



Historical Society of Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA'S LIBRARY OF AMERICAN HISTORY

October 16, 2020

After nearly five months of being closed, staff began returning to HSP late in August, beginning the process of looking at ways to fulfill our mission while also following local, state, and national standards for protecting staff and visitors from COVID-19.

HSP has reorganized its Research Services department and established two task forces (one each for on-site research and public programming). We are addressing the considerable backlog in our remote research service (Research-by-Mail) while also instituting ways to streamline and enhance this process going forward.

The programming task force has begun to provide content virtually (both live and expanding on HSP's social media presence). The reading room task force has been working jointly with the Library Company of Philadelphia to provide collection materials to our Fellows. The task force is also planning for on-site service by appointment-only, designed with reduced seating, more limited hours, and collection material pre-requested.

One challenge that libraries and archives face (unlike museums) is that our visitors handle our collections as part of their research experience. Items used by one researcher must be "quarantined" for days prior to being used again by another.

Thank you for your patience as we finalize the details of how this is all going to work. We look forward to providing details and firm dates within the next few weeks.