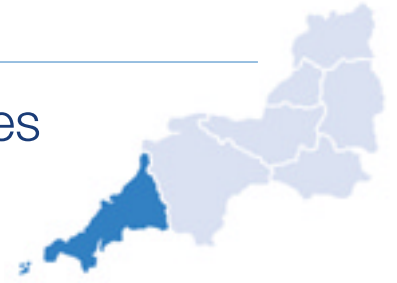


Museums, Libraries and Archives



This fact sheet is one of a series covering the South West. It provides a snapshot of museums, libraries and archives in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Information has been drawn from published national and regional research including SWMLAC's *Directory of South West Museums, Libraries & Archives* and *Making a Difference: the impact of museums, libraries and archives in the South West* (2004); the South West Economy Centre's *The Economic Contribution of Museums, Libraries and Archives in the South West* (2004); as well as Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy statistics and local authority and regional agency websites. It relates mainly to the financial year 2002/03.

Cornwall at a glance

- Cornwall has 75 museums run by independent trusts, local authorities and national, private and other bodies.
- There are 47 independent trust museums and 8 local authority museums.
- 31 museums are Registered.
- Museums employ 97 fte* staff and receive help equivalent to an additional 46 fte posts from 774 volunteers.
- There are 82 libraries in the county, including public, higher and further education, institutional, private and other libraries.
- There are 39 public libraries in Cornwall of which 9 are mobile.
- The public library service employs 175 fte staff.
- In addition to the local authority archive service, there are 30 other organisations that hold archive material.
- The local authority archive service employs 13 fte staff.

The users

- Museums in Cornwall receive 956,000 visitors per annum.
- More than half (56%) of all museum visitors are from the South West; 40% are from the rest of the UK; and 4% are from overseas.
- The public library service receives almost 385,000 enquiries; 3m visits; and 28,000 website visits annually.

- St Austell is the busiest public library in Cornwall, handling 346,765 issues per annum.
- In a survey, 96% of users of the public library service considered staff knowledge and expertise to be very good or good.
- Cornwall Record Office is visited by almost 6,000 on-site users per annum and receives almost 5,000 enquiries by post, email and telephone.

Social and community value

- The Museum of Submarine Telegraphy, Porthcurno, is leading a partnership scheme of 3 independent museums with support from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to rebuild and enhance local communities and attract local people who were previously non-users.
- Enterprise Edge is a partnership by Cornwall Reference and Information Library, Business Link and SWRDA to serve new and existing businesses, providing a specialist market research and business information service.
- Almost 4m books are issued by public libraries each year and over 240,000 audio, visual, electronic and other issues are made.
- The public library service has more than 27,500 large print books.
- Almost 91,000 talking books are issued by public libraries each year.
- The public library service assists 5,228 housebound readers.

Learning and education value

- Penwith Museums is developing a KS2 Communication Outreach project linking science and citizenship. Interactive resources are being piloted with partner schools explaining the basic principles of communication.
- Public libraries have a total book stock of 745,268 and a total audio, visual, electronic and other stock of 46,734.
- All Cornwall's public libraries offer public internet access.
- There are 46 secondary school libraries in Cornwall.

Economic and regeneration value

- The County Council makes a net expenditure on museums of £158,000 or 31p per head of population.
- Museums contribute £2.2m to the local economy in Gross Value Added**.
- Cornish museums have a total revenue income of £4.16m and a total capital income of £13.2m, of which around 59% derives from Lottery funds and 41% from the public sector.
- Museums have a total operational expenditure of £4.16m, almost 50% of which is represented by wage costs.
- The National Maritime Museum in Falmouth is a major tourist attraction in the South West. The £28m project has received the largest HLF grant yet made to the region (£11.5m). The Regional Development Agency also made an £8m grant. It is expected to play a crucial role in the regeneration of Falmouth.
- Public libraries have a total net expenditure, excluding capital charges, of over £5m.
- The local authority archive service has a net revenue expenditure of £462,000.

Quality, standards and development

- Cornwall has received 24 HLF awards in the field of museums and collections, totalling £21,831,672.
- The county has had 9 HLF awards in the field of manuscripts and archives, totalling £1,269,300.
- The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, is a partner in the South West Museum Hub, a MLA-funded initiative to provide leadership in museum practice and improve standards in the museums domain.

- Cornwall County Council was rated as excellent in the Audit Commission Comprehensive Performance Assessment in both 2002 and 2003.
- Falmouth Art Gallery was awarded a SW Tourism Chairman's Award for Excellence in SW Tourism Excellence Awards 2004; it also received an Interpret Britain Award for Interpretation and Volunteers in 2003.

Exemplar projects

- Launceston Library has run a University of the First Age Summer Challenge to engage with teenagers during the school holidays to increase access to reading and library services and make the library more responsive to teenagers' needs.
- The *Cornwall Digital Tithe* was a project by Cornwall Record Office to improve access to, and conservation of, Cornwall's tithe maps and put them in a GIS (Geographic Information System). This was a pilot study to test the feasibility for undertaking a full-scale digital tithe project for the whole of Cornwall.
- The Bartlett Library at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, has been developed to provide a single location for maritime information in Cornwall by merging the maritime reference collections of Cornwall Library and the Bartlett Library at one location. Cornwall Library has loaned some 1,000 titles.
- *Preparing for D-Day – Voices from Cornwall*, a project run by the Trebah Gardens. 6th June 2004 marks the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Trebah was one of the embarkation beaches used by US Infantry. The project will create a permanent archive of the memories and anecdotes of those living in Cornwall in 1944, focusing on three cultural groups: evacuees, US forces and the local population.
- Redruth Library is running a regional pilot for the *Young Cultural Creators* theme.
- *Fish Heads and Tails*, at Falmouth Art Gallery, encouraged children to make fish costumes and develop characters for their creatures, together with a story-teller, culminating in a shoal dance and fashion show.

* fte – full-time equivalent posts.

** Gross Value Added – a financial measure of the economic output of an industry.

SWMLAC

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