Visiting the Archives

Booking appointments:

Research visits are by prior appointment only, subject to availability. Please make your appointment as soon as possible. We have limited reading space and are frequently taking bookings three to four weeks ahead. Appointments will be made Monday-Friday only from 11.00-4.00pm. We regret that we are unable to open at weekends.
To book an appointment, please email us using the following address: info@georgepadmoreinstitute.org You can also email us from our online catalogue https://catalogue.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/ or phone the office on 020 7272 8915.

Order your documents in advance:

You must pre-order all documents that you wish to view. Documents must be ordered a minimum of 1 week in advance of your appointment. The earlier you can tell us, the better. If any of the items you have requested are not available, we will aim to let you know prior to your visit.
You can search our catalogue online and generate a list of materials that can be emailed to us (and yourself) https://catalogue.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/ Alternatively, please send us an email listing reference numbers that are of interest.
Staff are happy to discuss your research interests and answer any questions you may have.
You may find the following page helpful when using our catalogues: https://catalogue.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/help

Location:

George Padmore Institute (GPI) is located above New Beacon Books at:
76 Stroud Green Road,
Finsbury Park,
London, N4 3EN
The building is in the run of shops between Perth Road and Upper Tollington Park.
Nearest Underground/Rail: Finsbury Park station (about 8 minutes’ walk).
Bus routes run to the South and North of Finsbury Park station. The nearest bus stop to the GPI is on Stroud Green Road on the north side of the Upper Tollington Park road junction.

Physical access:

Please be advised that, due to the layout of our historic building, the GPI is not currently wheelchair accessible. The GPI is on the first floor and access includes a doorstep and a flight of stairs. However, please contact us to discuss your needs.

The day of your visit:

Please do not travel to the GPI if you feel unwell. Let us know if you are unable to attend your appointment as we often have people who wish to visit.
For those of you unfamiliar with the GPI, we occupy a small building. New Beacon Books occupies the ground floor shop unit and their opening hours differ to ours, so the building may appear closed. However, please ring the GPI buzzer on the wall when you arrive and staff will come down and let you in.

What to bring with you:

Please bring as little as possible in the way of bags, coats, etc. We do not have any lockers. Please bring any equipment, pencils, paper etc you may need. We reserve the right to search bags and folders.
The use of laptops is permitted but we accept no liability. There is a wireless broadband network available in the room.
No food or drink is allowed in the search room. If you have any food packaging or similar debris on you, please take this away for recycling or disposal.

Scans, photocopies and photography:

Self-service photography is permitted ONLY with the prior permission of the archivist. Photography may be denied due to copyright or licensing restrictions, terms of ownership or deposit, or conservation issues.
Any photographs taken must be for your own personal research only and must not be published (including online) or transferred to other people without the permission of the copyright holder.
You may only use phones, tablets or compact cameras. Please keep the flash turned off at all times.
The use of handheld scanners is not permitted in the search room.
Limited scanning and photocopying (up to A4 size) can be ordered from staff, subject to copyright and conservation constraints. Each item will be assessed as to its suitability for copying.
Please ask staff for current scanning and photocopying charges.
Any payment for scans or photocopies must be made in sterling. We can only take cash. We cannot take card payments, whether in person or by phone. A limited number of copies can usually be supplied on the day. However, large orders may need to be posted or collected. We reserve the right to refuse or limit reprographic orders if processing the order would have a significant impact on our ability to provide other services to our users.

We look forward to welcoming you to the GPI.

George Padmore Institute
June 2024