



Thriving or Surviving?

National Libraries in the Future

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What is a national library?

National libraries have a vital role in society as “custodians of the nation’s intellectual heritage, thus providing organisation, access to and preservation of the national imprint in all media.” (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 1998)





- Governance
- Funding
- Audience





Thriving or Surviving? NLS in 2030

<http://www.nls.uk/media/808985/future-national-libraries.pdf>





Challenges include

- **Financial**
- **Digital revolution**
- **Audiences**
- **Research**





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Purpose of Report

- Identify the influences on NLS in 20 years' time
- Consider the implications of these influences in terms of service delivery/development and funding - to inform next phase of strategy development
- Generate discussion with other libraries looking at long-term challenges and opportunities





Why 2030?



When the present
'Google Generation's'
children start to
become our
customers



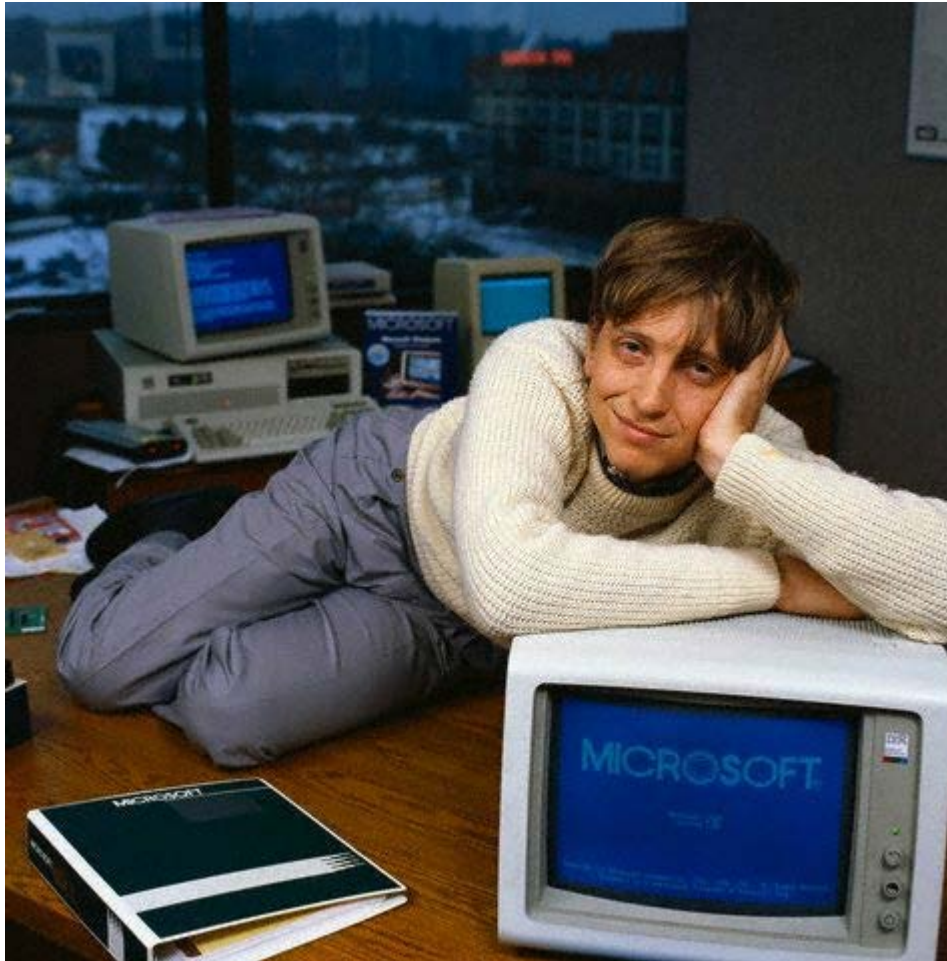
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“Worldwide demand for cars will never exceed one million, primarily because of a limitation in the number of available chauffeurs” – Gottfried Daimler, 1901

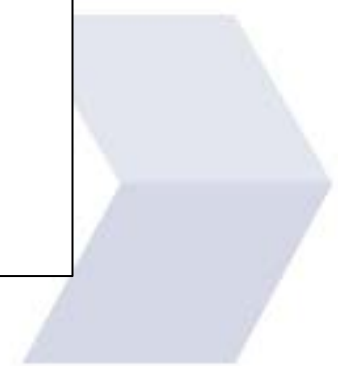


Photo *All cars all in a neat row by freeparking* from Flickr used under Creative Commons



“640k ought to be enough for anybody with a personal computer.”





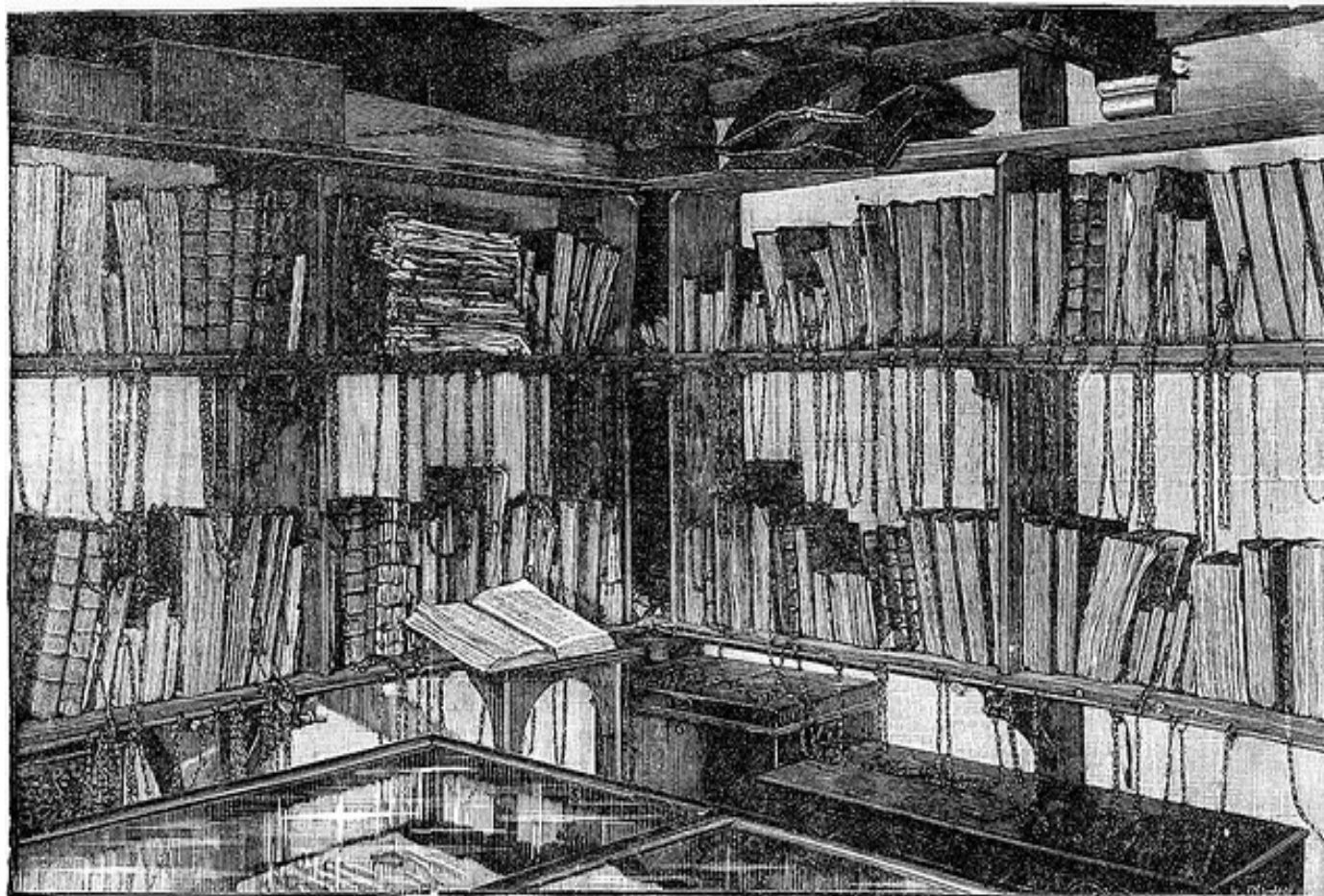


Photo 133-*Chained-library-at-Wimborne-Minster* by *Learning Futures Festival 2010* from Flickr used under Creative Commons



THRIVING or SURVIVING?

National Library of Scotland in 2030

<http://www.nls.uk/media/808985/future-national-libraries.pdf>





Methodology (1)

- Internal desk literature research and analysis
- Commissioned analysis of digital libraries by Simon Tanner, Director, King's Digital Consultancy Services, King's College London
- Commissioned interviews with 20 library, archive and information experts in UK and abroad





Methodology (2)

- **Internal consultation and workshops with:**
 - NLS Board of Trustees
 - NLS Management Forum
 - NLS Staff
- **Discussion of draft report at IFLA 2009**
 - “Small Countries-Smart Ideas” Group





Our findings: Some key influences on national libraries

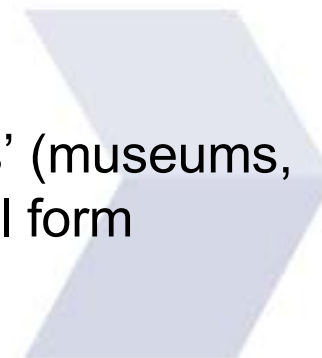
- Changing patterns of publishing
- Changing patterns of customer needs and behaviours
- Competition
- Political influences
- Organisational change





Some key implications for NLS (1)

- **Comprehensive collecting to selective collecting**
 - More selective, discriminating collecting (for both print and digital)
 - Focus on a much broader range of material and formats (film, sound, images etc, not only text)
- **Collecting to connecting**
 - Co-ordinating Scotland's national heritage
 - More collaboration with other 'memory institutions' (museums, archives, libraries) as materials converge in digital form





Some key implications for NLS (2)

- **More diverse and dispersed, but less visible customers**
 - Remote use, rather than the visit of the familiar reader, may become the norm
- **Operating independently to operating collaboratively**
 - Dependence on partners to achieve our goals
- **Free or Fee?**
 - New charging models





Key conclusions: Thriving or Surviving?

- Managing the transformation to a digital environment
- Need for increased outward focus
- Need for increased organisational ‘agility’ – the ability to change and adapt.



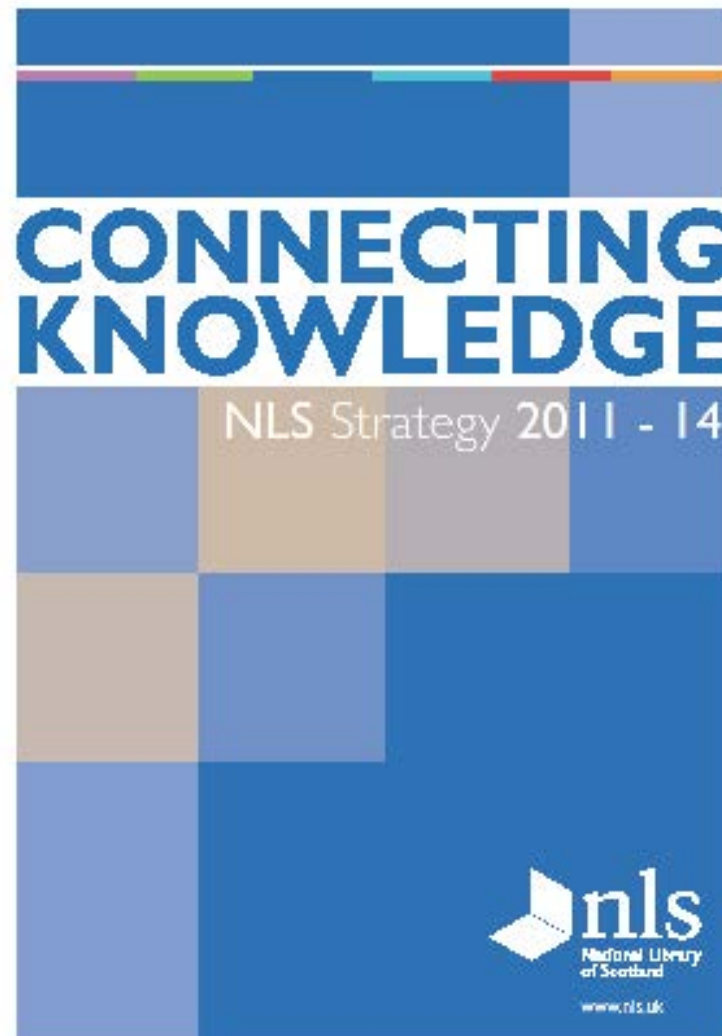




Photo *Prague_Library4_nw_lead* by *Dumio_Momio* from Flickr used under Creative Commons



Photo *A Digital Library* by HackSHaven from Flickr used under Creative Commons

