

## New Chapter for Oxford University Press

The largest organisation of its kind in the world, Oxford University Press has a presence in over 50 countries and handles around 15 million books from the main two warehouses in Corby, Northamptonshire.

Located there for over 20 years, the advanced main warehouse had experienced piecemeal development and was facing increasing demand, especially around the September peak that kicks off every academic year.

“We had hit physical bottlenecks the previous peak season,” comments Gary Marshall, Distribution Director at Oxford University Press. “We had a belief that the flows were not right and we wanted to accommodate future growth.”

Throughput has not been the only change. The publishing industry is becoming increasingly complex in supply chain terms. According to Marshall, the charitable status organisation handles stock line volume from many pallets to a single volume, with print on demand developing at a rapid rate. The operation also distributes in many ways to numerous different customers, from schools and academic institutions, to home deliveries, wholesalers and retailers. All from one site.

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for someone with maturity and experience in supply chain.” The Logistics Business was chosen to provide a complete review of operations and support the necessary changes.

The result is a three phase plan. The first phase, now complete, entailed some stock redeployment and movement of flows away from a conveyor system that was struggling to cope.

The second phase, which has a payback of under 12 months, sees a change to the flow of goods through the distribution centre, new flow racking, a replacement of the ageing conveyor system and more efficient picking and packing. According to Marshall; “this buys

us capacity for another ten years at current projections.”

Further major developments are designed to rationalise utilisation of space and bring in increased productivity improvements, and are seen as “a value case.”

“We have got everything we asked for,” adds Marshall. “The project hit timescales and came in on budget. The Logistics Business has given us an excellent strategic platform to work from.”

Indeed, Oxford University Press is continuing to use the external expertise of The Logistics Business in a wider ranging capacity; to focus on their multiple supply chain operations.

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