

BRITISH LIBRARY COLLECTION MOVES

Reader News Bulletin

Issue 5 – December 2009

At the beginning of this year we started a Collection Moves programme of low to nil use items to a new storage facility at our Boston Spa site, in West Yorkshire. It is the largest programme of moves we have undertaken since the opening of St Pancras in 1998 and it is intended to secure the condition of these items for the long term.

The moves are taking place in phases and the first phase is currently underway. It has started in earnest, and we are currently exceeding our expected speed for transferring items into the new Additional Storage Building. Collection items involved in this **Phase One** are being placed under embargo as they enter the programme to enable collections to be prepared and data collected, and this embargo period is currently expected to last into 2010.

Latest news on the Newspaper Collection moves

Phase Two of collection moves, starting in 2010, will involve moving hard copy newspapers and periodicals out of our Colindale sites.

On 16 October, the Library received a commitment of £33 million from the Government to implement this ambitious strategy to preserve the world's greatest newspaper collection and make its contents accessible to researchers through digital and microfilm surrogates now and for the long term.



Patrick Fleming (pictured), Associate Director and head of the Library's Newspaper Programme gives an update on what is happening:

Firstly, what is happening to the newspaper collection?

"This is a major long-term programme to store and preserve the newspaper collection and provide access through digital and microfilm surrogates at St Pancras.

"To make this happen the Library needs to vacate the existing buildings at Colindale as they don't provide adequate environmental conditions for preserving the newspapers. In addition, the main Newspaper Library at 130 Colindale Avenue will be full by the end of 2012, and the smaller building, 120 Colindale Avenue, is already full with its lease expiring in December 2010.

"We plan to relocate the bulk of the hardcopy newspaper collection to a proposed **Newspaper Storage Building** in Boston Spa. Access to the collection will be via microfilm and digital surrogates held at our St Pancras site, and we want to ensure that as large a range of material as possible is gradually made available online."

What will having the resources online mean for Readers?

"The online newspaper archive will provide a treasure trove of content, and there are a number of advantages to having some of the newspapers online. You will no longer need to make the physical journey to look at the archive - you'll be able to search online both in the Reading Rooms at St Pancras and be able to view some of the newspaper content from the comfort of your own home. As well as being fully searchable, the service will also provide you with a context.

"We've already started digitising material, and £3 million of investment from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) has enabled us to digitise three million pages of out of copyright titles. As a result, you can now access nearly fifty 19th century newspaper titles on the Library's Newspapers website (<http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/>)."

What is the timetable for these moves? How much longer will the Colindale Reading Room be open?

"We're planning to move the newspaper collection between **early 2010 and late 2012**, beginning with low-use legal deposit collections currently held in 120 Colindale Avenue. This first batch of material to be moved will mostly be microfilm and will remain available for viewing at Colindale until 2011. We'll be transferring material to Boston Spa on a staggered basis, keeping the Colindale Reading Room open until a date yet to be determined in 2012."

What's happening next with this programme?

"At the moment, we're making preparations to move the low-use material from 120 Colindale Avenue, starting early in 2010. You are not likely to experience disruption since this is available via microfilmed surrogates and, as a result, the hard copy is rarely consulted.

"We're very keen to keep you informed on what's happening, and will continue to regularly issue News Bulletins. Your views are tremendously important, to feed into the programme's strategy and help us manage the changes efficiently for you.

"We ran Reader workshops in the summer and last month, offering you the chance to give us feedback on the Newspaper Moves strategy, and we're continuing with this, with more workshops. Don't miss this opportunity to have your say – we look forward to hearing from you."

Your chance to attend a Reader workshop

We are continuing with more workshops in the New Year. These will be at 130 Colindale Avenue on:

Wednesday 13 January 2010, 10.30 – Midday

Saturday 23 January 2010, 10.30 – Midday

Thursday 11 March 2010, 10.30 – Midday

Saturday 13 March 2010, 10.30 - Midday

This will be an opportunity to voice your views, and as places are limited, please either book at the Reference Enquiry Desk at Colindale or email fiona.mccarthy@bl.uk. There will be additional workshops later in the year, and we will let you know the dates as soon as they are available.

An update on how Readers are affected by the Phase One moves at present

The **Phase One** moves are proceeding smoothly, and from **6 January 2010**, the following Humanities material will be included in the embargo. The shelf marks are:

AN, NN, NNN, CAR, W41

As a reminder, the following shelf marks are currently embargoed:

(A)OA34-E(1) → (A)WU06-E(2)

(GP)AA32(A1)-E(1) → (GP)BX53(F6)-F(6)

(KB)BY373 → (KB)RD230

(OB)AA00 → (OB)WZ999

(OP)AA00-E(1) → (OP)WZ999-X(999)

(P)AA00-E(1) → (P)WZ999-X(999)

P.101/1 → P.2000/1482

PP.2 → PP.2000

PP.3000 → PP.4000

PP.6000 → PP.7000

PP.7612 → PP.8000

(XB)AA00 → (XB)WZ999

(XP)AA00-E(1) → (XP)WZ999-X(999)

Reserve (B)AA00 → Reserve (B) WZ999

H.67/1 → H.99/9999

H.2000 → H.2009

Nov.1 → Nov.55714

U.1 → U.a

W.P.1 → W.P.17199

W.P.A → W.P.D.999/99

Also included is hard copy patents material from the following countries:

Australia; Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Bulgaria; Canada; China; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Hungary; Irish Republic; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; African Intellectual Property Organisation (O.A.P.I.); Poland; Romania; Russia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United States of America.

We will provide you with regular updates on progress with both the **Phase One** moves and the Newspaper Collection moves in the next **Collection Moves Reader News Bulletin** coming out in **February 2010**.

For any queries about Collection Moves, please contact Customer Services on +44 (0) 1937 546060 or email customer-services@bl.uk