



RESEARCH REVIEW

2023

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Research publications and collaborations 2022-23



Cover image by Alison Gibson/National Library of Scotland

Welcome

We are delighted to publish our first National Library of Scotland Research Review, promoting research projects and collaborations for the 2022-23 academic year.

Research is a key element of our 2020-25 strategy, 'Reaching People'. The Library is a core part of Scotland's research infrastructure through its collection, preservation and provision of access to millions of books, journals, newspapers, electronic resources, manuscripts, maps, music scores, sound recordings and films. As well as being a vital resource for a wide variety of researchers, from artists and writers to family historians and academics, our staff also undertake research and collaborate in projects across the world.

We are particularly delighted that two members of staff, Sarah Thomson and Simona Cenci, successfully applied for Research Libraries UK and Arts and Humanities Research Council Professional Practice Fellowships. Simona also completed the RLUK-AHRC Research Catalyst programme earlier in the reporting year.

Our Library staff and collaborative PhD students have published journal articles and essays in books. They collaborated with global partners and presented at conferences, in Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, the Netherlands, India, Spain and the United States of America. Some of these publications and outreach activities are highlighted in this report.

During the year, we welcomed new students Elle Smith, Rhonda

Rathburn and Alexandros Plasatis to our collaborative PhD cohort. National Library students Alice Austin, Matthew Lee and Charlotte Lauder all successfully completed their PhDs at the universities of Stirling, Aberdeen and Strathclyde, respectively.

The Library has enthusiastically supported the University of Glasgow's James McCune Smith programme for Black UK students, with some staff providing mentoring for PhD candidates.

In 2022-23, our research placements and fellowships included Fulbright scholar Professor Paul Daniel Marriott, from Penn State University; the National Librarian's Digital Fellow, Dr Yann Ryan, of Leiden University; UKRI Policy Intern Oliver Evans, of the University of Birmingham, and Dr Lachlan Munro, who was our Cunninghame Graham Fellow.

Recognising the growing significance of artificial intelligence in all aspects of our lives, we hosted a UK-wide symposium on AI in April 2023, in collaboration with RLUK and the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries. Furthermore, the Library is a project partner in the University of Edinburgh's successful application to be a UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in Artificial Intelligence in Responsible and Trustworthy in-the-world Natural Language Processing.

In the past year, we have been involved in more than 50 research projects, collaborations and applications for funding. Collaborations included



the Wellcome-funded Archive of Tomorrow led by our colleague Dr Joe Marshall, AHRC's Towards a National Collection, Our Heritage, Our Stories led by the University of Glasgow and Experiencing Political Texts with Newcastle University.

We could not do any of this without the commitment and expertise of our staff, the curiosity and collaboration of our partners or without the support of our Research and Innovation Advisory Group: Gillian Daly, Anne Johnson, and professors Adrienne Scullion, Graham Caie, Melissa Terras and Sir Drummond Bone. Thank you!

We hope that this report will inspire further research projects and collaborations.

Amina Shah
National Librarian and Chief Executive

“The Library is a core part of Scotland’s research infrastructure through its collection, preservation and provision of access to millions of books, journals, newspapers, electronic resources, manuscripts, maps, music scores, sound recordings and films”

Staff success in the AHRC-RLUK (Arts and Humanities Research Council and Research Libraries UK) Professional Practice Fellowships Scheme

Communicating the climate crisis

Sarah Thomson, a curator in General Collections, has been awarded an AHRC-RLUK Professional Practice Fellowship for a project titled 'Communicating the Climate Crisis: Improving climate literacy through the National Library of Scotland's collections'. The project began in October 2023 and will run until August 2025.

Sarah's Fellowship addresses a practice-based research question: how can we use our collections to improve climate literacy, particularly in communities most vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis?

She is combining her research using our collections relating to climate change with a community outreach and public engagement programme. This project will deliver discernible and beneficial results to her own professional practice, the Library and communities in Scotland.

Sarah aims to provide us with information about the needs of the coastal community regarding climate change, and how best we can serve these needs. We will learn whether there



Sarah Thomson is combining her research with community outreach. Photo by Alison Gibson/National Library of Scotland

is climate literacy that is specific to coastal communities and understand if there are differences regarding location, industry or other user profiles.

Conservator Simona Cenci



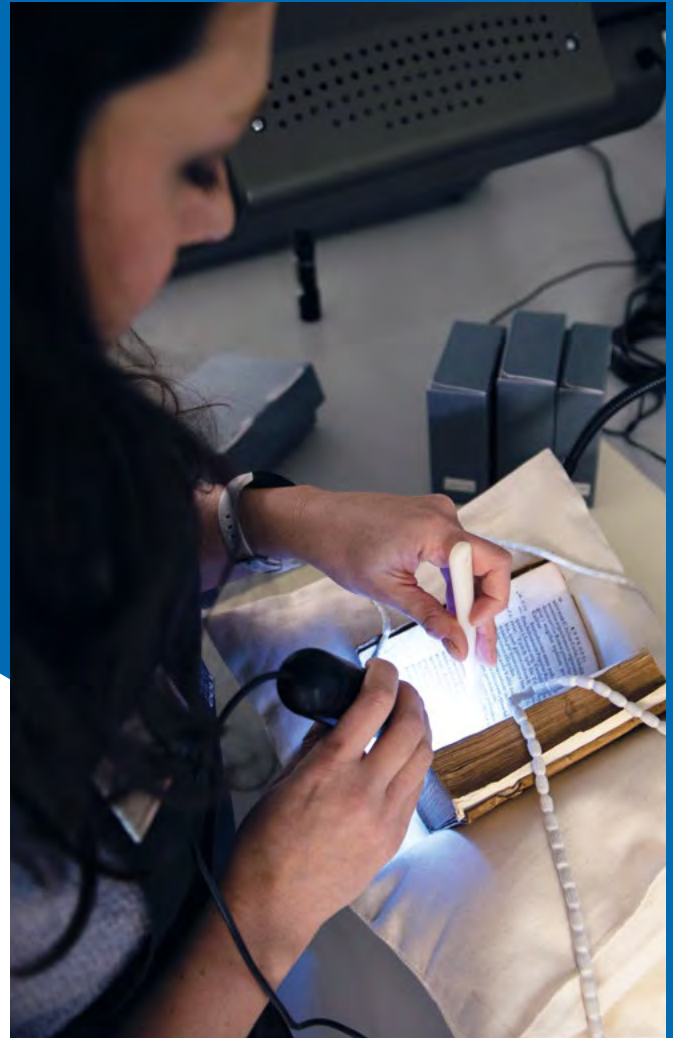
A study of Gray collection parchment bindings

Simona Cenci is an Accredited Book and Paper Conservator who has worked at the Library since 2011. Her role bridges preventive and interventive conservation of written heritage, with particular focus on bound volumes.

Her professional interests are the application of science in conservation, conservation documentation, the history of bookbinding and ethics in conservation.

Over the past three years, Simona has been actively expanding her interest in research by taking part in the second Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA)-led RLUK-AHRC Research Catalyst Cohort programme. She is also undertaking a PhD in Renaissance Music at the University of Edinburgh.

Simona's fellowship, titled 'Book covers and their contents: a case study on the limp parchment bindings of a 17th-century Scottish collection, highlighting the synergy between book history and conservation', began in October 2023 and runs until April 2024.



Simona's research on bound volumes and bindings shines a light on the materials used. Photos by Alison Gibson/National Library of Scotland

“Simona’s research will generate data that may inform a wider study of bindings and the archaeology of the book in Scotland”

The study of the book as a material object illuminates how the text was produced, distributed, read and received by the society of the time. There has been relatively little systematic research into binding structures and what these can tell us. This is particularly true for Scotland, despite a strong tradition of literacy, book production and book circulation, reflected in the holdings of the national and other research libraries.

Simona’s research delves into the Library’s Gray collection of books and their bindings, which date back to the production of the books in the 16th and 17th centuries.

She is taking a scientific approach to the structures, materials and decorative finishes employed on limp parchment bindings of the Gray collection.

Analysis will track the contexts of the production of the bindings and the events that affected their materiality over the centuries.

Simona’s research will generate data that may inform a wider study of bindings and the archaeology of the book in Scotland. The dataset is expected to inform a wide number of interdisciplinary research questions, which will include ethics in conservation. The research will also explore ways of making the dataset accessible to the wider public.

Simona will shine a light on the materials used in books with their cultural and documentary significance. The ambition of the study is to emphasise the value of preservation of books beyond the field of conservation.

Library staff publishing

‘The Blavatnik Honresfield Library: Saved for the Nation’

To celebrate the collaborative achievement of saving the Blavatnik Honresfield Library, the Friends of the National Libraries (FNL) charity commissioned a publication to highlight the collection’s rich literary treasures, titled ‘The Blavatnik Honresfield Library: Saved for the Nation’.

We were privileged to be part of the FNL-led consortium that secured manuscripts by Jane Austen, the Brontës, Robert Burns, Lord Byron and Sir Walter Scott.

Curator Ralph McLean contributed to two chapters about Burns and Scott, working with colleagues from Abbotsford and the National Trust for Scotland, which were both also part of the consortium.

The chapter on Burns focuses on the significance of his ‘First Commonplace Book’, written before he gained national recognition. It is an important document for our understanding of the Bard’s early poetic development.

The chapter about Scott highlights the Library’s acquisition of the complete working manuscript of ‘Rob Roy’, the last of his major works that remained in private hands.

There is also an examination of a series of letters between Scott and the publisher John Murray II, including Scott’s role as a literary reviewer. The book was launched in October



The John Murray publishing house’s premises at Albemarle Street hosted the launch event for ‘The Blavatnik Honresfield Library: Saved for the Nation’. Photo courtesy Friends of the National Libraries

2023 at Murray’s premises on Albemarle Street, Mayfair. This was a particularly apt venue given Murray’s strong links to a number of the literary giants mentioned.

‘Decoding Anne Lister’

‘Decoding Anne Lister: From the Archives to “Gentleman Jack”’ was published by Cambridge University Press in June 2023. Curator Kirsty McHugh was invited to write a chapter for the book by its editors, Dr Caroline Gonda (St Catharine’s College, Cambridge) and Dr Chris Roulston (University of Western Ontario).

This is the first collection of interdisciplinary essays on the 19th-century diarist Anne Lister (1791–1840) and it brings together new research on different aspects of her life, such as her same-sex relationships, reading, estate management, travel and politics. It also explores Lister in popular culture, through the BBC-HBO series, ‘Gentleman Jack’.

Kirsty’s essay, “‘The Art of Travelling Requires an Apprenticeship’: Anne Lister’s diaries and Travel”, focuses on Lister’s detailed, and sometimes coded, diary entries relating to her excursions to the Lake District, Scotland and Wales in the 1820s. Through these examples she explores how Lister recorded travel in her diaries, as well as the role that travel and tourism played in forming and performing her gender identity.

This contribution draws on Kirsty’s doctoral research about tours of Scotland and Wales in the Romantic period, which was generously supported by the Library from 2017 to 2022.

‘Scotland’s Lascar Heritage’

This award-winning, community-led project uncovered the story of South Asian sailors in Scotland. The Bangladesh Association Glasgow and young people from the Our Shared Cultural Heritage initiative explored the experiences of visiting seamen under the colonial system in Scotland.

“The research was a catalyst for an extraordinary flourishing of creative responses”

The research was a catalyst for an extraordinary flourishing of creative responses which connected the historic seafaring story with contemporary South Asian identity in Scotland, as well as linking to the lives of surviving Lascar seamen in Bangladesh.

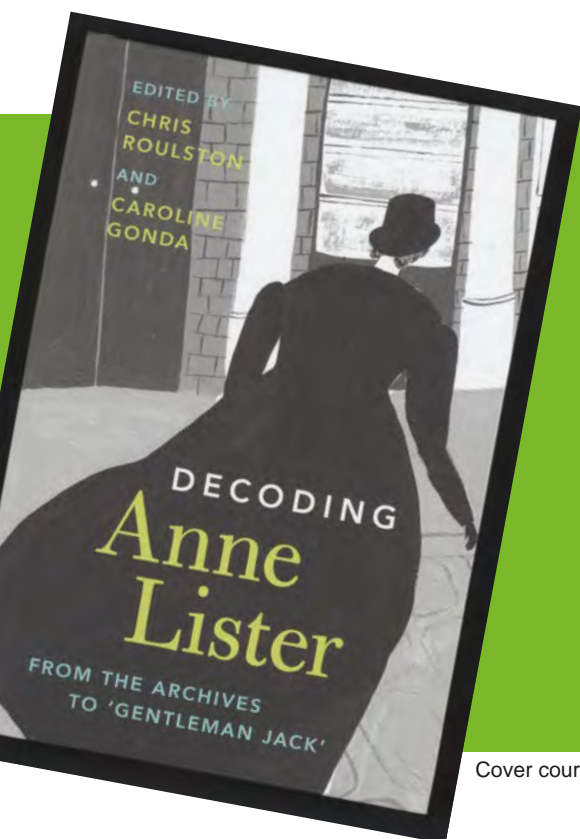
The project received a Museums Change Lives award and culminated in a book, ‘Scotland’s Lascar Heritage: Investigating the Lives of South Asian Mariners’, which was shortlisted for a Saltire Award.

Dr Emily Munro contributed a chapter to this book, ‘South Asian Seamen on Film 1922–1944’, as recorded in the Library’s Moving Image Archive collections.

The initiative was part of a National Museums Scotland and National Maritime Museum, London, project called Exchange: Community-Led Collections Research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The Lascar Heritage book project was managed by Glasgow Museums.



Courtesy of the Moving Image Archive, National Library of Scotland



“It brings together new research on different aspects of her life, such as her same-sex relationships, reading, estate management, travel and politics”

Cover courtesy Cambridge University Press

Research collaborations and projects

Climate control in the stacks

We have been hosting a ground-breaking PhD research project, 'Using ANN (artificial neural network) Technology to Determine Microclimate Parameters for the National Library of Scotland's Collections to Enable Energy Efficiency Improvements'.

Bo Han, a PhD student in building and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system simulation modelling, has been exploring the potential to use the buffering effect of archival boxes and enclosures to protect collections in storage from the impact of fluctuating environmental conditions.

Cultural heritage institutions worldwide aim to preserve historic collections in stable environments, which requires significant energy use to maintain the necessary levels of temperature and relative humidity. But the approach is being reassessed in the face of the climate emergency, increasing energy insecurity and growing economic pressures.

Bo has developed a model, based on our environmental monitoring data, that proves boxed collections, such as books and archival papers, can be protected from environmental instability in the wider storage space. The



Bo Han (inset) has developed a model that proves how boxed collections, such as archival papers and books, can be protected from environmental instability. Photos by Bo Han, Heriot-Watt University; Alison Gibson/National Library of Scotland

research demonstrates that we can maintain a safe environment for historic collections inside the box (the microenvironment), therefore, we do not need to maintain the same level of control in our storage areas (the macroenvironment). This means we would rely less on air conditioning and save both energy and money.

This has been an exciting area of research for the Library and is the first STEM-based PhD we have

collaborated on. The findings from the research are being disseminated across international conservation and facilities management sectors and are gaining a lot of interest from other cultural heritage institutions facing the same sustainability challenges.

The project, which we have hosted since 2020, is in collaboration with Heriot-Watt University.

Artificial Intelligence and the Library



Some of the speakers and guests of our AI and Machine Learning Symposium. Photo by Alison Gibson/National Library of Scotland

In late 2022, an internship funded by the Centre for Data, Culture and Society at the University of Edinburgh

supported Lucy Dagleish to explore our staff's understanding of, and feelings towards, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their area of work. Lucy also set out to identify AI work that already existed or was under way.

The Library's first AI and Machine Learning Symposium was held in April 2023 and was well attended, with a full house at George IV Bridge and more than 500 participants online.

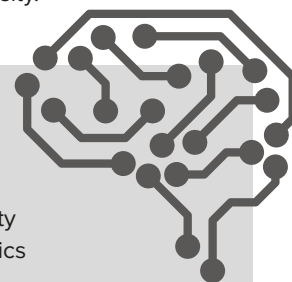
The keynote speakers were Professor Sir Adrian Smith from the Alan Turing Institute and Chris van der Kuyf, Co-founder and Chairman

of 4J Studios, alongside university librarians, academics and PhD students.

Speakers shared how they use AI in their work to open up collections, develop new services and engage with audiences.

A recording of the symposium is available on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/@NLofScotland/streams

Lucy's report can be viewed on our Data Foundry at data.nls.uk/projects/artificial-intelligence-report/



Scottish Research Book of the Year Award 2023

The Scottish Research Book of the Year Award 2023 ran in partnership with the Saltire Society.

The shortlisted titles represented a significant body of research that offered insight into subjects including architecture, wartime histories in Gaelic, politics, Scotland's Lascar heritage and French painting from 1500 to 1800.

The award went to Professor Ralph O'Connor and Michael A. Taylor for their



scholarly edition of Hugh Miller's 'The Old Red Sandstone, or New Walks in an Old Field', edited with a critical study and notes (published by National Museums Scotland). Miller's memoir is also a description of the geology of Cromarty and was enormously popular in the 1840s across the English-speaking world.

We hold notebooks and letters by Miller, which were used as sources for the new scholarly edition.

Courtesy National Museums Scotland

Archive of Tomorrow

This project, funded by the Wellcome Trust, explored and preserved online information and misinformation about health and the Covid pandemic.

We led on the project – which ran from February 2022 until November 2023 – in partnership with Cambridge University Libraries, the University of Edinburgh Library and Bodleian Libraries Oxford.

The Library's Joe Marshall was Principal Investigator, while the team included three web archivists, a project manager, metadata analyst, research data engineer and rights officer.

The team archived 3,472 websites,

now preserved in the 'Talking about Health' collection of the UK Web Archive. They also engaged researchers and website content owners and negotiated clearances, with 21 per cent of the sites collected now available for off-site access.

Archive of Tomorrow has raised the profile of web archives as a research resource. The project has also highlighted avenues for future research, including the ethics of collecting controversial material and the importance of preserving unique records of contemporary life.

View the final report at bit.ly/49dgQSQ

Towards a National Collection

The Library is a key partner in the 'Our Heritage, Our Stories' strand of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Towards a National Collection (TaNC) project, with the University of Glasgow.

We have contributed content and cataloguing data from our Moving Image and Sound, and Archives and Manuscript, collections, with a focus on community archives, Scots and Gaelic.

The aim is to develop tools that will allow researchers to discover and link community-generated collections. This will be showcased through a CGDC (community-generated digital content)

Observatory at the National Archives, where people can access, reuse and remix these newly integrated collections. We're also working with the TaNC team to produce case studies about how we help community organisations manage their digital collections.

TaNC funding allowed us to recruit a two-year Rights and Provenance Officer, to open up access to our collections.



Digital Scholarship and our Data Foundry

Undergraduate computer game students from Abertay University Dundee have used the Library's LiDAR dataset to create a game set based on the General Reading Room. The game, 'A Leap Through Time' is available via our Data Foundry at data.nls.uk/projects/

Meanwhile, four groups of students from the University of Edinburgh's Representing Data course worked with two of the Library's datasets, Estates environmental data and Alma catalogue data, and have presented research findings.

Following our successful AI Internship in the autumn of 2022, we published the 'AI and the Library' report, to much interest from other libraries and researchers working in this area. The University of Edinburgh has expressed interest in completing a similar piece of work. Read the report at data.nls.uk/projects/artificial-intelligence-report/

Our Digital Scholarship Service has been approached by the United Nations to provide guidance on how to set up a Data Foundry equivalent. We have provided information about the Library's set up and this opportunity has opened doors for future collaboration.



The game set, above, was inspired by our General Reading Room. Image courtesy University of Abertay/Data Foundry, National Library of Scotland

Collaborative PhDs and Fellowships

Passed PhD

Matthew Lee, Scotland and Slavery



Alexander Innes's journal and Jamaica map



Matthew updated our web pages on slavery. Photos by National Library of Scotland

We obtained funding in 2018 through the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium and Arts and Humanities Research Council for a collaborative PhD studentship with the University of Aberdeen, addressing Scotland's engagement in the Atlantic slave trade.

Matthew Lee's research and thesis, 'Private reflections and public pronouncements: Caribbean slavery in the Scottish consciousness, 1750–1834', aimed to examine the ways in which public and private expressions shaped responses to debates on slavery.

Published and archival materials were investigated and the PhD was supervised by Professor Catherine Jones and Professor Patience Schell at Aberdeen and by Dr Ralph McLean and Robert Betteridge at the Library.

Matthew completed two placements with us, including three months in 2019 in the Archives and Manuscript collections department to list and catalogue 'hidden collections' of manuscripts relating to slavery and the slave trade. The work has enabled researchers to discover these collections more easily.

His second placement with us was due to start in 2020 but was disrupted by Covid. Nevertheless, he completed his objective to update and enhance our web pages on slavery, to provide more details about our collections and upload accompanying digital images. With the Library's Map Curator, Chris Fleet, Matthew created a georeferenced map resource based on a manuscript journal of Alexander Innes, which was written during his time in Jamaica.

Matthew was instrumental in promoting our slavery collections to a wider audience and delivered talks to researchers and the public explaining Scotland's complicity. On 6 September 2022 he successfully defended his thesis at his viva. Congratulations to Dr Lee on his achievements.

Alice Austin, 'Archive and Narrative in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum' (2017–2022)

This Arts and Humanities Research Council Collaborative Doctoral Partnership was funded through the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium and co-supervised by Dr Scott Hames and Dr Peter Lynch, of the University of Stirling, and the Library's Curator for Political Collections, Dr Amy Todman (later Dr Heidi Egginton), and Web Archivist Eilidh MacGlone.

The research was interdisciplinary, combining tools from literary and cultural studies with theories of archives and recordkeeping. It examined the practical challenges and opportunities of documenting the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum in a range of formats, with a particular focus on the digital traces left by campaigners.

Research questions concentrated on the political significance of 'self-archiving' at grassroots level, whereby generating, recording and curating evidence of campaign activity was, itself, a core activist and network-building strategy for individuals and communities.

Alice conducted oral history interviews with activist-collectors, Library staff and team members from the Scottish Political Archive at Stirling about their archival practices and memories of 'IndyRef'.

Her professional development placements contributed towards the ongoing cataloguing of the paper archives acquired by the Library as part of its 'Collecting the Referendum' project (2012–2014).

She also enhanced UK Web Archive coverage of the referendum and created a new special collection documenting the contemporary Glasgow music scene. Throughout her project, completed during Covid lockdowns, Alice shared her findings and promoted the Library's referendum collections through online and in-person talks for a range of audiences.

Alice joined the Centre for Research Collections at the University of Edinburgh in 2022 as a Web Archivist for the Archive of Tomorrow project. She was appointed the University of Edinburgh's dedicated Web Archivist in 2023, responsible for the design and delivery of their first web archiving programme.



Photo courtesy Ryan Mathieson

Passed PhD

Charlotte Lauder, 'Popular Scottish Magazine Culture, 1870–1920: Press, Print, Nation'

Charlotte successfully completed her PhD thesis in 2023, which began in 2018 as a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership with the University of Strathclyde. She was supervised by Professor Kirstie Blair, with support from our Rare Books Curator Dr Graham Hogg.

The thesis is the first comprehensive examination of magazines produced in Scotland between 1870 and 1920. Charlotte's research considers what made magazines popular and assesses the considerable role they played in shaping Scottish national identity.

One of the titles she based her thesis around was 'The People's Friend', first

published in Dundee in 1869 and still in print. She also covered women's magazine culture, the role of magazines in the revival of Scottish national identity in the late 19th century and amateur and manuscript magazines.

Charlotte completed her detailed 15,000-word report, 'Print, nation and digitisation: the National Library of Scotland's collection of Scottish periodicals, magazines and serials, 1800–1950', in 2021.

The research highlighted that our collections are relatively underused and could be more widely deployed in exhibitions and other outreach and public engagement activities.

They could also be more widely promoted to our users via the Digital Gallery. Although many Scottish serials exist in digital format, specific titles were recommended for digitisation.



Charlotte discusses her research with then First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Photo by Stewart Hardy/National Library of Scotland

During her placement with us, Charlotte was able to discuss her research with Nicola Sturgeon, during a visit by the then First Minister in February 2020.

A new collaborative PhD



Alexandros's research looks at how libraries can support refugees and asylum seekers. Photo courtesy Alexandros Plasatis, Coventry University/National Library of Scotland

Alexandros Plasatis, 'Advancing Collection Development through Supporting Refugee Publishing – Strategies for Libraries'

Alexandros's project is exploring what libraries might do to support publishing by refugees and asylum seekers and ensure they are better represented in library collections.

This collaborative doctoral partnership with the Centre for Postdigital Cultures (CPC) at Coventry University is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research

Council through the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium.

Alexandros began his research in September 2023 and is being supervised by the CPC's Dr Janneke Adema and Dr Judith Fathallah, and by Dr Patrick Hart and Dr Sarah Ames at the Library.

With 100 million people displaced globally, practical, theoretical and ethical questions regarding how libraries address refugees' under-representation are pressing. Libraries have not traditionally seen themselves as actively shaping the publishing landscape. However, movements towards open access are highlighting their actual and potential roles as subscribers, purchasers, funders, publishers, and platform and infrastructure providers.

The project asks what responsibilities libraries have to facilitate publishing by refugee communities and how this might best be done when many libraries face contracting budgets.

Particular attention is paid to emerging forms and to infrastructures supporting digital, hybrid and experimental publishing.

Oliver Evans, UK Research and Innovation Policy Intern

Oliver Evans, University of Birmingham, completed a successful UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) internship with Archives and Manuscript collections during the summer of 2023.

Oli looked at our policies on access to archival collections and his 'Access Policy Report' addressed issues such as data protection and cultural sensitivity. Many of his recommendations are being enacted and his work contributed significantly towards the effort to retain Archives Accreditation for our Archives and Manuscript collections and Moving Image and Sound collections.

Oli also worked on the Alasdair Gray archive, conducting a sensitivity review of Gray's early diaries using our new Sensitivity Appraisal Framework.



Items from the Gray archive. Photo by Alison Gibson/National Library of Scotland

Fellowships offered by the Library

The National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship

Dr Gustavo Candela, our 2022-23 Research Fellow in Digital Scholarship, carried out linked open data projects around three of our metadata datasets – the Moving Image Archive, National Bibliography of Scotland and Bibliography of Scottish Literature in Translation.

Dr Candela has also created Jupyter Notebooks – an interactive web application for sharing data science projects – for other researchers to explore and build upon.

He has also published his Fellowship research, 'Towards a semantic approach in GLAM Labs: The case of the Data Foundry at the National Library of Scotland' to great

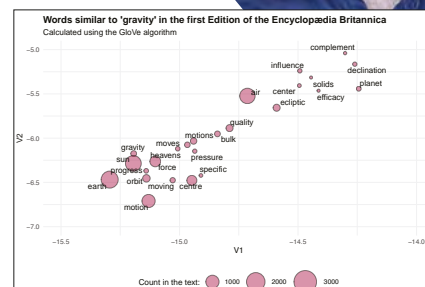
acclaim within the digital scholarship community. Dr Candela has recently been made Professor at the University of Alicante, noting that his Fellowship at our Library played a significant role in him being able to secure this post.

View his work at data.nls.uk/tools/jupyter-notebooks/

Our 2023-24 Research Fellow in Digital Scholarship, Dr Yann Ryan, is a lecturer in Digital Humanities at Leiden University, Netherlands.

His project uses computational methods to conduct a thorough analysis of text reuse involving the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' dataset, enabling a broader look at its sources,

Dr Yann Ryan, right, is analysing text, below. Photos courtesy Yann Ryan



impact and evolution from one edition to the next.

Dr Ryan aims to initiate a new, digital textual history of the encyclopaedia, revealing its position within the wider context of the Scottish Enlightenment and British publishing.

Paul Daniel Marriott, Fulbright Scholar: History of roads in Scotland

Paul Daniel Marriott, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Pennsylvania State University, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for a six-month residency at the Library (February to August 2023).

His research, 'Image, infrastructure and the Scottish landscape', focused on the history of pleasure driving in Scotland, particularly in the later 18th and early 19th centuries.

Professor Marriott investigated two of our under-researched collections, the Newman collection of 17th to 19th century travel journals and maps, and

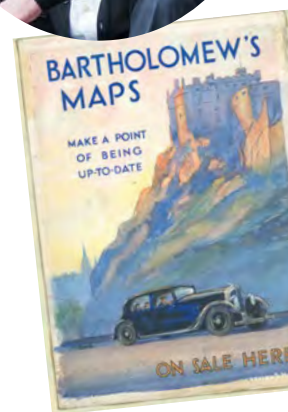
the Bartholomew Archive of 18th to 20th century maps and automobile tourism. They chronicle travel, from the carriage to the automobile, and include personal accounts about how road quality affected where people visited, plus maps, travel itineraries, books and atlases. The collections provide insight into 21st century transportation infrastructure and landscape policies for sustainable tourism.

During his residency, Professor Marriott gave lectures about his research at both the Library and Gresham College, London. He also

Professor Paul Daniel Marriott. Photos courtesy Paul Daniel Marriott, Penn State University; National Library of Scotland



hosted international student research group visits to Scotland, provided Fulbright funding so we could scan maps from the 'Commission Reports for Roads and Bridges in the Highlands', and put plans in place for collaborative postgraduate student exchanges with the University of the Highlands and Islands.



Lachlan Munro, Cunninghame Graham Fellow

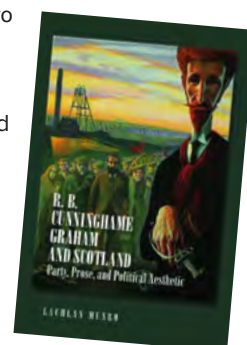
Dr Lachlan Munro completed, in the spring of 2023, a Tam o' Shanter Trust-funded research fellowship to produce a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of works by and relating to the Scottish political and literary figure, Robert Bontine

Cunninghame Graham. Also known as Don Roberto for his time spent as a gaucho in Argentina, Cunninghame Graham was a founder member of both the Scottish Labour Party and, later, the Scottish National Party.

Lachlan's work (pictured right)

is of enormous benefit to scholars. He also delivered an engaging, sold-out talk at the Library with Professor Alan Riach, of the University of Glasgow, on Cunninghame Graham.

Cover courtesy Dr Lachlan Munro



Update on activity by Library collaborative PhD students

Nelson Correia, Film Bang: Communities of Practice

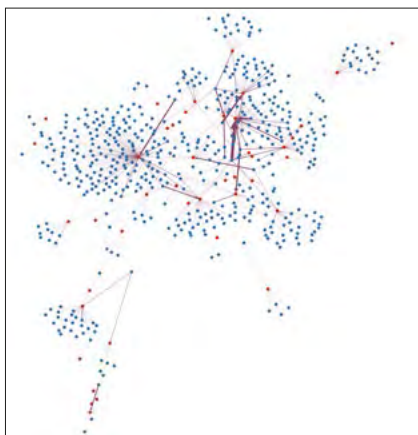
Nelson's research investigates the historical development of the film and television workforce in Scotland. He is based at the Library's Moving Image Archive (MIA) and the academic partners in his project are Edinburgh Napier University and the University of Edinburgh.

As part of his fieldwork, in 2023 Nelson recorded a series of oral history interviews with long-established film technicians, which will be added to the MIA holdings. He also delivered presentations at five conferences, in the UK, Brazil and the USA, and had an article published in 'Reflections' magazine by the TV Foundation, which was distributed during the 2023 Edinburgh TV Festival.

This work is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities.

Ash Charlton

Ash, of the University of Edinburgh, is in the third year of a collaborative PhD, 'Slavery and Race in the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" (1768–1860): A Text Mining Approach', funded



Ash Charlton's data visualisation research. Courtesy Ash Charlton, University of Edinburgh/National Library of Scotland

by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Her research is based on our digitised editions of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' and the datasets we make available through its Data Foundry.

Ash worked in Rare Books improving catalogue records for 19th-century pro and anti-slavery pamphlets and devised a process for automating large-scale identification of problematic language in legacy interpretative content using AntConc text analysis software, which enabled editorial review.

In July 2023 she presented her research at the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations' annual

conference in Graz, Austria. This work continues to advance through network analysis of keywords in the data.

Joe Nockels

Joe – an Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded collaborative doctoral student at the University of Edinburgh – is exploring how handwritten text recognition is changing both user and institutional approaches to accessing digitised collections material.

His project focuses on the software Transkribus, an AI-powered transcription tool, and considers how it may help us enhance access to collections.

Joe worked closely with Archives and Manuscript curators in late 2022 to understand collections and their management. For a second placement, with the Digital Scholarship team in early 2023, he reported

on the benefits of adopting handwritten text recognition tools.

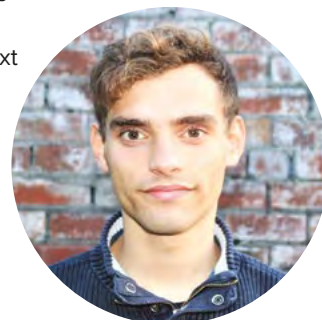


Photo courtesy Joe Nockels, University of Edinburgh/National Library of Scotland

Support of University of Glasgow James McCune Smith PhD scholarships



Delegates attend an outdoor event at the University of Glasgow for the James McCune Smith Annual Conference in June 2023. Photo courtesy Heather Lambie, University of Glasgow

We have been delighted to support the University of Glasgow James McCune Smith PhD scholarships programme for Black UK-domiciled students. We provided three mentors

to students in the first year of the programme in 2022–23 and we are continuing our support in the academic year 2023–24.

The James McCune Smith (JMS)

students are researching important and fascinating topics, and organised an excellent conference in June 2023 which showcased their work and the JMS PhD programme.

Heather Lambie, JMS Programme Manager at the University of Glasgow, said: "The mentoring aspect of the JMS scholarship programme is vital to its success.

"We have been delighted to have been supported in this with the generous provision of mentors from the Library. There is no other single organisation that has made such a commitment and our scholars greatly benefit from their relationships with National Library of Scotland mentors."

Research publications and collaborations 2022–23

Library staff and collaborative PhD student publications

Topic	Authors
'Reading the news in Scotland: The Jacobite Rebellion of 1715' in 'Edinburgh History of the British and Irish Press vol. I', Edinburgh University Press, 2023. pp.280–284.	Dr Anette Hagan
'Understanding user needs: A case study from the National Library of Scotland', Digital Preservation Coalition Technology Watch Guidance Note, October 2022. doi.org/10.7207/twgn22-01	Chris Fleet
'Hidden in Plain Sight? South Asian Seamen on Film, 1922–1944' in 'Scotland's Lascar heritage: investigating the lives of South Asian mariners', Glasgow Museums Publishing, in association with the Bangladesh Association Glasgow, 2023. pp.55–58.	Dr Emily Munro
'Vale TV' in 'History Scotland'. March–April 2023.	Dr Emily Munro
“The Art of Travelling Requires an Apprenticeship”: Anne Lister’s Diaries and Travel’ in ‘Decoding Anne Lister: From the Archives to “Gentleman Jack”’, Cambridge University Press, 2023. pp.171–190. doi.org/10.1017/9781009280723.015	Dr Kirsty McHugh
Two chapters in 'The Blavatnik Honresfield Library: Saved for the Nation'. Friends of the National Libraries, 2023.	Dr Ralph McLean
“The Lyon in Mourning” at the National Library of Scotland’ in 'International Review of Scottish Studies'. Vol 47, 2022. Published 2023. pp.58-71. irss.uoguelph.ca/index.php/irss/article/view/7441	Dr Ralph McLean
'Collecting, and not collecting: Jacobite material at the Advocates Library and National Library of Scotland' in 'International Review of Scottish Studies', Vol 47, 2022. Published 2023. pp.23–34. irss.uoguelph.ca/index.php/irss/article/view/7439	Robert Betteridge
'Understanding the application of handwritten text recognition technology in heritage contexts: a systematic review of Transkribus in published research'. 'Archival Science', Vol 22, 2022. pp.367-392. doi.org/10.1007/s10502-022-09397-0	Joe Nockels, Prof. Paul Gooding, Dr Sarah Ames, Prof. Melissa Terras
'The role of early Channel 4 commissions in the development of the freelance film and television workforce in Scotland' in 'Viewfinder', issue 121, 2022. learningonscreen.ac.uk/viewfinder/articles/the-role-of-early-channel-4-commissions-in-the-development-of-the-freelance-film-and-television-workforce-in-scotland/	Nelson Correia

Current collaborative PhD students

Topic	Students and Library co-supervisors
'Advancing collection development through supporting refugee publishing – Strategies for libraries'. Supervised by Dr Janneke Adema and Dr Judith Fathallah, Centre for Postdigital Cultures, Coventry University. Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Collaborative Doctoral Partnership, Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium. From 2023.	Alexandros Plasatis is co-supervised by Dr Patrick Hart and Dr Sarah Ames
'Not participating, not included: Towards inclusive assessment practices in the Scottish library sector'. Supervised by Prof. Paul Gooding, University of Glasgow; Dr David Brazier, Edinburgh Napier University. Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities, Applied Research Collaborative Studentships, AHRC. From 2022.	Rhonda Rathburn is co-supervised by Amina Shah
'Urban forests through space and time'. Supervised by Dr Cat Scott, University of Leeds; Dr Stuart King and Dr William Mackaness, University of Edinburgh; Dr Hannah Walker, Forest Research. Satellite Data in Environmental Science – Centre for Doctoral Training. From 2022.	Elle Smith is co-supervised by Chris Fleet
'Listen and Learn: Examining the Role of Schools Radio Broadcasting in Scotland's Classrooms'. Supervised by Prof. Hayden Lorimer and Dr Rachel Hunt, University of Edinburgh. AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Studentship, Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium. From 2021.	Adele Kramber is co-supervised by Alistair Bell and Charlie McCann
'Film Bang: communities of practice, cross media interconnections, and sectoral growth within Scotland's film and television industries'. Supervised by Dr Alistair Scott, Edinburgh Napier University; Dr Jonny Murray, University of Edinburgh. Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities, ARCS Applied Research Collaborative Doctoral Award. From 2021.	Nelson Correia is co-supervised by Kay Foubister
'Slavery and Race in the “Encyclopaedia Britannica” (1768–1860): A Text Mining Approach'. Supervised by Prof. Melissa Terras and Prof. Diana Paton, University of Edinburgh. Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award. From 2021.	Ash Charlton is co-supervised by Dr Sarah Ames and Robert Betteridge
'Reconstructing the Library of King James VI and I'. Supervised by Prof. Rachel Hammersley, Dr Ruth Connolly and Dr Kirsten Gibson, Newcastle University. Northern Bridge Consortium AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award. From 2021.	Alexandra Plane is co-supervised by Dr Anette Hagan
'Water histories in the Kaveri river catchment in South India'. Supervised by Dr Jonny Huck, University of Manchester; Dr Deborah Sutton, University of Lancaster. North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership, Economic and Social Research Council. From 2020.	Charlotte Evans is co-supervised by Chris Fleet
Researching the application of Artificial Neural Network modelling to determine acceptable fluctuations in our environmental parameters for collections in storage. Supervised by Dr Fan Wang, Assistant Professor at EGIS, Heriot-Watt University; Prof. Ben Richard Hughes, Professor of Building Services Engineering, Heriot-Watt University. Energy Technology Partnership. From 2020.	Bo Han is co-supervised by Julie Bon
'Adopting Transkribus in the National Library of Scotland: Understanding how handwritten text recognition will change management and use of digitised manuscripts'. Supervised by Prof. Melissa Terras, University of Edinburgh; Prof. Paul Gooding, University of Glasgow. Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award. From 2020.	Joe Nockels is co-supervised by Dr Sarah Ames and Steve Rigden
'Archiving Muriel Spark' – seeking to uncover new evidence about Spark's writing process, her relationship with the publishing industry and the critical valuation of her novels over her poetry. Supervised by Prof. Gerard Carruthers and Dr Helen Stoddart, University of Glasgow. Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award. From 2019.	Steven Harvie is co-supervised by Dr Colin McLroy
'From water to steam – The transition from renewable energy to coal during Scotland's Industrial Revolution'. Supervised by Dr Simon Naylor, University of Glasgow; Dr Miles Oglethorpe, Historic Environment Scotland. Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium. From 2018.	Iara Calton is co-supervised by Chris Fleet

Completed collaborative PhDs working with Library staff and other institutions

Topic	Students and Library co-supervisors
'Archive and Narrative in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum'. Supervised by Dr Scott Hames and Dr Peter Lynch, University of Stirling; Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership. From 2017 to 2023.	Alice Austin was co-supervised by Dr Heidi Egginton and Eilidh MacGlone
'Private reflections and public pronouncements: Caribbean slavery in the Scottish consciousness, 1750–1834'. Supervised by Dr Catherine Jones and Prof. Patience Schell, University of Aberdeen; Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership. From 2018 to 2023.	Matthew Lee was co-supervised by Dr Ralph McLean and Robert Betteridge
'The People's Friend? Recovering Scottish popular magazine culture'. Supervised by Professor Kirstie Blair and Dr David Goldie, University of Strathclyde; Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium, AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership. From 2018 to 2023.	Charlotte Lauder was co-supervised by Dr Graham Hogg and Ian Scott

National Library of Scotland research collaborations

Topic	Authors and Library participants
'The Archive of Tomorrow: Health Information and Misinformation in the UK Web Archive'. Collaboration with the University of Cambridge, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Oxford. Wellcome funded.	Dr Joe Marshall
'The Arts Data Warehouse: Towards a national data centre for the arts and humanities'. With the University of Glasgow.	Dr Sarah Ames
'Away from the water': The first energy transition, British textiles 1770–1890'. With the University of Glasgow. Leverhulme Trust funded.	Chris Fleet
'Conservatism and Unionism in the UK, 1968-1997'. Queen's University Belfast and the University of St Andrews. AHRC funded.	Dr Heidi Egginton
'Creativity, Regulation, Enterprise and Technology'. CREATE, University of Glasgow. AHRC funded.	Fred Saunderson
'Curious Travellers II: Digital Editions of Thomas Pennant's Tours of Wales and Scotland'. With the University of Wales Aberystwyth and the University of Glasgow. curioustravellers.ac.uk/en/	Dr Kirsty McHugh and Chris Fleet
'Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century'. With the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, University of Glasgow. This AHRC project underpins the production of a multi-volume edition of 'The Works of Robert Burns' being published by Oxford University Press.	Dr Ralph McLean
Robert Burns bibliography with the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, University of Glasgow.	Robert Betteridge
'Experiencing Political Texts'. With Newcastle University. experiencingpoliticaltexts.wordpress.com	Dr Anette Hagan
'From Telegrams to Twitter: Writing to Politicians in the United Kingdom, 1890-present'. With King's College London and the University of Exeter. AHRC funded.	Dr Heidi Egginton
'Machines Reading Maps: Finding and Understanding Text on Maps'. With the University of Southern California and the Alan Turing Institute.	Chris Fleet and Dr Sarah Ames
'Materialising the Cold War: "The Cold War in Scotland"' film project. With National Museums Scotland and University of Stirling.	Dr Heidi Egginton
'Our Heritage, Our Stories'. With the University of Glasgow and partners. AHRC. Towards a National Collection. nationalcollection.org.uk/Discovery_Projects	Alistair Bell, Dr Chris Cassells
'The Protestant Reformation, Scottish Enlightenment and Natural Law'. With the Universities of Bonn, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Tübingen.	Dr Anette Hagan
RLUK AHRC Research Catalyst Programme.	Simona Cenci
Fulbright scholarships.	Chris Taylor
UKRI Policy Internships and AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships.	Chris Taylor

In 2023, our research activity involved partners in...



- Aberdeen
- Dundee
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Inverness
- St Andrews
- Stirling
- Aberystwyth
- Belfast
- Birmingham
- Cambridge
- Coventry
- Exeter
- Lancaster
- Leeds
- London
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Oxford

And in the rest of the world:
Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada,
China, Germany, India, Ireland,
the Netherlands, Poland, Spain
and the United States of America






“Research is at the core of the National Library of Scotland's activities and this is deeply intertwined with its collecting activities. The guidance provided by the Library has played an indispensable role in facilitating my own research, particularly in the realm of advanced studies concerning the digitisation of cultural heritage and handwritten text recognition.

“I have also witnessed the immense value derived from the work placements offered to Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities-funded PhD students. The Library not only boasts remarkable research collections but also provides a world-leading environment for the management, dissemination and utilisation of digital collections.”

– Professor Melissa Terras, University of Edinburgh

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