

British Library on Demand

<https://www.bl.uk/on-demand>

Service Outline

The British Library On Demand (BLoD) service provides a vital service to the UK higher education community by enabling remote access to published academic research to institutions and their communities engaged in education and learning, research and/or private study across the globe.

The origins of the service date back to the 1930s when the National Central Library (NCL), which was founded 1916 to support learning for working adults not in formal education, became the foundation of the UK Interlibrary loans system. As part of the creation of the British Library in the 1970s the NCL was merged with the National Lending Library for Science and Technology (founded in the 1960s) and the services established by both libraries continue to this day as British Library on Demand (BLoD).

The BLoD service (formerly known as the British Library Document Supply Service) aims to supplement the content repertoire of university libraries and enhance the range of content available to users by drawing on the British Library's vast, often unique, collections as well as British Library licenced content. In terms of UK academic institutions, the service can provide content under the auspices of Library Privilege (LP) for non-commercial research and study. The service is delivered by a dedicated team to the sector on a cost-recovery basis.

Benefits to the Higher Education Community

An extensive range of available content delivered at cost and at speed, including instant download and same day delivery.

'From healthcare to history, law to literature, STM, social sciences and humanities' - users can access around 87.5 million items in the British Library's collection and much more through publisher agreements. Highlights include:

- 3 million monographs and 296,000 international journal titles, with over 13 million articles available to download immediately
- Doctoral theses and dissertations
- 5 million research reports and official publications, with strengths in British, US Federal Agency and international agency publications
- 400,000 conference papers and proceedings
- 130,000 music scores covering reprints of medieval manuscripts to the latest pop hits.

Benefits to Higher Education Libraries

- Knowledgeable Customer Service team on hand to support users, available via telephone, email or web-chat
- Supporting UKHE collaborative working providing regular BL updates and briefing sessions (including Forum for Inter-Lending, regional consortia).
- Flexible workflows
 - Flexible 'machine to machine' interfaces either by traditional 'Artemail' or more modern Application Programming Interfaces (API) technologies.
 - Library Privilege, including immediate downloads from born digital collections.
 - Up-front delivery and price information supporting effective resource management
 - Order tracking from purchase to delivery.
 - Easy-to-use mobile ordering platform, giving researchers flexibility.

Partnerships with Higher education

The British Library and UK higher education libraries have been established partners for many years. Some key examples of collaborative successes are:

- UK Research Reserve (UKRR) – The project over its lifetime delivered £29m in capital savings, and over £18m savings in recurring estate management costs. The project has freed up an impressive 128 km of shelf space in the participating libraries which subsequently realised other benefits for those institutions. Ongoing access available as required by the BLoD service - case studies are available online at www.bl.uk/ukrr
- EThoS - supports the preservation of PhD theses and ongoing access via the ethos platform (free once digitised).
- eHESS - partnership with the CLA for provision of content for course packs and reading lists within HE with the associated rights for reuse.
- Covid support - the British Library's BLoD service provided necessary access to information to the NHS (including Public Health England and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence), pharmaceutical organisations, medical approval agencies to support the work on vaccines and therapeutics throughout the past year. The service also opened up access to our print collections (safely) as quickly as possible in order to support universities during transition from in-person to online teaching and learning by prioritising the eHESS service and its customers.

The pandemic has highlighted the benefits of a collaborative approach in a changing world. We are keen to build on a long history of resource sharing across the higher education library community, working in partnership to re-imagine inter-library loans in the digital, post-Covid world, optimising value for money, alongside providing content with rights to share and reuse, and we welcome the opportunity to work with the sector to explore further.

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