

“Look closely at the present you are constructing. It should look like the future you are dreaming.”

Alice Walker

Publisher App

Following discussions with business representatives on the design of the new Pub App, we have recently started to build the system.

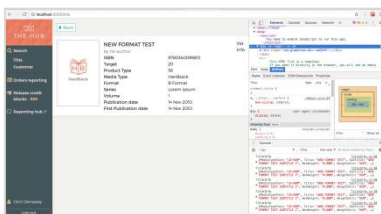
The App is effectively an extension of the SAP Order to Cash (OTC) system that is designed for use by staff in the publishing divisions. It will also use stock data from the JDA warehouse management system.

Keytree are our integration partners for SAP OTC. While we work closely with their UK-based representatives on system design, the build work is undertaken by their development team in Spain. Senior Project Manager Ian Duffy visited their Madrid office in October to oversee the start of the build for the Pub App.



The image above includes developers Jose, Max, Juan, Saul, Wojtek and Diego. So far, they have built a technical link with the main OTC system and have created the App’s landing page, log-in process and title search functionality.

Pages that show stock and sales information for individual titles are now being created with initial testing to take place early next year.



Construction News



On 6th October, we reached a key project milestone with the practical completion of the internal fit-out of the warehouse. This includes the installation of racking, machinery and electrical cables and it follows the completion of the external building work in July.

Winvic, the main contractors that undertook the construction, have now completed their work and the keys to the building have effectively been handed over to Hachette UK.

We are now in a period of snagging to address minor outstanding tasks and in the coming months we will focus on decorating the office space and installing furniture.

Customer Engagement

Engagement with key customers is progressing well. Richard Bevan, the project’s Change Manager, has been liaising with UK customers since September. He also visited the Frankfurt Book Fair in mid-October to engage with a series of international customers.

This was to share an overview of the project scope, timelines and potential impacts.

A project flyer has also been produced to update the customers that we do not plan to engage with personally.



Meet the Project Team

Graham Swales
Head of HR



Graham joined Hachette recently as the Head of HR for Bookpoint and the new distribution centre. He has said that his arrival has been a bit of a whirlwind, but he remains very pleased to be joining such a great team!

Graham brings an in-depth experience of HR management gained across a wide number of industry types and is looking forward to bringing that experience to his first major challenge; the staffing arrangements for the new warehouse. He will also be heading up the HR support to Bookpoint until such time as the new site is fully staffed.

Facilities Management

With the completion of the internal fit-out, Mark Jones, senior project manager for the warehouse build, will leave Hachette in November.



The project team would like to thank Mark for his contribution and we wish him well for the future.

Facility management for the new site will transition to Laura Conder, the group’s Director of Building and Facilities, later this year.

Did You Know?

The network connection between the new distribution centre and the Hachette data centres at Slough and Heathrow is so fast that it takes less than one millisecond for data to travel the 200km round trip!