

## British Museum collection

The British Museum collection totals at least 8 million objects.

Roughly 80,000 objects are on public display at the British Museum in Bloomsbury at any one time. This is 1% of the collection, however, the displays include many of the most important items. Many objects within the collection cannot be put on permanent display because of light sensitivity.

50.8% of the collection is stored at the Bloomsbury site by floor area (43.9% by volume). This figure only includes the 194 designated store rooms, not the galleries.

2 million objects and background information are available to the public through the online catalogue.

The British Museum is committed to lending its collection as widely as possible to increase public access and collaboration with collections and colleagues around the world. Of the 3,823 objects lent on average every year over last 5 years, 1,982 objects are lent to UK displays and 1,841 objects are lent to international venues.

As much of the permanent collection as possible is available to the public for research, even when objects are not on public display, through research libraries administered by each department.