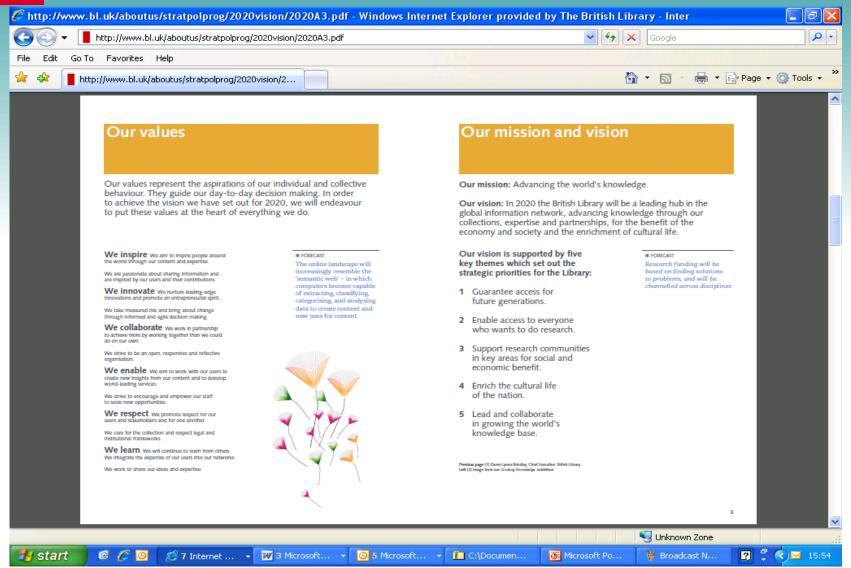


Content, collaboration and aggregated connectivity

PATRICK FLEMING Head of Operations and Services, London

Our 2020 vision





Our 2020 vision

In 2020, the British Library will be a leading hub in the global information network, advancing knowledge through our collections, expertise and partnerships, for the benefit of the economy and society and the enrichment of cultural life

- For newspapers we see a world of fully searchable aggregated multimedia resources, a mix of free and pay to access content
- The Library's role is to open up resources and point researchers to where they can find them around the world



The Newspaper Collection Today





The British Library Newspaper Collection

- Collection dates from 16th Century
- 53,198 separate print titles
- 270,000 volumes
- 370,000 reels of microfilm
- 50 km of shelf space
- Legal deposit collects 95% of 1400 titles from UK and Ireland
- 200 overseas titles
- 800 million pages
- 30,000 readers per year



The British Library Newspaper Collection









A stark contrast



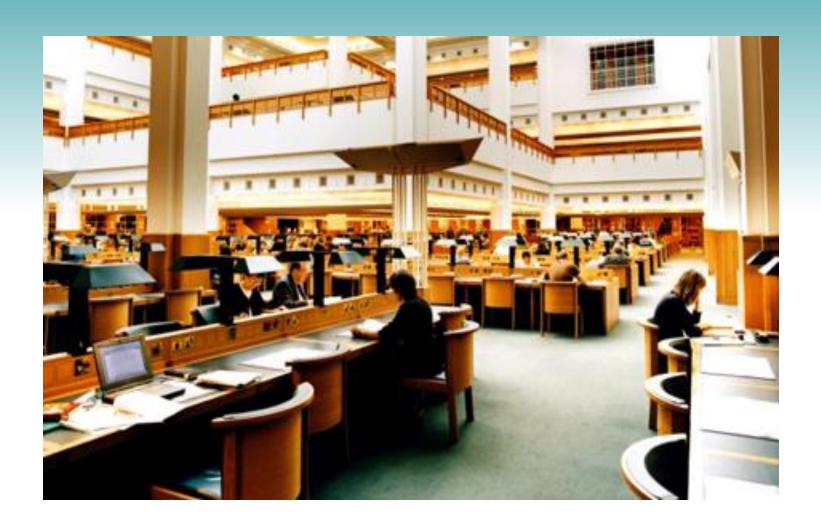


The Kings Library





The British Library reading rooms





Reasons for change

- British Library Act 1972 requirement to store legal deposit content for the nation
- 1930s building with poor storage conditions
- 15% of the collection is 'unusable'
- 19% of the collection is 'at risk'
- The building is full
- Newspaper Library is not located with other collection items, at St Pancras reading rooms
- Basic catalogue and indexes



The answer is digital

In February 2007 the British Library Board reconfirmed the following vision:

- "The Library will offer an integrated newspaper service based on digital surrogates at St Pancras with hard copy stored to help preserve it for future generations"
- To deliver the vision the Library had to persuade the Government to invest £33m to fund a new newspaper storage building at Boston Spa, Yorkshire to store all hard copy newspapers
- Access would then revert to St Pancras through surrogates microfilm and digital with hard copy newspapers only being accessible in very controlled circumstances
- Some previous digitisation experience: The Burney collection of 1800 to 1900 content and three million pages of 19th century local newspapers
- But just a drop in the ocean against a newspaper collection of 800 million pages ...and growing every year by 300 metres

The Burney Collection

- The largest single online collection of English news media from the 17th and 18th centuries
- The Burney Collection offers unique insights into two centuries of history through access to over 1,270 newsbooks, newspapers, pamphlets and a variety of other news materials published in England, Ireland and Scotland, plus papers from British colonies in Asia and the Americas
- Digitised through a partnership between the National Science Foundation and the Library the content was developed and hosted online by one of our partners Cengage Learning.

British newspapers 1620-1900

- With a grant of £3m from JISC and online support again from Cengage Learning we digitised three million pages of complete runs of 19th century local, regional and national British newspapers
- Titles were selected to reflect both the full chronological span of the era and the geographical spread of the UK
- Contains major historical events from the Battle of Waterloo, the Great Exhibition of 1851 to the opening of the Suez Canal, factual reporting of the Battle of Trafalgar in the Examiner and the gory details of the Whitechapel murders in the melodramatic Illustrated Police News
- Many famous authors of the 19th century period wrote for newspapers, and their work is represented, Dickens and Thackeray are included
- The corpus of Burney and the two JISC projects led to a step change within scholarly communities, vastly expanding the range and variety of what can be used in research, at all levels of education.
- But at just over three million pages this was a drop in the ocean of more than 800 million pages of hard copy. We needed a bigger, more dramatic solution.



A mad idea!

Find a partner who would invest many millions of pounds to digitise many millions of pages at no cost to the Library

The Library decided that a public procurement under a new process called Competitive Dialogue would be the best solution.

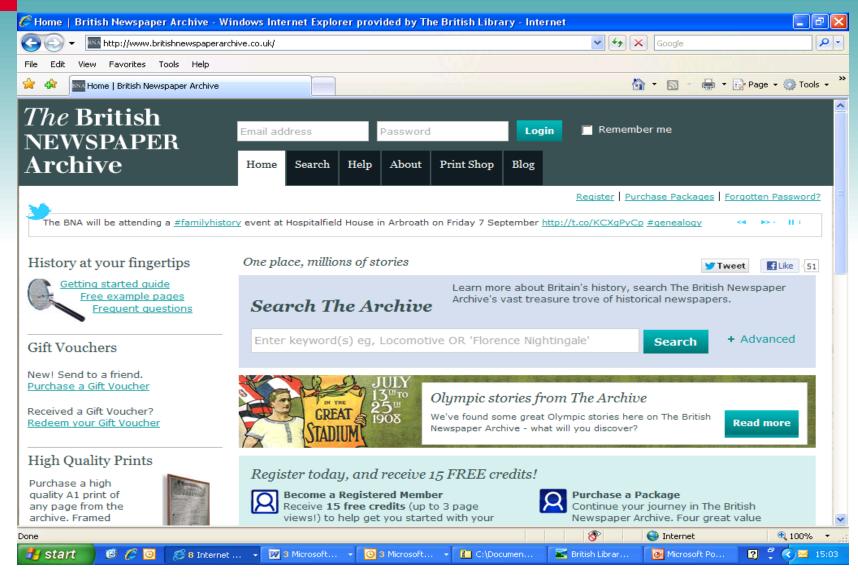
- This had to be a process which was:
- Transparent
- Unbiased and giving best value
- Enable market and technical knowledge to be gained from the suppliers calling on as wide a pool of potential providers as possible
- Commercial issues were undefined and the Library was seeking a supplier to take on the project at their own financial risk



Our desire

- Within the Library's overall Newspaper Programme the digitisation project was required to meet the need for bulk digitisation and:
- Grow the use of surrogates (to meet a KPI for the Library of 80% of reader requests from the newspaper collection to be met from a surrogate by the end of 2017)
- To "improve" the user experience following the completion of the Programme and the move of the physical newspapers to a new Newspaper Storage Building at Boston Spa
- Test the market for solutions where the supplier could be "self-funding" as experience with JISC had shown digitisation of newspapers to be expensive and time-consuming and requiring specialist skills and equipment
- Provide the Library with a clear exit strategy if it didn't work or no supplier could be found to undertake the work

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk



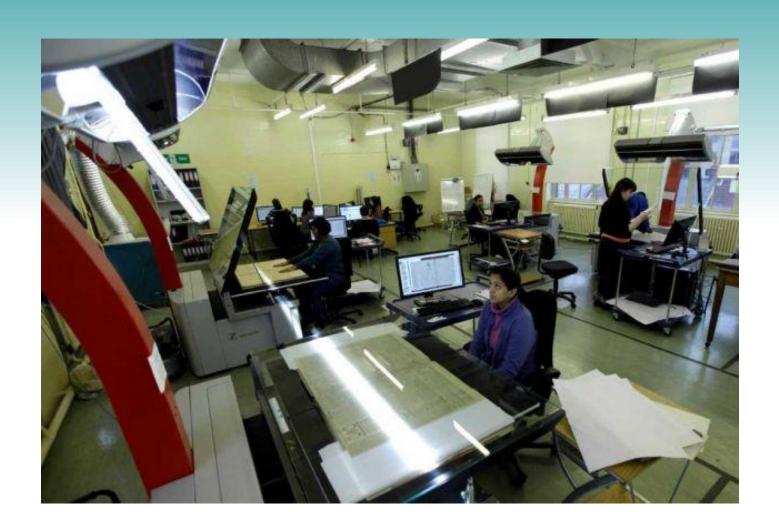


Key contractual points

- brightsolid will digitise content from the Newspaper Archive to populate a commercial offering: brightsolid is responsible for the selection of material to be digitised based on their business plan
- brightsolid is operating entirely at their own commercial risk with no direct costs to the Library
- The Library receives:
- Copies of all scanned materials for ingest (with accompanying OCR text and metadata)
- Free access from the Library premises to www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
- For the duration of the contract the out of copyright wall was set at 1900
- A royalty on all paid-for accesses to out-of-copyright materials: this revenue is designed to recoup the additional costs to the Library (for example for the provision of materials to the scanning operation)



The brightsolid studio at Colindale scans 8000 pages a day





What does success look like?

- More than 100 million pages have been viewed
- brightsolid has more than 50,000 unique subscribers
- The Library is receiving royalties from brightsolid
- brightsolid is receiving significant revenues
- The project has already opened up a treasure trove of content
- It has transformed search for researchers all round the world
- It has proved that where there is a will there is a way
- It has transformed access to the newspaper collection
- It has enabled the library to create digital surrogates

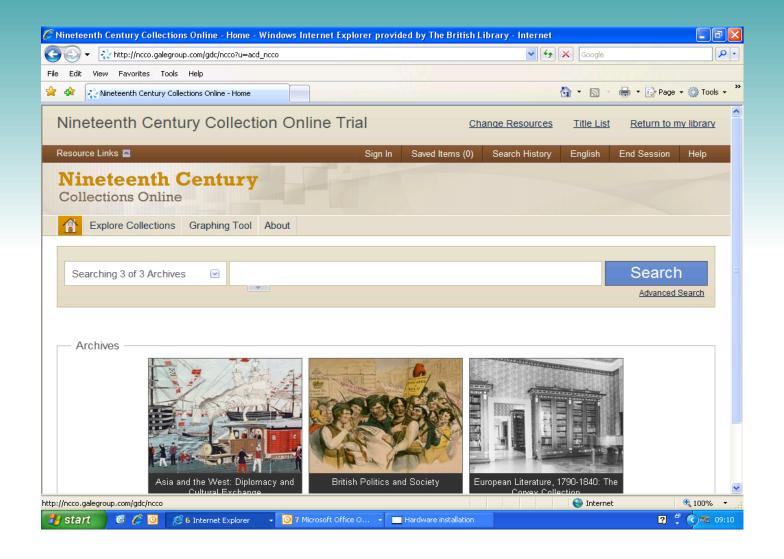
Non Print Deposit

- April 2013, legislation which will permit the Library to collect the entire UK web domain of over 10 million websites, born digital free newspapers and paid for newspapers published as digital surrogates of their print editions
- We will also be permitted to collect ipad and tablet editions of newspapers.
- But what about live radio and TV news? In the true spirit of our vision of aggregated connectivity we want to move on from just collecting newspapers to enable researchers to view and research newspapers alongside multimedia platforms.

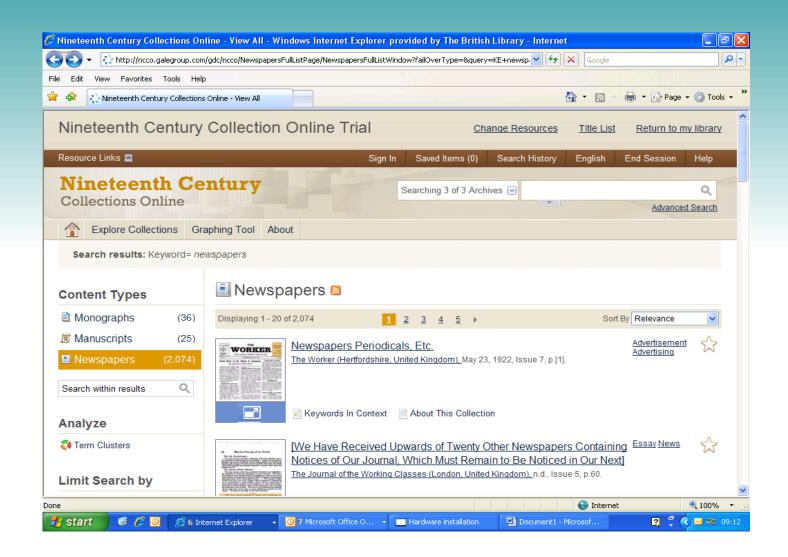
Television and radio news



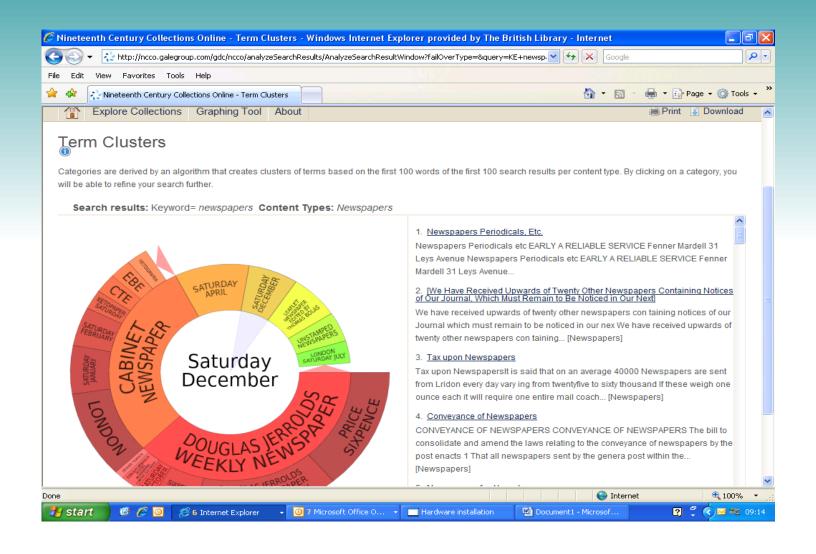
Cengage Learning-Nineteenth Century Collection Online



Cengage Learning-Nineteenth Century Collection Online



Cengage Learning- Nineteenth Century Collection Online



Next projects

- The creation of a UK newspaper resource dataset, locally searchable via advanced text mining and semantic research tools optimised to identify new areas of investigation for digital scholars
- To enable experimentation and trialling of new digital research and data mining technologies with developers attempting to identify meaning or patterns in large scale textual datasets
- To generate statistics information packages and data visualisations derived from the full text designed to present the data in a way that inspires greater interest and further research
- Integration of the metadata/dataset content with external resources (e.g. Wikipedia, British Museum & National Archive linked datasets, search engines etc) in order to present search results from the data in a wider context to researchers and create new perspectives
- To link with internal resources such as UK mapping data, Newspaper Library catalogue and UK sound archive recordings to present an integrated UK resource for local historians, genealogical researchers etc
- To integrate with other BL resources in the creation of interactive content for exhibitions with a UK theme (e.g. Writing Britain)
- To generate metadata to link with wider British Library catalogue data in providing first reviews of authors' published works, historical background for those researching authors' biographies etc

...and of course there are apps!

