



“The days when it was always summer in Eden...”

Charles Dickens

Project Progress

The project team has been working at full steam as we prepare for the warehouse and new systems to be operational.

Testing is the main activity and warehouse tests are covering end to end scenarios, where test orders are picked and packed.

User acceptance testing for publishers is focussing on the new Pub App, changes to Biblio processes and Cognos reporting.

Issues identified during testing are being captured and those identified as business critical are being addressed as a priority.

This is a period of intense activity in readiness for the first publisher transition for Octopus Publishing Group.



The scale and complexity of the systems and processes being introduced is significant and we will proceed with the transition when there is a high degree of confidence that we are ready.

An assessment on when to proceed will be made in mid-July, and this will consider the readiness of the systems, warehouse processes and business users.

Meet the Project Team

Nige Robins

Head of Distribution
IT Operations



Nige is responsible for the day to day support of the Vista, SAP and new warehouse management systems. His brief currently covers all distribution sites at Bookpoint, LBS and the new Hely Hutchinson Centre. Nige originally joined Bookpoint in 1993 and has extensive experience of system development, project management and support.

Michael Field

WMS Analyst



Michael joined Bookpoint in 2002, originally working in stock consolidation and then as stock control supervisor. He also has experience of supporting the stock operation for Taylor & Francis, a third party distribution client of Hachette.

Simon Blackshaw

WMS Analyst



Simon has worked for Hachette for 20 years, originally as a stock control supervisor at Bookpoint and then as a Vista developer in the IT team since 2006. Due to his Welsh roots, Simon is known to all of his colleagues as ‘Taff’.

With the move to the Hely Hutchinson Centre, Michael and Taff have become subject matter experts for the JDA warehouse management system.

They both report to Nige in the recently formed IT Operations team for Distribution and Finance.

HR Update

The HR team for Hachette Distribution has been busy managing the increasing number of staff that are moving over to the Hely Hutchinson Centre

There are currently 40 members of staff now permanently based there and this will increase to 80 by the end of the year. All new starters will receive an induction programme suitable for their own role at the new site.

In addition, the team will continue to deliver a business as usual HR service at Bookpoint.



The picture above shows Jo Stasiak, Graham Swales, Izzy Liddiard and Charlotte Cross. Kirsty Butcher is also part of the HR team, which is led by Graham (Head of HR for Hachette Distribution).

Training Plans

A training programme is being compiled for publishing users and will be rolled out in the weeks before each division goes live.

We have been working with a specialist training company called Sysdoc, who have analysed the functionality of the new systems.



They have devised a series of ‘e-learning’ videos to cover use of the new Pub App, as well as the changes to Cognos reporting and Biblio functionality.

Users will see a walk-through of various process areas, which will be accompanied by a spoken commentary.

The business process owners on the project team will also share information about the new processes via classroom-style ‘Ways of Working’ sessions.

They will cover how publishers will interact with the customer services, credit services and distribution teams once they are live and operating from the Hely Hutchinson Centre.