
**Department
of
National Heritage**

Report by
the Secretary of State for
National Heritage on Library
and Information Matters
during 1993

*Presented to Parliament pursuant
to Section 17 of the Public
Libraries and Museums Act 1964
Ordered by The House of Commons
to be printed 22 April 1994*



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Contents

	Page
<i>Report by the Secretary of State for National Heritage 1993</i>	1
Introduction	1
Public library services	2
The proposed new Library and Information Commission	3
St Pancras project	4
<i>Library and Information Services Council Report 1993</i>	6
Foreword by the Chairman	6
National information policy	8
Public libraries	9
Relations with the library and information community	10
Statistics	10
<i>Appendix A</i>	12
Selected public library statistics	12
<i>Appendix B</i>	18
The British Library statistics	18
<i>Appendix C</i>	19
Academic library statistics	19
<i>Appendix D</i>	28
Library and Information Services Council, membership	28

Report by the Secretary of State for National Heritage on Library and Information Matters during 1993

Introduction

1. This is the second report that, as Secretary of State for National Heritage, I have made to Parliament under Section 17 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. One of the key aims of the Department of National Heritage (DNH) is 'to create the conditions which will maintain, increase, and make available the national collection of books, works of art, scientific objects and other records and artefacts of the past and of the present.' Libraries and information services make a vital contribution to achieving this aim and, in so doing, promote citizenship and literacy, support the education and vocational training of children and adults, and facilitate economic development. In a multitude of ways they serve the wider Departmental purpose of improving the quality of people's lives.
2. As is customary, this document includes the annual report to me by the Library and Information Services Council England, LISC(E), my statutory and independent advisory council. I have read and I welcome the report (which represents the views of LISC and is not to be read as an official statement by Government).
3. The LISC report comments on issues raised and work undertaken during the year, and sets out the way the Council would like things to proceed in the future. The DNH, paying close regard to the advice of LISC and other expert bodies and individuals, will seek to help all those who provide library and information services to take the opportunities and face the challenges which the report describes.
4. I particularly welcome LISC's positive response to the proposed new Library and Information Commission. I am confident that the advent of the Commission (to which I refer at greater length below) will assist us all in ensuring that the best possible value is obtained for both public and private resources invested in library and information services of all types. To say that is in no way to dismiss the contribution which LISC has been making to debate on strategic issues (LISC would, in any event, be wound up under the DNH's recently published proposals). On the contrary, it has done important work which will serve to suggest the new body's initial agenda, and its achievements are the more impressive given the limitations of its remit and resources.

5. I also note that the LISC report understandably lays some stress on concerns over local government reorganisation. I am well aware of the deep feelings which have been aroused by proposals for change in the structure of local government and have, myself, taken every opportunity to register within Government the importance of ensuring effective future arrangements for the delivery of the public service, whatever the final outcome of the reorganisation. This is something to which DNH will pay close attention in the year ahead.
6. The following paragraphs briefly discuss some of the other main policy issues with which I am currently concerned.

Public library services

7. The 1964 Act places upon me the duty to superintend and promote the improvement of the public library service. The DNH takes that duty seriously and, in addition to considering general correspondence and particular complaints about the public library service, senior Libraries Division officials undertook some 40 visits to library authorities during 1993 as well as attending and contributing to seminars and conferences on library and information matters.
8. During 1993 the DNH agreed, after extensive consultation, the mechanism and terms of reference for a fundamental review of the public library service. The review will be carried out during 1994 with the help of consultants and will be overseen by a steering group including distinguished representatives of the public library service, drawn predominantly from LISC's own membership. It will involve inviting evidence from all the main interested bodies and analysing the views of users and non-users of public libraries. I hope to see a wide public debate on the future role of public libraries and look to the review to suggest priorities for developing them to play as central a role in sustaining people in the next century as they have in this.
9. The detailed remit envisages a report covering the scope and value of all public library services in England and Wales; the present interpretation of the statutory duties of library authorities; consideration of the necessity for any changes to the 1964 Act; and the changing world within which libraries have to operate. I expect the report to set out a strategic approach for the future library service, including guidelines and a framework within which a comprehensive and efficient service should be delivered. The report should form the basis for a dialogue between central and local government, allow local choice of service and delivery methods, identify good planning practice

and key developments requiring national attention. During the summer, the consultants will produce a draft report which will be made available for wide consultation. I expect that a final report will be submitted to me in December 1994.

10. We are currently discussing with public library authorities a proposed methodology to enable us to assess their performance in relation both to the statutory functions placed upon them by the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and to the objectives they have set for themselves. This follows a study commissioned by my officials and will be complementary to the wider review of public library services.
11. In accordance with the overall Government policy on competitive tendering for the provision of local authority services, the DNH has launched a study to explore the scope for private sector involvement in increasing value for money in the provision of the public library services. A particularly welcome feature of the study is that it will be able to draw directly on the experience of five contrasting projects actually being undertaken by library authorities, which have kindly agreed to be treated as 'pilots' within the overall DNH study. The progress of these projects and of the wider study will continue to be monitored by a steering group representing both public library and private sector interests. They will advise me on the lessons to be drawn and, in particular, on whether the wider application of the principles underlying the pilot schemes might increase value for money without reducing the level of service provided to users of public libraries. I expect interim results to be available during 1994. Obviously any decisions following the study will need to take particular account of the findings of the public library review.
12. In the light of the success of the current Public Library Development Incentive Scheme, and following an evaluation of its impact, I was pleased to announce in November 1993 that I planned to continue the funding (on a challenge basis) of schemes designed to develop library services. The outcome of the public library review will, of course, influence the direction of future funding.
13. I am pleased to report that the DNH gave its full backing to the Library Association's organisation of National Library Week in November 1993, which, in accordance with the Department's objectives, sought to raise awareness of modern, and particularly public, libraries.

The proposed new Library and Information Commission

14. I announced on 9 July at the Library Association's UmbrellA Conference that I would be considering with my colleagues in Government 'the case for, and scope of, a new body'. In the interim, my officials have worked on the detail of the proposal with their counterparts from the many other Government

Departments with a direct interest in library and information services and with a small steering group consisting of the heads of existing bodies which would be directly affected by the creation of the new one. As a result, I was able early in 1994 to publish a consultation document setting out my proposals for the structure, composition and remit of the new body. I shall carefully consider all the responses to that document before deciding on the appropriate way forward, and I shall ask my officials to continue to work closely with the library and information community in taking any practical steps necessary to establish the new body. I hope to announce the first appointments to the new body in the summer of 1994.

15. The consultation document also proposes that specific responsibility for advising the Secretary of State on his responsibilities for public libraries in England should pass to a separate new body with no formal link to the proposed new Commission. The Department will discuss with the local authority associations how that separate body might most effectively operate and hopes to work closely with them in developing the proposal.
16. The British Library continues to underpin the whole library and information community, and I have emphasised my recognition of the vital role it plays by preserving the cash value of the grant-in-aid in 1994-95 and 1995-96 and by planning a substantial increase in 1996-97. The DNH greatly welcomes the Library's success in augmenting its grant-in-aid through partnership ventures and, most notably in 1993, in securing the sponsorship arrangement, valued at £1 million, agreed with the Digital Equipment Company to equip one of the exhibition galleries in the new building at St Pancras.
17. I welcome also the fact that the Library has become a member of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) for the first time, and has continued to place great emphasis on cooperation and strategic commercial alliances; perhaps most significantly, the Library is working on a feasibility study for a joint venture to provide an international electronic information service for researchers in science, technology and medicine.

St Pancras project

18. The British Library will, of course, in the medium term, face the challenge of preparing for and executing its move to St Pancras. The move will provide it with an unparalleled opportunity to improve still further the level of the service it provides to users and to the whole of the library system, and I note in the Chairman's foreword to the LISC report the Council's firm endorsement of the value of the project, a view which I am sure is widely shared throughout the library and information world.

19. The project has seen some difficulties during the period of this report, as it did last year. However, a great deal of work has already been completed on the first phase of the building, which will provide a variety of reading rooms, exhibition galleries, offices and auditoria, together with four levels of basement storage areas. A final phase of construction, providing further storage, reading rooms, restaurants and offices, began in May 1993. I still expect the whole building to be completed, as planned, in 1996.

Library and Information Services in 1993: Review by the Library and Information Services Council (England)

Foreword by the Chairman

This is the second annual report to the Secretary of State for National Heritage by the Library and Information Services Council England, LISC(E), and the second of its 13 annual reports to be prepared under my Chairmanship.

The library and information world stands on the edge of momentous change, some of it welcome, some less so. The Government's proposal to establish a new coordinating body for library and information matters is most certainly welcome, even though it may lead to the demise of LISC in its present format.

What is alarming is the potential threat to the efficiency of the public library service in the Shire Counties posed by local government restructuring. Unitary authorities *per se* are not bad for public libraries, but we are most concerned at the way in which the Local Government Commission seems to have ignored the impact of its proposals on the public library service. Although one of its fundamental key assumptions is that 'there will be no change in the standard or quality of direct service provision amongst different proposals', in actuality the breaking up of county-wide services will increase costs or diminish service standards and reduce the freedom which library users have come to expect.

To provide more than basic library services, small unitary authorities will need to look to cooperative arrangements with other library authorities. The past provides scant comfort. The joint arrangements which followed the dismantling of the Metropolitan Counties have not worked either efficiently or in the interests of the services concerned.

Early in the year, I wrote personally to Sir John Banham, Chairman of the Local Government Commission for England, to register these concerns. We shall watch developments closely and we invite the Secretary of State for National Heritage to consider with some urgency how he can maintain those library services which may otherwise be lost for good, and how he can assist the new authorities with achieving their statutory duty of providing a 'comprehensive and efficient service'.

We also continue to be anxious that schools retain effective library services in the new environment created by local management and opting out; and we hope that one of the results of our working party on services for children and young people will be to contribute to that process.

As this foreword was being written, further problems with the construction of the St Pancras building for the British Library came to light. We hope that these will be the last such problems. But whether they are or not, we believe in the St Pancras project and we cannot emphasise too strongly the desirability of its completion and its value to the academic, scientific, research and information community.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer

The Council's Report

National information policy

1. At the beginning of the year, we established a number of working parties to consider the issues with which a national information policy should be concerned and to identify a framework for such a policy. The majority of the working parties, which included representatives from The Scottish Library and Information Council, had reported by the summer, highlighting similar concerns and issues across the different sectors they had addressed. These sectors were:
 - the knowledge industry;
 - the impact of technology;
 - the needs of young people;
 - the needs of students and researchers; and
 - the needs of business.

2. With assistance from the British Library Research and Development Department we have carried some of this work forward into a core document, which recommends a phased approach to the development of a policy framework and outlines its objectives as follows:
 - to investigate and review the current scope and coverage of existing information policies;
 - to produce a summary report or briefing document and policy source book summarising the key concepts, elements, policies, mechanisms, and funding sources; and
 - to organise a series of policy workshops, as part of a wider consultation exercise, with key stakeholders in the information industry, with the aim of reaching consensus on the most relevant themes or elements which a national information policy should address.

3. This work will be sponsored on our behalf by the DNH, which believes that the work of the proposed new library and information coordinating body might be rendered more effective from the outset if up-to-date background research on the current state of information policy development were available.

Public libraries

4. We have been involved in a number of initiatives relating to the public library service. Our members with public library expertise have continued to act as advisers to the DNH review of the public library service, which we believe to be one of DNH's most important initiatives. We are ready to help it in whatever way we can.

Services for children and young people

5. Meanwhile, our own investigation into the needs of children and young people has begun. We are examining library and information provision for young people across the board - in public libraries, in schools, and through the school library services. The membership of our working party includes not only librarians but also authors, library book suppliers, governors, parents and others concerned with children's books. The working party intends to report back during 1994 and we hope that its conclusions will provoke a reappraisal of services and the level of their provision by those responsible for them in both central and local government by
 - re-affirming values, needs and the importance of reading;
 - reporting the current situation, acknowledging successes as well as problems;
 - charting the way forward, through preserving, and developing from, what is good; and
 - providing a checklist of types and standards of service for local use.
6. We are expecting our working party to change 'hearts and minds' and to re-establish the crucial role of library services for children and young people.

Services in rural areas

7. Our investigation into library and information needs and provision in rural areas was published by DNH in July. The information and recreation needs of those living in rural areas are much the same as in urban areas, but they are very much more difficult to satisfy. Although the mobile library service already provides an excellent core service to rural areas, the expense of providing a full range of services is often difficult to justify on the basis of level of demand. Nevertheless, people living in the country have a right to receive services of a quality equivalent to those provided in towns. The key is accessibility of services, and, where people cannot easily get to a library, the library service must be brought to them. Our report stresses the importance of using technology to provide gateways to a wider range of information and materials and of trying out new ways of delivering services and mobilising resources through cooperation with other public, private and voluntary sector agencies.

Through DNH we are pressing the recommendations of our report with, for example, the Department of the Environment and the Audit Commission, as well as with the Local Authority Associations.

Contracting out

8. We have kept in touch with the development of DNH's investigation into the scope for contracting out in public libraries so that, at the right time, we can offer the Secretary of State our advice. Apart from the public library service, we are concerned about the effect of competitive tendering on Government information services and their customers.

Relations with the library and information community

Consultation with key organisations

9. During 1993 we had meetings with the Library and Information Cooperation Council (LINC) and with the Institute of Information Scientists (IIS). We covered a wide range of topics, such as national coordination, networking and the British Library's Strategic Objectives, often in a frank and informal way. These meetings are a useful and valuable means of building a constructive relationship between ourselves and important organisations in our field of interest. Our first meeting in 1994 will be with the Committee of Departmental Librarians.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

10. There have been two meetings of the Chairmen of the four national advisory councils for library and information matters and LINC. The business of the meetings is wide ranging and covers both current activities and areas of mutual concern. Many of these, such as the development of a national information policy, are mentioned elsewhere in this report. One that is not is our shared concern at the level of bureaucracy surrounding the completion of applications for funding under the European Library Plan; we have asked DNH to register our concern.

Statistics

11. We include again as appendices to our report some selected statistics on public libraries, the British Library and academic libraries. We acknowledge gratefully the assistance of the Library and Information Statistics Unit at Loughborough University.

12. The public library statistics (Appendix A) at this level cannot adequately describe the variation between public library authorities in changes in resources devoted to public libraries. The spending of many authorities is a long way below the average and the reduction in opening hours and in numbers of professional staff continue the alarming trend of recent years. The total expenditure on public libraries does not, at first sight, give great cause for concern. However, reductions in resources are much more marked in the Metropolitan Districts and London Boroughs than they are in the English Counties. This is prima facie evidence to suggest that general constraints on local government finance have a much greater effect on the public library service provided by urban authorities than by the Counties. This deserves study by the Government.

Appendix A

Selected public library statistics

Introduction

1. Comprehensive statistics were published in October 1993 by the Library and Information Statistics Unit at Loughborough University in its *LISU Annual Library Statistics 1993*. That has the advantage of timeliness: the statistics there are published 6-9 months before these. That volume analyses the different results for the English Counties, Metropolitan Districts and London Boroughs as well as the results for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and for the whole of the United Kingdom. It also covers more general library topics.
2. The data presented here are based on statistics supplied to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and published annually in their Public Library Statistics (Actuals). The statistics here differ in important matters of detail; they
 - include supplementary information obtained by LISU direct from authorities that failed to supply statistics to CIPFA in time for publication there;
 - interpolate data missing for some years for some authorities;
 - correct a few obvious and large transcription errors; and
 - correct some book spend figures to incorporate the value of books leased.
3. The result of this work is to allow convincing historical trends to be shown. For most statistics except capital payments the figures for each year are now on the same base and represent all public libraries in England. The data are generally of good quality - though collection and transmission of this sort of data can never be perfect.
4. Provisional CIPFA data for 1992-93 have recently become available - and some figures have been added to the tables prior to the CIPFA publication. Generally, these latest 'stop press' statistics are not covered in the commentary, where the final year is taken to be 1991-92.
5. Accounting conventions change over the years. The difficulties are particularly pronounced with expenditure statistics; analysis over recent years exhibits some quite alarming variations between authorities and between years. This difficulty is particularly apparent in connection with the Capital : Revenue divide and financing arrangements. It also reflects widely different practice in how far central expenses are specifically charged to the library service. There is

prospect of more instability ahead with Asset rent valuation, Service level agreements, etc. Estimates of expenditure on materials and expenditure on staff are much more robust and reliable than those of expenditure on other items.

Expenditure

6. Financial figures are shown in cash terms and also converted to 1991-92 prices, using the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Deflator, an inflation index prepared by HM Treasury.

Total current expenditure for 1991-92 was, in real terms, 0.1 per cent lower than the previous year. This is the first year since 1985-86 that the statistics do not show an increase in real terms. (Provisional 1992-93 figures show a further decline in real expenditure per capita though not in total.)

Of the 5.3 per cent increase in real terms over the past five years, most can be attributed to changes in accounting protocol.

7. Looking at individual authorities' total expenditure over the last five years, there are four authorities that reported actual losses in cash terms. Six other authorities went less than halfway to cover inflation (which was 39.2 per cent). At the other end of the scale, one more than doubled its expenditure and twelve succeeded in boosting their expenditure by between 75 and 100 per cent. These examples illustrate the very wide range between authorities. There is no obvious pattern.
8. Income has risen substantially over the last five years with a particularly large increase in 1991-92 of 22 per cent (against inflation of 6.9 per cent). The increase in fines and fees was above average, and it was particularly high in the Metropolitan Districts.
9. As reported last year there was again a large drop in 1991-92 in Capital payments.
10. Expenditure on books last year rose by 3.9 per cent and over the last five years by 30 per cent. To keep up with rising book prices increases of at least 5 per cent and 34 per cent respectively would have been required. When analysed by sector, book spend in the English Counties is well above price inflation and book spend in the Metropolitan Districts and the London Boroughs is well below. Low figures reported by particular authorities are much more alarming than the national average. Detailed figures are available in the CIPFA Actuals and in the National Book Committee's report *Public Libraries and their Bookfunds*.

Bookstock and issues

11. The statistics in Table 2 show an important and heartening halt in the downward trend in book issues for 1991-92. London did not increase issues as much as the rest of England. There has been a significant decline in the proportion of issues ascribed to adult fiction while issues of non-fiction and children's books are relatively strong. (Provisional 1992-93 figures show a slight fall in total issues.)
12. In recent years we have queried whether the annual increases in audio-visual material represented the full exploitation of these new media. Audio-visual issues continue their upward trend.

Staff

13. The statistics in Table 3 show stability for total staff until the last three years. Since then there has been a big drop in numbers, particularly in professional staff in 1991-92. Although the decline is most marked in the Metropolitan Districts and in London, there are still proportionately more professional staff per head of population in those areas.

Service points and opening hours

14. The number of service points shows virtually no change but the number open over 45 hours a week shows an accelerating decline. In 1991-92 it fell from 617 to 572. The statistics would show a much greater decrease if the years 1978-80 were covered. In England, libraries open 45 hours or more a week totalled 1,012 in 1979.

When analysed by sector, the 1991-92 annual decrease in service points open 45 hours a week and more came to 23 in the London Boroughs and 32 in the Metropolitan Districts. In the English Counties however, there was an increase of 10.

TABLE 1: PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS (ENGLAND)

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	Provisional 1992-93
Population (million)	46.8	46.8	46.9	47.0	47.1	47.3	47.4	47.5	47.7	47.8	48.1	48.4
INDEXES OF INFLATION												
GDP Deflator	56.02	60.01	62.79	65.98	69.58	71.82	75.76	81.28	86.62	93.54	100.00	103.50
RPI	56.02	60.82	63.60	66.82	70.86	73.30	76.33	80.07	86.29	94.46	100.00	103.75
Bookseller	48.06	54.81	64.37	67.38	77.04	79.10	80.82	85.08	91.58	98.28	100.00	109.13
Average cost of library book purchases	48.33	53.46	57.06	61.12	65.55	70.93	76.32	83.13	86.84	93.06	100.00	102.27
Composite of last three	50.80	56.36	61.68	65.11	71.15	74.44	77.82	82.76	88.24	95.27	100.00	105.05
A. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AT CURRENT PRICES												
Expenditure												
On staff (£ million)	159.2	171.5	181.7	189.2	198.2	212.1	227.1	244.4	263.6	286.8	301.9	314.9
On books (£ million)	43.8	49.8	54.2	56.8	62.6	67.6	72.1	77.3	82.7	84.6	87.9	89.5
Total (£ million)	295.4	322.0	345.1	366.7	387.9	420.9	446.0	488.7	531.6	577.8	617.1	640.9
Income (£ million)	14.0	15.9	17.9	19.5	21.6	25.4	27.4	28.6	34.6	35.5	43.2	45.6
Capital expenditure (£ million)	10.3	16.5	27.3	21.8	27.3	26.2	23.9	26.9	36.2	33.6	16.4	16.8
B. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DEFLATED AT 1991-92 PRICES (GDP DEFLATOR)												
Expenditure												
On staff (£ million)	284.2	285.8	289.4	286.8	284.9	295.3	299.8	300.7	304.3	306.6	301.9	304.3
Staff as % of total	53.9	53.3	52.7	51.6	51.1	50.4	50.9	50.0	49.6	49.6	48.9	49.1
On books (£ million)	78.2	83.0	86.3	86.1	90.0	94.1	95.2	95.1	95.5	90.4	87.9	86.5
Books as % of total	14.8	15.5	15.7	15.5	16.1	16.1	16.2	15.8	15.6	14.6	14.2	14.0
Total (£ million)	527.3	536.6	549.6	555.8	557.5	586.0	588.7	601.3	613.7	617.7	617.1	619.2
Total per capita (£)	11.27	11.47	11.73	11.84	11.83	12.40	12.42	12.65	12.87	12.91	12.84	12.80
Income (£ million)	25.0	26.5	28.5	29.6	31.0	35.4	36.2	35.2	39.9	38.0	43.2	44.1
Income per capita (£)	0.53	0.57	0.61	0.63	0.66	0.75	0.76	0.74	0.84	0.79	0.90	0.91
Capital expenditure (£ million)	18.4	27.5	43.5	33.0	39.2	36.5	31.5	33.1	41.8	35.9	16.4	16.2
C. EXPENDITURE ON BOOKS												
Book spend (£ million)	43.8	49.8	54.2	56.8	62.6	67.6	72.1	77.3	82.7	84.6	87.9	89.5
Book spend in real terms	86.2	88.4	87.9	87.2	88.0	90.8	92.6	93.4	93.7	88.8	87.9	85.2
- adjusted by composite book index	1.84	1.89	1.88	1.86	1.87	1.92	1.95	1.97	1.97	1.86	1.83	1.76
Real book spend per capita (£)												

TABLE 2: PUBLIC LIBRARY LENDING STATISTICS (ENGLAND)

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	Provisional 1992-93
Population (million)	46.8	46.8	46.9	47.0	47.1	47.3	47.4	47.5	47.7	47.8	48.1	48.4
STOCK AND ISSUES												
Book stock												
Total stock (million)	113.1	113.6	114.3	113.6	114.6	112.9	112.6	112.4	111.8	110.0	107.5	106.1
Annual additions (million)	10.9	11.2	11.4	11.1	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.1	11.4	11.0	10.6	10.5
Annual issues (million)	556	553	555	543	540	527	515	492	479	473	486	474
Issues per capita	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.1	10.9	10.4	10.0	9.9	10.1	9.8
Reference stock												
as proportion of total (%)	11.4	11.4	12.3	13.6	12.4	12.9	12.7	11.8	12.3	12.5	13.2	13.4
Material on loan												
Adult fiction (%)	51.7	51.9	50.4	51.0	48.9	48.5	48.3	47.9	47.2	46.7	45.2	44.4
Adult non-fiction (%)	26.9	27.1	26.8	27.2	28.1	28.3	27.6	27.8	27.6	27.7	28.3	29.1
Children's (%)	19.6	19.1	19.7	19.6	20.3	20.7	20.9	21	21.2	21.8	22.2	22.0
Audio-visual (%)	1.8	1.9	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.3	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.5
Sound and video recordings												
Total stock (million)	2.94	3.03	3.29	3.74	3.78	4.02	4.26	4.43	4.63	4.89	4.97	5.28
Annual additions (million)	0.47	0.54	0.62	0.69	0.64	0.69	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.9	0.96	1.06
Issues per capita	0.25	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.30	0.33	0.38	0.43	0.46	0.48	0.50	0.50

TABLE 3: STAFF EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES (ENGLAND)

March	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Provisional 1993
Staff in post												
Professional	6,884	6,917	6,848	6,852	6,960	6,897	6,824	6,700	6,534	6,450	6,236	6,039
Other non-manual	13,957	14,060	14,283	14,469	14,601	14,930	15,099	15,206	15,533	15,496	15,321	15,394
Manual	3,191	3,219	3,141	3,040	2,848	2,833	2,697	2,528	1,927	1,484	1,272	1,164
Total	24,032	24,196	24,272	24,361	24,409	24,560	24,620	24,434	23,994	23,430	22,829	22,597
Staff per 10,000 population												
Professional	1.47	1.48	1.46	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.44	1.41	1.37	1.35	1.30	1.25
Total	5.14	5.17	5.18	5.19	5.18	5.22	5.20	5.14	5.00	4.90	4.75	4.67

TABLE 4: PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE POINTS (ENGLAND)

March	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	Provisional 1993
Open per week	52	49	42	40	39	37	28	26	32	24	16	10
60 hours +	695	714	716	644	693	666	670	635	613	593	556	525
45-59 hours	1,313	1,281	1,279	1,298	1,307	1,332	1,335	1,357	1,372	1,337	1,342	1,348
30-44 hours	1,067	1,101	1,102	1,113	1,134	1,143	1,143	1,170	1,168	1,203	1,236	1,262
10-29 hours	3,127	3,145	3,139	3,095	3,173	3,178	3,176	3,188	3,185	3,157	3,150	3,145
less than 10 hours	374	370	326	354	346	354	337	259	248	223	215	190
Total	3,501	3,515	3,465	3,449	3,519	3,532	3,513	3,447	3,433	3,380	3,365	3,335
Mobiles	485	481	483	485	487	484	495	503	524	508	499	495
Total	3,986	3,996	3,948	3,934	4,006	4,016	4,008	3,950	3,957	3,888	3,864	3,830
Homes, hospitals, etc.	10,210	10,711	11,770	12,225	13,571	14,519	15,612	16,658	16,748	16,691	16,699	16,644
Total	14,196	14,707	15,718	16,159	17,577	18,535	19,620	20,608	20,705	20,579	20,563	20,474

Appendix B

THE BRITISH LIBRARY STATISTICS

Real terms	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
GDP deflator to 1992-93 prices (edition: November 1993)	61.104	64.174	67.734	69.717	73.432	78.362	83.811	90.568	96.303	100.000
Grant-in-aid (£ thousand) ⁽¹⁾	70861.5	70243.4	68813.8	68815.3	66968.1	66606.3 ⁽²⁾	63953.4	64040.3	67770.5 ⁽³⁾	69322.0
Income (£ thousand)	18087.6	19333.8	20130.6	23647.0	22426.2	24874.3	26694.6 ⁽⁴⁾	25159.0	27330.4	27105.0
Total resources (£ thousand) ⁽¹⁾	88949.1	89577.2	88744.5	92462.3	89394.3	91480.6	90648.0	89199.3	95100.9	96427.0
Salaries (£ thousand)	38777.8	39216.9	38868.2	39708.8	40354.7	41347.8	41931.3	42978.8	42923.9	42959.0
% total resources	43.6	43.8	43.8	42.9	45.1	45.2	46.3	48.2	45.1	44.6
Acquisitions (£ thousand)	12477.1	12095.3	12519.5	13263.7	11999.7	11935.6	12867.0 ⁽⁵⁾	8496.4	10972.7	10722.0
% total resources	14.0	13.5	14.1	14.3	13.4	13.0	14.2	9.5	11.5	11.1
Staff in post (31 March)	2527.0	2484.0	2442.0	2455.5	2466.0	2422.5	2406.0	2344.0	2272.5	2295.8
Documents requested from Document Supply Centre (thousand)	2772.0	2871.0	2999.0	3155.0	3230.0	3290.7	3320.3	3289.4	3389.7	3451.0
Reader visits: London reading rooms (ex Science Reference and Information Service (thousand))	202.5	194.9	216.3	196.1	195.2	193.1	184.4	246.3 ⁽⁶⁾	258.9	276.2

1. These figures do not include the capital costs of the new Library building at St Pancras.

2. The Library ceased paying rent on its freehold property in 1988-89 and its grant-in-aid was reduced by £1,824 million. For purposes of comparison the figures for earlier years have been adjusted to reflect this.

3. The grant for 1991-92 includes a supplementary of £1.5 million relating to proceeds from the sale of Store Street plus £2 million earmarked for St Pancras operational expenditure.

4. The income and acquisitions figures for 1989-90 include a donation of £1.76 million from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

5. The method of calculating reader visits was revised in 1990-91 which has resulted in an increase in the number of recorded visits.

Appendix C

Academic library statistics

Introduction

1. The source of these statistics is Volume 3 : Finance of *University Statistics* published annually by the Universities' Statistical Record for the Universities Funding Council (UFC) and *Annual Statistics* published by the Council of Polytechnic Librarians (COPOL).
2. A separate set of statistics is compiled by university librarians and published by the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries (SCONUL). The coverage of these statistics is not complete, and they differ from the UFC statistics in definition, scope, timing and methodology.
3. Following the Government's changes to the funding of higher education, the former polytechnics are now described as 'new' universities. Progress has been made towards producing combined statistics covering SCONUL and COPOL libraries, and the new Higher Education Funding Councils (HEFCs) may initiate new or revised statistical series. Such changes are for the future; the statistics reproduced here are from the traditional sources. The trend analyses have already been published by the Library and Information Statistics Unit (LISU) of Loughborough University in *LISU Annual Library Statistics 1993 featuring Trend Analysis of UK Public and Academic Libraries 1982-92*, where more complete data are shown.
4. A very thorough review of academic libraries has been undertaken for the HEFCs by a group chaired by Sir Brian Follett. Many of the conclusions of that review are in line with comments on the statistics made in previous years by this Council. The Follett Report was published too late in the year to be considered by the Council, but it is to be discussed in 1994. One summary Table is reproduced here at Figure 3 (page 27). It shows the enormous increase in student numbers in recent years: the increases in resources and facilities fall a long way behind. Although this Table refers to the United Kingdom, the general picture is likely to apply equally to England on its own.

Publications details: *Joint Funding Councils' Libraries Review Group: Report*, HEFCE, Bristol, December 1993; *Libraries and IT: Working Papers...*, UKOLN, Bath, September 1993; *Supporting Expansion: A Report on Human Resource Management...*, HEFCE, Bristol, September 1993; John Sumsion, *Survey of Resources and Uses...*, LISU, Loughborough University, February 1994.

5. Tables 1 and 2 (pages 22 and 23) summarise ten years' data for the old universities and the new universities (COPOL institutions) respectively. The important trends are analysed in percentage terms in Tables 3 and 4 (pages 24 and 25).
6. Figures 1 and 2 (page 26) show the trends in spending on books and periodicals in both cash and real terms. Although these figures juxtapose the results for old universities and new universities, the definitions and accounting protocol are not always the same.

Commentary

7. Total spending on academic libraries has increased faster than inflation over the past five years and over the past ten years. However, there have been startling declines when the spending is expressed as spending per capita or as a proportion of institutional expenditure. In recent years there have been unprecedented increases in the number of students in higher education institutions. Among other results, this means a large increase in the people to be served by professional librarians as the following table shows:

	1986-87	1990-91	1991-92
Professional librarians*			
Old universities	1084	1100	1132
New universities	676	705	754
People served per professional librarian			
Old universities	287	337	355
New universities	412	492	527
* The old university figure is people; the new university figure F.T.E.			

As we commented last year, this trend is not healthy. While improved computer systems may reduce some aspects of the library workload, to exploit the full potential of new developments requires professional initiative and guidance to users - particularly to establish the most effective balance in individual cases between traditional and new information sources. This task calls for professional expertise.

8. Recent trends in spending on books and periodicals are shown in Figures 1 and 2 (pages 26). In the old universities expenditure on materials has continued to decline in real terms and as a proportion of library expenditure. In contrast, the real expenditure on books and periodicals has increased in the new universities, but it has not kept up with the even greater rise in user numbers.
9. The use of CD-ROMS in the library and of network information systems across the campus are important growth areas. There are problems in monitoring the use of CD-ROMS and other electronic media on university campuses. The services tend to be bought on fixed-term contracts not related to activity volumes, and the allocation of network-costs between the library and the computer centre is not always consistent.
10. The activity of Colleges of Education is not covered in the statistics. There is now a funding distinction between the Colleges of Higher Education and the Colleges of Further Education which could point to the inclusion of higher education colleges in a composite statistical series covering all higher education in future. This issue is at present unresolved.

TABLE 1: UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS (ENGLAND) – OLD UNIVERSITIES

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Number of universities	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Number of full and part-time students (thousand)	263	259	257	255	259	264	269	283	299	318	347
Number of academic and academic related staff ⁽¹⁾ (thousand)	43	43	43	44	45	47	48	49	51	53	55
Student : staff ratio	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.3
Students + staff ⁽²⁾ per professional librarian ⁽³⁾	257	267	266	269	275	287	296	314	325	337	355
Government deflator (GDP adjusted)	56.02	60.01	62.79	65.98	69.58	71.82	75.76	81.28	86.62	93.54	100
LISU academic book price index (£)	13.75	15.30	16.78	18.14	19.07	21.35	23.11	24.67	26.41	27.53	30.35
Blackwell's periodicals price index (£)	52.41	64.00	72.82	84.73	100.81	110.18	123.45	127.42	136.99	154.08	167.21
University total expenditure (£ million)	1,340	1,468	1,568	1,691	1,824	1,969	2,164	2,425	2,693 ⁽⁷⁾	2,962 ⁽⁷⁾	3,219 ⁽⁷⁾
Library expenditure (£ million)	52.1	55.6	60.3	65.1	69.3	72.6	78.5	84.0	91.7	100.1	109.9
Proportion (%)	3.89	3.79	3.85	3.85	3.80	3.69	3.63	3.46	3.41	3.38	3.41
Library expenditure per student (FTE) (£)	211	229	252	274	289	298	316	324	331	346	347
Library expenditure per capita ⁽²⁾ (£)	170	185	201	220	227	233	248	253	262	270	273
Real library expenditure per capita⁽²⁾ (1992 £)	303	308	320	333	326	324	327	311	307	289	273
Book spend (£ million)	8.02	9.22	10.03	10.66	11.07	10.86	11.63	12.28	13.04	13.27	14.50
Book spend per capita ⁽²⁾ (£)	26.23	30.60	33.48	35.59	36.33	34.89	36.80	37.05	37.31	36.24	36.07
Real book spend per capita⁽²⁾ (1992 £)	58.29	61.20	60.87	59.32	57.67	49.84	48.42	45.74	42.89	39.82	36.07
Periodicals spend (£ million)	8.84	9.91	11.31	12.71	13.94	14.92	15.49	16.65	18.87	20.03	21.85
Periodicals spend per capita ⁽²⁾ (£)	28.92	32.88	37.75	42.41	45.77	47.94	49.00	50.24	54.00	54.70	54.35
Real periodicals spend per capita⁽²⁾ (1992 £)	92.27	86.53	85.60	83.16	76.28	72.64	66.22	66.11	65.85	59.46	54.35
Proportions of library expenditure											
<i>Wages and salaries</i>											
<i>Books</i>	56.8	55.2	54.5	54.2	54.5	54.9	54.3	55.0	55.0	56.1	55.9
<i>Periodicals</i>	15.4	16.6	16.6	16.4	16.0	15.0	14.8	14.6	14.2	13.4	13.2
<i>Binding</i>	17.0	17.8	18.7	19.5	20.1	20.5	19.7	19.8	20.6	20.3	19.9
<i>Other</i>	4.5	4.2	4.3	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2
	6.3	6.2	5.9	6.9	6.5	6.9	8.5	8.0	7.7	7.8	8.8

(1) Until 1985-86 GB figure proportioned by total pay expenditure to calculate 'England'; includes full-time and part-time employees.

(2) Includes full-time and part-time students and staff (academic and academic related).

(3) Professional librarians in England estimated by proportion of Great Britain total library pay expenditure.

(4) Using the GDP deflator.

(5) Using the LISU academic book price index (33% U.S.A., 67% U.K.).

(6) Using Blackwell's index.

(7) Adjusted to the same base as 1980-89.

TABLE 2: UNIVERSITY LIBRARY STATISTICS (ENGLAND) – NEW UNIVERSITIES

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Number of institutions	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
Number of full and part-time students (thousand)	244	244	242	241	250	258	267	279	301	325	375
Number of academic and related staff (thousand)	19.3	19.3	19.7	20.2	20.6	21.0	19.9	19.9	21.2	22.2	22.2
Student : staff ratio	12.6	12.6	12.3	11.9	12.1	12.3	13.4	14.0	14.2	14.6	16.9
Students + staff ⁽¹⁾ per professional librarian	386	386	369	371	405	412	415	450	471	492	527
Government deflator (GDP adjusted)	56.02	60.01	62.79	65.98	69.58	71.82	75.76	81.28	86.62	93.54	100
LISU academic book price index ⁽²⁾ (£)	13.75	15.30	16.78	18.14	19.07	21.35	23.11	24.67	26.41	27.53	30.35
Blackwell's periodicals price index (£)	52.41	64.00	72.82	84.73	100.81	110.18	123.45	127.42	136.99	154.08	167.21
University total expenditure (£ million)	-	-	531	510	554	574	635	-	992	-	1,380
Library expenditure (£ million)	22.7	22.7	22.9	24.7	25.9	27.6	29.3	34.2	36.7	41.8	49.4
Proportion (%)	-	-	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.6	-	3.7	-	3.6
Library expenditure per student (FTE) (£)	133.94	133.94	131.98	137.13	151.08	146.12	149.99	166.21	161.79	169.05	164.4
Library expenditure per capita ⁽¹⁾ (£)	86.31	86.31	87.77	94.35	95.74	98.98	102.15	114.68	113.81	120.59	124.48
Real library expenditure per capita⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ (1992 £)	143.83	143.83	139.78	143.11	137.60	137.82	134.83	141.09	131.39	128.92	124.48
Book spend ⁽⁴⁾ (£ million)	4.96	4.96	4.21	4.09	4.44	4.38	4.81	5.34	5.57	6.55	7.71
Book spend per capita ⁽¹⁾ (£)	18.85	18.85	16.09	15.65	16.38	15.72	16.79	17.87	17.29	18.90	19.42
Real book spend per capita⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ (1992 £)	37.40	37.40	29.10	26.17	26.09	22.36	22.06	21.98	19.87	20.84	19.42
Periodicals spend (£ million)	2.96	2.96	3.51	3.80	3.87	4.18	4.26	4.76	5.22	5.71	6.93
Periodicals spend per capita ⁽¹⁾ (£)	11.24	11.24	13.43	14.54	14.35	14.99	14.87	15.93	16.21	16.47	17.45
Real periodicals spend per capita⁽¹⁾⁽⁵⁾ (1992 £)	29.36	29.36	30.79	28.68	23.80	22.74	20.14	20.90	19.79	17.89	17.45
Proportions of library expenditure											
<i>Wages and salaries</i>											
Books ⁽⁵⁾	54.2	54.2	57.4	56.1	55.6	55.1	55.9	54.3	52.2	52.4	52.0
Periodicals	21.8	21.8	18.3	16.6	17.1	15.9	16.4	15.6	15.2	15.7	15.6
Binding	13.0	13.0	15.3	15.4	15.0	15.1	14.6	13.9	14.2	13.7	14.0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	11.0	11.0	9.0	11.9	12.3	13.9	13.1	16.3	18.4	18.3	18.4

(1) Includes full-time and part-time students and staff (academic and academic related).

(2) Using LISU academic book price index (83% U.S.A., 67% U.K.).

(3) Using GDP deflator.

(4) Includes auto-visual from 1987 and for some institutions in previous years.

(5) Using Blackwell's index.

(6) Due to the rounding of some figures additions may not total 100%.

TABLE 3: OLD UNIVERSITIES: TRENDS IN KEY ITEMS

	1981-82	1986-87	1990-91	1991-92	% increase last		
					10yrs	5yrs	1yr
GDP deflator	56.02	71.82	93.54	100	+79	+39	+6.9
Index of university costs (Tress-Brown)	78.4	102.2	149.5	155.9	+99	+53	+4.3
People to be served (thousand)	306	311	371	402	+31	+29	+8.4
Library spend (£ million)	52.1	72.6	100.1	109.9	+111	+51	+9.8
Library spend per person (£)	170	233	270	273	+61	+17	+1.1
Library salaries (£ million)	29.6	39.9	56.2	61.4	+107	+54	+9.3
Book spend (£ million)	8.02	10.86	13.27	14.50	+81	+34	+9.3
Book spend per person (£)	26.23	34.89	36.24	36.07	+38	+3.4	-0.5
Book price index (£)	13.75	21.35	27.53	30.35	+121	+42	+10.2
Spend on periodicals (£ million)	8.84	14.92	20.03	21.85	+147	+46	+9.1
Periodical price index (£)	52.41	110.18	154.08	167.21	+219	+52	+8.5
Professional library staff	1,163	1,084	1,100	1,132	-2.7	+4.4	+2.9
People served per professional staff	257	287	337	355	+38	+24	+5.3

TABLE 4: NEW UNIVERSITIES: TRENDS IN KEY ITEMS

	1982-83	1986-87	1990-91	1991-92	% increase last		
					10yrs	5yrs	1yr
GDP deflator	60.01	71.82	93.54	100	+67	+39	+6.9
People to be served (thousand)	263	279	347	397	+51	+43	+14.5
Library spend (£ million)	22.7	27.5	41.8	49.4	+118	+80	+18.2
Library spend per person (£)	86.31	98.57	120.46	124.43	+44	+26	+3.2
Library salaries (£ million)	12.3	15.2	21.9	25.7	+109	+69	+17.4
Book spend (£ million)	4.96	4.38	6.55	7.71	+54	+75	+167
Book spend per person (£)	18.86	15.70	18.88	19.42	+3.0	+24	+2.8
Book price index (£)	15.30	21.35	27.53	30.35	+98	+42	+10.2
Average cost of books bought (£)	10.25	12.02	16.39	15.78 ⁽¹⁾	+54	+31	-3.7
Books added to stock (thousand)	484	364	400	489	+1.0	+34	+22
Total book stock (million)	8.4	9.2	10.5	10.2	+21	+10.9	-2.9 ⁽²⁾
Book stock per person	31.9	33.00	30.3	25.67	-19.7	-22	-15.2
Library issues (million)	7.0	8.6	11.7	13.4	+91	+56	+15
Library issues per person	26.6	30.8	33.7	33.8	+26	+8.7	+0.3
Spend on periodicals (£ million)	2.96	4.18	5.71	6.93	+134	+64	+21
Current periodical titles (thousand)	66.0	66.0	65.2	66.4	+0.6	+0.6	+1.8
Periodical price index (£)	64.00	110.18	154.08	167.21	+161	+52	+8.5
Average cost of periodicals taken (£)	44.82	63.21	87.59	104.46	+133	+65	+19.3
Professional library staff	682	676	705	754	+10.6	+11.6	+7.0
People served per professional staff	386	413	492	527	+37	+28	+7.1
Annual visits (thousand)	-	-	786	845	-	-	+7.5
Average visits per person	-	-	66	62	-	-	-6.1
Inter-library loans received (thousand)	165	178	186	215	+30	+21	+15.6
Inter-library loans sent out (thousand)	20	29	25	22	+10	-24	-12

⁽¹⁾ Figure for 1991-92 reduced by donations to stock at some universities.

⁽²⁾ Includes abnormally low returns from three institutions.

Figure 1: Old University expenditure on books and periodicals (England)

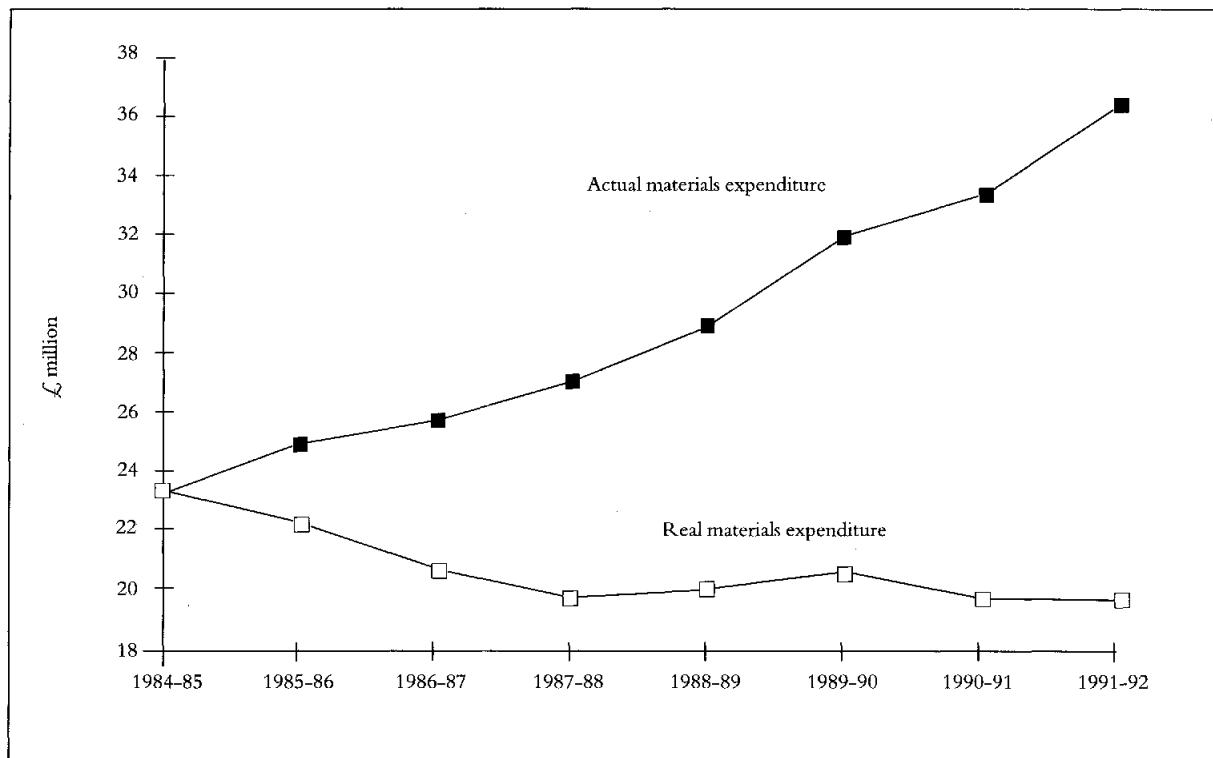


Figure 2: New University expenditure on books and periodicals (England)

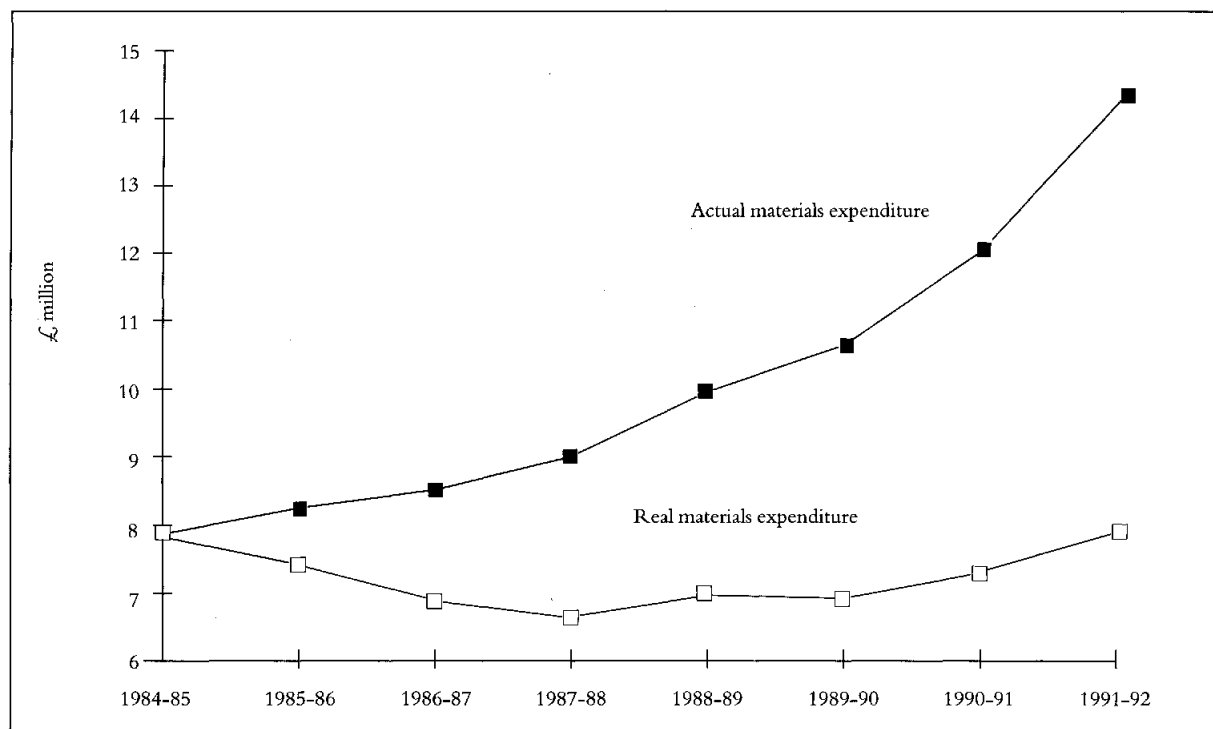
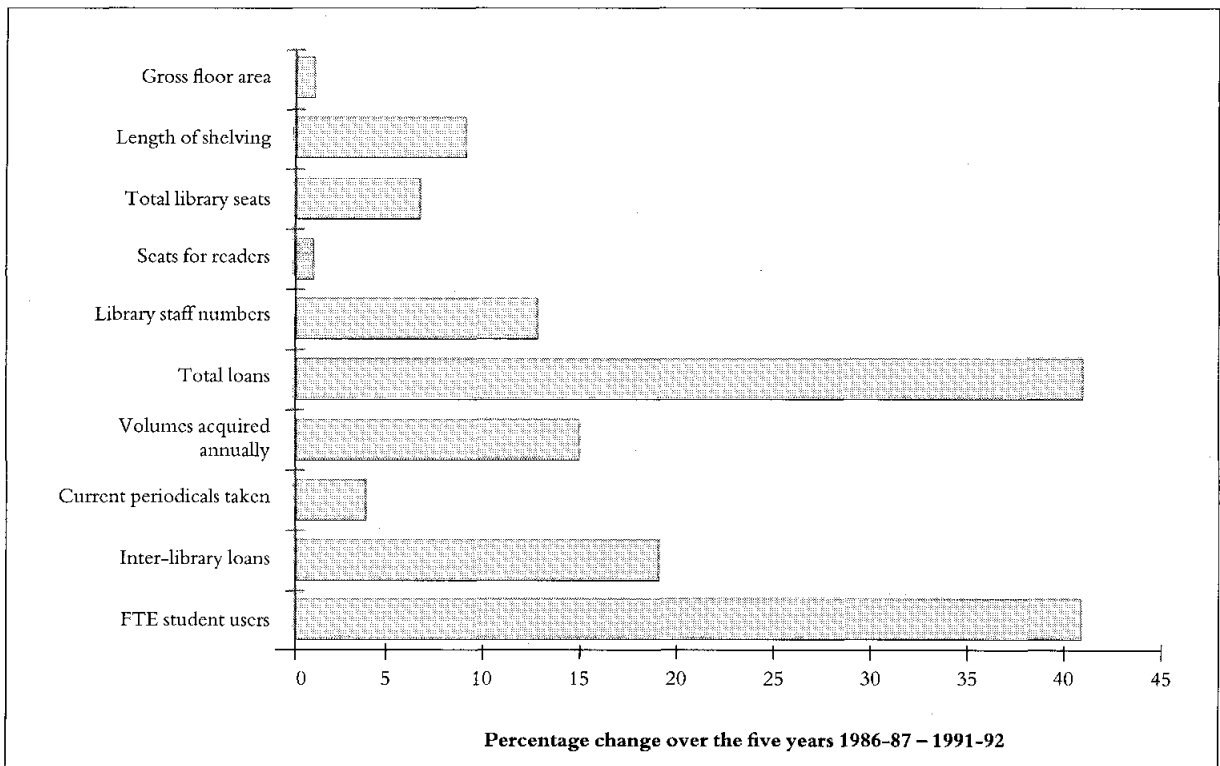


Figure 3: UK Institutions of Higher Education – Library Changes 1986-87 – 1991-92



Appendix D

Library and Information Services Council Membership from 1 January 1994

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Brian Burch	Chief Librarian, University of Leicester
Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey	Chairman, Chadwyck-Healey Ltd
Peter Cox	Head of Libraries, British Broadcasting Corporation
Keith Crawshaw	Director of Leisure Services and Head of Libraries, Sheffield City Council
Dr Gillian Cross	Author
Miss Rosemary Gray	Information Management Consultant
Councillor Chris Heinitz	Wakefield City Council
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Dr Phil L Holmes	Chief Publishing and Information Officer, X/Open Company Ltd
Dr Brian Lang	Chief Executive, The British Library
Dr David Leabeater	Senior Policy and Development Officer, National Consumer Council
Nigel S Macartney	Librarian, University of Hertfordshire
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