

Electronic Legal Deposit (UK) – FAQs

What is Legal Deposit?

Legal Deposit is the legislative arrangement whereby the Library of Trinity College Dublin is entitled to claim a copy of all works published in the UK under UK statute. The other UK Legal Deposit Libraries are; the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, the Bodleian Library Oxford and Cambridge University Library.

The UK legislation dates from 1801. Trinity College Dublin is the Legal Deposit Library for the island of Ireland. TCD received c.55,000 printed books under legal deposit in 2016-2017.

What is electronic Legal Deposit (eLD)?

Following primary legislation in 2003, new regulations came into force in the UK in April 2013 enabling the six UK Legal Deposit libraries to collect electronic publications (e-books, e-journals, and an archive of UK websites). Electronic Legal Deposit is also referred to as Non-Print Legal Deposit (NPLD).

Why is eLD (UK) useful?

Extending legal deposit to cover electronic publications and the UK web output is vital to ensure that the whole of the UK's publishing output is captured and preserved for the future.

This development further enhances the printed Legal Deposit collections available in the Library of Trinity College Dublin. Since 1801, materials received under Legal Deposit have been used to support research, teaching and learning activities in Trinity College Dublin.

Over time, more content will become available, and more publishers will switch to deposit electronically.

Not all publishers publish their materials electronically, and where a publication is only available in print, Trinity will continue to receive it in that format.

What material is currently available?

As of January 2018, there are;

- Over 208,000 e-books, with about 500 new e-book titles added every week
- 2.8 million e-journal articles now accessible, with about 1,250 more e-journal titles new to the Library from major UK academic publishers
- 10.5 million archived UK websites, which is a unique source in Ireland.

How is eLD (UK) material (books or articles or web archive) accessed?

Access to eLD (UK) material is available on PCs in the Berkeley, Lecky, Hamilton, and John Stearne Medical Library reading rooms only. Currently, access is being extended to PCs in the Manuscript & Archive and Early Printed Book reading rooms, the 24-hour Kinsella Hall and for postgraduates in the 1937 Reading Room.

The e-books can be found in Stella Search. The e-journal articles and the websites have their own dedicated search screens (currently in beta release).

Titles of e-books can be searched using Stella Search from anywhere, but can only be read from the above reading room PCs.

Currently, eLD (UK) articles can be searched within a dedicated interface, which is only accessible from the above reading room PCs. Full integration into Stella Search will be available within the next few months. The UK Web Archive also gives a dedicated interface, again only accessible from the above reading room PCs.

Self-service printing is available within UK copyright restrictions.

Can eLD (UK) material be accessed on a personal laptop in the library or in an office on campus or at home?

No. The legislation only permits access on library-owned PCs, and only one person at a time may view an item. Once the person using the item has finished and closes down the item, it will become available within a couple of minutes for another reader to consult.

Can a copy of any of the eLD (UK) material be pasted or downloaded?

No. The regulations were designed to mimic what can and cannot be done with print materials. As with print, each of the six Libraries is entitled to a single copy of any given publication. If digital copying was permitted, that would soon create multiple copies. Readers cannot copy and paste content, download content, save content, or take a photograph of the screen content. Readers can print from specific printers, subject to UK legal restrictions.

Is there a noticeable cut-over of print to e-?

In general, there is a cut over by large commercial and academic publishers of journals and books from print to electronic. Most of these publishers are now depositing their publications with the British Library in electronic format rather than print. This is a much less noticeable trend in small and medium sized publishers and we continue to receive such publications in print.

By definition, websites are born digital and have never existed in print format.

Will more material be available?

Having tackled the most populous formats of e-journal, e-books and UK websites, emerging formats such as digital print music and maps are next to be investigated. Ordnance Survey mapping for Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been available in the Legal Deposit Libraries for a number of years. In 2017, a new interface was implemented and a number of commercial map publishers are now depositing their content. Engagement with digital music publishers is progressing. Investigation is underway on the feasibility of collecting a wider variety of digital formats that are at risk of loss including apps and structured data.

Digital Ordnance Survey mapping for the UK and Northern Ireland has been accessible from a dedicated PC in the Glucksman Map Library for a number of years. In November 2017, a new interface with enhanced functionality for searching geospatial data was implemented. Currently the UK Legal Deposit Libraries are working with a number of commercial map publishers to make their digital mapping available in the Legal Deposit libraries, including Trinity. Data from the first of these publishers, XYZ Digital Map Company, is now accessible from the Glucksman Map Library. New content includes street maps of UK cities over time, postcode mapping for England, Scotland and Wales over time and facsimile maps of the D-Day Landings.

Next steps

Legislative

The six Legal Deposit Libraries are preparing submissions for a Review by the UK government through the sponsoring department of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Organisational

Trinity's Librarian and College Archivist works with the Directors of the other five Legal Deposit Libraries, with the overall responsibility of implementing the e-deposit legislation. TCD Library staff are deeply involved with numerous groups working on implementation, metadata, technical issues, content and collection development.

Technical

UK legislation mandates each Legal Deposit Library to collect digital publications and other content. For practical and financial reasons the six libraries collaborate closely in the process. There are four nodes, which mirror each other - one at the National Library of Scotland, one at the National Library of Wales and two at British Library sites in London and Boston Spa, Yorkshire. The university libraries of Oxford, Cambridge and Trinity College Dublin access content via the nodes. Technical implementation of this unprecedented system for all six libraries has been challenging.

Further e-deposit material

With the agreement of publishers, e-books and e-journals are deposited with the British Library, who provide access to the content to the other Libraries. The British Library carries out an annual crawl of the UK web presence. News media and other important sites are crawled more frequently. In addition, the legal deposit libraries work together to curate themed collections of websites. For example in 2017 the centenary of the Russian Revolution was a topic, as was the UK general election.

The e-deposit of maps, digital print music and apps, which represent substantially more challenging technical issues, are the next categories for pilot e-deposit.