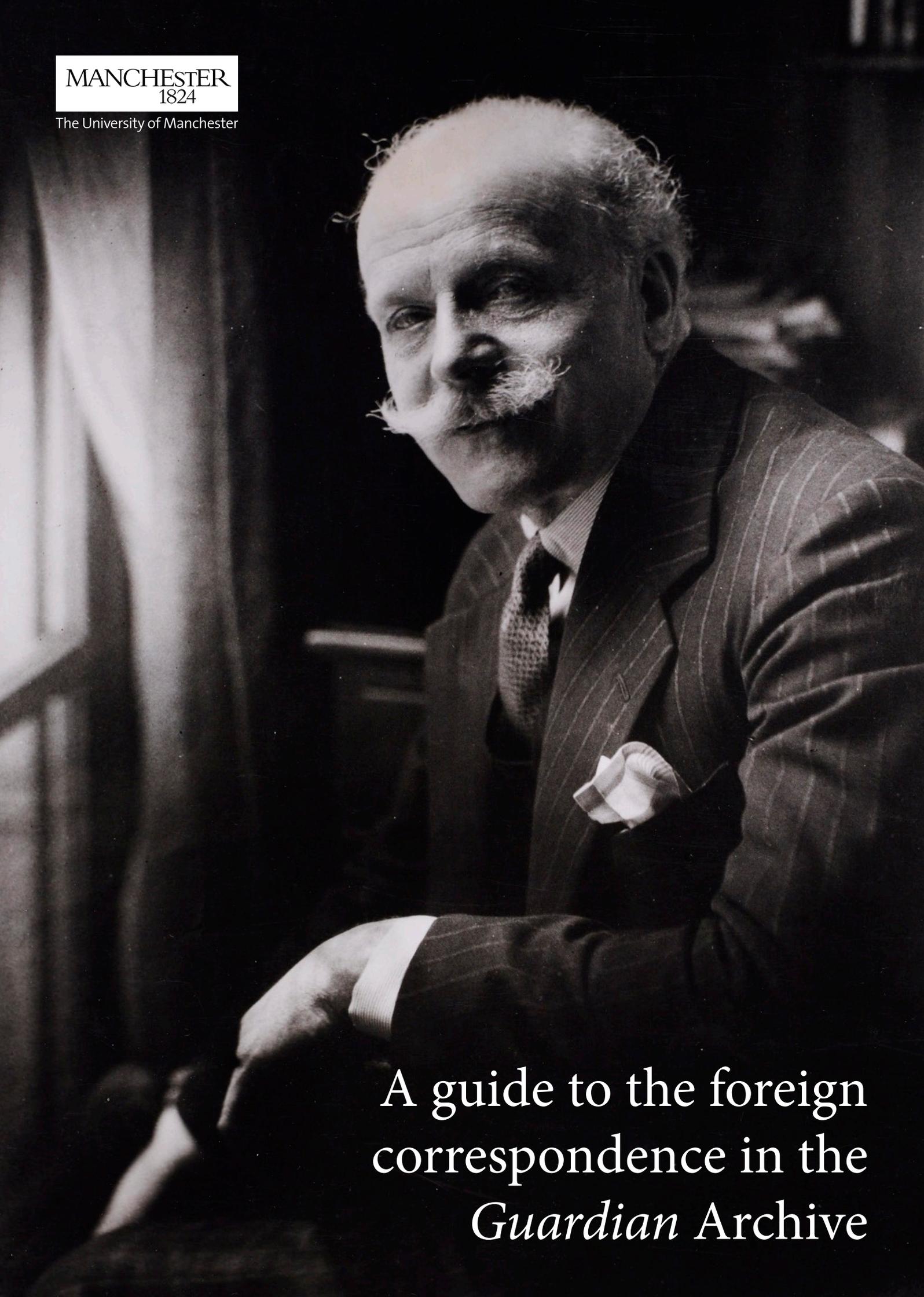


MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



A guide to the foreign  
correspondence in the  
*Guardian* Archive

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## Introduction

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This guide is intended to facilitate research into the European foreign correspondence in the *Guardian* archive. The extensive series of over 6,000 items, spanning the years 1912 to 1939, is a rich source for historians of the period, particularly in its narrative of the decade leading up to the Second World War.

Outside this series, additional material pertaining to foreign affairs, correspondents, contributors and their employment may be found in other parts of the *Guardian* archive. This guide will include information about the content and themes within the foreign correspondence, alongside guidance about where to find additional related material.

### The Guardian archive

The *Guardian* is one of Britain's leading newspapers, with a long standing reputation as a platform for Liberal opinion, and an international online community of 30.4 million readers. Founded in 1821, the paper has a long and distinguished history, originating in the city of Manchester. It was created by John Edward Taylor, a cotton manufacturer, in the wake of the Peterloo massacre, as a means of expressing Liberal opinion and advocating political reform. Over the next 100 years, the paper originally known as the *Manchester Guardian* would be transformed from a small provincial journal into a paper of international relevance and renown. The archive consists of two main elements: the records of the newspaper as a business; and a very extensive collection of editorial correspondence and despatches from reporters.

### Foreign correspondence

The foreign correspondence series spans the period from January 1912 to December 1939, and consists predominantly of correspondence between the editor and the foreign correspondents based in various major European cities, namely, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Geneva, and later, London. It covers the later period of the editorship of Charles Prestwich Scott (until 1929), his son, Edward Taylor Scott (until April 1932) and a significant period of the editorship of the first non-family member editor, William Percival Crozier (1932-1939).

It was Crozier (1879-1944), news editor since 1912, with his keen interest in foreign affairs, who was instrumental in developing the paper's foreign correspondence. Before the First World War, this service had been somewhat piecemeal, reliant largely on a variety of special contributors and freelancers, but from 1919, a network of full-time staff correspondents began to be established in key places, whilst freelancers, or 'stringers', as they were known, were still employed in the quieter areas, or as circumstances demanded. Under Crozier's editorship in the 1930s the *Guardian* built up a reputation for foreign news, particularly letters to the editor from significant foreign figures, and the paper was in the forefront of reporting the atrocities of the Nazi regime.

The *Guardian* enjoyed an international reputation, with its international paper, the *Manchester Guardian Weekly*, founded in 1919, reaching many parts of the world. The central European *Weekly* edition features in the archive in a short run of correspondence in the early 1930s. However,

Crozier's determination to report the truth about the situation in Germany resulted in the *Guardian* being banned twice in that country (in 1933 and again, indefinitely in 1936).

## ***What types of records are contained in the foreign correspondence, and what kind of information do they contain?***

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The archive comprises over 6,000 items, including letters, telegrams, dispatches, memoranda, confidential notes, internal messages, with some press cuttings and the occasional photograph. The correspondence features three editors: C.P. Scott, E.T. Scott, and W.P. Crozier in their communication with the foreign correspondents in Europe. The bulk of the material emanates from the period of Crozier's editorship in the 1930s. Crozier maintained an ongoing discourse with his team in an attempt to both verify his sources and keep himself well-informed on foreign affairs. Consequently, many of the items are confidential, being intended for the editor's private information.

The series commences in 1912 with the appointment of Robert Dell in Paris (at a time when interest in foreign affairs focused on the effect that they had on England) and continues through to the 1930s, when the correspondence reached a height, concluding in December 1939, a few months after the outbreak of war.

The archive contains correspondence with the staff correspondents based in the major cities of Europe, namely, Robert Dell, initially based in Paris, and later in Geneva, 1932-1939; Frederick Voigt in Berlin, 1921-1932, Paris, 1932-1933 and 1934, and London, as diplomatic correspondent, 1934-1939; Alexander Werth in Paris 1931-1932, 1933-1939 and Berlin, 1933; Marcel Fodor is first represented here in Vienna 1932-1938, Prague 1938 and subsequently Zürich and the Hague; Charles Lambert in Berlin 1929, 1933-1939 and Stockholm, 1939. There are also some exchanges with Voigt's assistant, Swiss refugee Max Wolf, 1937-1939. The above correspondents sometimes made excursions outside their regular base, for example, both Voigt and Werth visited Spain during the Spanish Civil War in an attempt to discover the truth about the terror and gather local reaction.

Historians of the period will find the archive a rich source of material; although the earlier sequence from 1912 to 1929 is somewhat patchy, that of the 1930s is extensive, providing, in particular, a detailed narrative of the events and political machinations in the period leading up to the outbreak of the Second World War, especially the escalating Nazi terror, and including the Stalinist purge of the mid 1930s in Russia, and from 1936, the Spanish Civil War and its repercussions. Another of the archive's strengths is the detailed chronicling of the politics and events in the smaller and lesser-known (in England) central and south-eastern European states, areas which were becoming the victims of Hitler's expansionism and influence, by the Vienna and Balkans correspondent, Marcel Fodor, in the lengthy memoranda he sent to Crozier.

The archive contains a great deal of information which did not make it into, or was never intended for the columns of the *Manchester Guardian*, for reasons of confidentiality, diplomacy, or simply lack of space. In particular, there are a number of both original and copies of letters or accounts,

many in German, and untranslated, relating to victims of the Nazi persecution and the Stalinist purge, whose identities had to be concealed for fear of reprisals.

In addition, the correspondence also gives an insight into the status of the paper, the way in which the correspondents worked, their relationships with the editor and each other, and also with other papers and journalists. There are frequent references to other *Manchester Guardian* staff in both Manchester and London, and to freelancers and to journalists of other papers, which may also be of interest to family historians. There is a small run of correspondence between 1922 and 1925 dealing with advertising in the central European edition of the *Manchester Guardian Weekly*.

### ***How are the records catalogued/arranged?***

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The foreign correspondence is contained in the series GDN 204/1 – 221/423. The series largely retains the chronological sequence in which it was acquired from the newspaper.

### ***Where can further information on the subject be found within the Guardian archive?***

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Further correspondence with staff journalists and with other contributors or freelancers, may be found in the Scott and Crozier (A and B) series of editorial correspondence. The list of other correspondents and contributors given below is not exhaustive, however, as contributors during this period were numerous, and researchers should consult the finding aid for the editorial correspondence and other records if seeking particular individuals.

The papers of W.P. Crozier (WPC) contain accounts of interviews conducted by Crozier with statesmen, politicians and other notable figures, on subjects including European politics and the Nazi threat. Although most of the interviews available have been published in A. J. P. Taylor's *Off the Record: Political Interviews 1933-1943*, some were not included and remain unpublished. The private correspondence of W.P. Crozier at GDN/145/30-44, although mainly relating to Palestine, may include some relevant European material. Other items relating to foreign affairs, such as correspondence between the editor and foreign diplomats and politicians (for example, W.P. Crozier and Armindo Rodrigues de Sstau Montiero at A/M88), may also be found in the A and B series of editorial correspondence.

Items within the business section of the archive, particularly contributors' lists, payment books, staff ledgers and address lists may yield further information about individual correspondents and the employment with the *Guardian*.

	Reference Numbers
Foreign correspondence	GDN 204/1 – 221/423
Other relevant material in the <i>Guardian</i> archive	<i>The details given in the column below do not constitute a definitive list of all relevant material held in the collection. Finding aid/catalogues may also need to be consulted.</i>
Scott Editorial Correspondence	<p>A series</p> <p>Robert Dell, 1931-1932: A/D27/1-3</p> <p>Max Wolf, 1936-1947: A/W68/1-80</p> <p><i>Communications with other correspondents and contributors, including:</i></p> <p>J.G. Hamilton, 1905-1929: A/H17/1-24</p> <p>W.H. Chamberlin, 1925 and 1927: A/C36/1-6</p> <p>Arthur Ransome, 1919-66: A/R9/1-56</p> <p>Henry W. Nevinson, 1901-1938: A/N12/1-50</p> <p>Eric Siepmann, 1929-1951: A/S52/1-85</p>
Crozier/Wadsworth Editorial Correspondence	<p>B series</p> <p>Robert Dell, 1937-1941: B/D79A/1-11</p> <p>Frederick Voigt, 1920-1957: B/V51A/1-181</p> <p>Marcel Fodor, 1940: B/F161A/1-15</p> <p>Alexander Werth, 1930-1949: B/W170/1-277</p> <p>Charles Lambert, 1934-1942 B/L16A/1-239</p> <p>Max Wolf, 1940-1945: B/W310/1-301</p> <p><i>Communications with other correspondents and contributors, including:</i></p> <p>W.H. Chamberlin, 1937: B/C82/2-5</p> <p>T.M. Muggeridge, 1929-1950: B/M463A/1-93</p> <p>Henry W. Nevinson, 1929: B/N82/1-15; 1923-40: B/N82A/1-21</p>

	Joel Cang, 1932-1951: B/C23/1-177 Shiela Grant Duff, 1937-1946; B/D135/1-31
<i>Guardian</i> business Archive	GDN/1-449  Contributors' list ledgers: GDN/386/1-6, 1931-1935; GDN 387/1-3, 1927-1930  Payments to contributors: GDN/229-235, 1919-1954  Staff 'A' ledger, 1874-1930, GDN/289  Staff 'B' ledger, 1925-1931, GDN/290
Index of Scott General Correspondence	GDN/118-132, 135 and 332-336

## Research Guides

The finding aids available for the *Guardian* Archive as a whole include:

- Changing Faces: A guide to researching the people behind the *Guardian* and *Manchester Evening News*
- Women's Suffrage in the *Guardian* Archive
- The Boer War in the *Guardian* Archive

## Related Collections

- Papers of W.E.A. Axon (journalist)
- Papers of W.P. Crozier (editor, 1932–1944)
- Papers of A.N. Monkhouse (critic)
- Papers of C.E. Montague (journalist)
- Papers of A.P. Wadsworth (editor, 1944–1956)

## Finding Aids

Also available are catalogues for series within the archive's correspondence, including:

- C.P. Scott editorial correspondence – A series
- Boer War correspondence
- Women's suffrage correspondence

- W.P. Crozier's Confidential Foreign Affairs Correspondence
- Morgan Philips Price correspondence

The finding aids and catalogues can be found at: [Guardian Archive, Guide to Special Collections](#) and on the special collections [online catalogue, ELGAR](#) (Electronic Gateway to Archives at the Rylands).

## ***What other resources would be useful for this theme?***

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### **Related archives held elsewhere**

- The Guardian/GNM archive in London contains the personal papers of W.P. Crozier, which include some correspondence relating to European affairs leading up to the Second World War (catalogue ref. WPC), *including a file of correspondence with Frederick Voigt, foreign and diplomatic correspondent.*
- The Guardian/ GNM archive also holds a collection of correspondence between C.P. Scott and W.P. Crozier and Cecil Sprigge, foreign correspondent in Rome , 1923- 1929 (catalogue ref. CJSS), which affords a view of economic and political affairs in pre-war Italy, and in particular the Mussolini and the Fascist regime.

### **Publications**

- David Ayerst, *Guardian: Biography of a Newspaper* (London: Collins 1971). This official history is the standard study of the newspaper up to 1956.
- Peter McNiven, 'The Guardian Archives in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 74 (1992), pp. 65-84.
- Many of Crozier's interviews with statesmen were published, most in their entirety, in *Off the Record: Political Interviews 1933-1943*, ed. by A. J. P. Taylor, (London: Hutchinson 1973).

### **Online resources**

The Guardian newspaper's website features an online searchable catalogue to the GNM archive, as well as giving a brief history of the *Guardian Weekly*, at <https://www.theguardian.com>

## ***Who do I contact to undertake research using original documents?***

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The University of Manchester *Guardian* Archive is housed in the John Rylands Library and can be accessed in the reading room by anyone, free of charge. You will need to make an appointment well in advance of your visit (with the reference numbers of the items you wish to see); this is so that we can make sure you have the material that is most useful to your particular enquiry. Please note that in accordance with the Data Protection Act, some of this material may not be available to view.

Please read the information about the John Rylands Reading Room before you make your visit. Alternatively, you can contact us with your enquiry and we will do our best to help you.

All applications to undertake research should be made in the first instance to Karen Jacques, Collections and Research Support Assistant by email to karen.jacques@manchester.ac.uk or by post to The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH.

## ***How can I access past articles from the Guardian?***

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### **Online sources**

- ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The *Guardian* and the *Observer*

ProQuest enables researchers to search over 20 different article types, including: News, Editorials, Letters to the Editor, Obituaries, Birth and Marriage Announcements, Stock Photos, Advertisements and so forth. ProQuest is available free to the University of Manchester staff and students.

- Manchester Central Library

*Manchester Guardian* online newspapers are available to library members.

*Manchester Guardian* 1821-2000 is available on the Manchester City Council 24 Hour Library.

- The *Guardian* and *Observer* Digital Archive

This resource will eventually contain the digital reproduction of every page, article and advert published in the *Guardian* (since 1821) and the *Observer* (since 1791). Currently the archive covers the period of 1821-2003 for the *Guardian* and 1791-2003 for the *Observer*. This is a subscription service but many schools, universities and public libraries subscribe. Access to the *Guardian* and *Observer* digital archive is also freely accessible from the *British Library* reading rooms at St. Pancras, London.

## **Microfilm**

A complete set of microfilms for the *Guardian* is also now available at the British Library Newsroom on the St. Pancras site, Central London.