

For immediate release

Public library members across England now have 24x7 access to the Oxford English Dictionary Online and other reference resources from Oxford University Press – free of charge!

Over 48 million English residents can now explore the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the *Oxford English Dictionary Online* - and other Oxford online resources - free of charge at anytime and from anywhere, simply by joining their local public library!

“How else could I discover, at two in the morning and chasing a deadline, how many times Lord Rosebery's horses won the Derby when he was Prime Minister -- or how many petitions Thomas Clarkson collected in his 1824 campaign against slavery? I tracked down that last one, incidentally, by dialling up the internet while passing through Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and using my Westminster library card number.” **Robert Lacey, author of *Great Tales from English History*, and *Royal: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II***

Following a ground-breaking National Agreement between Oxford University Press (OUP) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), a range of prestigious resources including the ***Oxford Dictionary of National Biography***, the ***Oxford English Dictionary Online***, ***Oxford Reference Online***, ***Grove Music Online***, and ***Grove Art Online*** are now available to public library members across England.

The Agreement forms part of Reference Online, a new programme managed by the MLA to streamline the procurement process for online resources by negotiating agreements on behalf of English public libraries.

143 library authorities – from Cornwall to Northumberland – have already signed up to the 2-year OUP/MLA National Agreement. This means that over 48 million English residents can now explore Oxford's award-winning online resources free of charge until 31 March 2008 simply by joining their local library.

As well as access at their local branch, members of subscribing libraries can log on to the resources from any computer at anytime using their library card number.

The National Agreement has met with great enthusiasm from librarians and library users alike, and OUP and the MLA are delighted with feedback received so far.

“Grove Music Online is such an amazing resource, and being able to access it free from home as a member of Liverpool Libraries is wonderful” says **Gordon Ross, Music Co-ordinator for Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture in 2008, and member of Liverpool Libraries**. *“I used to spend hours in the library poring over the many volumes of Grove. Now I feel like I've got those library shelves in my home, or wherever I take my laptop.”*

“This new agreement between the MLA/OUP is one of the best and most exciting developments for librarians for many years as we can now offer our customers easy access to a huge range of reference material both in our libraries and remotely” said **Margaret Mitchell, Information Librarian, Kingston Libraries**. *“Lots of new, up-to-date reference books...appealing to the widest possible age range...available day and night...from a trusted source. It's a librarian's Heaven!”*

(See Notes to Editors for additional quotes from librarians and library members.)

John Dolan, Head of Library Policy at MLA said: *“It's fantastic to hear such positive feedback so soon after we launched Reference Online. This is another step in the 21st century learning revolution.”*

Helping subscribing libraries to let even more of their members know that the very best in reference information for all the family is available to them 24 hours a day is now OUP's key focus. 20,000 posters and half a million bookmarks have already gone out to libraries to support their publicity efforts. And, judging by the huge growth in usage, it looks like many millions of library members are already taking advantage of this exciting new opportunity!

For further information please contact Kate Farquhar-Thomson, Head of Publicity, OUP on 01865 353423 or kate.farquhar-thomson@oup.com.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Oxford University Press (OUP) is a department of the University of Oxford, and the world's largest university press. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education in its worldwide publishing. In addition to publishing over 4,600 new books each year and over 180 journals, Oxford is a major provider of online information to libraries and individuals worldwide.

www.oup.com

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is the national development agency for museums, libraries and archives, advising the government on policy and priorities for the sector. MLA's roles are to provide strategic leadership, to act as a powerful advocate, to develop capacity and to promote innovation and change.

www.mla.gov.uk

The MLA/OUP National Agreement:

127 English public library authorities have subscribed to the following resources until 31 March 2008:

- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (www.oxforddnb.com)
- Oxford English Dictionary Online (www.oed.com)
- Oxford Reference Online (www.oxfordreference.com)
- Grove Music Online (www.grovemusic.com)
- Grove Art Online (www.groveart.com)

16 library authorities have subscribed to the following resources until 31 March 2008:

- Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (www.oxforddnb.com)
- Oxford English Dictionary Online (www.oed.com)
- Oxford Reference Online (www.oxfordreference.com)

A full list of the libraries participating in the offer, and the resources they are subscribing to, can be found below. The list is also available online at www.oxfordonline.com/englishpubliclibraries.

Further feedback from librarians and library members:

Larry Bruce, Reference Services Manager of Middlesbrough Libraries and Information Service: *"The excellent value new MLA/OUP National Agreement enables us to bring quality assured information right into all the nooks and crannies of our communities"*

Jane Weller, Principal Librarian, Information & E-Resources, Hampshire Libraries: *"Trying to balance comprehensive e-resource provision with guaranteed authoritative and scholarly standards has just become a doddle! OUP's fantastic offer of 5 of their best databases, at truly affordable prices, will enhance every public library's website. It's a joy to show them to staff and public alike!"*

Robert Dixon, member of Northumberland Libraries:

"Not everyone can get to a library, for a variety of reasons, so it is wonderful that members of Northumberland Libraries like myself can now use Oxford online services from home, free of charge, as a way of increasing our knowledge."

Peter Taylor, member of Surrey Libraries:

"Not being able to afford the new printed editions of the OED, the DNB and Grove, I am delighted now to have free online access at home to these essential works as a result of the new deal between OUP and public libraries in England."

List of subscribing libraries by region:

East Midlands	
Derby UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Derbyshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Leicester UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Leicestershire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Lincolnshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Northamptonshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Nottingham UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Nottinghamshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Rutland UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
East of England	
Bedfordshire	ODNB, OED, ORO
Cambridgeshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Essex	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Hertfordshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Luton UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
Norfolk	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Peterborough UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
Southend-on-Sea UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Suffolk	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Thurrock UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
London	
Barking and Dagenham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Barnet	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Brent	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Bromley	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Camden	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
City of London	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Croydon	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Ealing	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Enfield	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Greenwich	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Hackney	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Hammersmith and Fulham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Haringey	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Harrow	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Havering	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Hillingdon	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Hounslow	ODNB, OED, ORO
Islington	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Kensington and Chelsea	ODNB, OED, ORO
Kingston upon Thames	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Lambeth	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

Lewisham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Merton	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Newham	ODNB, OED, ORO
Redbridge	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Richmond upon Thames	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Southwark	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Sutton	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Tower Hamlets	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Waltham Forest	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Wandsworth	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Westminster	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

North East

Darlington UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Durham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Gateshead	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Hartlepool UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Middlesbrough UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Newcastle upon Tyne	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
North Tyneside	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Northumberland	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Redcar and Cleveland UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
South Tyneside	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Sunderland	ODNB, OED, ORO

North West

Blackpool UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Bolton	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Cheshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Cumbria	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Halton UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Knowsley	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Lancashire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Liverpool	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Manchester	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Oldham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Rochdale	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Salford	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Sefton	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
St. Helens	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Stockport	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Tameside	ODNB, OED, ORO
Trafford	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Warrington UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Wigan	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Wirral	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

South East

Bracknell Forest UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Brighton and Hove UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Buckinghamshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
East Sussex	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

Hampshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Isle of Wight UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Kent	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Medway UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
Milton Keynes UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Oxfordshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Portsmouth UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Slough UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Southampton UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Surrey	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
West Berkshire UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
West Sussex	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Wokingham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

South West

Bath and North East Somerset UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Bournemouth UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Bristol, City of UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Devon	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Dorset	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Gloucestershire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
North Somerset UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Plymouth UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Poole UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
Somerset	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
South Gloucestershire UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Swindon UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Torbay UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
Wiltshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

West Midlands

Birmingham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Coventry	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Dudley	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Herefordshire, County of UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Sandwell	ODNB, OED, ORO
Shropshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Solihull	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Staffordshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Stoke-on-Trent UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Telford and Wrekin UA (by mail)	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Warwickshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Wolverhampton	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Worcestershire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music

Yorkshire

Barnsley	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Bradford	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Calderdale	ODNB, OED, ORO
City of York UA	ODNB, OED, ORO

Doncaster	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Kingston upon Hull, City of UA	ODNB, OED, ORO
Kirklees	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Leeds	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
North East Lincolnshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
North Lincolnshire UA	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
North Yorkshire	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Rotherham	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Sheffield	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music
Wakefield	ODNB, OED, ORO, Grove Art, Grove Music