

## The Gallery

Connecting Manchester tells the story of the development of communications technology in Manchester. Objects on display include printing and papermaking machinery, photographic equipment, telephony and telegraphy equipment, radios, televisions, computers and other digital equipment.

## Using the gallery

Connecting Manchester is housed within the 1830 Warehouse (right). The Warehouse has four floors and a basement. Each floor is divided into five large “bays”. Connecting Manchester is on the first floor (track level) and occupies Bays 1, 2 and 3. Stairs or lifts provide access to the gallery.



The Warehouse is a restored Grade 1 listed building. The original wooden floors are rough and uneven: they may need to be approached with caution by visitors who are unsteady on their feet.

The gallery is organised into several small sections (see the plan on page 4). Because of the layout of the gallery, it would be advisable to split a class into smaller groups.

The displays are best approached following the route described below which is broadly chronological; however, within each section of the gallery, the displays are not strictly linear or sequential.

There are toilets on the ground floor of the 1830 Warehouse.

## National Curriculum

The gallery is relevant to the following:

- Science
- Design and technology
- History

## What's in the gallery?

The entrance to Connecting Manchester is in Bay 3. The orientation structure steers visitors into an introductory area in Bay 2.

## Zone 1 From Me to You

Text and images on display panels in the introductory area explore the topics of:

- Body Talk (body language, gesture and facial expression)
- The British Sign Alphabet
- Saying it with signs (symbols and logos)
- Talking the talk (spoken language)
- Writing it down (symbols, pictograms and alphabets)

A display case contains:

- A talking drum used by the Yorba people of Nigeria.
- Examples of Ancient Egyptian, Chinese and Greek writing.

An adjacent activity area consists of seating for 4-6 people; non-fiction children's books about communication and fiction books/puppets relevant to the theme of storytelling.

## **Zone 2 Reaching the Masses**

A "Breakthrough Arch" – Paper - leads the visitor into Bay 1 where displays explore the development of mass communication, beginning with paper making and printing during the European Renaissance of the Fifteenth Century and leading onto the invention of photography and sound recording by the start of the Twentieth Century.

### **Paper Making and Printing**

Exhibits on display include:

- A display case of paper making and testing equipment
- Replica Common Press (right - the type used by Gutenberg)
- Model paper making machine
- Stanhope hand Press c.1810-1830 (an example of the first all-metal printing press)
- Linotype 'linecaster' machine c.1892 ( which speeded up the process of typesetting by automating the process of making a line of type)



Demonstration areas include the following working printing presses:

- Columbian Printing Press c1840 (could print newspaper broadsheets with one pull of a hand-operated counterbalanced lever)
- Lithographic Hand Press 1871 (used to print pictures and images)
- Cropper Printing Press c1870 (operated by using a foot treadle which had the advantage of applying more pressure and could be operated by just one person)
- Thompson Triumph Press 1920 (an electrically-powered treadle press)
- Cabinets and hand presses from a printer's workshop

The printing demonstration area is normally staffed every Wednesday by museum volunteers.

Banners on the wall discuss the history of newspapers in Manchester.

### **Photography**

Display cases contain examples of Manchester-related photographic technology from the Nineteenth Century. Twentieth Century photographic equipment includes exhibits relating to newspaper photography.

## The Moving Image

Cinematography exhibits on display include Nineteenth Century magic lanterns (right) and early Twentieth Century cine cameras and projectors



## Talking Machines

The display case contains examples of phonographs, gramophones, business dictation machines, record players, tape recorders, cassette recorders and CD players.

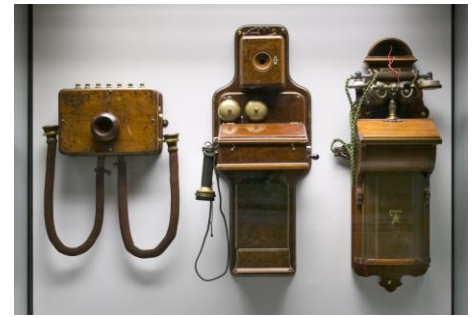
## Zone 3 From Wires to Wireless

A "Breakthrough Arch" – Electrical - leads the visitor back into Bay 2 where the displays illustrate the use of electrical signals in communications technology by wires (telegraphy and telephony) and wirelessly (radio and television).

### Telegraphs and Telephony

Displays include:

- Telephone exchange switchboards (1893 and 1912) and associated equipment
- Telegraph equipment and teleprinters
- A sequence of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century telephones (right)
- Objects from a pneumatic tube system used at the Refuge Assurance building in Manchester
- Life on the Wires – equipment used by a telephone engineer or 'linesman'
- 1980 public phone box



### Radio

Displays include:

- A sequence of domestic radio sets ranging from 1930s valve radios to post-war transistor radios
- BBC radio equipment used in Manchester: mixing desk, tape deck, record player

### Television

Objects on display include

- Baird 'televisor' (right - early 1930s)
- Black and white television sets (1950s and 1960s)
- Colour television sets (1960s and 1970s)
- Video cassette recorder (1987)
- Satellite TV dishes and equipment



Display panels discuss television production in Manchester including:

- Granada TV – exhibits include scripts and memorabilia from Coronation Street
- Cosgrave Hall – props and tools used to make animations
- HOT Animation – a street scene from Bob the Builder

## Zone 4 – Convergence

The final “Breakthrough Arch” takes the visitor back to Bay 3 where exhibits illustrate how digitalisation has led to the convergence of broadcasting, computers and communications technology into multipurpose devices. Items in display cases include: an ipod; digital TV box; digital radio, computers, mobile phones, hand held computers and Braille equipment.

## mi-Guide

In partnership with The University of Salford, the Museum is trialling a visitor information system called the ‘mi-Guide’. Visitors can loan a PDA (hand-held computer) which uses a combination of wireless-LAN (WiFi) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) communications technologies to supply additional content including sounds, images, and videos about the exhibits in the gallery. The mi-Guide logo on text panels and display cases indicates where additional content is available. Content for schools visitors is under development.

## Plan of Connecting Manchester

