



Left to right: Westminster City Library, a shelf in a library in Gambia, plaque outside the National Library of Catalunya, the interior of Havering Library, Belfast Central Library

Libraries Matter by Lesley Whyte

An important part of my work is visiting libraries throughout the country, and also travelling further afield to meet contacts and gather information about what is happening in the world of library information. I'm even one of those strange people who takes an interest in libraries when I am on holiday.



Bibliothèque nationale, France

One point that emerges over and over again is the importance of libraries for communities and governments no matter what the political system or whether a country is rich or poor, whether I am visiting Africa, America, Cuba or historic England. Libraries matter; they go hand-in-hand with civilisation and its growth and, I believe, they are as important now as they ever were.

Throughout the world libraries guard a culture's distinctive assets and also make them available to the world at large. Libraries are custodians of the rich diversity of human experience. The destruction of the National Library in Baghdad in 2003 lead to world-wide condemnation, and anyone following the diaries of Dr Saad Eskander, Director of the National Library and Archive in Baghdad, which have been published on the British Library website (www.bl.uk/iraqdiary.html) will be struck by the extreme personal sacrifices Dr Eskander and his staff

have undergone in an attempt to maintain a service for the users of the collections, and for posterity.



National Library of Iraq, Baghdad

The need to preserve cultural assets links to the major objectives of BDS. This is why we care so much about standards and accuracy. Such care represents an investment in the future for everybody. How can we safeguard that which makes us unique, as a species, a culture or even individually if we cannot locate and retrieve this information?

The World Wide Web may have opened up channels of communication and discovery for individuals around the globe but the library is still the heart of learning and the essential resource for communities everywhere, and the catalogue the key to access it whether online in cyberspace or in conventional space.



Freedom is closely linked to access. What value has freedom if you can't find what you are looking for? Last Christmas I was profoundly affected by schools in The Gambia that built their own libraries so painstakingly and took such care with the classification of their precious books; in the summer I saw New

Orleans, struggling to rebuild its library system after the floods – an effort that was seen as a priority by the whole community.



The National Library of Cuba, Havana

Recently I visited Cuba, a communist country with a political system often criticised in the West for its lack of freedom. There, one of the four sides of Revolution Square in Havana is flanked by the National Library. It is one of the four pillars of the State and it is parent to the libraries across Cuba and in the universities that are in every province. Its prominence is a testimony to the fact that Cuba has achieved almost 100% literacy amongst its population.



British Library, London

The library of Alfred the Great in Winchester, the British Library in London, the Ewart library, not far from the BDS offices in Dumfries, named after William Ewart, champion of the Public Libraries Act of 1851 and the thousands of public libraries across Britain build our communities and enshrine our freedom. Key to this freedom is access, and access is built around the library catalogue. That is why, for me and BDS, libraries certainly do matter, at home and all around the world.

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Everyone Needs Options

The Right Data | Flexible Delivery | The Best Service



At the end of last year BDS launched its new cost-saving and efficiency-promoting service to libraries, **Options**.

Options offers libraries the most cost-effective way to purchase the right data from BDS. Not only do library services enjoy savings in both time and money and improve efficiency, they can offer an enhanced service to their customers.

Options helps libraries re-assess their working practices. A combination of BDS products can be employed for the benefit of staff and users alike. Once the library has decided on the package, BDS offers a discounted price.

BDS recommends that its products be combined to support the different areas of a library's operations such as stock selection and replenishment, cataloguing, enquiry work and public access to data. It has created **Options** to facilitate this.

"At BDS we believe in working with libraries, taking their workflow into account. For example, our team can offer advice on appropriate levels of customisation to help maintain functionality, interoperability and all-important standards. This is **Options**," says Sarah Armitage.

To find out more about **Options** go to www.bibliographicdata.com or take the first step into **Options** by contacting Sarah Armitage, Director of Library Sales on 07860 324570.

FREE! Data Health Check

As part of **Options**, BDS is offering a data health check for your library service completely free of charge. For a no strings consultation, call Sarah Armitage now on 07860 324570 and get the best for your library!

Final Word

Thank you for reading this issue of BDSLive Life. As you will notice, we decided to increase the usual four pages of our newsletter to six pages. Life at BDS is getting busier and we felt we needed more space to tell you about the exciting things happening in the company.

We have introduced several new initiatives for libraries over the past months including **Options** and **BDSLiterature in Libraries**. Both are designed to help you get more out of BDS, your catalogue and to help customers get more from your library. Meanwhile our associate company, **West10**, is going from strength to strength.

BDS believes in libraries and so we welcome your feedback. Please feel free to contact our team with any reactions to existing BDS products and services or with any ideas for future developments. We are here to help and here to listen to you.

Many thanks
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Your regular newsletter FEBRUARY 2007



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BDSLIVE – Sounds So Good

BDS wants BDSLive to be music to your ears! That is why the multimedia cataloguing and research tool that has changed the way libraries look at their catalogue now incorporates recorded music data.

Reflecting BDS's commitment to addressing customer feedback, librarians can use BDSLive to select and download MARC records for music titles across a wide range of genres including classical, pop, jazz, folk, country... in fact, for almost any category of music which a library may wish to stock.

BDSLIVE's flexible, functional and library-friendly search options have been extended to BDS's recorded music data. Sleeve images are available and items can be retrieved using keyword, title or title keywords, artist, track title, barcode, and manufacturer's number. BDS's data-rich downloadable UKMARC and MARC21 records also contain full track listings.



The addition of music to BDS's already impressive array of data on books, audio books, DVDs, videos and computer games means that BDSLive is now the complete solution for reference, public access, cataloguing and stock selection

BDSLIVE Lite – perfect for the public

The enhancements do not end there. **BDSLIVE Lite** is now also available: the perfect tool for use by library customers. Users can search for items within your own library catalogue or elsewhere. **BDSLIVE Lite** is available via IP access and can be re-branded to reflect the profile of your authority. BDS's authority-wide access and pricing model allows for IP access to **BDSLIVE Lite** at no extra charge.* So, **BDSLIVE** is now equally useful to library staff and the public alike.

"The inclusion of music data and the advent of **BDSLIVE Lite** represent a major enhancement to an already popular product," comments Sarah Armitage, Director of Library Sales. "I am delighted with the speed and efficiency that the BDS team have shown in addressing comments and requests from our clients. Only seven months after the launch of an excellent product, **BDSLIVE** is even bigger and better."

BDS Signs Deal with EUK Digital



BDS has signed a deal with Entertainment UK (EUK), part of the Woolworths Group, to supply data for recorded music to libraries.

EUK, founded in 1966 and now employing over 900 staff, is the UK's leading distributor of entertainment products, generating an annual turnover in excess of £1.1 billion. It has a proven track record of working with major retailers.

"We are delighted to be supplying BDS with our high quality data on recorded music," comments Les Willis, Head of Operations at EUK Digital. "Entertainment UK prides itself on providing partners with a range of services and expertise that support the growth of their business".

BDSLIVE – Sounds So Good

Continued from cover

Other enhancements include the introduction of user preference profiling. You can save your preferred settings when searching for and displaying results. Database coverage has also been significantly improved by the inclusion of rich content from publishers alongside the in-house records created by BDS.

"We realised that every user has their way of using BDSLive. That's great, that's what we wanted and why we designed it to be so flexible. To be able to save these personal preferences was a logical step in product development. It saves on mouse clicks and it saves time," comments Business Development Director, Eric Green.

Exceeding Expectations

Subscriptions to BDSLive have been in excess of expectations. Now, with this bigger and better incarnation of BDSLive, along with BDS's other products available through our Options service (see article Everyone Needs Options in this issue), BDS can offer libraries the complete data solution using the very best information coupled with flexibility and affordable delivery.

* Extra charges may apply for those authorities interested in re-branding the site.



Deal with EUK

Continued from cover

For BDS quality was the priority as the company expands its already extensive service to libraries. By using EUK data BDS will be able to list availability and price as well as include a barcode and a catalogue number to aid retrieval. The data is also enriched to include items such as sleeve images.

Business Development Director at BDS, Eric Green, says, "For BDS it was vital to obtain the best possible data for our library clients. We look forward to meeting the needs of libraries with EUK data integrated into our system."

BDS has a policy of listening to libraries and meeting, wherever possible, their requests. The supply of recorded music data for the catalogue represents a significant achievement, making BDS the supplier of a complete data solution for libraries.



www.bibliographicdata.com BDS has a new website!

To reflect the dynamic nature of BDS and its belief in keeping libraries up-to-date in all matters of data and information, BDS has launched a new website at www.bibliographicdata.com.

The site includes all the information that libraries need to know about BDS products and services, including different methods of data delivery, information for publishers and booksellers, an archive of news and newsletters and all the contact details that you may need. It also has section dedicated to booksellers and publishers.

The site also adds topical information through its news section, an Options channel that takes you to an in-depth look at the new product combining service from BDS and Ideas which publishes articles of a longer, analytical nature, relevant to libraries and information professionals.

You can keep up-to-date with what's new on the BDS site via its syndication option which will inform you when changes are made and take you straight to the BDS site.

Helpful pdf downloads also enable you to get all the information about BDS products and services in a manageable, printable format on your own computer or, if you just wish to print out a particular page, you can print uncluttered text with a simple click.



BDSLITERATURE in Libraries

Calling Writers

BDS is launching its new, nationwide BDSLiterature in Libraries campaign by teaming up with one of Britain's top literary magazines to offer writers and writers' groups based in libraries across the country the chance to get their work published alongside the likes of Bernard Kops, Kenneth White, Michael Horovitz, Tessa Ransford, Alan Franks and Stewart Conn.



The new initiative is with Markings, a magazine founded the same year as BDS and also based in Scotland. Both BDS and Markings have gone from strength to strength since their beginnings, success stories that have been built around an insistence on quality and accuracy.

"It rather goes with the territory that if you work as closely with new publications as we do at BDS, you are likely to be passionate about creative writing" says Lesley Whyte, Managing Director. "Most of my colleagues enjoy reading contemporary work, and many librarians I have met over the years have been talented writers. A literary magazine like Markings provides the opportunity for these writers to see their work published. I was asked to be a guest editor of Markings four years ago, when I selected the short stories for one issue, and I was astonished by the quality of the writing that was being submitted by writers from all over the country. We know that libraries are often the meeting place for writers' groups, who nurture new talent, so we would like to encourage library services to promote the opportunity to get work published through our link with Markings".

Work will be read, selected and incorporated in a special section of the magazine published at the end of October 2007.

"The missions of BDS and Markings are mutually supportive. BDS wants to be at the heart of the library service in Britain," says Lesley Whyte. "It sets about achieving this through its unrivalled data supply but what better way to give something back

to libraries than to promote creative literature? How many writers pay tribute to the public library service, which so often was the starting point for their exploration of the written word and provided the inspiration to write?"

Giving Something Back to Libraries

Writers' groups can submit as a group or as individuals. Each individual may submit up to four poems or a short story or essay no longer than 2000 words. Each page of the submission must be marked with the name of the writer and their contact details, including email address if possible, and the name of the group and the library where the group meets or where the librarian works.

"Markings is always looking for new talent. It was why the magazine was founded and why it continues to thrive. We are also keen to extend our readership. Working with BDS is a great opportunity, one that any literary magazine would relish", comments John Hudson, Editor of Markings.

Writers selected to appear in Markings will receive a free copy of the magazine and an invite to the launch of Markings, issue 25 in October which will take place at The Bakehouse, a poetry performance space based in Galloway.

The Bakehouse's Artistic Director, Chrys Salt says, "We are combining libraries, writers, publication and performance and working with a company whose name is associated with quality. BDSLiterature in Libraries is a very exciting venture".

Markings is stocked across Britain, including in the National Theatre Bookshop, London, the Scottish Poetry Library, Edinburgh and the South Bank Poetry Library. It also has an international subscription base.

To get your free BDSLiterature in Libraries pack which includes all the information your library needs to join the scheme including submission guidelines, posters, flyers and information sheets, contact:

Sunny Rathore
BDSLITERATURE in Libraries
Markings, 42 – 44 High Street
Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2HP

Telephone: 01557 814196
info@markings.org.uk

Submissions may be sent electronically to the Markings team at bds@markings.org.uk.

BDS Sponsors an Evening with Prunella Scales

As part of the BDSLiterature in Libraries programme, BDS is sponsoring "An Audience with Prunella Scales" on May 27 2007.



The well-known and much-loved actress, famous for her role as the nosy, shrewish wife Sybil Fawlty in the classic John Cleese comedy "Fawlty Towers", is an accomplished

Shakespearean actress and also played in the 1992 award-winning Merchant Ivory Film, Howard's End.

She was awarded the C.B.E. in 1992 for her services to drama and the Patricia Rothermere Award at the 2001 London Evening Standard Theatre Awards for her contributions to British theatre.

The evening will take place in Scotland's new poetry and performance venue, The Bakehouse, starting at 19:00 and it will run alongside the Spring Fling open studio artists' weekend and the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival. A champagne reception will be followed by an interview with Prunella Scales and readings from her biography with questions from the audience.

Afterwards there will be an opportunity to meet the actress and get signed copies of her biography.

"We are delighted that BDS have sponsored such a wonderful evening," says The Bakehouse's Artistic Director, Chrys Salt. "Prunella Scales is not only a household name but she has recorded many audio books which prove very popular with libraries and their customers."

For more information visit www.bibliographicdata.com and head for the news section or to book tickets email bookings@thebakehouse.info

The Place To Be

West10, the trade subsidiary of BDS, has launched its new website www.west10entertainment.co.uk.

The entirely flash-driven website includes animations and sound and explains in four sequences what makes West10 special. Endorsed by FACT (Federation Against Copyright Theft) and the BVA (British Video Association), West10 uses the same high quality data that works so effectively for libraries up and down the country.

To find out more about West10, log onto the site and click on any of the four paths offered then sit back and relax as you watch.



The new West10 website

West10 Powers dvd-subtitles.com

Accurate subtitling data on DVD releases is proving a boon to viewers with hearing difficulties. West10 now supplies data to dvd-subtitles.com, a web-site specifically aimed at users of English subtitles, including the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

Subtitling on DVDs varies enormously from publisher to publisher and even across releases of the same title. An estimated nine million people in the UK experience hearing difficulties and may be dependent upon subtitles to watch DVDs. With over 20,000 registered members and over 2,500 genuine page views per day, there is a clear need for the accurate subtitling information presented by dvd-subtitles.com.

"West10 data provides the backbone of the dvd-subtitles.com database and ensures all the DVD information is up-to-date. One of the biggest advantages of West10 data is the way that their data is structured," comments Mat White, founder of dvd-subtitles.com. "For example, it is now possible to link un-subtitled releases to subtitled versions of the same movie".

"We are delighted to be working with dvd-subtitles.com," states West10's Director of Editorial, Rosie Harley. "The site is a unique resource for subtitle users, providing accurate information on English subtitling which is not available anywhere else. The richness of West10 data is ideally suited to this purpose."



The dvd-subtitles.com website

Businesses Choose West10

Clients throughout the home entertainment industry are choosing West10 as their preferred data supplier. Here are just some new signings:

sendit.com

Sendit.com sells the widest range of DVDs, Videos and games from blockbuster titles to TV series to classics. The friendly face of online shopping, Sendit.com was founded in January 1998. It has won numerous accolades from the industry, the press and most importantly from customers in over 120 countries worldwide.



Xtra-vision Limited is Ireland's largest chain of video rental stores, founded in 1979. They have 205

stores and have workforce of almost 1600 employees. Owned by Blockbuster since 1998, Xtra-vision recognised the quality of data and technical support from West10.

DREAMdirect Group PLC

Dream Direct Group plc ("Dream Direct"), is the UK's leading home shopping retailer of nostalgic, leisure and entertainment based products targeted at the over 50's market.

Dream Direct recognised the speed and efficiency with which West10 was able to meet their requirements.

Rondo LIBRARY AND EDUCATION SUPPLIERS

Rondo is a dedicated library supply company based in Northern Ireland and selling books, CD and cassette music, and DVD and VHS video.

