

Archive Today

REGULAR NEWSLETTER SERVING THE INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

John Rylands University Library

The John Rylands University Library serves a community of 46,500 staff, students and researchers as well as a large audience of external researchers. Service is distributed through eleven sites including the iconic Deansgate building

The JRUL was recently awarded HEFCE status as a National Research Library the only one in the North of England, acknowledging its value to external visitors from all over the UK. The Main Library receives annually over 1.3 million visits from University of Manchester staff, researchers and students, and 95,000 visitors.



Full system in John Rylands University Library



KM526A Cutting Table - KM Mount Cutter in background

The newly formed Collection Care Department which serves the library as a whole, has recently taken delivery of a suite of machines which will enable it to facilitate production of phase boxes and specialist enclosures for the protection of library items.

A digital book measure enables an operator, with minimal training, to quickly and accurately record all the salient details of books or items needing protective enclosures. In addition to the physical size measured by the device, title, shelf mark, condition, etc. can also be stored.

In addition to the digital book measure and the cutting machine, the library also purchased a digital mount cutter. Having an extensive and complex exhibitions programme at the Library, this simple to use machine produces high quality window mounts in seconds, a job which was very time consuming using the hand operated device previously used. "The new machine saves a substantial amount of time, and allows us to contemplate far more complex mount styles than before" Tim Higson (Preservation Team Leader).

The historical site on Deansgate is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world. Both the building and its collections are of outstanding international significance. The Library's treasures include the St John Fragment, the earliest known portion of the New Testament in existence; some of the most exquisite and breathtaking medieval manuscripts such as the world famous Rylands Haggadah; outstanding early printed books, including arguably the best collection of Caxtons in the world; and a splendid array of materials in many formats from clay tablets to compact discs - covering more than 5000 years of human endeavour.



Digital Book Measurer

This book data can then be uploaded directly to the specialised phase box preparation software, KASEMAKE-CXD. Within the software a powerful database automatically sorts the records and creates a layout of required boxes optimised to fit a stock sheet size. These boxes are tailored to the exact size of each individual item. Next this layout is sent to a KM526A cutting machine where in a few minutes the boxes, complete with text to show shelf mark and any other information required, are produced.



Folding a bespoke phase box

Collection Care staff underwent a four day, hands-on training course and found the software and machines straightforward and easy to use. They are now looking forward to producing boxes and mounts as a growing part of the service they offer to all departments within The John Rylands University Library.

For more information regarding the KASEMAKE CXD systems, please visit...

www.kasemakecxd.com



Mount cutter at work