

Libraries provide help for businesses

LIBRARIES have a role in helping new and small businesses grow, says Dr Stephen Fear, Entrepreneur in Residence and Ambassador at The British Library.

Dr Fear was speaking in Exeter to business leaders at a briefing by Devon County Council, hosted by Ashfords, about a new resource within Exeter's Central Library that will give businesses access to high quality business and 'Intellectual Property' information.

The multi-million pound redeveloped central library, on track to open next summer, will include a dedicated enterprise support service, funded through the enterprising libraries programme.

The programme helps libraries develop new, innovative ways to support economic growth within communities.

The enterprise support service will provide access to a wide range of resources including national collections, databases and publications to help library users with trademarks, patents, registered designs, copyright and other Intellectual Property queries.

'Devon's libraries are developing a new service that will offer basic advice to help get new

businesses off the ground.

Guest speaker Dr Stephen Fear told delegates: 'The incredibly important role of libraries in nurturing new and small businesses should not be overlooked.

'This is a great opportunity to make support and Intellectual Property resources available to all in the centre of Exeter, to help grow the next generation of successful entrepreneurs.'