

The British Library.

- The **British Library** is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the largest library in the world.



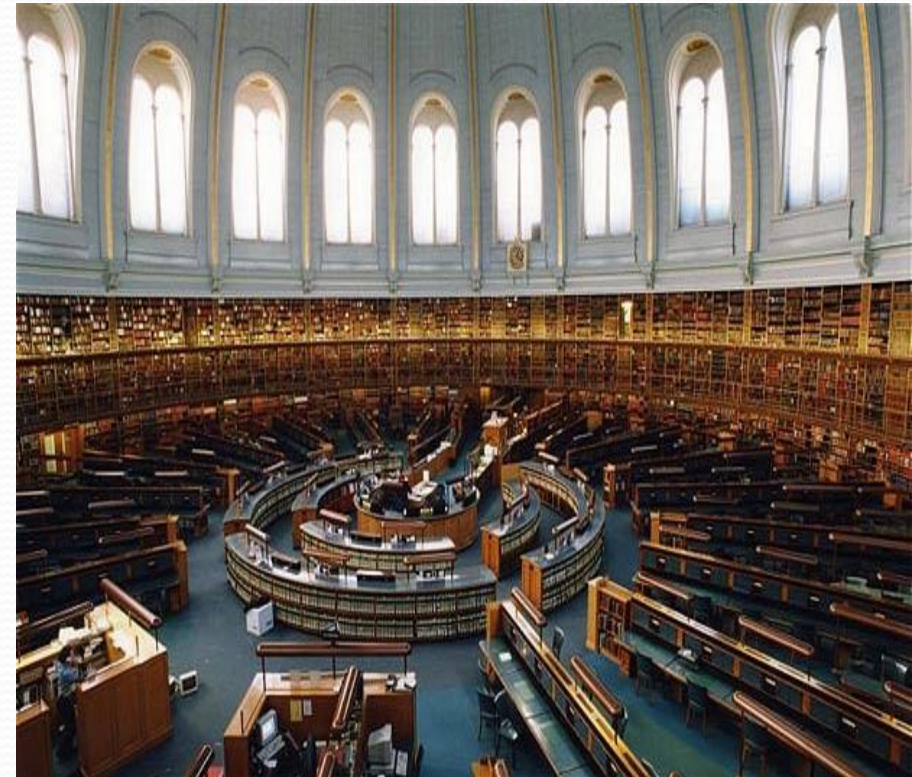
- The Library's collections include around 14 million books, along with substantial holdings of manuscripts and historical items dating back as far as 2000 BC.



- As a legal deposit library, the British Library receives copies of all books produced in the United Kingdom and Ireland, including a significant proportion of overseas titles distributed in the UK.



- Part of the library was originally a department of the British Museum and from the mid-19th century occupied the famous round reading-room. It became legally separate in 1973, and by 1997 had moved into its new purpose-built building at St. Pancras, London.



- For many years its collections were dispersed in various buildings around central London, in places such as Bloomsbury (within the British Museum), Chancery Lane, Bays water, and Holborn with an interlibrary lending centre at Boston Spa, West herby in West Yorkshire (situated on Thorp Arch Trading Estate) and the newspaper library at Colindale, north-west London.

