

Fire Information Group UK & Reference Services at The British Library

Louise Doolan

Reference Services Manager

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The British Library – The World's Knowledge

Helping people advance knowledge to enrich lives

- National Library of the UK, serving
 - Researchers. Both academic and the citizen researcher
 - Business
 - Libraries
 - Education
 - General Public

The British Library – The World's Knowledge

- Our Collections include
 - over 2m sound recordings
 - 5m reports, theses and conference papers
 - Over 50m patents – the largest collection in the World
- Grant In Aid Funding of £100m (09/10) and recently secured an additional £33m for the National Newspaper Strategy
- 3 Major exhibitions a year, as well as smaller exhibitions and a permanent exhibition of the Treasures of The British Library

The British Library – The World's Knowledge

- Approx 2000 staff across 2 main London Sites and 1 in Yorkshire
- St Pancras consists of
 - 5 public floors
 - An additional 6 Staff only floors, 4 of which are basements
 - 11 Reading Rooms
 - Conservation centre
 - 3 public cafes and 1 public restaurant and a staff café and restaurant
 - Wi-Fi
 - 2 terraces

The Mission and Vision

Our Purpose

- Advancing the World's Knowledge

Our Vision

- We are central to the world of research, providing a trusted source of content that opens minds, solves problems and creates opportunities
- We provide services to anyone who wants to do research. We aim to provide both physical and digital access to world-class information where and when people need it
- We inspire people around the world with our outstanding content and expertise and we complement this by engaging the knowledge and expertise of others
- By fulfilling our mission, The British Library plays a vital role in society and the economy, both today and for further generations

Delivering the British Library Strategy 2008-2011

1. Capture extensively and store UK digital publications
2. Connect our users with content
3. Transform access and preservation for newspapers
4. Support UK research with innovative services and integrated processes
5. Build out digital infrastructure
6. Integrate storage and preservation of physical collections
7. Develop as an organisation

What is Reference Services?

- Whatever the subject of your research our information specialists will be able to help you
- Answer your subject specific enquiries
- Guide you to the most appropriate material for your research
- Advise you how to access and use our collections
- Answer your bibliographic enquiries and help you use our catalogues
- Suggest other libraries, archives and institutions and relevant websites and free online resources
- Offer introductory workshops and training to British Library resources.

Reference Services in Practice

- 75 staff, a variety skills, knowledge and expertise Staffed by professionally qualified staff (but not all are librarians)
- Subject support with Reading Rooms
- Remote enquiry service – up to 30 minutes free
- Reader awareness training sessions
- Liaison with
 - Other BL Departments & Directorates
 - Other Libraries and Information Services

Reference Services & Fire Information Group UK

- Free 30 minutes Enquiry Service
- 5 day turn around of the enquiry
- Over 30 minutes Research Services (quotes available on request).
- Readers Pass, on application
- Face to Face support in the Reading Room
- Science Reference Team will be your contact point
 - Email: Scitech@bl.uk
 - Tel: 020 7412 7288
 - Fax: 020 7412 7217