

**BRITISH  
LIBRARY**

# **British Library National Postgraduate Training Days**

**Jude England, Head of Social Science  
Collections and Research**

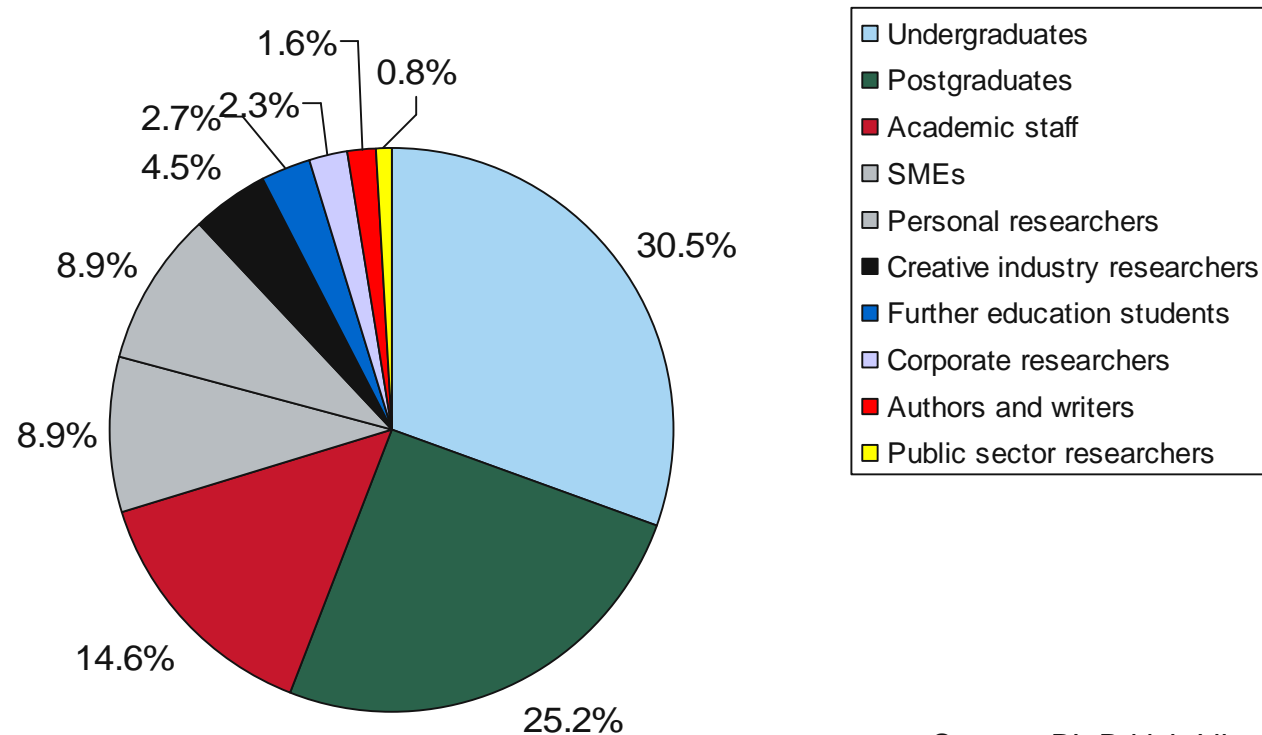
**Latest Developments in Research Council  
Practice, UKCGE Workshop, 30 November 2009**

## Social Science at the British Library: Strategic Priorities 2009-2014

Access	Capacity Building	Engagement	Content development and management
<p><i>Remote service offerings</i></p> <p><i>'Active' on-site provision</i></p> <p><i>Content enhancement</i></p> <p><i>Help for researchers</i></p>	<p><i>Early career social science researchers</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge exchange</i></p> <p><i>Enhance understanding and exploitation of content</i></p> <p><i>Challenges of digital environment</i></p> <p><i>Promote knowledge of collections, products and services</i></p>	<p><i>Research collaboration and exploitation of assets</i></p> <p><i>Engage with Digital Britain initiatives</i></p> <p><i>Support research and policy agenda of ESRC &amp; Government</i></p> <p><i>Bring researchers, practitioners and policy makers together to enhance the impact of research</i></p>	<p><i>Build balanced research collection</i></p> <p><i>Collaborate with area curators to build by content discipline and theme</i></p> <p><i>Continue collection development partnerships with LSE/OU SSL and IALS</i></p> <p><i>Take active part in transition to 'e' publishing</i></p>

# British Library Audiences & Readers

- HE sector makes up 70.3% of British Library Readers (UGs, PGs, academic staff).



Source: BL British Library internal reader admissions data for period Oct-06 to June-07.

# Why do we run Postgraduate Training Days?

## Objectives

- n Promote awareness of the Library amongst postgraduate students
- n To introduce varied relevant collections to researchers
- n Remove perceived anxieties about the Library
- n Involve students and researchers from outside London

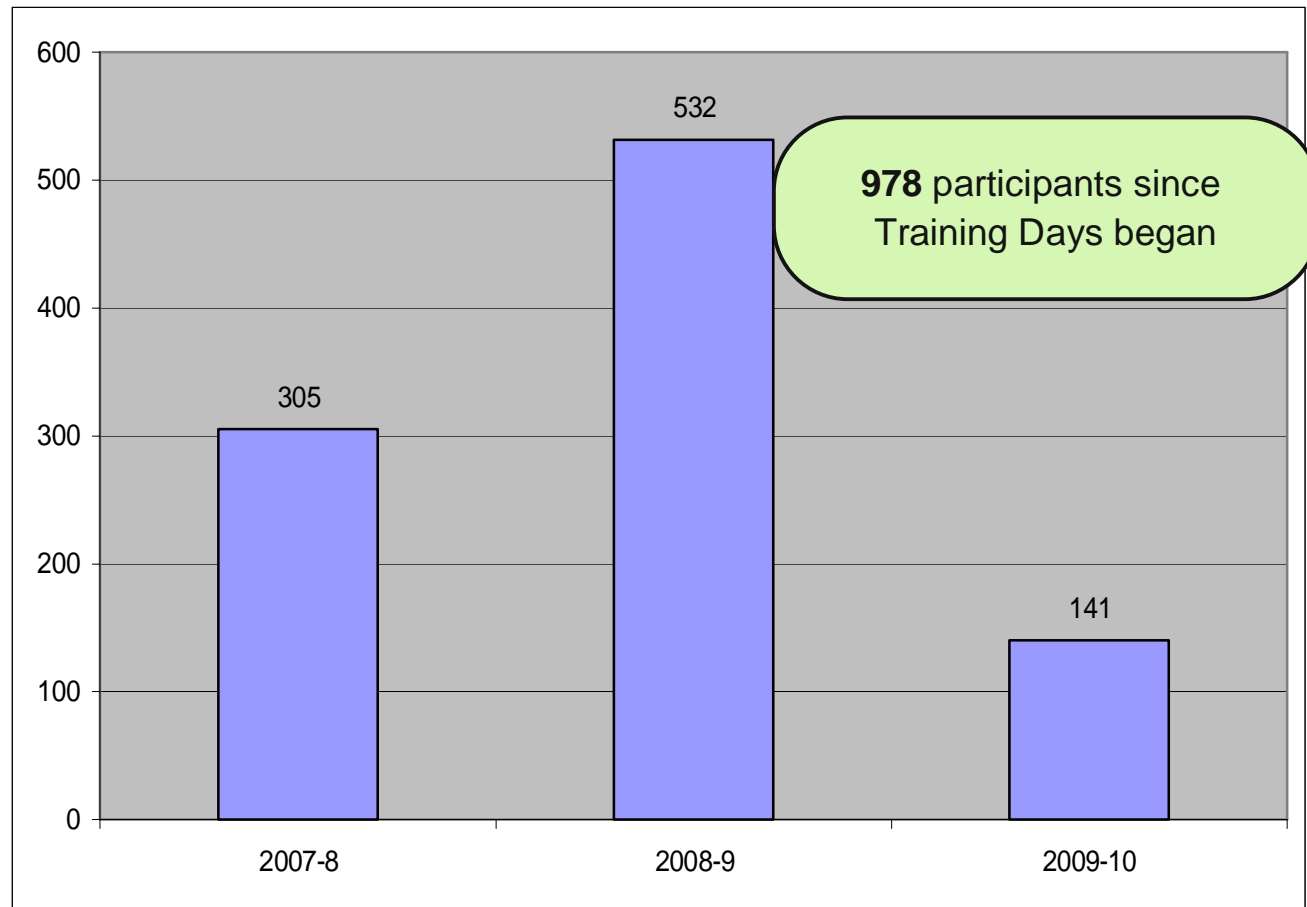


# Who are the training days for?

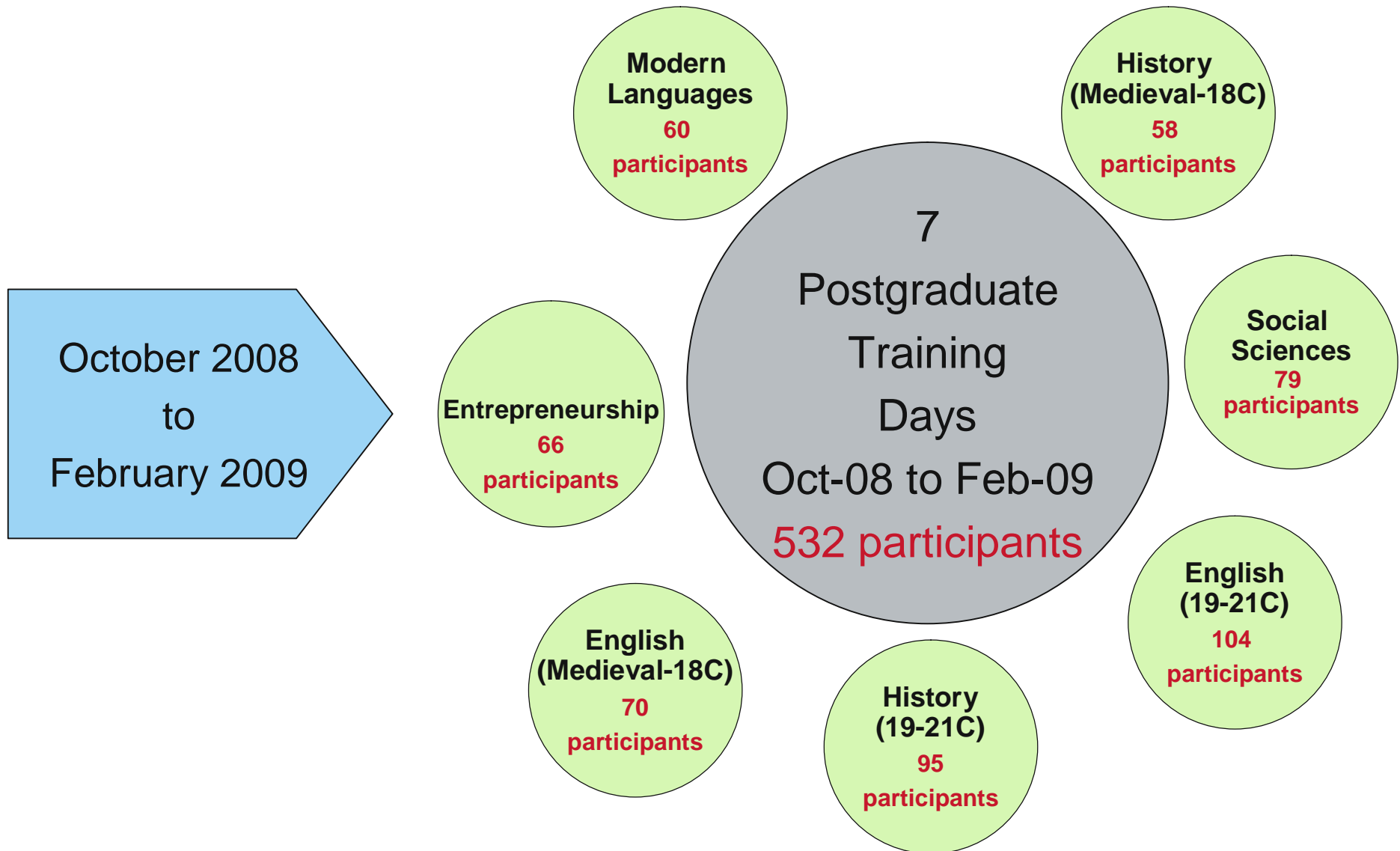
n First Yr  
Postgraduate  
Researchers at  
the start of their  
research career

n Studying in a  
range of subjects  
& disciplines

n From all  
institutions  
across the UK

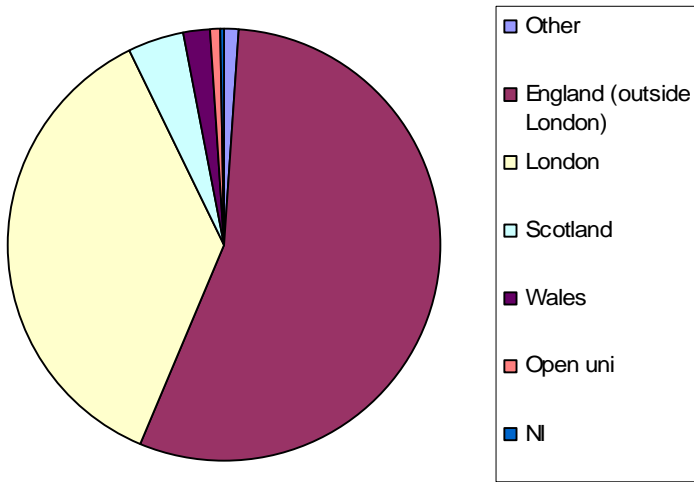


# Postgraduate Training Days 2008-9



# Funding for travel bursaries

Attendees by location



Bursaries provided to encourage participants from outside London, thanks to funding from key partners.

**36%** from London universities  
**64%** from universities outside London

## Key Funding Partners



Institute for Historical Research



The 1994 Group



Economic & Social Research Council



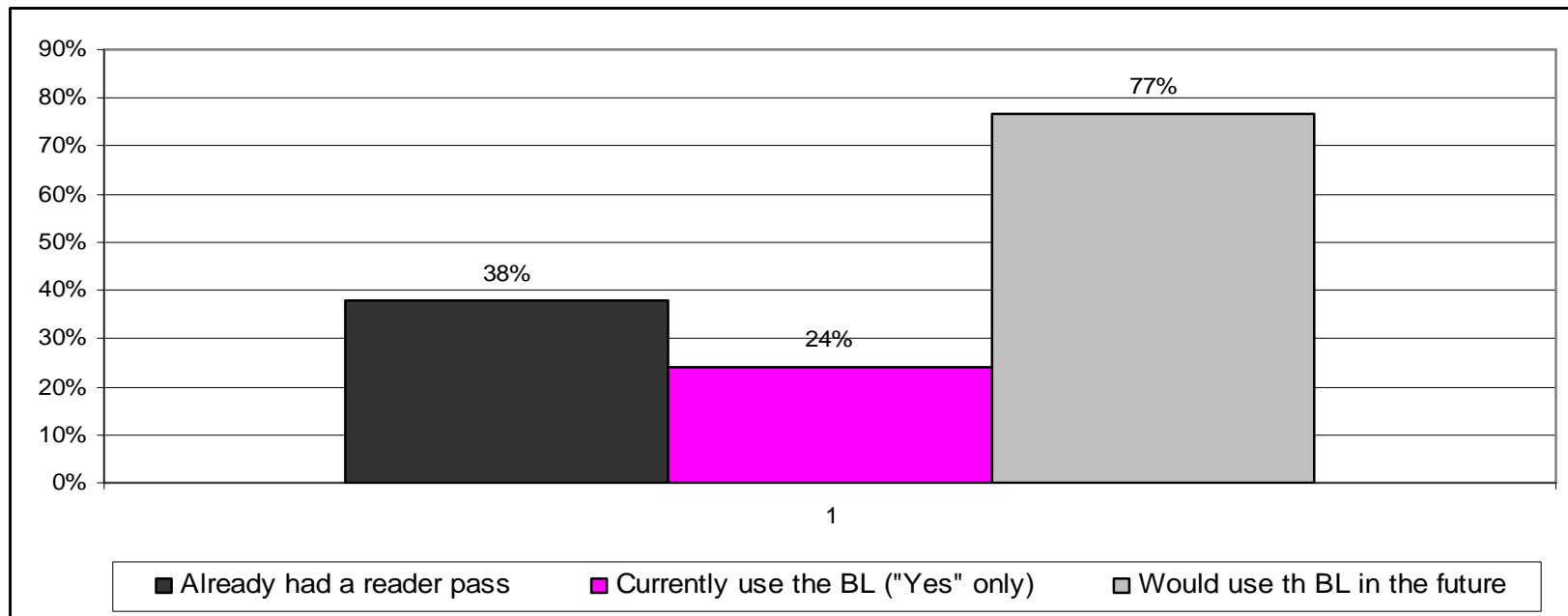
Institute of English Studies



Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies

# What impact do Postgraduate Training Days have?

**38%** of participants already had a readers pass  
**76%** of participants currently don't use the Library  
**77%** of participants said they would use the Library in the future.



# Social Science Training Day – 3 November 2009

79 PhD students attended

“Great opportunities to network. A great day and good to feel involved with and valued by the BL.”

61% were from outside London

42% of participants already had a readers pass  
(6% got one on the training day itself!)

“Thank you for such a well organised, useful and informative day!”

59% of participants currently don't use the Library

“The day has been brilliant, most enjoyable and informative. Staff have been great and I am looking forward to returning to the library.”

Library in the future.

76% of participants said the day was satisfactory and met their expectations

“Opened my eyes to new resources!”

15% of participants said the day far exceeded expectations

# What participants have said about Postgraduate Training Days so far...



**Networking opportunities**

“The facilities really are fantastic and an eye opener for me at the potential avenues for further research.”

“Today has demolished a mental wall for me as I had (wrongly) felt too unimportant to use the BL. Thank you very much indeed for arranging the day and making it clear that ALL researchers are welcome. I shall acquire a Readers card and return immediately!”

“Everybody was down to earth and flexible in their approaches to using library resources. This I found to be particularly helpful as BL can seem intimidating.”

“The programme was excellent, all staff involved were very interesting and the event was well worth attending.”



**Exploring the collections**

# When are the next Postgraduate Training Days?

<b>n13 October 2009</b>	<b>English (Medieval – 18<sup>th</sup> Century)</b>
<b>n3 November 2009</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>
<b>n1 December 2009</b>	<b>Art and Design</b>
<b>n8 December 2009</b>	<b>History (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Century)</b>
<b>n1 February 2010</b>	<b>English (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Century)</b>
<b>n9 February 2010</b>	<b>History (Medieval – 18<sup>th</sup> Century)</b>
<b>n29 March 2010</b>	<b>Modern Foreign Languages</b>

## Looking ahead... future aims

To build a sustainable model to continue and grow this programme in forthcoming years

Increase awareness of the programme amongst the sector to ensure all new PhD students know about and book onto the days

Expand the programme to include further disciplines such as STM

Secure additional funding to enable more students from outside London to attend

Use feedback to review and improve the structure and content of the days

# Questions?

For further information please visit:

[www.bl.uk/HEtrainingdays](http://www.bl.uk/HEtrainingdays)

Or contact the HE team

[highereducation@bl.uk](mailto:highereducation@bl.uk)

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