The Periodicals Collection

The Library of the Religious Society of Friends holds about 1000 periodical titles and currently receives about 250 current items, many of which are only available in the UK at this Library or the Library at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham. While the collection is strongest on UK and North American material, there are good holdings of European and Australian and New Zealand titles and some Asian and African material.

What the Library holds

Official publications

The Library is the official repository for all periodicals produced by the Departments of Britain Yearly Meeting and printed Yearly Meeting proceedings from 1857 onwards. We also collect General, Area and Local Meeting members’ lists and newsletters.

The Library has a strong collection of Yearly Meeting proceedings and journals from the US, along with newsletters and journals of larger foreign Yearly Meetings such as Canada and Ireland Yearly Meeting. It also holds the periodicals of Quaker non-governmental organisations such as the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and Quaker United Nations Offices (QUNO) in New York and Geneva.

Quaker journals

The Library’s collection of periodicals covers Quakerism and matters Friends have been concerned with. This includes Friends organisations (such as the Friends Ambulance Unit), special interest groups (such as Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs and its predecessors) and informal groups. Its’ holdings go back to 1780 with the first Ackworth School annual reports.

The Library also holds historically rare and important titles such as William Allen’s *The Philanthropist* and *The Monthly Record* and the journals of various Friends missions in places such as Pemba, Tanzania and Antananarivo, Madagascar.

The Library also collects serials produced by organisations with which Friends have traditionally had strong links, such as the Central Board of Conscientious Objectors and the Anti-Slavery Society, and titles connected to Friends testimonies, such as *Peace News*. 
How do to find what periodicals we hold

There are a couple of ways to find out what periodicals the Library holds. Almost all titles are now on the Library’s online catalogue www.quaker.org.uk/cat. There is also the Handlist of Periodicals in the Library of the Society of Friends in the Library reading room that gives an outline of the holdings of each title along with details of its location. The Library’s periodicals holdings are also available on SUNCAT, the Serials Union Catalogue for the UK research community at www.suncat.ac.uk.

Where are the periodicals located?

There is usually two to five years’ run of most of currently received titles in the Reading Room on open access, along with full runs of The Friend, British Friend, Friends’ Quarterly, Friends’ Quarterly Examiner, Journal of the Friends’ Historical Society, Quaker History, Quaker Connections and Quaker Studies. All other material is kept in the Library stores and will need to be requested by call slip.

Below is a list of some of the titles that the Library currently receives

Britain Yearly Meeting Publications:
Yearly Meeting proceedings
Book of Meetings
Britain Yearly Meeting Department journals and mailings
General and Monthly Meetings members’ lists
General, Monthly and Preparative Meetings newsletters
Quaker Peace and Service /Quaker Peace and Social Witness journal letters
Quaker News

Friends periodicals
The Friend
Quaker Voices and its predecessors
Friends’ Quarterly
Friends Journal (Friends General Conference) and its predecessors
Quaker Life (Friends United Meeting) and its predecessors

Historical/Scholarly Titles
Journal of the Friends’ Historical Society
Quaker History and its predecessors
Quaker Studies
Woodbrooke Journal and predecessors
Quaker Connections (Quaker Family History Society)
Other non-conformist historical journals such as Baptist Quarterly, Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society and Journal of the United Reformed Church History Society

Friends Special Interest groups newsletters and journals
Theology: New Foundation papers, Universalist, Quaker Theology
Young Friends: Young Quaker, Leaveners
Political Concerns: Quaker Socialist, EarthQuaker, BeFriending creation
Social Concerns: Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship newsletter, Quaker Women’s Group newsletter, Quadrant (Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs)

Quaker Projects
Quaker Social Action annual reports and newsletter
Quaker Voluntary Action Newsletter

UK Schools: Annual reports & Old Scholar Association reports

International Affairs and Service
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Canadian Friends Service Committee annual reports and newsletters
Friends Committee on National Legislation Washington newsletter
Around Europe (Quaker Council on European Affairs) and Quaker Council on European Affairs annual reports
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva and New York publications

Other Yearly Meetings
Proceedings for most US Yearly Meetings and some other Yearly Meetings such as Ireland and Australia Yearly Meeting
Journals and Newsletters for other Yearly Meetings such as Friendly Word (Ireland Yearly Meeting), Canadian Friend, Australian Friend, Lettre des Amis (France Yearly Meeting) and Der Quäker (Germany Yearly Meeting)
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Annual report & Calendar of Yearly Meetings

Newsletters and annual reports from Friends World Committee for Consultation sections

Further information

Library opening hours:
Tuesday- Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Please note the Library closes for one week in the spring and in the autumn. It is advisable to telephone or email prior to visiting. New library users will need to complete a registration form and show proof of permanent address. The registration form can be downloaded from our website www.quaker.org.uk/library or requested from the Library.

For further information or help in using this Library please contact us by either emailing library@quaker.org.uk, telephoning 020 7663 1135 or writing to:

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