

## **NORTH WEST FILM ARCHIVE at MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**

### **Temporary service reduction and closure during 2013/14 – sorry for any inconvenience**

The NWFA is relocating to Archives+ in Manchester Central Library, due to open Spring 2014.

**Collections:** We will not be able to accept material for consideration from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 due to the intensive period of preparations to move the collections. We are still very interested in hearing about new material, and would like have details to follow up when we have settled in, so please email [n.w.filmarchive@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:n.w.filmarchive@mmu.ac.uk) or phone 0161 247 3097 with details.

**Access services:** Capacity to take on major new projects will be limited from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, and general enquiries from August 2013, so we may not be able to provide the full access service everyone requests over the next 12 months. Let us know what you would like to do and we will try to oblige but may have to disappoint some people temporarily. Please note that students and staff from our parent body, Manchester Metropolitan University, can continue to access services throughout - until everything is in crates!

**Closure:** We will be closed for business from December 2013 through March 2014 while we pack up and move, and set up in our fantastic new facilities.

### **Background to Manchester Central Library Transformation**

#### **Manchester Central Library Transformation**

Manchester Central Library is Grade 2\* listed and a world-class reference and lending library. When it first opened in 1934, it was a spacious, well-designed, ultra-modern flagship library; a statement of civic pride and a fitting home for the city's prestigious collections. In the intervening years, the role and content of libraries and customer expectations have changed.

The Manchester Central Library Transformation Programme is safeguarding the building's future, through a tasteful and sensitive restoration of this beautiful building, and at the same time rethinking how we deliver twenty-first century library and archive services.

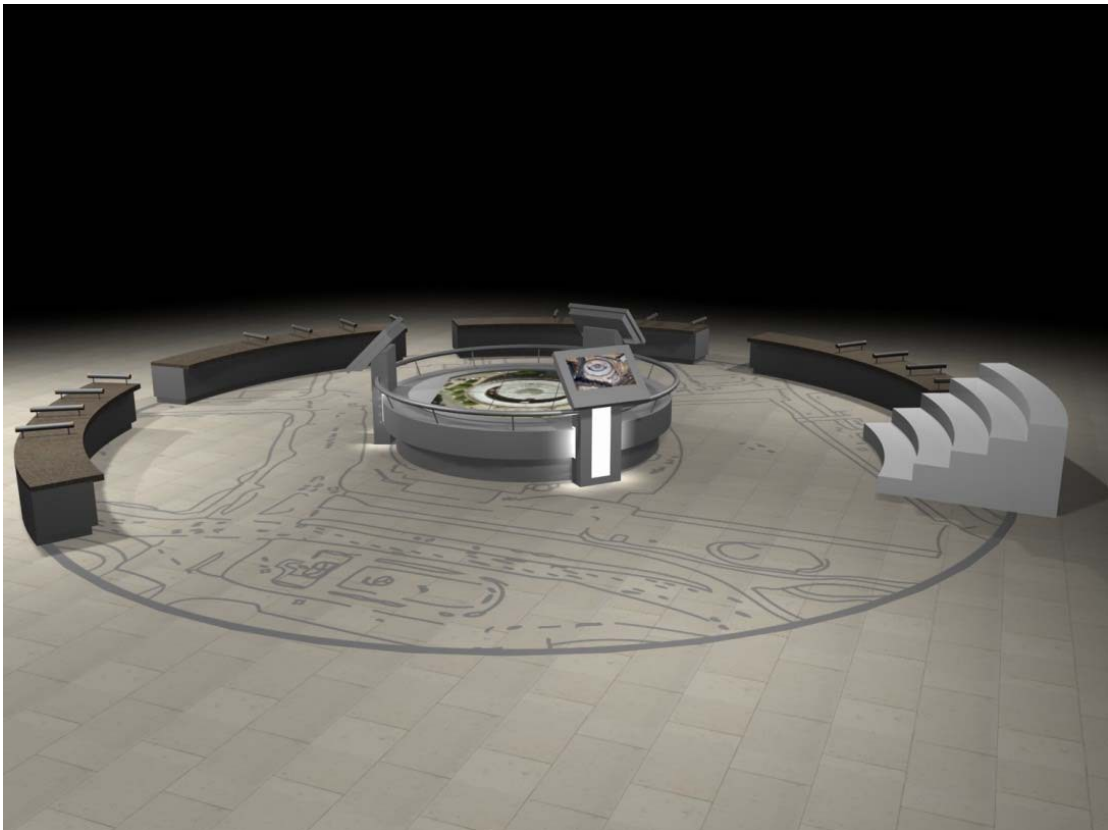
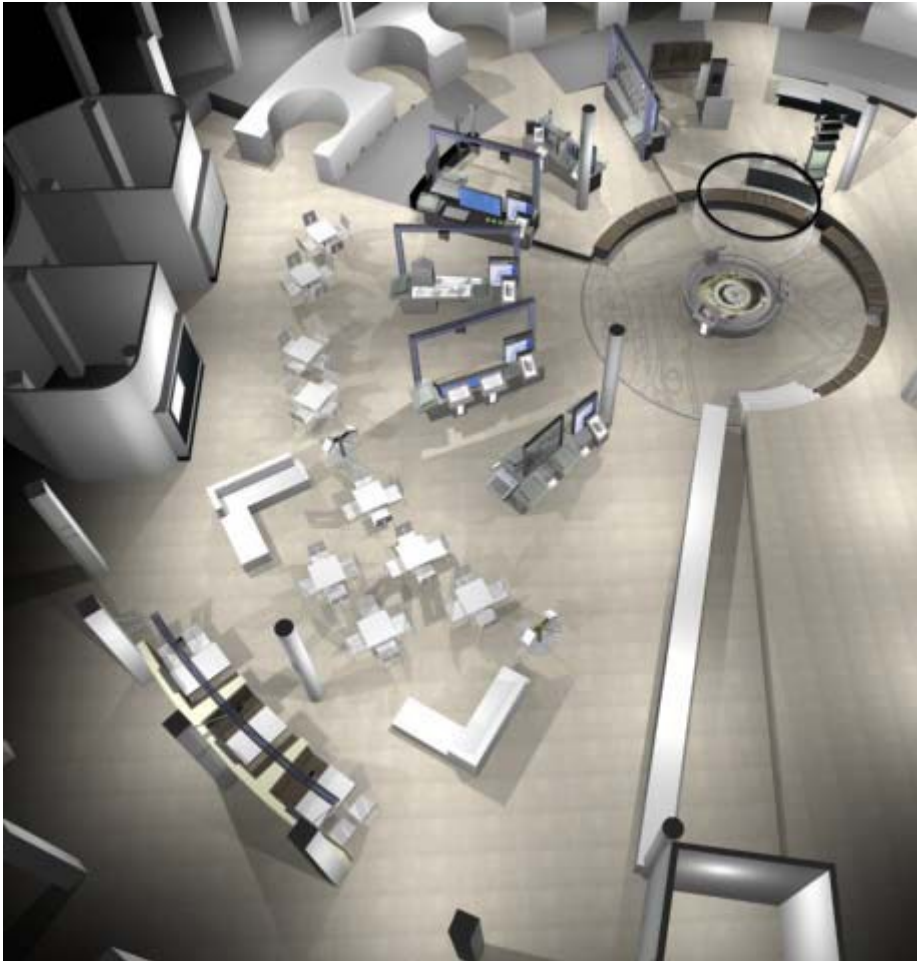
The new Central Library will be different in many ways. It will be much larger – whole floors of the main building will now be opened up for public use, and new services will also expand into the Town Hall Extension, with a new link created between the two buildings. The new interior design makes it more accessible for everyone – it is fully DDA compliant, with new lifts, new ground floor level access and as much space as possible opened up for people to use and enjoy. The new layout also means that more books will be on open public access. There will be two cafés, new toilets and facilities. There will be new services like wifi throughout, a performance and events space, community exhibition space, new meeting rooms and study spaces. When it opens to the public in Spring 2014 Central Library will also house a centre of excellence for Archives in the North West with a new Archives+ partnership.

#### **Background to Archives+**

Archives+ is a key component of Central Library and will offer an exciting, purpose-built showcase and repository for the region's archives and family history. The Archives+ partnership will build on the appetite and demand for accessible community history and personal heritage. This single location will make it easier than ever before to find what you're looking for under one roof. The main partners in Archives+ are:

- Greater Manchester County Record Office (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities)
- Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives (Manchester City Council)
- North West Film Archive (Manchester Metropolitan University)
- Race Relations Resource Centre and Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust (University of Manchester)
- Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society
- BFI Mediatheque
- Manchester Registration Service (Historic Registers)
- Familysearch International

The images below are architect's impressions of the new Ground Floor in Manchester Central Library, showing exhibition areas and film viewing pods.



## **About the Archives+ Partners**

**Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives (Manchester City Council)** operate a city-wide archive and local studies service which collects archives and printed materials relating to the history of the City of Manchester. The collections include a wide range of reference, lending and archive resources relating to the history of Manchester, its organisations, buildings and people.

Manchester Central Library also holds an outstanding collection of **rare books and special collections**. The very first Manchester Librarian, Edward Edwards, started the collection of rare and older published material in 1852 with many 17th and 18th century titles. The policy continued under successive librarians and was supplemented by donations from businessmen and others during the rest of the 19th century and into the early years of the 20th. This has resulted in Central Library having outstanding collections and 'treasures', more comparable to academic and special libraries than to other public libraries.

**Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO)** is operated by Manchester City Council on behalf of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA). The service holds a wide range of archives (hospitals, courts, businesses, estates, societies, clubs, families) relating to the Greater Manchester area. The service works closely with the archive and local studies services within each of the Greater Manchester districts.

**Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society (M&LFHS)**, a registered charity, is one of the oldest and largest family history societies in the UK. The Society and its specialist Branches offer around 50 meetings per year on a range of genealogical topics. The Society currently operates a family history research library in Manchester, containing books, microfiche/film and CD resources and offering free access to on-line family history sources to members. The Society's worldwide membership includes a significant number of volunteers who undertake large transcription and indexing projects, frequently in partnership with archives and other bodies, which are of benefit to family history researchers. Volunteers from the Society currently provide a Family History Help Desk service at City Library and at public libraries in Bolton and Oldham.

**Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Education Trust** are part of the University of Manchester, named in memory of a 13 year old Bangladeshi boy who was tragically murdered in a racist incident in the playground of a local school in 1986. The Resource Centre was founded to combat racist ideas about black people and holds material that documents the contributions of black people to British and American history, and the struggle against racism in its many forms. The collection includes books, newspaper cuttings, journal and magazine articles, video and audio-tape, posters and other ephemeral material. The growing local history section records the previously undocumented histories of African, Asian and Caribbean communities in Manchester. The Resource Centre is open to all, without charge, and produces a free online international journal - Ethnicity and Race in a Changing World. The Education Trust was formed in 2001 to develop anti-racist education outreach work for schools, community groups and a range of educational institutions. It produces and provides access to a wide range of resources based upon the history and experiences of Britain's black and ethnic minority and refugee communities, including Manchester communities.

**The North West Film Archive** is one of the UK's largest and longest established public film collections, and is part of the Library Service Special Collections at the Manchester Metropolitan University. The Archive is the professionally recognised home for documentary moving images made in or about Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside and Cumbria, or which reflect life in the region. These can be professional or amateur, any age, and any gauge. The region's position at the forefront of industrialisation is reflected in the strengths of the collection, providing a powerful record of modern urban society. The Archive cares for over 36,000 items from the pioneer days of film in the mid 1890s to regional television in the 1960s-80s, and digital productions of the present day. In addition to collecting and preserving moving images, the Archive offers an extensive range of access and outreach services, including viewings, screenings at a wide variety of venues across the region; loan and supply for exhibitions, events and educational uses; and commercial footage sales.

The **BFI Mediatheque** is the place to make new discoveries and get reacquainted with old favourites. From home movies to feature films, via documentaries and kids' TV, many titles have rarely been seen since their original release or broadcast – if at all. Simply log on at a viewing station and enjoy highlights from the world's greatest and most diverse collection of British film and television. Central

Library will be home to North West England's BFI Mediatheque. Offering over 2000 complete films and TV programmes, including more than 100 depicting life in Manchester and the North West. The BFI Mediatheque will be open six days a week and is FREE for everyone to enjoy.

Historic registers from **Manchester Registration Services**. This Manchester City Council service, currently based in Heron House in the city centre, provides copy certificates of 'historic' births, marriages and deaths, and is heavily used by family historians and visiting heritage tourists.

The archives, rare books, and special collections will be stored in environmentally controlled secure strong rooms with sophisticated fire detection and prevention systems which meet with British and international standards.

### **Archives+ Interpretation Areas and Learning Programme**

The elements of Archives+ funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund will raise awareness of and provide easy access to our histories for the broadest possible audiences- both existing and new. The project will make archives more accessible by creating exciting interpretive exhibition spaces to provide new ways for more people to discover the richness and relevance of archives, share their own stories and have a personalised experience of the City Region's history. Heritage tourists, young people, teachers, families, place based neighbourhoods and black and ethnic minority communities will be targeted to develop the audience for archives, alongside the valued regular users.

The ground floor of Central Library will bring Manchester's history alive with interactive interpretation areas. This will include viewing stations for film archives and exhibitions telling the story of different aspects of Manchester's history. The themes explored include Place, Work & Industry, Health & Living Conditions, Pastimes (Sport, Culture, Leisure), Radical Thinking, Manchester Communities, and the history of Manchester Central Library. Other interactive displays will include 'I Like Stations' and a 'Virtual Archive Store'.

There will be exhibition showcases for themed displays, rare books and treasures, in the Reading Room on the first floor. A new community exhibition space will be created on the lower ground floor. This will allow local communities and residents to create their own exhibitions.

The grant will also fund an activity and learning programme from 2013-2017 aimed at our new target audiences. This will include:

- Volunteering opportunities for young people.
- Family-friendly events and taster sessions.
- Community and Young People history projects and exhibitions.
- School visits and outreach events.
- On-line teaching resources for schools.
- Training for teachers and youth workers.
- Developing an Archives+ web site and social media offer.
- Marketing and communications.



**North West  
FILM ARCHIVE**



**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**