

Entrepreneurial Business Support in Public Libraries 2025

Presenter: Seema Rampersad

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Business & IP Centre – The British Library

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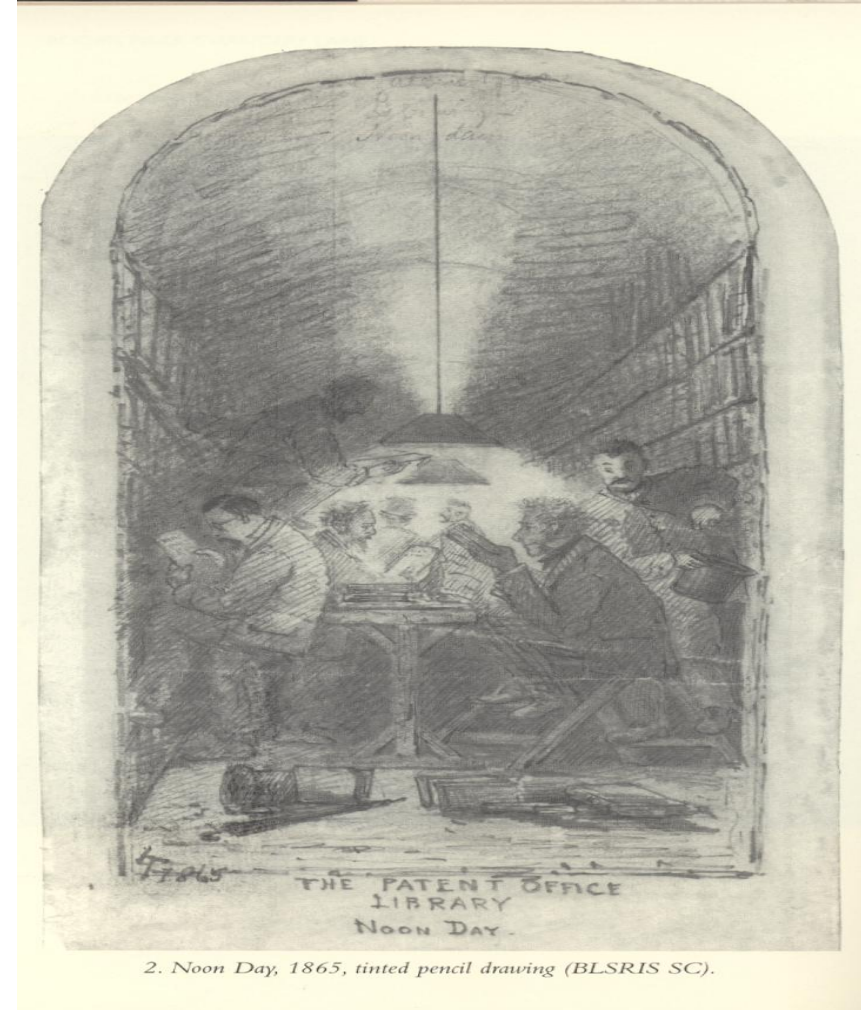
FOR EVERY BRIGHT IDEA,
EVERYWHERE



The British Library is for everyone who wants to do research – entrepreneurs, academics, commercial, creatives, personal, communities

Road to the Business & IP Centre

- **1852:** Creation of Patent Office Library
- **1973:** Formation of British Library
- **1997-1999:** Opening of British Library St Pancras building.
- **2002/3 :** BL Chief Executive visit to New York Science Industry & Business Library (SIBL)
- **2005:** London Development Agency gives £1 million to help BL create Business & IP Centre
- **March 2006:** Business & IP Centre opens
- **April 2012:** Launch of Innovating for Growth
- **April 2016:** BIPC National Network
- **April 2019:** SILL London Network



2. Noon Day, 1865, tinted pencil drawing (BLSRIS SC).

The British Library - Business & IP Centre

<http://www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre>

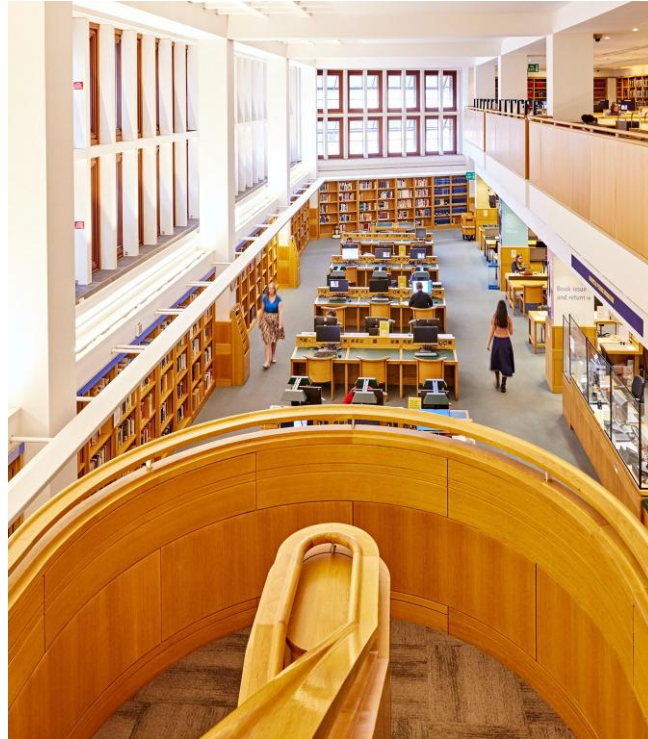
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Helping you to make informed
decisions about the development
of your business

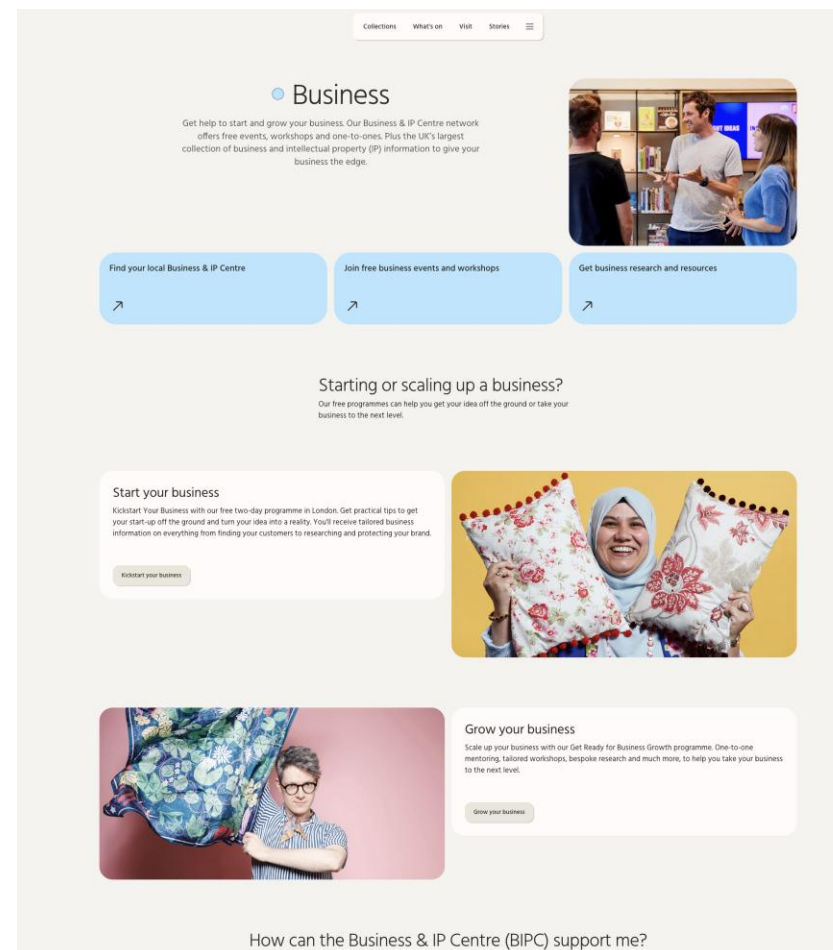
Desk Research - Business & IP Centre

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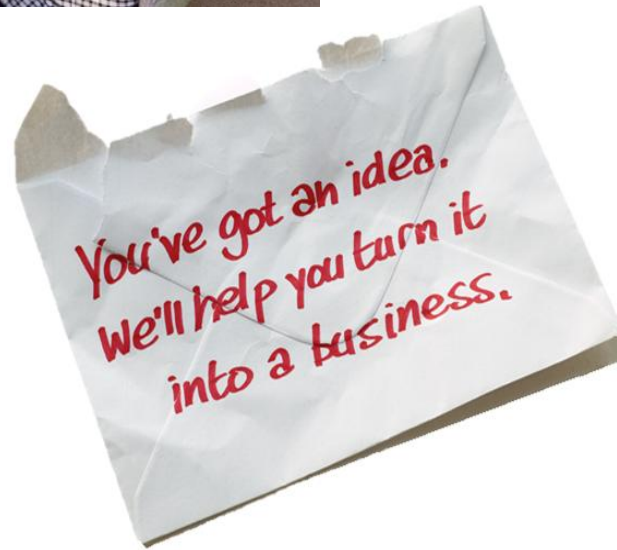
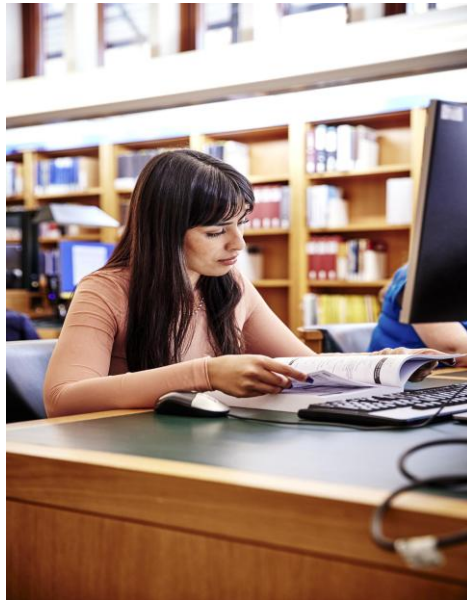
Ask for help. We won't bite. 😊

Business & IP Centre - Services





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TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS

Inspiring Entrepreneurs: She's In CTRL by Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE

Thu 9 Feb 2023, 18.00 - 20.00

INSPIRING ENTREPRENEURS: SHE'S IN CTRL

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Democratising Entrepreneurship 2.0

Libraries as engines of economic
recovery and growth

July 2023



A three-year economic impact analysis (April 2020 – March 2023)

Driving economic growth

Helped to create
18,175
new businesses

and
6,124
additional jobs

96%
of existing businesses
were still trading*

£168m
GVA* created
*Gross Value Added



A payback of
£6.63
for every £1 of
public money spent

Supporting diverse entrepreneurs



Of those who started a new business:

72%
were women

25%
were aged
35 and under

26%
were from a
minority ethnic
community**

12%
were from the
most deprived
areas

10%
were disabled

25%
were previously
unemployed



- 1 Birmingham
- 2 Bristol
- 3 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
- 4 Cumbria
- 5 Devon
- 6 Glasgow
- 7 Greater Manchester
- 8 Humber Partnership
- 9 Kent
- 10 Leeds City Region
- 11 Liverpool City Region
- 12 London
- 13 Norfolk
- 14 North East
- 15 Northamptonshire
- 16 Nottinghamshire
- 17 Oxfordshire
- 18 Southampton
- 19 South Yorkshire
- 20 Sussex
- 21 Tees Valley
- 22 Worcestershire

Citation: Democratising Entrepreneurship 2.0: Libraries as engines of economic recovery and growth.

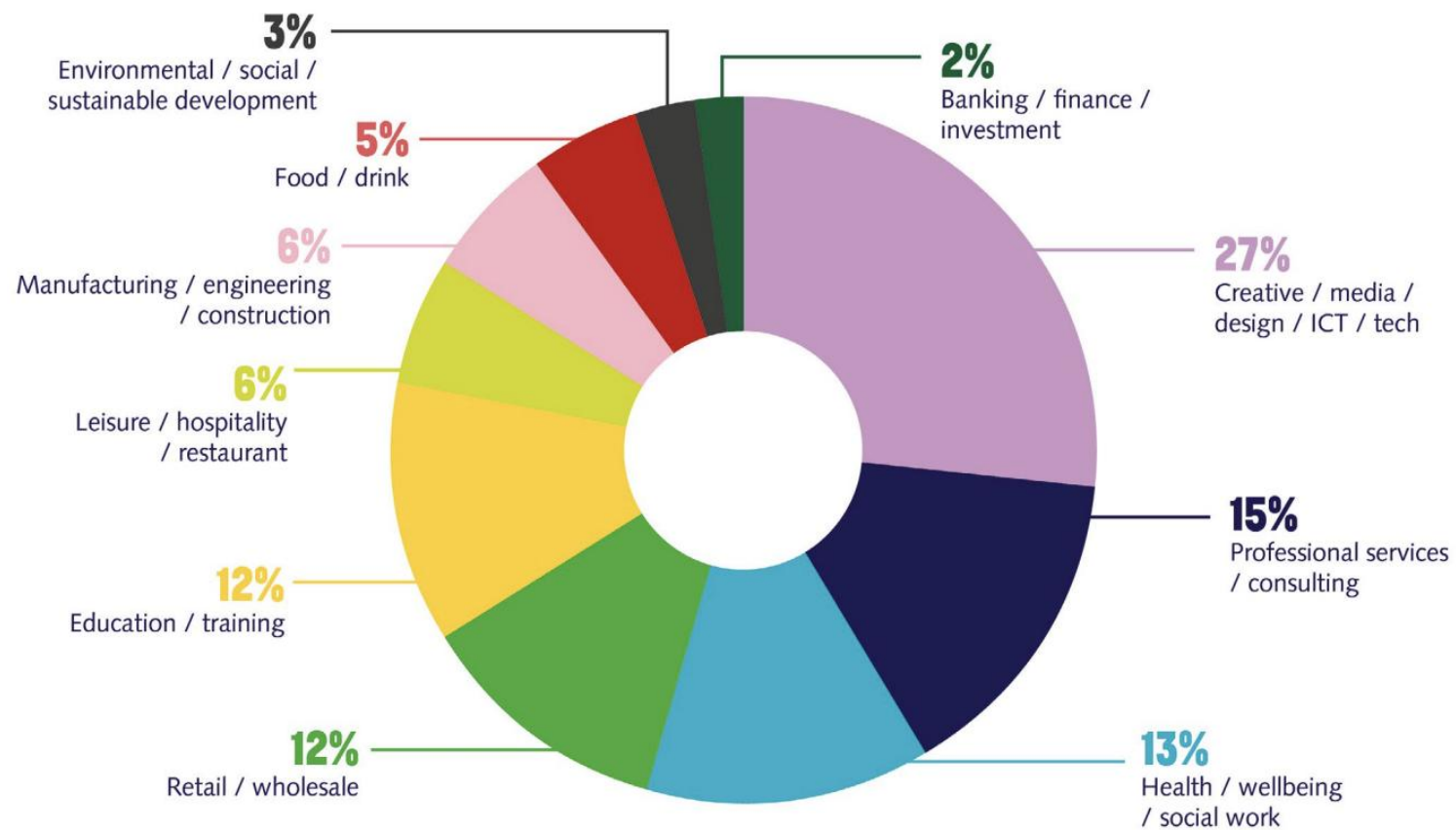
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.23636/wbk4-7b32>.

*Of businesses created in 2020/21.

**e.g. Black British, British Asian, British Chinese, etc.

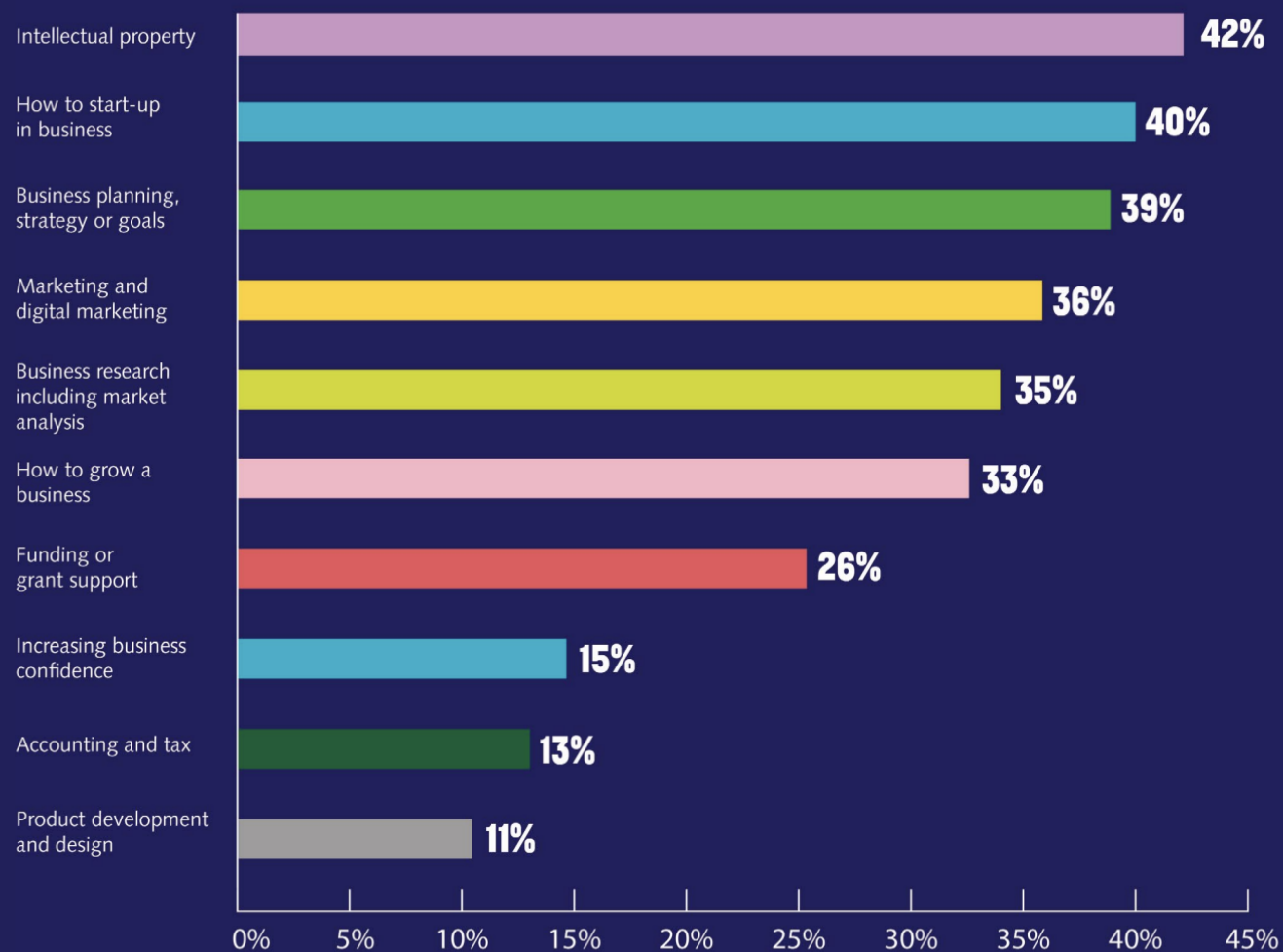
Source: ERS Research Services, based on 1,137 responses to an e-survey, conducted between 5 December 2022 and 23 January 2023.

Businesses supported by market sector



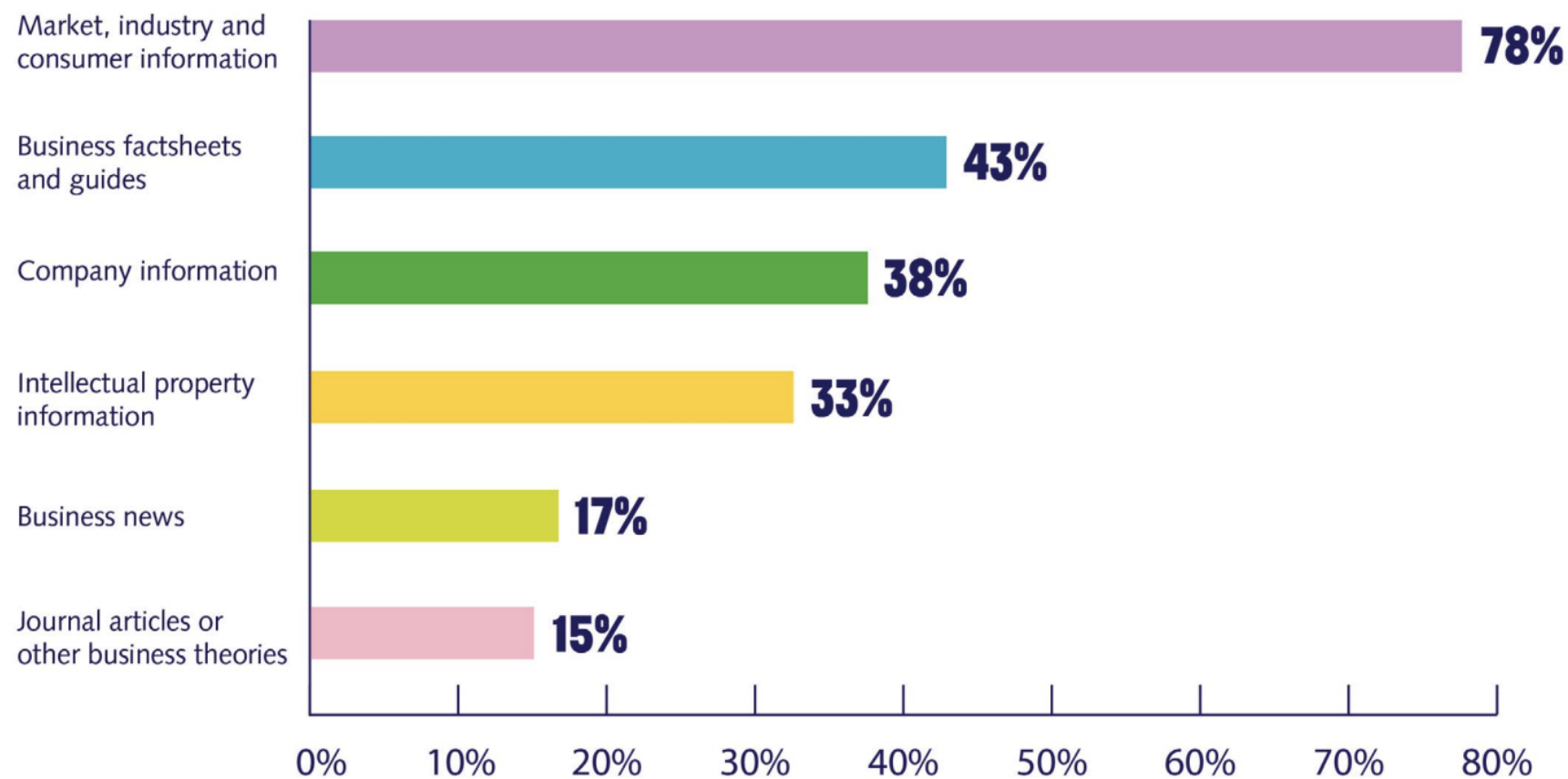
Source: BIPC Monitoring Information.

Most popular topics of support



Source: ERS Survey of 1,137 respondents, February 2023.

BIPC resources and database use (%s based on people who used them)



Source: ERS Survey of 1,137 respondents, February 2023.

BIPC National Network 2025



What is in it for your business...

- ✓ A vital resource for entrepreneurs, innovators and business researchers
- ✓ Largest free collection of valuable business and patent information in the UK
- ✓ The British Library holds over 170 million items in various formats
- ✓ Help from Information Specialists, Subject Experts and Delivery Partners
- ✓ In-depth priced research for prior art and business information
- ✓ Workshops, Events, Networking, Mentoring
- ✓ BIPC Network across the UK – Local and Regional Support

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People

Isabel Oswell



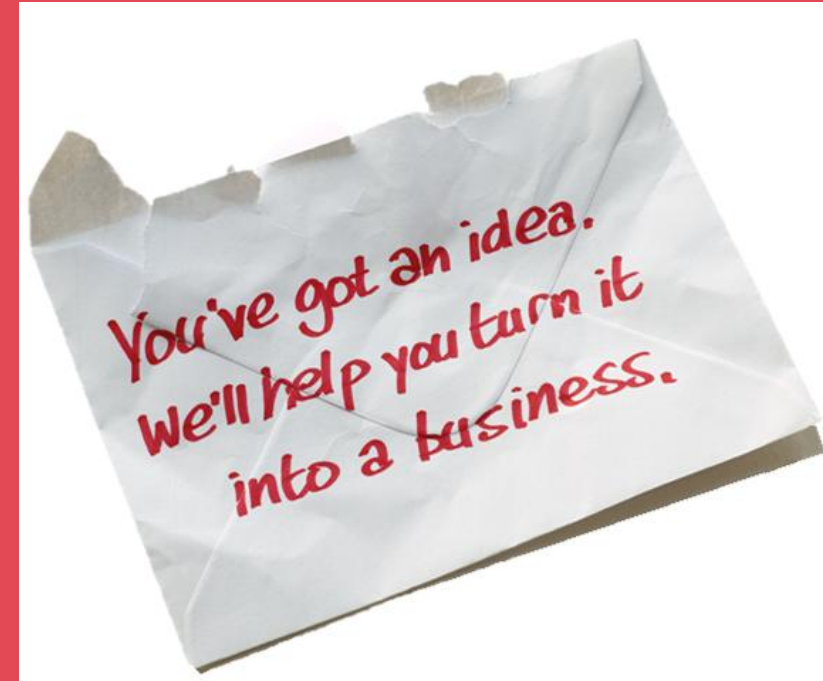
Position

Head of Business Audiences

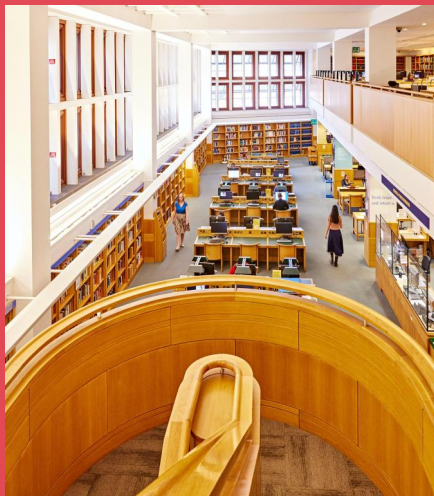
The Head of Business Audiences leads our strategic approach to customers in the business and creative industries, coordinating the [Innovating for Growth Project](#), [Start-Ups in London Libraries](#) Project and the Business & IP Centre [National Network](#). The Centre leverages the business and intellectual property collections, know-how and connections to support entrepreneurs and small businesses to start and grow their businesses.

Contact

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**Thank
you**

