

Issue 4 – October 2009

In January 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. Collection items involved in 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 early 2010.

How are Readers affected at present?

In line with Phase One of the programme the following shelf marks are currently embargoed:

P.101/1 → P.2000/1482
PP.2 → PP.2000

Please note that from **Monday 17 August 2009**, the embargo extended to the following shelf marks:

(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)
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.**

Why is the embargo necessary?

The Additional Storage Building at Boston Spa is unique in its scale and complexity. Because the high-density storage and retrieval system is completely automated, the process of loading it and making it fully operational for the first time requires extensive testing and fine-tuning, followed by an enormous logistical exercise to move huge quantities of collection material out of four source buildings and into the new facility.

Now that construction work is complete, the loading of containers and collection items into the facility has begun. During the initial 'load phase', whilst both containers and collection items are put into the facility in bulk, it is not logistically possible to simultaneously provide a retrieval service from the building due to the volumes involved – up to 800 containers and nearly half a kilometre of collection material are going into the building **every day**.

There is also a huge amount of work to be done in the 'source buildings' prior to the collection items being moved north, to ensure that when they are loaded into the automated facility they are accurately catalogued and logged on the warehouse management system – bearing in mind that the facility will contain around seven million individual collection items in 144,000 containers!

The Library's focus therefore is on completing the moves process as quickly as possible without compromising the assurance necessary that all the material collection can be speedily and reliably retrieved in the future.

A range of **Frequently Asked Questions** can now be found at the updated Collection Moves web page, which also includes previous issues of this bulletin: www.bl.uk/collectionmoves

Newspaper Collection Moves

Moves from Building 120 at Colindale

Work is currently underway to prepare newspapers held in Building 120 at Colindale for the next phase of collection moves, starting in 2010.

Chris Fletcher, Collection Moves Programme Manager, explains: "Regular users of the Newspaper Library will be familiar with Colindale 130, which is the main building on the Library's Colindale site. Next door is Colindale 120, which is essentially a warehouse facility used mainly for storing hard copy newspapers received through legal deposit. The lease on Building 120 expires at the end of next year, so we need to vacate Building 120 by moving the collections held there to the Additional Storage Building at Boston Spa as soon as possible.

"Readers at Colindale are not likely to experience disruption since access to this particular material is overwhelmingly via microfilmed surrogates and, as a result, the hard copy is rarely consulted. The move out of Building 120 is the first major step towards our wider goal of vacating the Colindale site completely."

Reader workshops at Colindale

The Library's long term Newspaper Strategy involves moving the print collections from Colindale to a planned Newspaper Storage Building, also at the Boston Spa site. Access to the collection will be via microfilm and digital surrogates held at the Library's St Pancras site.

Although funding for the strategy has yet to be confirmed, preparations are underway across a range of Library departments to secure the long-term future of the national newspaper collection.

Have your say! More opportunities to attend a Reader workshop

We ran two Reader workshops in the summer, offering Readers the opportunity to give us feedback on the Newspaper Moves strategy, to help us manage the transition as smoothly as possible and help users adapt to access arrangements in the future.

We are running two more workshops. These will be at 130 Colindale on:

Wednesday 21 October, 10.30 – 12.00

Thursday 5 November, 10.30 – 12.00

These will cover the same topics as the summer workshops, and are aimed at Readers who were not able to attend these earlier sessions.

Places are limited, so if you would like to attend, please email fiona.mccarthy@bl.uk to book your place.

We will keep you regularly updated on this Collection Moves programme. The next news bulletin will be available in December 2009. You can also visit www.bl.uk/collectionmoves

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