**Refugee Council Archives**

The Refugee Archive was opened at UEL in 2004. It has continued to expand its collection and develop links with the wider community. The reading room has been refurbished with the aim of making its facilities more comfortable. In June 2011 the Archive invited members of the public to explore its rich resources, part of an ongoing outreach programme. A number of online resources have been developed in order to make news and information about forced migration issues available to students, researchers and those interested in issues of forced migration. Resources include *Archive news* and a current-awareness blog focusing primarily on developments in Britain and Europe. These can all be easily accessed through the Archive *netvibes* page where they are all collected and updated live.

It is one of the foremost archival collections relating to the study of migration and refugee issues. Materials held are relevant to research in refugee studies, demography and migration studies, politics, history, geography, law, legal studies, international relations, sociology, social welfare, ethnic and diasporic studies, psycho-social studies, community studies and social studies. There are rare documents unique to this collection; published books and journals; a large quantity of published and unpublished articles and reports; conference papers and grey literature; newsletters, research documents; field reports and working papers. A key objective is to collect new items for the Collection and we continue the extensive press cuttings service established by the Refugee Council and containing a large number of cuttings pertaining to refugee and migration issues.

**Refugee Archive Outreach**

Whilst we are keen to develop the archival collection, we are equally determined to promote and facilitate access to the Refugee Archive. Our goal is to not only promote access amongst traditional researchers, students, policy makers and NGOs, but to also make a concerted effort to make the Archive accessible to refugee groups and individual refugees. Access to dedicated resources can often be difficult for refugees so we are aim to raise awareness of the Archive amongst refugee groups and communities. In June 2010 the Archive held a highly sucessful Open Day. A number of activities

were designed and implemented by archivist Paul Dudman, to explore the rich stories of London’s forced migrant communities. With the aim of continuing this success, a range of activities has been planned for the coming year including more open days, themed exhibitions and the development of online resources.

**Archive Links**

The Refugee Archive at UEL has links with the Refugee Council, the London Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, and the Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees based at King’s College London. The Archive is also contributing to the Forced Migration Online ( FMO ) project. FMO is also based at the University of Oxford and aims to provide free online access to a searchable database of digitised documents relating to refugee and forced migration. We are currently in the process of arranging for a number of Refugee Council Archive documents to be added to the FMO database. Further details concerning FMO can be found at [*www.forcedmigration.org*](http://www.forcedmigration.org)*.*

**Other Archive Collections**

In addition to the Refugee Archive, we hold archives relating to the history of East London and brief details of these can be found on the UEL Archives website with fuller descriptions on AIM25 and the Archives Hub.

**• Northern Refugee Centre Archive**

The Northern Refugee Centre (NRC) was established in 1983 and is now based in Sheffield. The NRC is a registered charity supporting integration of refugees and asylum seekers. In addition, the NRC exists to promote the welfare of all refugees and asylum seekers within the Yorkshire and Humber region.

**• UNHCR Audio-Visual Collection**

The UNHCR Photograph and Slide Library contains a diverse range of photographs and slides which have been produced by the UNHCR.

**• Gender & Ethnic Studies Collection**

The Refugee Archive also houses a Gender Studies collection’ which moved to the UEL Archive suite from the University of Greenwich in 2005.

**• Charter 87**

This collection incorporates records of the Charter 87 Steering Group.

**• AIM25**

AIM25 is a permanent, web-accessible database of archives and manuscript collections of more than 100 of London’s higher education institutions, learned societies, cultural organisations and City livery companies. The website has been fully available since 2002. New partner institutions and records are added regularly with the objective of London-wide coverage of all the capital’s archive holdings.