

“Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

Mattie Stepanek

Reporting Update

A significant amount of work on the project is taking place around the reporting that will be held in the new SAP and warehouse management systems.

The main interaction with the systems for many staff will be through a new reporting platform that will be called ‘Extent’.

Over the past 18 months, the reporting team have captured detailed requirements from users in various roles. More recently, the team has installed a new platform which is based on ‘Cognos Analytics’, a new version of the Cognos reporting tool that has a more intuitive and graphical user interface.

Currently, the underlying business data is being modelled so that it is held within the database in the most logical format. This is a key activity that will enable versatile reporting. Hachette divisions will also be able to report on external data (from third parties such as Nielsen Bookscan and Amazon) alongside their own sales data.



The project team is building a new user interface which aims to replicate the current reporting capabilities, as well as provide data in new and exciting ways.

The image above gives an example of how this will be presented. The reports will be highly interactive, for example users will be able to bring up a map of the world and click on a country to see the sales for that region.

Screen presentations will be tailored to different roles within the business. For instance, a dashboard for editorial users can provide information on author and title performance on a daily basis.

Meet the Project Team

Krislyn Aedma & Toby Grafton

Test Analysts

Two members of the LBS team have made the move to the Hely Hutchinson Centre. Krislyn and Toby are part of the testing team, currently performing checks on the JDA warehouse management system.

They are a couple who met while travelling in Australia and have now relocated to the market town of Wantage, eight miles from their new place of work.



Toby started at LBS in 2012, working as a despatch supervisor. Krislyn joined a year later, originally working in forward stock picking and latterly as bulk picking team lead.

They bring a wealth of knowledge of the LBS processes, which will be invaluable when the publishers supplied by LBS go live, starting with Octopus in July.

Krislyn said *“it’s great to work in such an inviting shiny, new warehouse. It feels so big, more than double the size of LBS. I’m focussed on a specific area now but the whole team is working closely and I can’t wait to see it all come together.”*

Toby remarked that he is *“excited by the change and how we are keeping up with new technology. The efficiency of it all is quite amazing. The welcome has been fantastic and working here is an opportunity that we couldn’t turn down.”*

They will transition into operational roles once testing is over. More staff will move to the Hely Hutchinson Centre when the warehouse is live later this year.

Shrink It and Cut It



New technology will decrease empty space in boxes and reduce the risk of damaging stock. This will allow us to transport more books on each lorry delivery, reducing the overall number of journeys required.

The machines that will undertake this process (called ‘Shrink It’ and ‘Cut It’) are currently being tested by TGW, the partner we are working with to install the automated warehouse systems.

The machines use heat shrink film to secure the stock and precise cutting technology that will build boxes tightly around each set of books.

Warehouse Tours

Tours of the Hely Hutchinson Centre continue to prove popular and we have recently hosted parties from Orion and the Group Field Sales team (see below).



Dominic Smith, Field Sales Director, said *“the sales team were amazed at both the scale and the advanced technology of the distribution centre. If you’ve not been, it’s well worth a visit.”*