

Libraries *in* London

by

K. G. Baston

&

J. E. Hamilton

Revised February 2008



BRITISH PROGRAMMES

Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)

Mid City Place
71 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6QT

Tel: 020 7492 2222
E-mail: enquiries@asa.org.uk
Web: www.asa.org.uk

Regulator of non-broadcast advertising in the UK. British codes of advertising. Covers advertising in print, direct marketing, sales promotions, cinema, posters and non-broadcast electronic media. Information also obtainable through the website.

Access: Telephone, fax, e-mail or postal information only.
Hours: No visits.

Barbican Library

Barbican Centre
Silk Street
London
EC2Y 8DS

Tel: 020 7638 0569
E-mail: barbicanlib@cityoflondon.gov.uk
Web: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/libraries

Comprehensive public library. Special collections in music and the arts.

Access: Free public access for reference.
Hours: 9:30-5:30 M, W
9:30-7:30 Tu, Th
9:30-2 F
9:30-4 Sa

Barking Library

Barking Learning Centre
2 Town Square
Barking
IG11 7NB

Tel: 020 8724 8725
E-mail: barking.library@lbbd.gov.uk
Web: www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/4-libraries/libraries-menu.html

A comprehensive public library with collections in arts, music, science, social science and business.

Access: Free public access for reference.

Hours: 9-9.30 M, Tu, Th

9-7 F

9-5 Sat

10-4 Sun

British Architectural Library (see also, **RIBA Architecture Study Rooms**)

Royal Institute of British Architects

66 Portland Place

London

W1B 1AD

Tel: 020 7580 5533 (Admissions)

E-mail: info@inst.riba.org

Web: www.architecture.com/LibraryDrawingsAndPhotographs/Home.aspx

Covers all aspects of architecture.

Access: Reference use free of charge on production of proof of identity e.g. passport, student university ID card.

The 'Drawings Collection' and 'Archives Collection' have moved to a new home at the RIBA Architecture Study Rooms at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Hours: 10-8 Tu; 10-5 W, Th, F; 10-1:30 Sat

British Film Institute National Library

21 Stephen Street

London

W1T 2LN

Tel: 020 7255 1444

E-mail: library@bfi.org.uk or contact form via website

Web: www.bfi.org.uk/filmtvinfo/library

The world's largest collection of printed material relating to all aspects of cinema, TV and video. Holds all current film periodicals. Has recently added the Independent Television Commission Library to its holdings.

Access: Reference use only. A day pass must be purchased for £6. (FT 316, FT 317 and FT 318 students may claim back one visit on presentation of BFI receipt to the BU Library.)

Hours: 10:30-5:30 M, F; 10:30-8 Tu, Th; 1-8 W

The British Library

96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2BD

Tel: 020 7412 7676 (Reader Information)

Web: www.bl.uk

The UK's national library. Although the BL has recently made it easier to gain admission, please be aware that proof of address and a good reason to use the collection are still requirements. Check the website for full details of the BL's admission policy.

Access: You do not need to be a member to have free access to public displays including the Magna Carta, a Shakespeare first folio, and original Beatles lyrics. Frequent author events and conferences. Coffee shop, restaurant and bookshop.

Hours (for public areas):

9:30-6 M, W, Th, F; 9:30-8 Tu; 9:30-5 Sa; 11-5 Su (and Public Holidays)

British Library Newspaper Library

Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5HE

Tel: 020 7412 7353

E-mail: newspaper@bl.uk

Web: www.catalogue.bl.uk/

Newspapers and periodicals including London newspapers from 1801. Large collection of Commonwealth and foreign newspapers. Current files of modern broadsheets.

Access: Reference only. ID with signature (e.g., passport, driving licence, bank card) required.

Hours: 10-5 M-Sa (last orders for materials 4 p.m.) See the website for information on how to pre-order materials (recommended).

British Library of Political and Economic Science

London School of Economics and Political Science
Lionel Robbins Building
10 Portugal Street
London
WC2A 2HD

Tel: 020 7955 7229

E-mail: library.reception.enquiries@lse.ac.uk

Web: www.lse.ac.uk/library/

Major collection covering all aspects of politics and economics with a bias towards social sciences.

Access: The LSE library does NOT welcome outside students. You may apply for reference access to the library providing that the required research material is not readily available elsewhere. Register online at the LSE website (<https://library-3.lse.ac.uk/selfreg>) – note the details as to timing – and take your project with you to the library when you make your visit.

Hours: Vary depending on terms. Check the website for details.

The British Museum Reading Room

Paul Hamlyn Library,
Next To Room 2,
The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3DG

Tel: 020 7323 8907 (library enquiries)
E-mail: libraries@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk
Web: www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Usually housed in the famous Round Reading Room, and will return there in 2009. Stocks 15,000+ books and journals relating to the Museum's collections. Includes museum studies, history, architecture, and art.

Access: Open access reference library.

Hours: 10-5:30 Daily
10-8:30 Thursday
12-8.30 Friday

British Music Information Centre

1st Floor
British Music House
26 Berners Street
London W1T 3LR

Tel: 020 7580 3869
E-mail: info@bmic.co.uk
Web: www.bmic.co.uk

Over 40,000 scores and recordings of 20th century British classical music and contemporary composer archive. Listening facilities available.

Access: Reference use only, open to all, appointment essential as much material stored off-site.

Hours: Visiting, 12-5 M-F

Office, 9:30-5:30, can be reached via the website

Brompton Library

210 Old Brompton Road
London
SW3 0BS

Tel: 020 7373 3111

E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Web: www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

Small local public library. To join, visit the **Kensington Central Library**.

Access: Membership available on presentation of student ID at the Kensington Central Library. You will then be able to borrow materials from all the libraries in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea cooperative. Membership is not required to use reference materials or to use the library as a place to study.

Hours: 9:30-8 M, Tu, Th

9:30-5 W, F, Sa

Chelsea Library

Chelsea Old Town Hall
King's Road
London
SW3 5EZ

Tel: 020 7352 6056

E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Web: www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

Public library with specialist collections (mostly for reference use) on art and costume. To join, visit the **Kensington Central Library**.

Access: Membership available on presentation of student ID at the Kensington Central Library. You will then be able to borrow materials from all the libraries in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea cooperative. Membership is not required to use reference materials or to use the library as a place to study.

Hours: 9:30-8 M, Tu, Th

9:30-5 W, F, Sa

City Business Library

1 Brewers Hall Garden (off Aldermanbury Square)
London
EC2V 5BX

Tel: 020 7332 1812

E-mail: via the website enquiry form

Web: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/citybusinesslibrary

One of the leading business information libraries in the country. Includes UK and international trade directories, company and market data, official publications and business studies.

Access: Open to the public for reference use only. ID required for some services.

Hours: 9:30-5 M-F (closed weekends and public holidays)

Dickens's House Museum Library

48 Doughty Street
London
WC1N 2LX

Tel: 020 7405 2127

Email: enquiries@dickensmuseum.com

Web: www.dickensmuseum.com

The world's most important Dickens collection with over 100,000 items directly relevant to the English novelist.

Access: Apply to the Librarian at least 14 days prior to your expected visit.

Use of the library is free of charge.

Hours: By appointment.

Dr Johnson's House Picture Library

17 Gough Square
London
EC4A 3DE

Tel: 020 7353 3745

Email: curator@drjohnsonshouse.org

Web: www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Paintings and pictures relating to Dr Johnson and his circle; also furniture and first editions of his works.

Access: By appointment only.

Hours: By appointment.

Dr Williams's Library

14 Gordon Square
London
WC1H 0AR
Tel: 020 7387 3727
Email: enquiries@DWLib.co.uk
Web: www.DWLib.co.uk

The primary research library devoted to English Protestant nonconformity, run on its original benefaction since 1729. Also contains the collections of Dr Dodderidge's Library and the Congregationalist Library.

Access: By appointment only.

Hours: By appointment.

English Speaking Union of the Commonwealth

Page Memorial Library
Dartmouth House
37 Charles Street
London
W1J 5ED

Tel: 020 7529 1550
E-mail: library@esu.org
Web: www.esu.org

Specialist collection on the USA (politics, sociology, literature, history) with smaller collections on Commonwealth countries (especially Australia, Canada, and New Zealand).

Access: Open to the public for reference. Ring to confirm hours.

Hours: 10-4 M-F

European Documentation Centre

Queen Mary and Westfield College
Main Library
University of London
Mile End Road
London
E1 4NS

Tel: 020 7882 3306
E-mail: Contact the EDC Librarian: n.d.holloway@qmul.ac.uk (10-6, M-F)
Web: www.library.qmul.ac.uk

The Queen Mary Library is host to one of London's European Documentation Centres (EDC). EDCs receive, or are entitled to claim, one free copy of every EC publication. The publications include legislation and documents, research reports, books, journals, background reports, and explanatory documents.

Access: Restricted during term time. See website for dates and times. It is advised that you pre-arrange your visit to consult EDC material. You will need to show ID and obtain a day pass. You will NOT have access to electronic information sources or computing facilities.

Hours: By appointment.

Goethe-Institut Library

50 Princes Gate
Exhibition Road
London
SW7 2PH

Tel: 020 7596 4044

E-mail: library@london.goethe.org

Web: www.goethe.de/London

Everything to do with Germany and German culture, especially literature and the humanities.

Access: Open to the public for reference free of charge. Membership fees apply if you want to borrow materials (see website for rates). If you want to become a member, bring proof of address and ID.

Hours: 1-6.30 M-Th

1-5 Sa

Closed Fridays and Sundays

Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury
London
EC2V 7HH

Tel: 020 7332 1868

E-mail: guildhall@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Web: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary

History of London, law, business history, and Parliamentary history. Also houses the Clockmakers' Museum.

Access: Reference only. Study abroad students welcome.

Hours: 9:30-5 M-Sa

(You are advised to avoid Saturdays as the library is extremely busy then.)

Imperial College Library

Please note: Your student union card for Imperial College is NOT a library card. The Imperial College library is NOT accessible to outside students.

Independent Television Commission Library, see British Film Institute National Library

Institut Français de Royaume Uni

La Médiathèque
17 Queensbury Place
London
SW7 2DT

Tel: 020 7073 1354

Fax: 020 7073 1355

E-mail: library@ambafrance.org.uk

Web: www.institut-francais.org.uk/library

All aspects of France and French culture.

Access: Free access to the reading room. Loans to members (£45 per year; £30 per semester). If you wish to become a member, bring a photograph and proof of permanent address. With membership, you will also be able to get concessionary rates for the Ciné Lumière (all films have English subtitles) and special events at the Institut Français.

Hours: 12-7 Tu-F

12-6 Sa

Institute of Education Library

University of London
20 Bedford Way
London
WC1H 0AL

Tel: 020 7612 6080

E-mail: libraryMembership@ioe.ac.uk

Web: www.ioe.ac.uk

Europe's largest collection of books and periodicals on educational studies.

Access: There are charges for access. Please see the website for further details of access and charging. *Do not visit until you have checked the relevant details.* No access to computing, printing or media facilities.

Hours: Vary depending on terms. Check website for details.

Italian Cultural Institute

39 Belgrave Square
London
SW1X 8NX

Tel: 020 7235 1461

E-mail: icilondon@esteri.it

Web: www.icilondon.esteri.it/IIC.London

Italian culture, society and history.

Access: Open to the public for reference.

Hours: 10-1:30, 2:30-5 M-F and check website for term time variations

Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Collection

Kensington Central Library
Philimore Walk
London
W8 7RX

Tel: 020 7937 2543

E-mail: information.servies@rbkc.gov.uk

Web: www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/localstudies

History of Kensington and Chelsea including books, maps, and information about architecture.

Access: Reference only. You will need to sign in at the Local Studies desk. Please make an appointment if you need to consult archival material.

Hours: 1-6.30 M, T, Thr
1-5 W F Sat

Kensington Central Library

Philimore Walk
London
W8 7RX

Tel: 020 7937 2543

E-mail: information.services@rbkc.gov.uk

Web: www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

Highly recommended large public library. Biography collection, newspapers, journals.

Access: Must live, work or study in the borough to qualify to borrow books. Students on the Boston University British Programme can become members with borrowing rights on presentation of student i.d. at the membership desk. Membership includes access to the other libraries in the borough at Chelsea, Brompton, Notting Hill, North Kensington, and Kensal.

Hours: 9:30-8 M, Tu, Th; 9:30-5 W, F, Sa
Hours vary at other branches. The Local Studies section is for Reference use only and has different hours of operation. Check before you travel to avoid disappointment.

King's Fund Library

11-13 Cavendish Square
London
W1G 0AN

Tel: 020 7307 2568
E-mail: library@kingsfund.org.uk
Web: www.kingsfund.org.uk

Management and delivery of health and social care services.

Access: Open to visitors for reference only. Charges made for literature searches requested by phone or in writing.

Hours: 9:30-5:30 M, Tu, Th, F
11-5:30 W

London Library

14 St James's Square
London
SW1Y 4LG

Tel: 020 7930 7705
E-mail: enquiries@londonlibrary.co.uk
Web: www.londonlibrary.co.uk

Substantial private library with particular strengths in British literature and history.

Access: Reference only, via temporary reference tickets costing £10 per day or £30 per week. Download an application form from the website. Check with the library before traveling for details of identification you will need to provide. Please be aware that proof of address is a requirement.

Hours: 9.30-7.30 M-W; 9.30-5.30 Th-Sat

London School of Jewish Studies

The Library
Schaller House
44a Albert Road
London
NW4 2SJ

Tel: 020 8203 6427
E-mail: info@lsjs.ac.uk
Web: www.lsjs.ac.uk

Books on Jewish studies, history, Holocaust studies.

Access: Reference only.
Hours: 9-4 M
9-1 Tu-Th

Marx Memorial Library

37A Clerkenwell Green
London
EC1R 0DU

Tel: 020 7253 1485
E-mail: via the website
Web: www.marx-memorial-library.org

Marxism, history of Socialism, working class movements. Extensive journal holdings.

Access: Membership library, open to all who join.
Hours: 1-6 M, Tu, Th
1-8 W
Sa by appointment

Marylebone Library

109-117 Marylebone Road
London
NW1 5PS

Tel: 020 7641 1300 (information service)
Web: www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries

Large public library. Houses the Marylebone Information Service for health information and health related periodicals including the *BMJ*, *The Lancet*, and

Nursing Times. Special collection on Sherlock Holmes (by appointment on 020 7641 1206).

Access: Information collections open to all.

Hours: 9:30-8 M, Tu, Th, F

10-8 W

9:30-5 Sa

1:30-5 Su

Museum of London

London Wall

London

EC2Y 5HN

Tel: 020 7814 5588

E-mail: library@museumoflondon.org.uk

Web: www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Covers London history, topography and archaeology.

Access: Strictly by appointment only.

Hours: By appointment.

National Archives

off Ruskin Avenue

Kew TW9 4DU

N.B. Hard to find – check travel details on website

Tel: 020 8876 3444

E-mail: Contact form via website

Web: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

Records of royal courts, departments of state and other agencies of central government from the Norman Conquest (1066) to the present day.

Access: You can pre-register for a reader's ticket at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/registration/register1.asp. You will need to bring proof of identity (eg., passport) to complete your application in person.

Hours: 9-5 M, W, F, Sa

10-7 Tu

9-7 Th

Documents need to be ordered by different cut-off times each day.

See website for full details.

National Art Library

Victoria and Albert Museum
Cromwell Road
South Kensington
London
SW7 2RL

Tel: 020 7942 2400

E-mail: nal.enquiries@vam.ac.uk

Web: www.vam.ac.uk/nal

Largest specialist art library in the UK. All aspects of fine and applied art and design.

Access: Reference. All readers must register. Apply for a free Temporary Ticket (3 months). Check the website for information on how to use this library.

Hours: 10-5.30 T, W, Th, Sa
10-6.30 F

Closed for annual stocktaking for three weeks in August.

National Video Archive of Performance

V&A Theatre Collections
Blythe House
Blythe Road
London W14 0QX

Tel: 020 7943 4727

E-mail: tmenquiries@vam.ac.uk

Web: www.vam.ac.uk/tco/video_project/index.html

Archive of theatre performance. Recordings can only be viewed at the V&A Theatre Collections.

Access: By prior appointment only.

The Paul Hamlyn Library, see The British Museum Reading Room

Poetry Library

Level 5, Royal Festival Hall
London SE1 8XX

Tel: 020 7921 0943

Email: via contact form on website

Web: www.poetrylibrary.org.uk

Hours: 11-8 T-Sun (Closed Mon)

The most comprehensive and accessible collection of poetry from 1912 in Britain; the major library for modern and contemporary poetry.

Polish Library

238-246 King Street
London W6 0RF

Tel: 020 8741 0474

E-mail: polish.library@posk.org

Web: www.posk.org/library.html

All aspects of Poland and Polish culture. Special collection on Joseph Conrad.

Access: Reference use for all. Membership fees for loans. Proof of address and ID required.

Hours: 10-8 M,W
10-5 F

The [British] Refugee Council

Online information centre: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

RIBA Architecture Study Room

Level 4
Victoria and Albert Museum
Cromwell Road
South Kensington
London
SW7 2RL

Tel: 020 7307 3708

E-mail: drawings&archives@inst.riba.org

Web: www.vam.ac.uk

Drawings and archives of the Royal Institute of British Architects and drawings, photographs, and prints from the Victoria and Albert Museum's collection.

Access: All welcome.

Hours: 10-5 Tu - Sa

Royal College of Music Library [RCM Library]

Prince Consort Road
London
SW7 2BS

Tel: 020 7589 3643
E-mail: library@rcm.ac.uk
Web: www.rcm.ac.uk

Music scores, manuscripts, books on music and recordings.

Access: Reference only for all, however, students on the RCM/BU Special Programmes track have borrowing rights at this library.

Hours: Term-time 9 - 7 M-Th
 9 - 5:30 F
 Vacations: hours vary

Shakespeare's Globe Reference Library

Online Reference Library: www.shakespeares-globe.org
On-site Reference Library: contact at least 7 days in advance by email or letter. Bring completed application form downloaded ahead of time from www.globelink.org

Information on Shakespeare and the rebuilding of the Globe Theatre.

Hours: 10-5 T, W, Th

South Place Ethical Society Library

Conway Hall
Red Lion Square
London
WC1R 4RL

Tel: 020 7242 8037

Email: library@ethicalsoc.org.uk
Web: www.ethicalsoc.org.uk/library.htm

The UK's largest and most comprehensive humanist research library.

Access: By appointment only.
Hours: By appointment.

St Bride Printing Library

Bride Lane
Fleet Street
London
EC4Y 8EE

Tel: 020 7353 4660
E-mail: Contact form via website

Web: www.stbride.org

All aspects of printing, publishing, graphic design and related subjects.
Special collection on Eric Gill. See website for a list of subjects including
advertising and newspaper history.

Access: Reference only.

Hours: 12-5:30 Tu; 12-9 W; 12-5 Th

Tate Library and Archive

Hyman Kreitman Research Centre
Tate Britain
Millbank
London
SW1P 4RG

Tel: 020 7887 8838

E-mail: research.centre@tate.org.uk

Web: www.tate.org.uk/research/researchservices/researchcentre/default.htm

British art from the Renaissance to the present day plus international modern
art.

Access: Open for reference by appointment. Registration required. A
registration form is available on the website. A letter of reference on headed
institutional paper is required (see the BU librarian or your tutor; an example is
provided on the website). Two passport photos must be supplied and photo ID
must be shown. Contact the Research Centre to apply as a Day Reader.

Hours: 11-5 M-F

Theatre Museum Library and Archive

Now closed. All enquiries should be addressed to:

V&A Theatre Collections
Blythe House
Blythe Road
London W14 0QX

Tel: 020 7943 4727 (UK Office hours only)

E-mail: tm enquiries@vam.ac.uk

Web: www.theatremuseum.org

University of London Library

4th Floor
Senate House
Malet Street
London
WC1E 7HU

Tel: 020 7862 8500
E-mail: via contact form on website
Web: www.ull.ac.uk

The main undergraduate library for the University of London. Covers all subjects, but is especially strong in humanities and social sciences.

Access: Reference only. You will be required to pay a fee for access. A day ticket is £5. A seven day pass (seven days of your choice for up to a year) costs £25. You will also need a letter from the BU Librarian.

Hours: Vary – check website for details.

Wellcome Library

210 Euston Road
London
NW1 2BE

Tel: 020 7611 8722
E-mail: via enquiry form on website
Web: <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk>

History of medicine, contemporary biomedical subjects, consumer health, research ethics, and more.

Access: You will need to bring ID and proof of address to obtain a reader's ticket for access. Reference only.

Hours: 9:30-5:15 M, F; 9:30-7:15 Tu, Th; 10-5:15 W;
9:30-1 Sa

Westminster Abbey Chapter Library and Muniment Room

East Cloister
Westminster Abbey
London
SW1P 3PA

Tel: 020 7654 4830
E-mail: library@westminster-abbey.org
Web: www.westminster-abbey.org

The history and architecture of Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church.

Access: Limited space in reading room so appointment required. Call or write ahead to discuss requirements. Reference only. Bring ID and letter of introduction from the BU Librarian.

Hours: By appointment.

Westminster City Archives

City of Westminster Archives Centre
10 St Ann's Street
London
SW1P 2DE

Tel: 020 7641 5180
E-mail: Contact form via website
Web: www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/archive

Local studies collection for the City of Westminster. Special collection of West End theatre programmes and playbills from the early 19th century to the present day.

Access: Reference only.

Hours: 10-7 Tu, W, Th
10-5 F, Sa

Westminster Music Library

Victoria Library
160 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9UD

Tel: 020 7641 1300
E-mail: musiclibrary@westminster.gov.uk
Web: www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/music

Books, scores and periodicals in all fields of music. The largest public music library in the south of England. Please note that the library is accessed via a staircase of 30 steps and there is no lift.

Access: Reference only.

Hours: 11-7 M, Tu, Th, F
10-5 Sa

Westminster Reference Library

35 St Martin's Street
London
WC2H 7HP

Tel: 020 7641 1300

E-mail: Contact form via website

Web: www.westminster.gov.uk

Special collections in performing arts, business, finance, marketing, art, design, British official publications and EU publications. All aspects of EU information.

Access: Reference only.

Hours: 10-8 M-F

10-5 Sa

The Women's Library

London Metropolitan University
25 Old Castle Street
London E1 7NT

Tel: 020 7320 2222

E-mail: moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

Web: www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary

The national library for women's studies and women's history.

Access: Reference only. A day pass will be issued in exchange for ID left at the Reception Desk. Registration form available online.

Hours: 9:30-5:30 Tu, W, F

9:30-8 Th

10-4 Sa