

Thursday 28 October 2010

**National survey shows the UK's most popular libraries - with
Norwich Library the country's most visited - and a rise in library
volunteering**

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium library is the UK's most visited library, according to the latest annual survey from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Norwich-based library had 1,497,760 visitors in 2009-10, issuing 1,154,563 books and other items over twelve months. The next most visited library, Birmingham Central Library, attracted 1,452,150 visitors over the same period.

The CIPFA survey also shows that volunteering – central to the coalition Government's vision for the 'Big Society' – has risen in public libraries in the past year. The total number of volunteers in UK libraries rose by 7.7 per cent to 17,111 people. Over the same period, the number of library staff dropped by 3.4 per cent to 24,765.

Chris Greene, CIPFA's Head of Research and Statistics said:

"Norwich and Norfolk's fantastic achievement shows that modern libraries are as relevant to their communities as ever. In the light of the Big Society agenda, it is also interesting to note the significant rise in the level of volunteering in UK libraries."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

1. Headline figures from the latest CIPFA library statistics are available from www.cipfastats.net, with the full dataset available to subscribers.

2. Popularity is defined in relation to the number of visits to the library and the number of stock issues.

3. The busiest libraries in the UK are:

Top 20 by number of visits per annum			
1	Norfolk	Norfolk & Norwich Millennium	1,497,760
2	Birmingham	Central Library	1,452,150
3	Croydon	Croydon Central	1,036,872
4	Newcastle upon Tyne	City Library	1,017,130
5	Manchester	Manchester Central	1,008,084
6	Brighton & Hove	Jubilee	984,491
7	Leeds	Central Library	802,072
8	Dundee	Central Library, The Wellgate	798,363
9	Barnet	Hendon	796,172
10	Sheffield	Central Library	792,813
11	Hounslow	Hounslow	772,499
12	Haringey	Wood Green Central	742,087
13	Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes Central	712,533
14	Tower Hamlets	Idea Store Whitechapel	704,571
15	Bromley	Central Library	677,805
16	Derbyshire	Chesterfield	662,093
17	Sutton	Sutton	661,297
18	Essex	Chelmsford	656,032
19	Sunderland	City Library & Arts Centre	649,298
20	Lancashire	Harris Library Preston	624,525

Top 20 by number of issues per annum			
1	Norfolk	Norfolk & Norwich Millennium	1154563
2	Essex	Chelmsford	732401
3	Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes Central	678248
4	Oxfordshire	Central Library	676417
5	Derbyshire	Chesterfield	632567
6	Swansea	Swansea Central	590552
7	West Sussex	Crawley	585090
8	Southend-on-Sea	Southend	575308
9	Cardiff	Central Library	575143
10	Brighton & Hove	Jubilee	544126
11	Birmingham	Central Library	536227
12	Knowsley	Huyton Library	535500
13	Westminster	Charing Cross	509317
14	Sheffield	Central Library	505075
15	Devon	Exeter Central	504698
16	Newcastle upon Tyne	City Library	496932
17	Sutton	Sutton	495418
18	City of London	Barbican	463859
19	Bromley	Central Library	458214
20	Cumbria	Carlisle	441790

These figures are based on returns to the CIPFA Public Library Actuals survey 2009-10.



The Chartered Institute of
Public Finance & Accountancy

* The CIPFA survey asks for the library with the most visits and also the library with the most issues in a year, therefore only one library can qualify per authority. There is a small possibility that one authority could have a second library that would appear in the top 20 libraries. E.g. Chelmsford in Essex is the most visited library in Essex, however Chelmsford has higher issues, so if Colchester has >450,000 issues per annum it will still not be included in the above top 20.

About CIPFA

CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, is the professional body for people in public finance. Our 14,000 members work throughout the public services, in national audit agencies, in major accountancy firms, and in other bodies where public money needs to be effectively and efficiently managed. As the world's only professional accountancy body to specialise in public services, CIPFA's portfolio of qualifications are the foundation for a career in public finance. They include the benchmark professional qualification for public sector accountants as well as a postgraduate diploma for people already working in leadership positions. They are taught by our in-house CIPFA Education and Training Centre as well as other places of learning around the world. We also champion high performance in public services, translating our experience and insight into clear advice and practical services. They include information and guidance, courses and conferences, property and asset management solutions, consultancy and interim people for a range of public sector clients. Globally, CIPFA shows the way in public finance by standing up for sound public financial management and good governance. We work with donors, partner governments, accountancy bodies and the public sector around the world to advance public finance and support better public services.