections highlighted here are only a small sample of the special collections available throughout London.

Where Next?



For more information about London's academic libraries please visit:
www.inform25.ac.uk

To search the catalogue descriptions of archives:
www.aim25.ac.uk

To search printed special collections visit:
www.masc25.ac.uk

About the M25 group

The [M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries](http://www.inform25.ac.uk) is a collaborative organisation working to improve library and information services for learners and researchers in London and the South East.