

# The Stationers' Company

## Digital technology helping to preserve historic print archive

In medieval times, Livery Companies were created by groups of tradesmen, who joined together to promote, protect and regulate their trades. Today, 110 livery companies are still very much active in London, each representing a discrete profession or trade.

The Stationers' Company has nearly 1000 members, who work in, or supply, the trades within the Communications and Content industries. Its headquarters, Stationers' Hall, is located near St Paul's Cathedral and is not only used for meetings and external event hire but is also home to the Company's extensive archive, which includes the Company's historic records, dating from 1554 to the present day. Consulted by scholars since the mid-eighteenth century, the archive is a key resource for the study of the history of the English book trade and the development of copyright.



In 2018, the Stationers' Company was approached by its insurers with an exciting new proposition. They suggested that given the archive contains a number of important historic documents and books, it could benefit from a new innovation in smart monitoring technology, provided by Shepherd.

As one of its objectives is to 'preserve our archive and make it accessible to a broader public audience', the Company agreed to hold a 12-month trial. Shepherd then conducted a building survey and as a result of its findings



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and recommendations, three wireless sensors were installed in the archive room to monitor humidity and temperature continuously, while five sensors were added to the boilers in the kitchen and main building block.

During the trial, the team at the Stationers' Company experienced first-hand how the Shepherd smart technology platform uses the data results collected 24/7 to learn and adapt. The early alarms triggered by small fluctuations in temperature and humidity have now been adjusted by the platform and the Stationers' team so that alarms are now typically triggered by either seasonal changes or something occurring that is outside the parameters established by the trial.

“ We are pleased to be working with Shepherd. The technology platform is very easy and straightforward to use and the Shepherd team offer a good service. They are always at the end of a phone to help with any queries we might have; The set-up is impressive and, so far, offers us good value for money as well as peace of mind that our archive is being properly monitored to best practice standards. ”

Giles Fagan, Deputy Clerk, The Stationers' Company

One year on, the trial has been deemed a success and the Shepherd platform continues to provide a useful and cost effective service to the Stationers' Company.



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