

A celebration of Legal Deposit:

The inspiration of collecting
and preserving our nations'
written heritage

Monday 4 September 2023
09.00 – 17.20

Stationers' Hall, London

Findings of the 2023 UK symposium

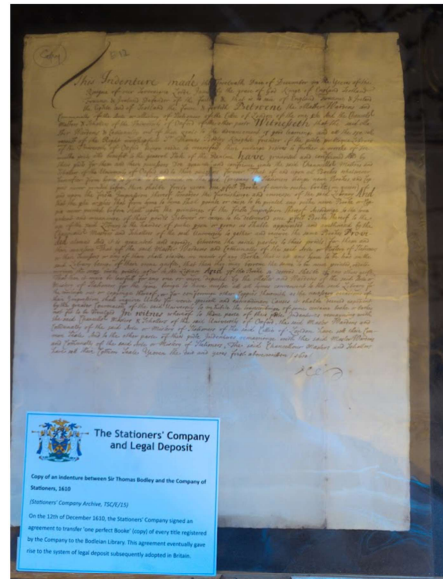
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CENL 17th June 2024

In 2023 we celebrated 10 years of digital legal deposit and to mark that milestone we held an international symposium entitled A celebration of Legal Deposit: The Inspiration of collecting and preserving our nations' written heritage.

First UK Legal Deposit 1610



The Location, the Stationers' Hall London, was symbolic. The Hall is the home of The Stationers company who in 1610 came to an Agreement to give a copy of every publication it registered to the Bodleian Library, the forerunner of Legal deposit. So the location connected the very modern digital legal deposit with the origins of Legal Deposit and was also symbolic for the publishing industry.

The early presentations in the symposium were about the history of Legal deposit in the UK and how some of the principles remain today. It was really interesting to note that the difficulties we have to get publishers to deposit today have been an issue for librarians for over 400 years. It was also a great reminder about why we do what we do "For the enhancement of learning" and what we do.. we collect as comprehensively as possible for users today and for generations to come. In fact that first publication that The Stationers Office in 1610 is still available to read in The Bodleian today.

But the truly inspirational part of the symposium was hearing from colleagues across the world about their experience with Legal Deposit and how they have dealt with the challenges.

The whole event was a really pertinent reminder that what we do as Legal Deposit is so valuable and important. The breadth and depth of our collection is the cornerstone of a democratic society and now more than ever we have a role in ensuring that our users have access to facts and the truth.

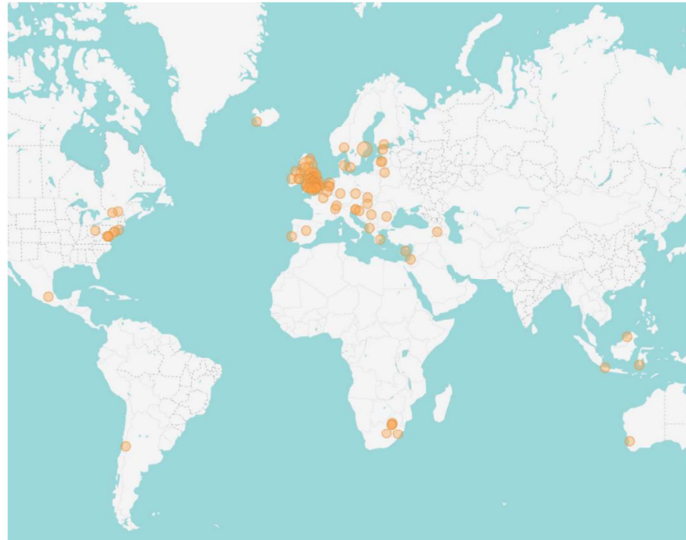
International Participation



There were presentations from Bnf, Library of Congress, KBR, Australia and Hungary along with presentations from researchers who use the collections, UK legal deposit colleagues and publishers.

As soon as we started sending out invitations we had messages from all over the world asking to participate, we soon realised we would not have enough time for everyone who offered to present. Highlighting a need that our Legal Deposit Community have to get together and share experiences.

- 102 in person delegates attended on the day
- 192 (unique) viewers joined the online symposium
- Online delegates joined from 36 different countries:
 - (1) UK: 84 participants
 - (2) Sweden: 21 participants
 - (3) South Africa: 13 participants
 - (4) Ireland: 10 participants
 - (5) Slovenia: 7 participants
- Simultaneous Spanish translation increased South America uptake



The symposium was well attended with 102 people in person and a further 192 joining online.

Online delegates joined from 36 different countries. With the top five being UK, Sweden, South Africa, Ireland and Slovenia.

Once we confirmed we would be running simultaneous Spanish translations our delegates from South America increased. Indicating the importance to have English and Spanish subtitles and

The heat map shows where the delegates have come from. But more importantly it shows where they didn't come from.

This may give an indication of where we need to improve engagement for any future Legal Deposit events.

Outcomes & Lessons

- Positive feedback from delegates and presenters
- Online meant it was open to all Librarians across the world
- International meeting following day
- International Legal deposit forum needed

“ Thank you so much for such an excellent symposium. To hear about how others are dealing with Legal Deposit was inspirational”

“Wow! I didn't know how much we needed to get together with other Librarians who do what we do”



People still comment about how wonderful it was to get together with other Librarians who deal with Legal deposit. They found it inspirational.

They particularly enjoyed having a space where other people understood the complexities of being responsible for Legal deposit and the unique challenges such as storage and preservation that come with being a Legal Deposit Library.

The day following the symposium several international colleagues held a meeting where we established that we would like to set up an international forum for Legal deposit Librarians. A small group were tasked with looking at what this might look like and what we would need to consider.

Unfortunately, the planning for that came to an abrupt halt following the British Library cyber attack; however the need is still there and in fact it is probably even stronger now as other Legal Deposit Libraries want to learn how to deal with such scenarios and share best practices for all elements of Legal Deposit. So this will be picked up in the coming months.

Why do we need a Legal Deposit Forum?

- Share best practice
- Understand the status of Legal Deposit in each country
- Support each other in getting new legislation through
- Collaboration on Legal Deposit related projects
- Produce reports about Legal Deposit



We're all at different stages of getting digital Legal deposit, we can learn from each other and hopefully avoid some of the pit falls which those who have had digital Legal Deposit for a long time have discovered.

We can collaborate on research projects

We can collectively develop solutions to some of the issues we all face such as self publishing work on Amazon. Many of us will be collecting the same material because we live in a globalised economy and the national borders are blurred in the publishing world.

We can collectively advocate for better standards or better publisher deposit etc.



If we don't have time for questions I am around so please just come and talk to me.