

Manchester Central Library – Temporary Closure and Archive Service

2010 sees the closure of Manchester Central Library for restoration and refurbishment. The project will restore this beautiful building and create an adjoining, ultra-modern city centre community library. A temporary library will open on Deansgate for the duration of the closure.

Central Library has to be completely emptied before the work can begin: this is a massive undertaking, with more than 22 miles of shelving to pack up, as well as archive materials and treasures which need expert handling and storage. The library will close in phases, so that work can go on while parts of the library can remain open.

Key dates

Thursday

25 February **Archive Service closes (4pm)**

February

Stack retrieval service ends

First Floor Issue desk closes - items can be issued from and returned to counters in their respective departments.

Saturday

27

February

Language & Literature counter closes (stock will still be available to borrow, but enquiries will be handled in the Science & Humanities Library)
Language and Literature - - drop-in computers will no longer available for use

All Central Library departments and facilities close, with the exception of:

Thursday

1 April

**General Readers' Library
Library Theatre and Box Office**

Friday 18

June

General Readers Library closes

Sunday 4

July

Library Theatre and Box Office close

Temporary closure of Manchester Archives and Local Studies

Please note that the closure of Manchester Archives and Local Studies will start to happen from 25 February 2010.

While Central Library is closed: Archives Service and Greater Manchester County Record Office

[Greater Manchester County Record Office](#) (GMCRO) will continue to provide its current levels of service until July 2010. This will ensure that, alongside the County Record Office's own archive collections, customers of Manchester Archives and Local Studies can access key sources - especially Ancestry.com and Find My Past online family history sources - in the city centre following the closure at Central Library.

Central Library's Archive Service will reopen in its new temporary home at GMCRO in July, with its collections joining those of the County Record Office. If you would like to see archive materials, it will be essential to book a place in advance. The archive service will be free to use for all Greater Manchester residents and visitors to the area.

The most important and regularly-used original archive collections from the two services will be stored on-site - these include:

- Church records
- Court records
- Hospital records
- Manchester City Council and Committee minutes
- Local Studies Broadside collection

All other archive collections will be stored in special off-site archive storage, but will be available for customers to access upon giving two weeks' notice. Information about these off-site collections will be on the archives online catalogue, or on the GMCRO website.

From July 2010, the County Record Office's key non-original sources will be available in the Local Studies Library in the new City Library at Elliot House, rather than at GMCRO. These include:

- General Register Office microfiche of births, marriages and deaths
- Electronic resources including access to Ancestry.com, Find My Past, Manchester Burials Online and CD-ROMs