

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Re-modelling of the Centre's building

This project, which began on 17 January and is currently scheduled to be completed in May, involves a radical redesign and refurbishment of the public areas of our building. The overall aim is to enable us more effectively to provide access to our holdings to different types of user. This should raise awareness of the range of sources we have available, particularly among external audiences. The main features of the project are changes to the layout of the reception and searchroom areas and the provision of improved exhibition space and a meeting room for group visits. The use of moveable partitions will enable the space to be used more flexibly than previously.

Whilst this work is being done, access to our holdings is being provided in a small area set aside in the main library. This has made it necessary for us to limit the number of archive readers per day and to fetch material from the strongrooms only at set times in the day. So far the implementation of these restrictions has gone relatively smoothly.

Cataloguing and access

From January onwards, the physical constraints of our temporary accommodation have led us to focus on the enhancement of existing finding aids rather than new cataloguing of physically bulky collections. This work has included detailed descriptions of the Trades Union Congress parliamentary committee minutes starting in 1911 and the correspondence of Ernest Bevin and Frank Cousins, general secretaries of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Our name authority records, which contain standardised forms of the names of organisations and individuals featured in our holdings, together with background information about them, are being added to our CALM database with the aim of them eventually being available to researchers.

Notable recent additions to the database have included descriptions of the archives of:

- Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, a key source for the development of higher education from the 1960s to the early 1990s;
- Committee for Research into Teacher Education;
- Monty Hughes, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation official at Shotton steelworks, including papers concerning the campaign to save the works from closure;
- World Federation of Scientific Workers, including material on controversies such as the H-Bomb and nuclear disarmament, McCarthyite attacks on US academics, and the use of chemical and biological weapons in conflicts including the Vietnam War;
- Federation of British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations, including advertising leaflets for electrical appliances and applications;
- Warwick University Kevin Gateley Action Committee (Gateley was a Warwick student who died after an anti-National Front demonstration in 1974);
- Institute of Baths Management (Incorporated), earlier the National Association of Bath Superintendents (Incorporated).

Group visits

Our programme for raising awareness of our holdings among Warwick students and academics has continued to expand. Since October 2010 we have staged induction visits and talks for students on the following courses:

English

- Life Writing;

History

- Historical research: theory, skill and method;
- History of Germany;
- 'Developing South Asia: From Colonialism to Globalization'

Politics

- MA in Qualitative Methods;

Sociology

- Researching Society and Culture;
- Visual Sociology;
- Sociology Field Studies;

Warwick Business School

- Doctoral students;
- MA in Management and Organisational Analysis;
- MA in Industrial Relations.

A total of 438 students attended these events.

Website developments

New subject guides have been added on: the Miners' Strike, 1984-1985; Germany, 1918-1950; sources for the study of South Asia. The last two are linked to Warwick undergraduate modules.

University of Warwick archive

The archive has been used for research into the 'Virtual Futures' conferences on technology in 1994 and 1995, which are due to be held at Warwick again, the Arts Centre and One World Week. In the near future we should receive some papers of Stephen Hill, formerly of the Classics Department and the Centre for Lifelong Learning, relating to the archaeology of the Tocil, Cryfield and Westwood areas of the campus.

Work by volunteers

Carolyn Ewing has completed a catalogue of a large collection of papers of the late Professor Hugh Clegg relating to the National Board for Prices and Incomes. Julie Moores has completed a catalogue of the papers of Dr James Hinton, academic and peace activist. Miriam Hay has continued her work on the index to the first membership register of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. Lara Nelson, who like Miriam is also considering a career in archives, has worked on parts of the National Cycle Archive and the latest deposit of records of the Association of University Teachers.

We thank them and also Richard Storey, the former MRC head archivist, for their contribution to our work.

Use of the Centre

The research subjects of visitors to the Centre, as recorded on their registration forms, have again been diverse. Since the last Information Bulletin in June 2010, they have included those listed below.

Warwick researchers

- Teddy boys;
- British colonialism in India;
- “Lean” manufacturing;
- The French Resistance;
- Women’s participation in the public sphere in 19th-century England
- Political exiles in World War II

External researchers

- Political publishing;
- The Marshal Plan;
- Spanish Republican prisoners of war;
- Commercial law;
- Merchant seaman during World War I;
- The social history of the bicycle, 1880-1920;
- Youth crime;
- Transnational relations in the Christian peace movement, 1980s’
- Radical conservatives;
- Noise in the interwar period;
- British Caribbean policy;
- UK disability policy, 1965-1995.
- Tuberculosis and nutrition.

For further information about the Centre, its holdings and publications, contact the Modern Records Centre, University Library, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL; Telephone +44 (0)24 7652 4219; Fax. +44 (0)24 7652 4211; email: archives@warwick.ac.uk; URL <<http://modernrecords.warwick.ac.uk>