

NOTICE

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF READING SERVICES

Occurring in the context of the Extension and Renovation Works of the Main Storage Building of the National Library of Portugal

The first phase of the Extension and Renovation Works of the Main Storage Building of the National Library of Portugal is reaching the end with completion of the new extension of 33 meters long and two additional underground floors for a new safe deposit and technical installations.

The next phase, consisting of a total renovation of all the 11 floors of the old building requires its handing over to the building company, thus implying the complete removal and relocation of the General and Rare Book collections, amounting to over 3 million items.

In order to minimize the impact on the user service, the works have been planned in such a way to reduce the period of suspension to the minimum. The works will start with the upper floors of the building, holding the less requested collections, and will end with the Rare Book collections which will be unavailable for the shorter period as they have few alternatives in other libraries.

The planning of the works and temporary suspension of reading services is as follows:

Stack	Collections/shelfmarks	Suspension of reading services
9	BAD, AHS; CE, C.G.	Collections unavailable from 01.10.2010
8	Religion; Bibles; Truncated coll, Poligraphy	
7	S.A., Bibliography	Collections unavailable from 30.10.2010
6	Foreign journals; BPP	
5	Periodicals	Collections unavailable and closure of the General Reading Room from 15.11.2010
4	S.C., B.A.	
3	Literature	
2	Hist. & Geography; Brito Rato Coll., Numismatics	
1	Rare Book Division	Closure of the Rare Book Division Reading Room from 01.04.2011

Most important dates of the temporary closure are the following:

	General Collection	Rare Book Division
Partial reading services	01.10.2010 – 15.11.2010	Normal operation until 01.04.2011
Closure of the Reading Room	15.11.2010	01.04.2011
Reopening of the Reading Room	01.09.2011	01.09.2011

In 2010, the National Library of Portugal will not change to the reduced summer opening hours, as usual, continuing to operate the General Reading Room from 9h30 to 19h30, during the week, and from 9h30 to 17h30 on Saturdays, so that readers can make the most of the months remaining before closure.

During the closure of the General Reading Room, the Reference Service will remain open and will provide for the continuity of the microfilm reading service. In addition, all efforts will be made to ensure that support is available to help users in locating alternative libraries for the publications they need.

The reading services of special collections – **Music, Cartography, Iconography** and **Reading for the Visually Impaired** – will remain in normal operation as their holdings are not integrated in the main storage building.

The building extension, started in October 2008, added 6,300 m² to the storage area for over one million books and a new reading room for special collections. The renovation of the old building – with an area of 12,500m² – will replace the already outdated technical infrastructures that have been at service for more than 40 years, encompassing all electrical systems, intrusion security, fire protection including a compartmentation system, air treatment and control of temperature and relative humidity. This renovation represents the main share of the investment in the works being carried out and will provide the most important Portuguese bibliographic collection with the best conditions for long term preservation.

The reopening of all reading services is planned for September 2011.

We thank our users for their patience and understanding while the renovation works take place.

Lisbon, 8 June 2010

The Board of the National Library of Portugal