
Building developments at Durham University Library

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The expansion and upgrading of library services at Durham University continues apace. There are five libraries in the university library network: the Bill Bryson Library, Queen's Campus Library, Leazes Road Library, Palace Green Library and Durham Business School Library.

THE BILL BRYSON LIBRARY



Bill Bryson library new east wing

Our largest library was renamed the Bill Bryson Library in November 2012 to recognise the tremendous support that former University Chancellor Bill Bryson gave to the university and its libraries from 2005 to 2011. The Bill Bryson Library has been undergoing a major refurbishment programme. Following the relocation of the main staff work area, where the majority of library staff moved to a large open-plan workroom to facilitate closer working and better communication, Level 2 was redeveloped in 2011. The refurbishment of the entrance area provided

a new help and information desk, short loan section, self-service circulation facilities, consultation rooms and group study areas. A new entry system provides rich data on library use to inform decisions such as 24x7 opening and promoting the library to academic departments.

A major new extension opened in April 2012, creating an east wing to the library and increasing the size of the library by 42%. This added 500 new study spaces, all with access to power and data, bringing seating capacity to 1600. New group and individual study rooms and a third open access IT room were provided.

Our two open access IT suites were completely replanned to remove the 1990s layout of serried rows of grey tables and replace them with new attractive furniture, upgraded PCs and more attractive layouts. Enhancements to wireless provision support students throughout the library, with extra power available for laptop users. Sixty laptops are now available for loan within the library.

A major aim of the extension and refurbishment was to bring as many of the library's collections together into one building where they are available throughout library opening hours in up-to-date study areas. To this end, the extensive research collections, previously held in three off-site stores, were brought together in 6 km of new mobile shelving in the Bill Bryson Library. Staff who were previously tasked with retrieving books from stores now contribute to the extensive digitisation work undertaken to support taught courses in the university.

All books in the Bill Bryson Library, some 1 million volumes, were reorganised into a single classified sequence in summer 2012, with expansion space included, and printed journals relocated to 7 km of mobile shelving on the ground floor.

Further moves will be necessary over the next three years as the mechanical and engineering systems in the older section of the building are replaced, but this is an opportunity to review the location of books and study facilities and enhance power supplies for laptop users and future requirements.



Queen's Campus Library postgraduate study room

QUEEN'S CAMPUS LIBRARY

At Queen's Campus Library, Stockton, new postgraduate study areas and group study rooms were created to support the increasing number of students at this campus.

LEAZES ROAD LIBRARY

Back in Durham City, the Leazes Road Library has been formed by amalgamating the collections of the Education departmental library and the library of Hild Bede College. A postgraduate study room was created in summer 2012 and further refurbishment in Easter and summer vacations in 2013 will provide additional PC areas.

DURHAM BUSINESS SCHOOL LIBRARY

Durham University Business School relocated to Ushaw College, a former Catholic seminary, in Easter 2012 during the rebuilding of their accommodation in Durham City. With that project nearing completion, the school and its library, focused on MBA support, will move back to new and expanded facilities in September 2013. Meanwhile, the extensive library and archives at Ushaw College are being catalogued by archives and special collections staff so that they will be available to researchers in the near future.

PALACE GREEN LIBRARY

Palace Green Library, one of the oldest publicly-accessible libraries in Britain and home to the university's special collections, is also undergoing a major refurbishment programme. As well as restoring Bishop Cosin's 17th-century library, world-class exhibition and visitor facilities have been completed, and a programme of exhibitions highlights the university's extensive library and museum collections. Palace Green Library will host the Lindisfarne Gospels when they are displayed in Durham from 1 July to 30 September 2013.