

Jan Wilkinson
The British Library

E-mail: jan.wilkinson@bl.uk

Abstract:

Supporting the University Researcher

The British Library is one of the world's greatest libraries. It has a long tradition of collecting, preserving, organising and giving access to the knowledge it holds in support of international research.

Now information is ubiquitous; 500m dynamic web pages are just a key stroke away, and search engines have changed the way people expect to access information. What does this mean for libraries whose past success relates to the scale and scope of its collections, its reading rooms and its international document supply service?

In common with all libraries which exist to support research, the British Library is actively redefining its role in this rapidly changing context in which it now operates. With a particular focus on university research, Jan will share with conference delegates the British Library's view of its role, and the challenges it faces in seeking to fulfil this in the context of the 21st century library. Importantly, she will describe the steps being taken by the Library in redefining its contribution to the research process and ensuring its vitality in the digital age. This will incorporate a brief summary of some of the Library's strategic priorities and the importance of partnership working to ensure that researchers get the best deal possible from those seeking to support their information needs.