

# The British Library at 50: looking to the future

Roly Keating, Chief Executive, The British  
Library

Libraries in a Changing Century: International Symposium Celebrating  
Nine Decades of the National Central Library, Taipei

20<sup>th</sup> April 2023



# The British Library at 50.







## British Library Act 1972

CHAPTER 54

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. The British Library.
2. The Board.
3. Transfer of British Museum Library.
4. Further provisions as to the Board.
5. Finance and accounts.
6. Consultation on terms and conditions of employment of staff.
7. Citation.

SCHEDULE—The British Library Board and its Advisory Councils.

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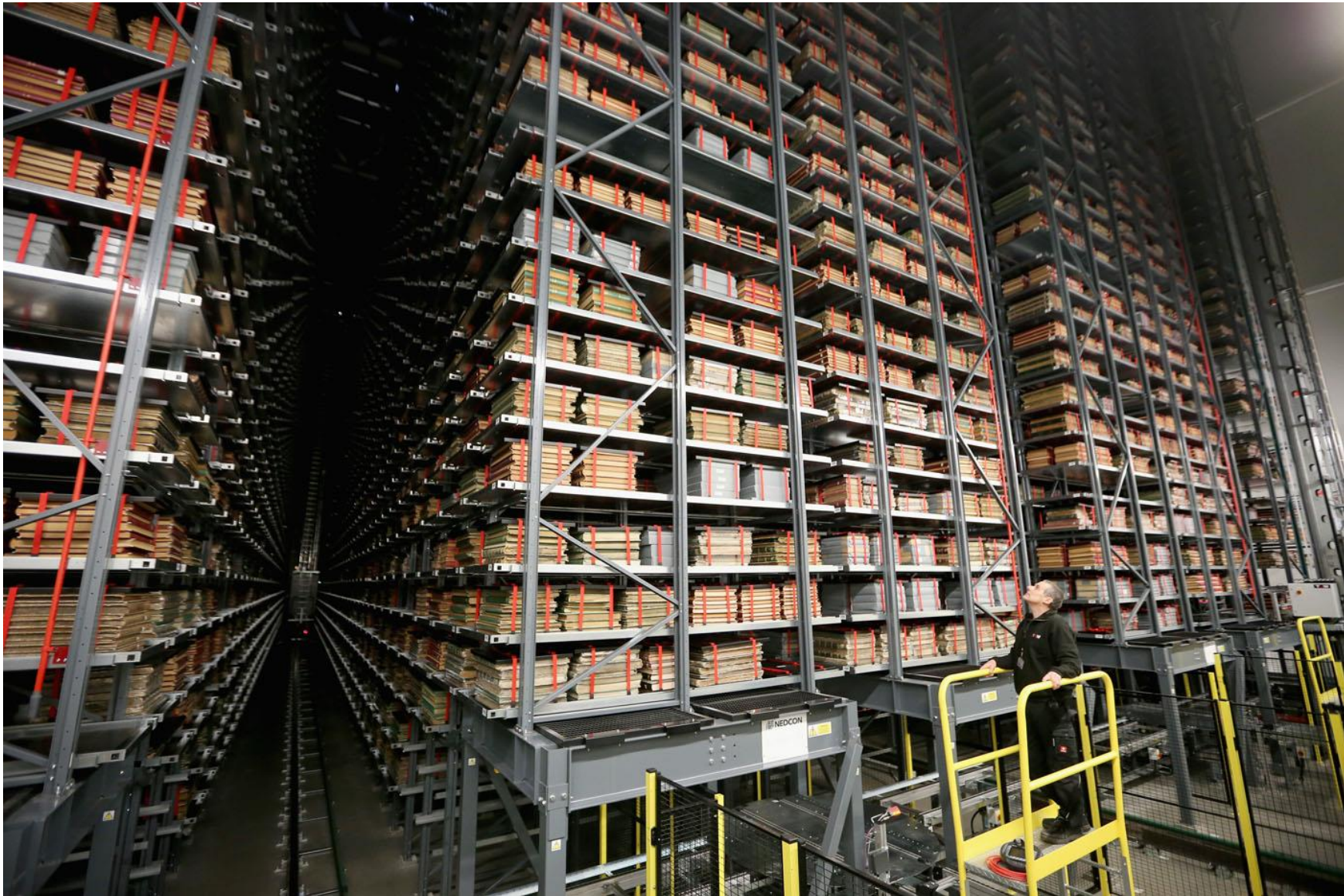




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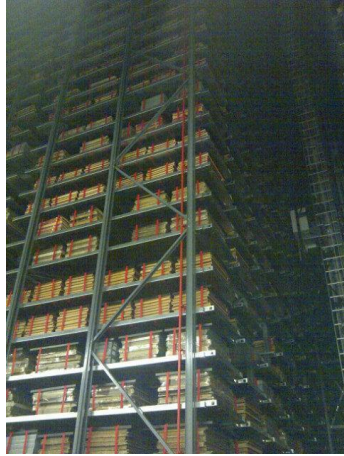
# LIBRARY BRITISH





We make our intellectual  
heritage accessible to everyone,  
for research, inspiration and  
enjoyment

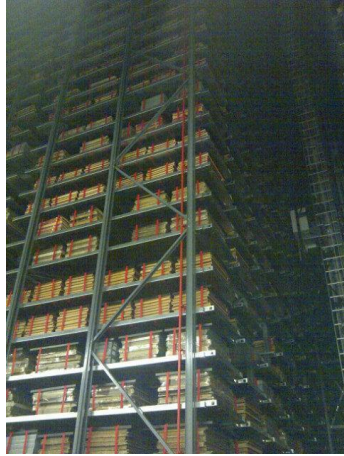




# Custodianship

We build, curate and preserve the UK's national collection of published, written and digital content

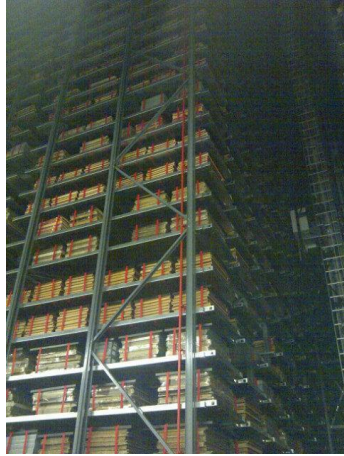




# Research

We support and stimulate research of all kinds

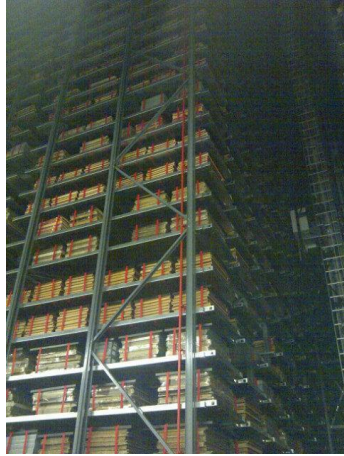




# Business

We help businesses  
to innovate and grow





## Culture

We engage everyone  
with memorable  
cultural experiences

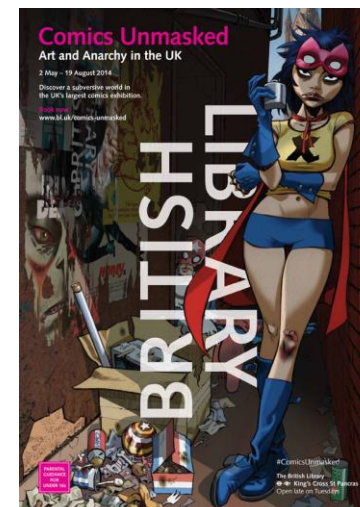


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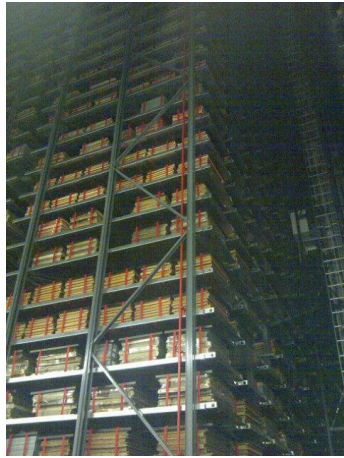




Learning  
We inspire young  
people and learners  
of all ages



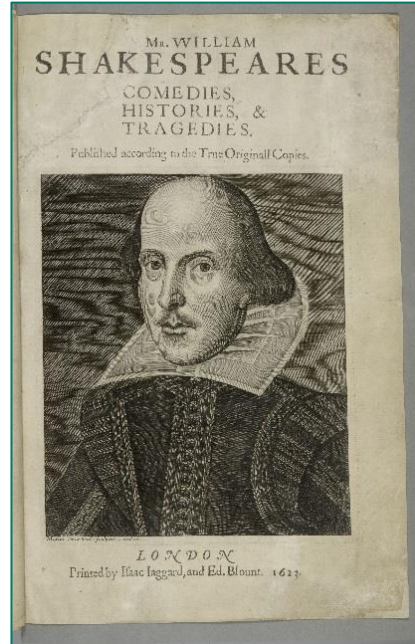
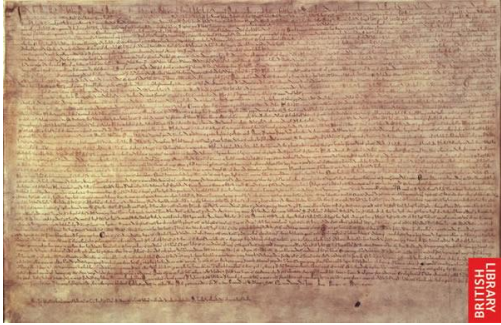




## International

We work with partners around the world to advance knowledge and mutual understanding

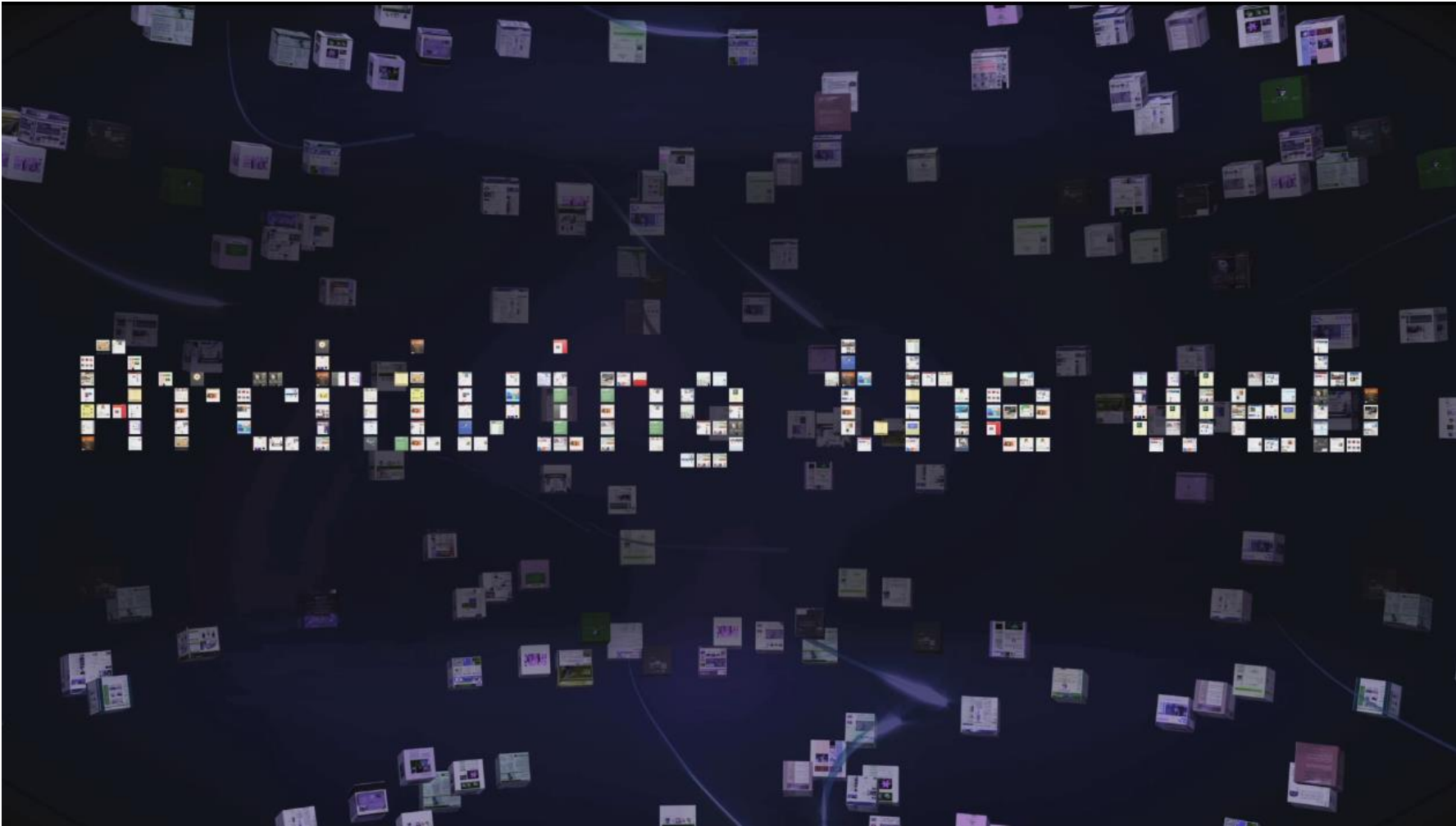




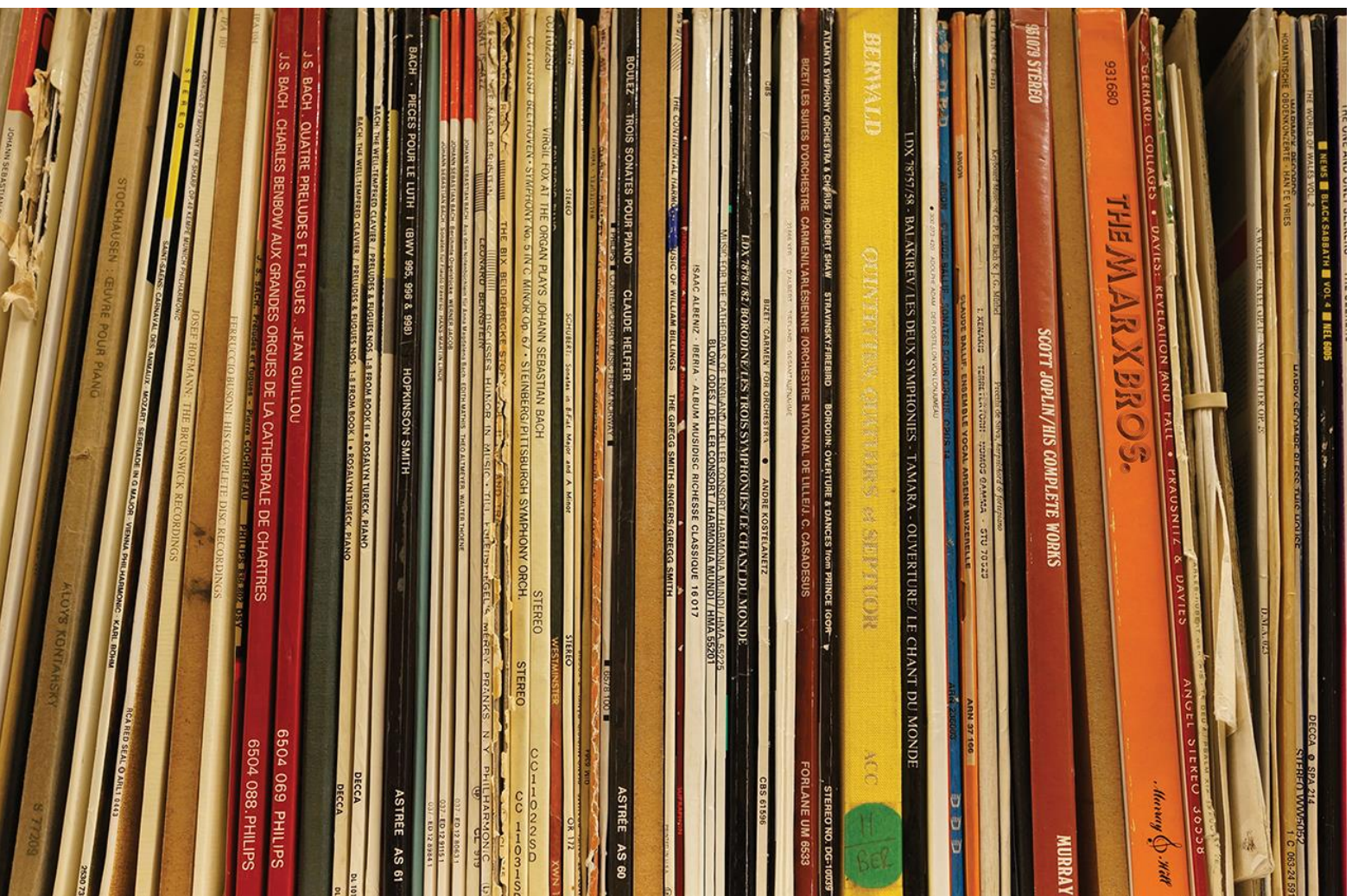
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170  
million  
items





# LIBRARY HSILIB





# LIBRARY HSILIB









**17,000 visits**  
per month to our  
reading rooms

**26.3 million visits**  
to the  
British Library  
website

**86 million**  
consultations in  
reading rooms,  
online, remotely









data.bl.uk is an 'experimental creative digital and physical space' to get access & support to use the British Library's digital collections & data to develop an idea.

data.bl.uk is a creative 'space' developed by the BL Labs team for researchers to download large 'chunks' of the British Library's openly available data and digital collections so that they can experiment with them and develop new innovative projects.



**BL Labs Digital Research Space - data.bl.uk**

Home Datasets Other Digital Collections Digital Research Support Project Archive Awards About

## Experiment with British Library's Digital Collections and Data

British Library Labs / BL Labs, established in 2013, was the first national library in the world to set up a 'Laboratory or Lab' to support and inspire the experimental use of its [data](#) and [digital collections](#) in exciting and innovative ways, through competitions, [awards](#), [events](#) and [collaborative projects](#). The number of 'Labs' in Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAMs) or 'GLAM Labs' around the world has since grown and has developed into an international community.

'data.bl.uk', launched by BL Labs in 2015 is a 'digital / data research space' to enable researchers to easily download often large amounts of data and digital collections in order for them to conduct their own experiments manually and / or computationally. We want to encourage researchers to learn, make mistakes, play and have fun while they develop their project ideas. Where appropriate and time willing the BL Labs team will be happy to support

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# International engagement



## *The International Library Leaders Programme*

- Using library collections to engage with researchers and broader audiences
- How to design and manage digitisation projects
- Caring for physical and digital collections
- Using new tools and services to engage researchers
- Developing learning programmes and exhibitions



CENL AGM, Norway, June 2019



# Endangered Archives Programme (EAP)



Catalogues & Collections ▾ Discover & Learn ▾ What's On ▾ Visit ▾ Business Support ▾ Shop ▾ Join ▾

Endangered Archives Programme

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### Welcome to the Endangered Archives Programme



#### Apply for a grant

Each year the Programme awards grants. If you are interested in applying, the preliminary round is from September to early November.

Apply now

#### For more information

[View our blog](#)



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# International Dunhuang Project (IDP)

The screenshot displays the IDP website interface. The top section features a banner image of a long scroll. Below this, the main heading reads "The International Dunhuang Project: The Silk Road Online". A paragraph describes the project as a ground-breaking international collaboration to make information and images of all manuscripts, paintings, textiles and artefacts from Dunhuang and archaeological sites of the Eastern Silk Road freely available on the Internet.

A table titled "Number of Images in IDP Database as of April 27, 2015" is shown:

Total	UK	China	Russia	Japan	Germany	Dunhuang	France
452,458	166,753	117,680	22,672	17,364	69,433	2,875	55,681

Below the table, a "Search Results" section is visible, showing a list of search results with thumbnail images and text descriptions. The results include items from the British Library, the National Library of China, and the Dunhuang Academy.

**International partnership** established in 1994 to bring together metadata and images of items from Dunhuang and other sites held in institutions across the world.

## IDP founding partners

- British Library
- National Library of China
- Dunhuang Academy
- BnF
- Berlin-Brandenburg Institute of Humanities
- Ryukoku University
- Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, St Petersburg

Over 20 collaborating institutions, including the National Central Library (Taipei), the British Museum (London), the Victoria & Albert Museum (London), Musée Guimet (Paris), MAA (Berlin), and the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)



# Professional exchanges and visits



2016 curatorial visit



2019-2020: Buddhism exhibition opening ceremony and loans



2018 NCL 85th Anniversary celebrations



2017 Encyclopaedia of Buddhist Art donation



2018 Head of AAS department's visit to Fo Guan Shan monastery

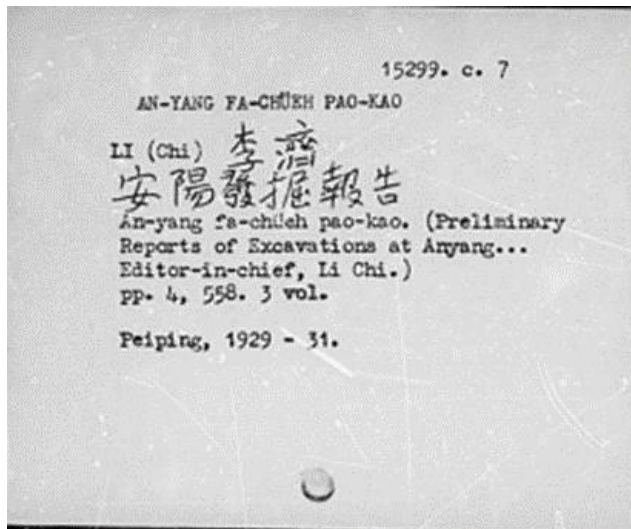


2019 curatorial visit



2019: Discovering Sacred Texts

# Collaborative projects with NCL



國家圖書館 National Central Library

古籍與特藏文獻資源

回首頁 | 簡介 | 會員登入 | 正體中文

整合查詢 | 古籍影像檢索 | 古籍聯合目錄 | 臺灣家譜聯合目錄 | 金石拓片資料

請輸入關鍵字

進階查詢 | 影像瀏覽 | 資料庫簡介 | 參與單位一覽表

中文古籍聯合目錄

不限欄位

題名

拼音題名

責任者

四部類目

版本

原書館藏地 英國大英圖書館

開始查詢 清除

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本館地址：10001臺北市中山南路20號。本館地圖及交通資訊  
總機：(02)23619132。最佳瀏覽解析度為1024x768以上  
隱私權政策。網站安全政策。廉政園地。網站地圖。服務信箱

NCL Union Catalogue of Chinese Rare Books

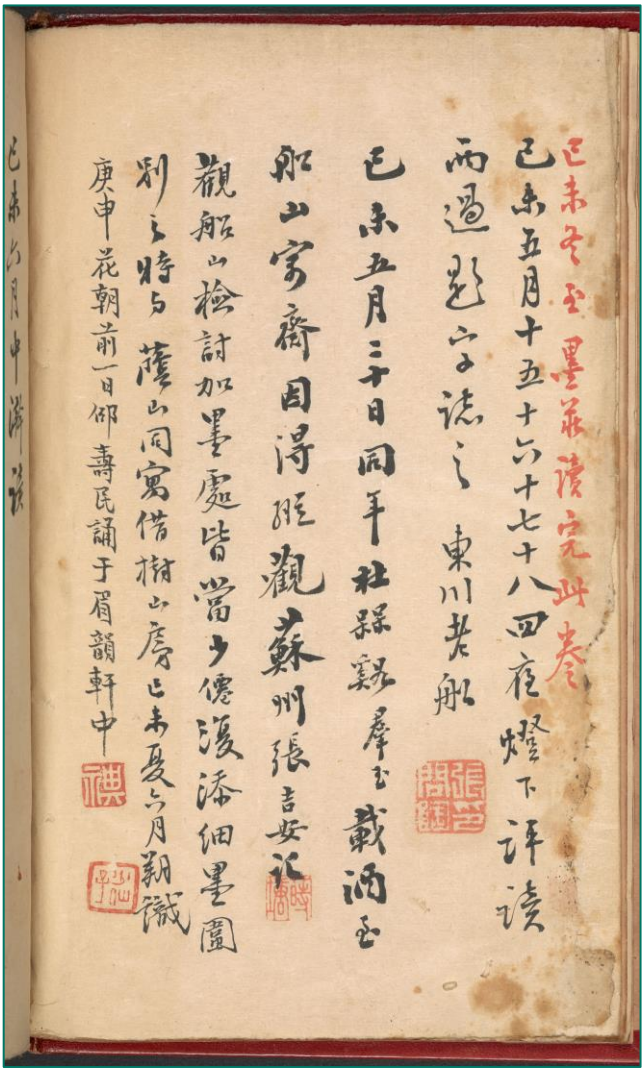
<http://rbook2.ncl.edu.tw/Search/Index/2>



# Collaborative projects with NCL

2023

New collaborative **digitisation** project for **40+ items** from the BL Chinese collection of rare books and manuscripts covering topics such as history and literature







...looking to the future



# Key trends in a changing world

- Digital transformations and AI
- Rise of disinformation
- Place-making and localism
- Geopolitical instability
- Climate emergency



# Strategic themes for 2023-2030



- Access, engagement and inclusion
- Deepening our partnerships
- Modernising our services
- Sustainability and resilience
- New spaces, north and south



# Access, engagement and inclusion



# Deepening our partnerships

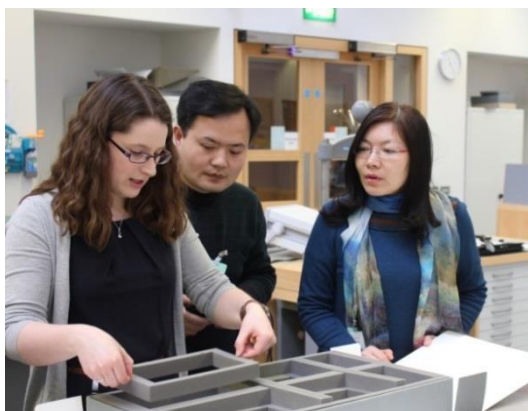


Maps showing locations of Business and IP Centre (BIPC) and Living Knowledge Network (LKN) partner libraries



# Deepening our partnerships

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# Modernising our services

- A period of major investment in our core digital **infrastructure** to keep pace with growth and user expectations
- **Innovation** in how we deliver content and services
- Renewed focus on **information literacy**
- **Collaborating** with others to enable new forms of use and engagement

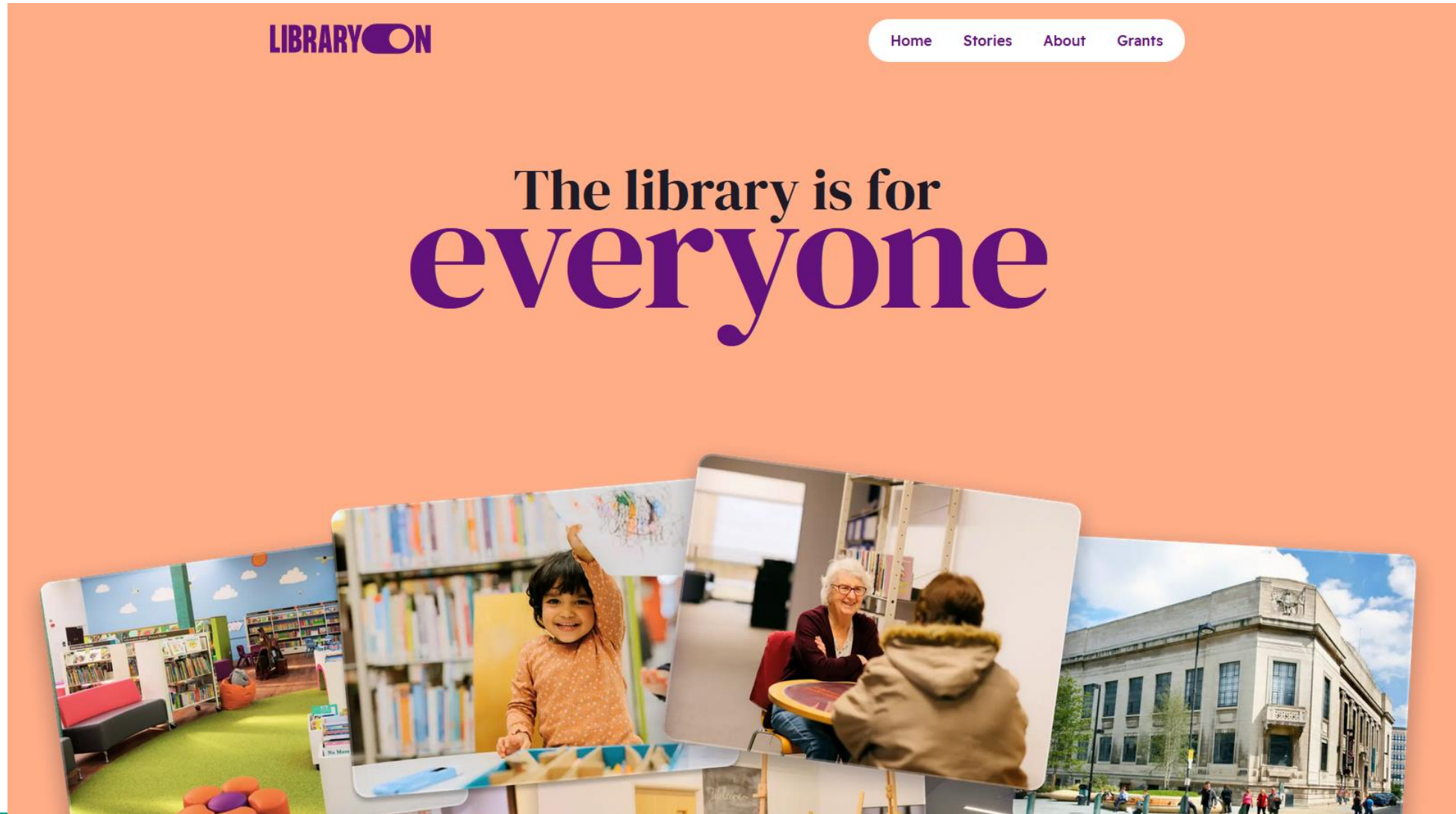
The logo consists of the word "LIBRARY" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font, followed by a purple toggle switch icon that is currently in the "ON" position, and then the word "ON" in the same bold, purple, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a solid orange rectangular background.

LIBRARY ON



# Modernising our services

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# Sustainability and resilience

**Join Our  
Commitment**

Sign the Green Libraries Manifesto

[www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesManifesto](http://www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesManifesto)

 Green  
Libraries  
Partnership

#GreenLibraries



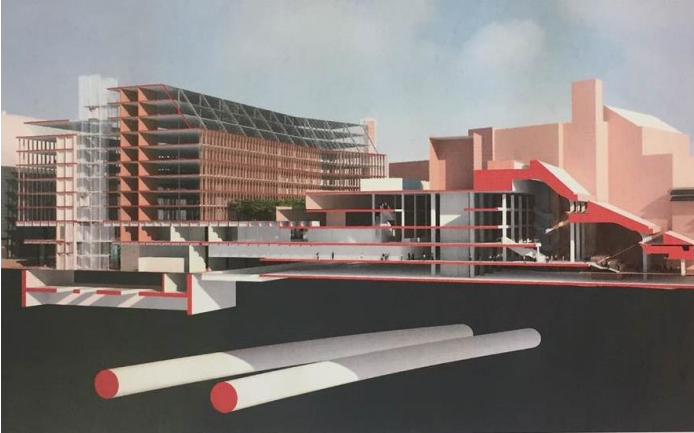


# Sustainability and resilience



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# New spaces, north and south



Boston Spa Renewed capital programme futureproofs BL into second half of 21C, becoming engine-room of Library services North and South



St Pancras Transformed completed in London, with new BL galleries and learning centre, HQ for Turing Institute and major commercial science research centre

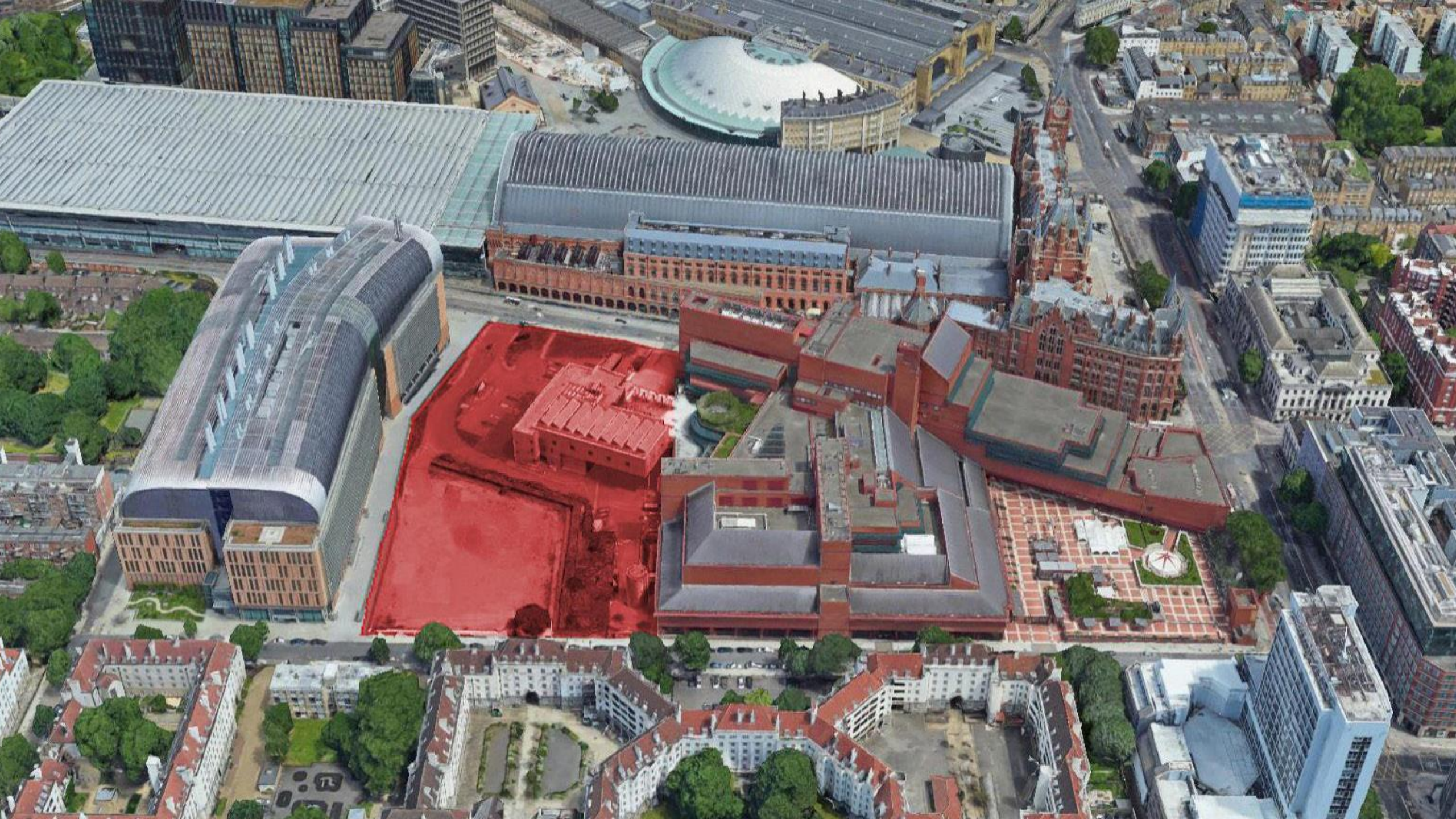


“British Library North” opens in restored historic Temple Works in Leeds, making national collection accessible to some 11m people across North of England



# St Pancras Transformed













Artist's impression





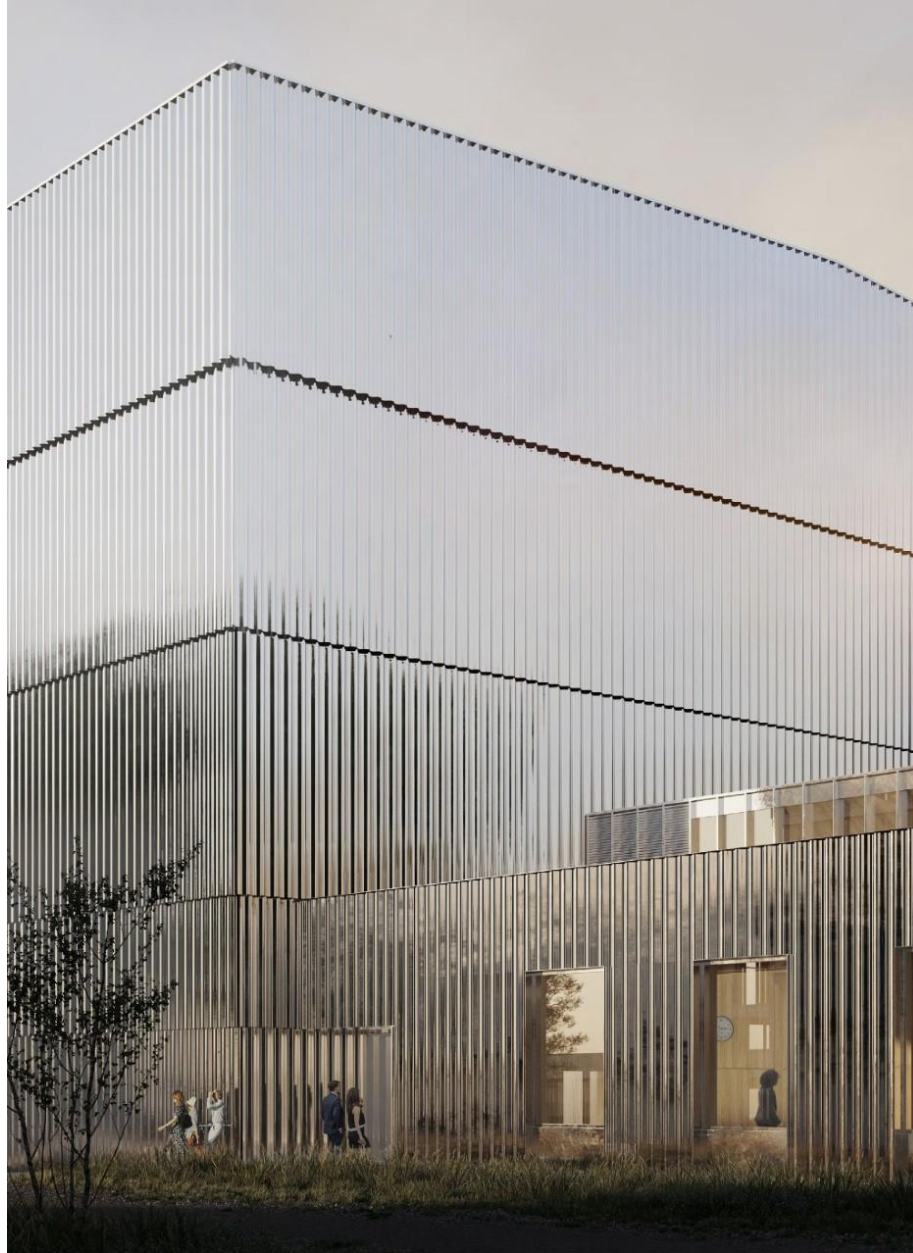
# Boston Spa Renewed



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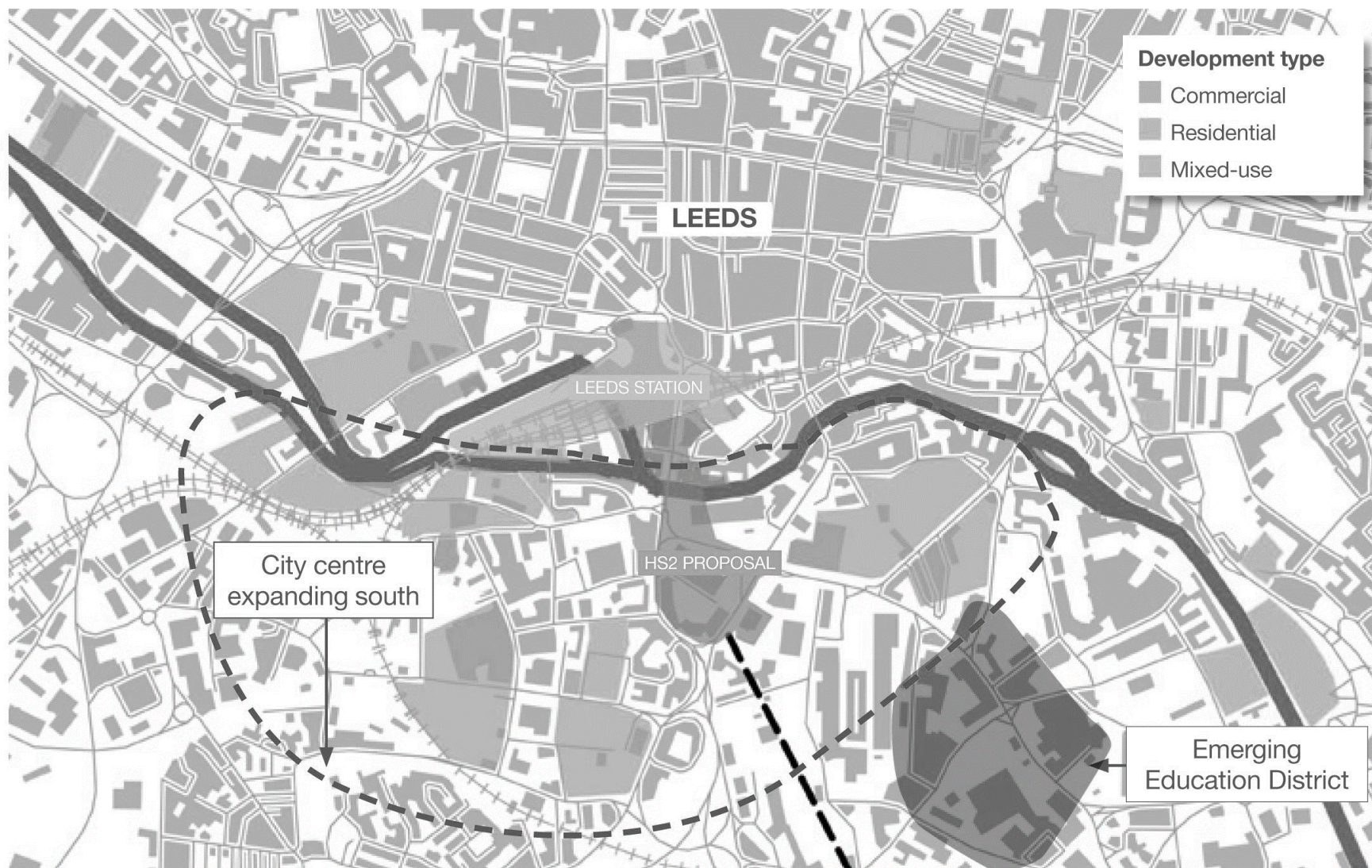


DATE: 2018  
AUTHOR: 100  
TITLE: 100  
100

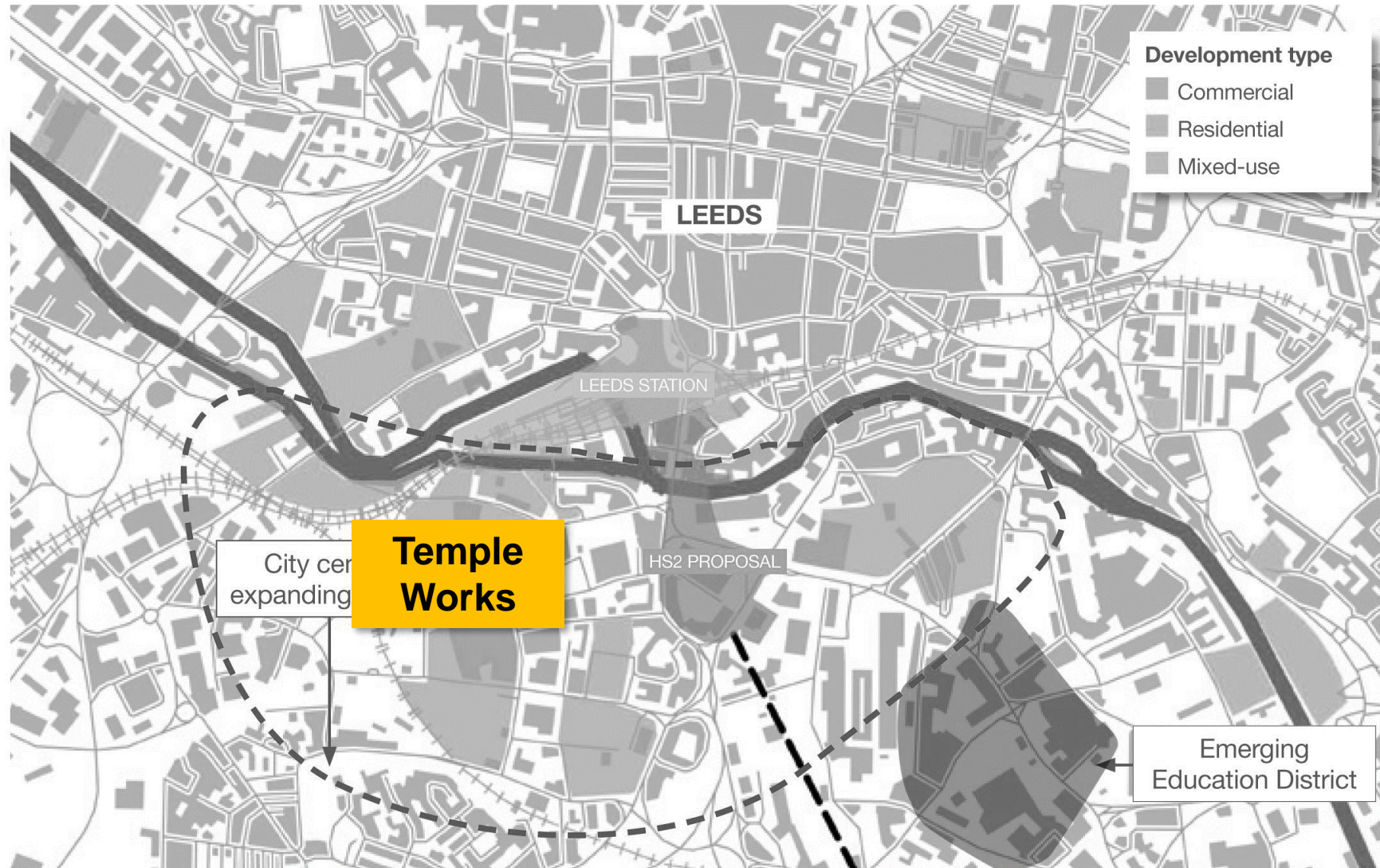
DATE: 2018  
AUTHOR: 100  
TITLE: 100  
100



# “British Library North” – Temple Works, Leeds

































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