

BT Group Archives preserves the documentary heritage of the BT Group and its predecessors, from the first half of the nineteenth century to the present.

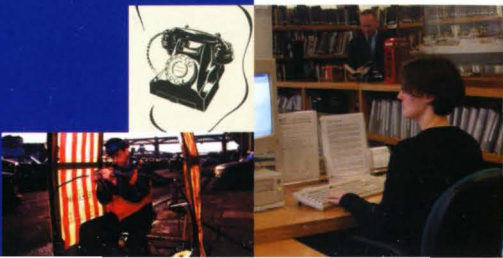
This unique and nationally significant body of records reflects the development of telecommunications services in the United Kingdom and from the UK to overseas, including the rise of regulation and the development of competition.



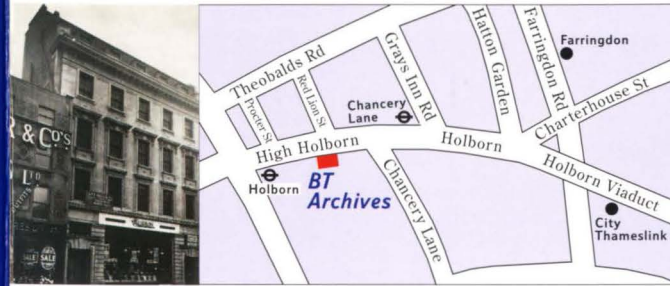
Records created before the privatisation of BT in 1984 are classed as public records under the Public Records Acts, 1958 and 1967. BT Group Archives undertakes the company's statutory responsibilities under these acts to preserve and make available public records to members of the public.

BT Group Archives also preserves historical records of BT as a public limited company.

Many of the documents and images held by BT Group Archives can now be viewed on the Internet at Connected Earth, BT's innovative heritage site at <http://www.connected-earth.com>



Open to members of the public throughout the year, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am – 4pm. An appointment is essential to ensure access to the building and that a study desk is available.



Address:

BT Group Archives, Third Floor, Holborn Telephone Exchange, 268-270 High Holborn, London WC1V 7EE

Helpdesk: 020 7492 8792 Fax: 020 7242 1967

Email: archives@bt.com Web: <http://www.btplc.com/archives/>

Publications available on our website include a summary of BT's history, suggested further reading, and a timeline of events in telecommunications history.

Access

Holborn Telephone Exchange is situated on High Holborn (opposite the Red Lion public house), almost exactly half way between Holborn and Chancery Lane tube stations. The building is pictured above shortly after it was built in 1927.

Getting there

Rail City Thameslink (Holborn Viaduct exit)

Kingsway), 19, 38, 55, 98 (Theobalds Road)

Underground Holborn (Piccadilly and Central lines), Chancery Lane (Central line) or Farringdon (Central or District lines)

Car NCP car parks at: Holborn, Museum St, WC1; Caxton House, Cowcross St, EC1; Cardinal House, Cowcross St, EC1; Parker St, Parker Mews, WC2; Adeline Place, 112 Great Russell St, W1.

Bus 8, 25, 242, 521 (High Holborn), 1, 59, 68, 91, 168, 171, 188, 243, 521, X68 (Holborn



Offices worldwide

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BT Group Archives
*The corporate memory for the
BT Group of companies*

The archive as a whole comprises a comprehensive resource for the study of the development of UK domestic and international telecommunications services and, in some cases, the internal operation of early colonial and commonwealth services. All aspects of telecommunications history are covered, from major scientific breakthroughs and national events to histories of individual local exchanges and telecommunications pioneers.



Major collections

Historical telephone directories

Near complete set of UK telephone directories produced not only by BT, but also by its predecessors, including the National Telephone Company and other private companies. Dating back to 1880, the year after the public telephone service was introduced into the UK, they are of particular interest to family and social historians.



Post Office Telecommunications collections

Historical records of the Post Office's telecommunications function – which was subsequently demerged to form British Telecom in 1981. These papers document the UK telegraph and telephone services provided by the Post Office, and include records of preceding private telegraph and telephone companies taken over by the Post Office, which date back to the first half of the nineteenth century.

Image library

Historical photographic collections of BT and Post Office Telecommunications, dating back to the nineteenth century. These comprise images of old equipment, as well as views of engineers and telephone operators at work, old vehicles, street furniture and scenes, including many local views. Copy prints or digital images can be supplied to order, subject to copyright restrictions.

Other collections

Film and video collections

Sourced from the Post Office Film Unit as well as BT, these collections date back to the early twentieth century and include advertising material as well training and educational films. Copy films can be supplied to order, subject to copyright restrictions.

Historical telecommunications library

The library maintains a comprehensive body of printed sources including:

- Printed journals and periodicals
- Historical, scientific and other works, including books dating back to the 18th century
- Local histories
- Wide selection of BT and external publications and reports

Oral history collections

BT Group Archives is building a collection of recorded interviews with retired BT people, to complement the written records.

