Floor 4 Now Open

Floor 4 opened on Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} February 2012, ahead of schedule responding to popular demand and within hours of opening, Floor 4 (which houses an extra 540 study spaces), proved very popular with students. The Main Library has since recorded its highest ever head count figures, with an afternoon headcount on March 12\textsuperscript{th} of 1,840 users. The reinstatement of this floor appears to have alleviated the pressure of space often felt during previous phases of the project.

Temporary Staff Space

A temporary staff office is located on Floor 4 to house teams previously located on the Lower Ground Floor. Following completion of the redevelopment of the Lower Ground Floor in early 2013, the space will be converted to study space and the occupants of the temporary office will return to the Lower Ground Floor. The teams currently located on Floor 4 are Collections Management, Acquisitions and Metadata and E-Resources.

Lower Ground Floor Clearance and Closure

Access to the Lower Ground Floor ceased to library users on Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} February and to all library staff on Monday 20\textsuperscript{th} February. The floor will remain closed until completion in early in 2013 and once complete will house: two main staff areas, meeting rooms and meeting booths, a staff café, two closed access books stores, a Special Collections closed access strong room, the facilities team and the mailroom.

Relocation of Mail Room to Temporary Accommodation

Due to the closure of the Lower Ground Floor the building management team, facilities staff and cleaning staff have been temporarily relocated to portacabins to the west side of the Main Library for the duration of the Lower Ground floor redevelopment. The temporary cabins house the mail room facility, a cleaning store, Main Library café store and a staff break out area and locker room.
All previous access into the Lower Ground Floor, including the loading bay, is now unavailable. Deliveries will continue as normal as far as possible with a combination of the temporary cabins and the front reception desk being used to accommodate deliveries and pick ups. A temporary hoist has been provided to allow access from the cabins to the ground floor level of the building.

**Lower Ground Floor Design and Planning**

The latest round of information gathering and staff consultations took place during February and March including a day of Lower Ground Floor staff review sessions, held on February 20th. These sessions gave teams a chance to discuss their own area in more detail, to talk directly to the Architect about the design and planning and to discuss communal areas in more detail.

Consultations with staff are on-going and work is continuing on the final layout of the two staff offices in order to ensure that all working requirements have been accommodated. Sign off is required by mid April to allow the Lower Ground Floor redevelopment work to continue on schedule.

Preliminary results are available, and these are currently being analysed.

**Main Library User Survey**

881 exit survey interviews were carried out over three days, Thursday March 22nd, Sunday March 25th and Monday March 26th March. The intention of the Main Library User survey was to find out who is using the Main Library, what users are doing in the building and how long they are spending in the building. This will help us to understand how far the project has come in meeting its aims and to understand the new user profile of the library.

Information gained from the user survey will also feed into a future strategy that will show how the University can improve the provision of study space and develop a spec for an ideal study space.

**On-going Facilities and Services Issues**

Planning is currently underway to replace all three of the existing Main Library lifts. The intention is to carry out work during the summer vacation to minimise disruption.

Work is currently underway to repair the water fountains in the Main Library and to ensure on-going maintenance to keep the fountains operational.

Throughout redevelopment work, we will keep you up to date with progress and regular construction updates are available on the MLRP website - [www.ed.ac.uk/is/mlrp](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/mlrp). Plasma screens in the Library are also updated regularly.

If you have any queries, please contact mlp@ed.ac.uk.

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Sheila Cannell, Director of Library and Collections 02 April 2012