

Visit to Royal Society of Medicine Library

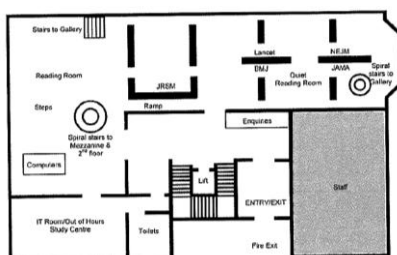
Situated on Wimpole Street in London, and built in 1910, The Royal Society of Medicine library is mainly aimed at health professionals who work in the field of medicine and biomedicine. Spread out over three floors It has a wide range of materials, accessible in both paper-based and electronic format within its collection, which include: -

- Over 500,000 Books
- Journals – The library keeps approximately 200 journals in hard copy, and also gives members access to over 3200 journals in electronic format
- E-Books
- E-journals
- Rare Books Collection
- Medical Databases

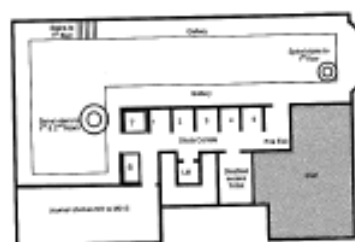
The library's first floor is where books under ten years old are kept, these books are arranged by subject to give each medical specialty its own designated area. To assist users there is a leaflet for each specialty area. This floor is accessible twenty four hours a day, seven days a week to all RSM members.

Its mezzanine floor has workrooms to provide study areas for individuals and for groups; these can be booked in advance, or used on arrival if they are available. Like the library I work in, the PCs in these workrooms have generic logins, saves individuals the bother of having to login and logout of individual user areas before uploading work and/or presentations. There is not charge for using the workrooms if they are being used for private study, but RSM does charge if they are being used for events such study days or conferences.

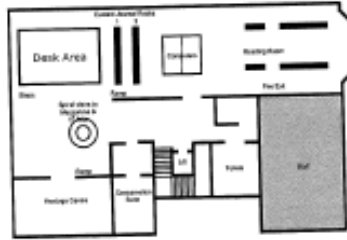
Its second floor is where the library keeps its journal articles, and also keeps a rare books collection, containing materials dating from 1805-1908, and the Royal Society's Heritage exhibitions. The exhibition kept changes four times a year, the current exhibition is a display on Thomas Brown, who was believed to have founded the word medical.



First floor layout



Mezzanine Floor



Second Floor

Above images taken from Royal Society of Medicine Library leaflet.

Members of the Royal Society of Medicine have free access to its library facilities, but non-members can get a half-day pass to access their facilities, at a cost of £6. The library also offers a document supply service, the costs of which vary pending on how quickly the member wants the document. Their website shows what the full charges are : -

Document Delivery timescale	RSM members (Europe) / Corporate members	RSM members (ROW)	Temporary Library members (individuals)
3 days	£3*	£3 (fax) / £4 (post)	£16
24 hours	£5*	£5 (fax) / £6 (post)	£21
2 hours	£12.50*	£13.50	£36

Image taken from Royal Society of Medicine website

During the talk the library visit we were told that, to date the collection currently consists of approximately 10,000 journal issues (hard copy), 5,000 e-journal titles, some of which do come with embargos to keep the subscription costs down, and 1,000 e-books, but from January 2016 they are going e-only with all of their journal titles. All books in the library are lent for four week periods, and journals in the library can be borrowed for two weeks, but all journals are reference only for one year.

The library also provides teaching sessions for people showing them how to use electronic resources, which can be arranged to be done in groups or on a one-to-one basis. Examples of the types of sessions given provided: -

- Introduction to literature searching
- Advanced literature searching
- Introduction to evidence-based medicine
- Improve you database search skills to practice
- How to use Mendeley

The RSM also embraces technology by constructing Q&A sessions, videos and webinars that are accessible to its members on a world wide scale.

As well as this building, the Royal Society of Medicine also has a second building based at Chandor House of Queen Ann Street.

The RSM library successfully amalgamates a modern collection, historical collection and electronic collection to provide high quality facilities to all of its members. The combination of books, journals, collections and exhibitions made this a very interesting library to visit and enabled me to see the complexities of placing so many different facilities into a confined space.

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