

## Decant FAQs

### January 2020

Q. When will the RSL close for refurbishment?

A. The RSL closed to readers at its current location at 5pm on Monday 23 December 2019.

Q. What will happen to the books?

A. All of the 23,000 books that were on the open shelves at the RSL have been transferred to the Vere Harmsworth Library. Extended vacation loans have been provided from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> February. We expect to be able to provide a full library service to science students in the VHL from the start of Hilary term 2020.

Q. I've never used the Vere Harmsworth Library before. Where is it?

A. Map: <https://maps.ox.ac.uk/embed.html#/custom?ids=oxpoints:32320002>

Address:

Rothermere American Institute  
1a South Parks Road  
Oxford  
OX1 3UB

Q. Will your opening hours be different at the VHL?

A. The VHL will operate with almost the same opening hours that the RSL currently offers and will be open:

Term time:

- 9am to 10pm Monday to Friday
- 10am to 4pm Saturday
- 11am to 5pm Sunday

Vacation:

- 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday
- 10am to 2pm Saturday
- Closed Sunday

Q. Will I still be able to order books from offsite storage to the VHL?

A. Yes, the delivery service will continue as at present.

Q. You've sent books that haven't been used in the last two years into offsite storage recently. Will these be coming back?

A. Most of them will not. However, if any book from offsite is requested multiple times in the future it will be put back on open shelves in the VHL and the RSL.

Q. Will there be enough space for all the RSL's readers in the VHL?

A. We have looked at the how busy the RSL and VHL have been in the past at peak periods and to accommodate that level of use we have added an additional 54 reader spaces at the VHL – bringing the total number of spaces available up to 180. Readers are also welcome to use loanable RSL books in other libraries, and to have RSL books from offsite storage delivered to other Bodleian Libraries sites.

Q. Will RSL books still be available for borrowing?

A. Yes. You will still be able to borrow books for one week at a time and renew up to 9 times online, by phone or in person. Library Use only books will remain for reference only within the library as they are now.

Q. Will I be able to read electronic legal deposit material in the VHL?

A. Yes. The VHL is one of the Bodleian Libraries group of libraries which means that electronic legal deposit material can be viewed on library computers within the VHL.

Q. Will RSL staff be there?

A. Yes. RSL staff will be on hand to assist readers throughout the library's opening hours.

Q. How many PCAS machines will be available in the VHL?

A. There will be two PCAS machines for printing, copying and scanning.

Q. Are there areas where readers can eat and drink in the VHL?

A. There will be a reader common room for RSL readers.

Q. What facilities and access arrangements for disabled readers does the VHL have?

A. Details are given at <https://www.accessguide.ox.ac.uk/rothermere-american-institute#widget-id-1393851>. We have installed two additional height adjustable desks in the VHL.

Q. What will happen to the RSL Training Room?

A. We do not have a training room in the VHL and so our team will be delivering training from a number of alternative locations. In the redeveloped RSL building we will have access to larger and more flexible training spaces shared with Parks College and other GLAM departments.

Q. Will there be bookable group study spaces and study carrels available to RSL readers?

A. There will be two bookable group study rooms available in the VHL for RSL readers.

Q. What will happen to the existing bike racks, and where can I park my bicycle when I visit the VHL?

A. The current plan as part of the RSL refurbishment project is to increase the number of bike parking spaces from 160 to 198. The Rothermere Institute (which contains the VHL) has bike racks for student use.

Q. What will happen after the refurbishment of the RSL building is complete?

A. The RSL will move back into the newly refurbished premises in summer 2021, when we will be sharing the building with Parks College. The RSL will continue to be the main science library of the Bodleian Libraries. The refurbished RSL will be a much more comfortable and modern space with improved facilities and will be open to all members of the University and the Bodleian, in the same location as it is now. The library will hold a large collection of undergraduate and graduate textbooks for students to consult or borrow including all MPLS and non-clinical MSD reading list materials and thousands of other textbooks.

Q. Where can I find out more about the plans for the refurbished RSL?

A. You can find out more about the new RSL and the Parks College Project, including the latest plans for the library spaces, at [www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/future-projects/parks-college](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/future-projects/parks-college). Regular updates on developments will be posted at [www.tinyurl.com/rsrefurb](http://www.tinyurl.com/rsrefurb).