



National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board 25 March 2020

LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS SINCE NOVEMBER 2019

28 – 29 November 2019 Attended the RLUK Members Meeting in Nottingham;	2 and 3 December 2019 Took part in the SHAPE ID <i>Shaping Interdisciplinary Practices in Europe</i> at Trinity College, Dublin;	4 December 2019 Attended the American Patrons National Library and Galleries of Scotland meeting here in the Library;
6 December 2019 Hosted the annual Librarian's Staff Christmas Party in the Boardroom;	11 December 2019 Visited Glasgow Women's Library	12 December 2019 Attended Change Management Training at the Library;
13 December 2019 Welcomed Liz Jolly, Chief Librarian, the British Library to the Library ;	16 December 2019 Welcomed visitors from the Library of Congress to the Library;	18 December 2019 Was interviewed by the i newspaper for an article published on 30 December;
19 December 2019 Attended a talk by Stella Wisdom of the British Library in the Boardroom;	20 January 2020 Hosted a meeting with the University of Aberdeen at the Library;	22 January 2020 Attended at the Scottish Parliament with the Chair of the Board for the Library's annual meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop;
11 February 2020 Hosted the National Library of Scotland Foundation at a reception in the Library followed by dinner;	21 February 2020 Attended the RLUK Board meeting for the last time;	24 – 27 February 2020 Hosted Dagnija Baltina, Director, of Special Collections, National Library of Latvia (Librarian is her mentor via the Liber programme);

27 February 2020 Took part in the Library staff quiz at Revolution and team were joint third;	4 March 2020 Attended the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland at the National Galleries;	23 March 2020 Attended a meeting of the Paisley Museum reimagined Board;
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Social media update

Since November 2019 we have recorded 441,388 engagements across all of our social channels and our follower numbers have increased by 2.7% (Facebook) 6.3% (Twitter) and 9.8% (Instagram).

#Adventof80s

Our social media advent calendar focussed on the 1980s and our #Talking1980s retrospective. Covering a number of topics, we displayed our own material together with items suggested by National Museums of Scotland, V&A Dundee, the Glasgow Women's Library and Orkney Library. Several topics obtained disproportionately high engagement, including home computing, the Sony Walkman (pictured below) and Care Bears.



Other highlights:

- Announced the inclusion of free period products in our toilets – this gained much positive engagement.
- Participated in #worldbookday and also the #dollypartonchallenge.
- Engaged in #womeninSTEM day by writing a thread about Williamina Fleming.

Outreach / looking forward

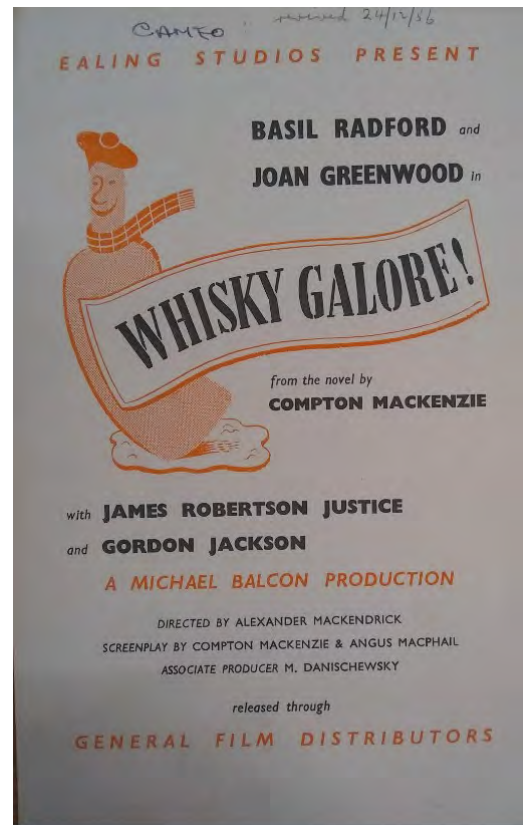
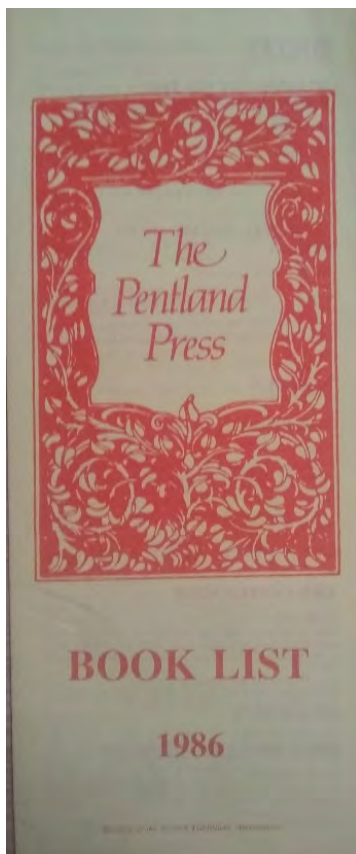
- As per best practice we're working on reducing the size of the Twitter estate to maximise reach through our corporate account, which has almost 50,000 followers.
- Wrote several MacKinnon Collection photo threads and launched a themed website 'From Shore to Shore'.

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

Work continues in the Metadata & Maintenance Team to fully align hidden collection ephemera with that of new material with great success with over 9,000 ephemeral items dealt with during Q3.

As part of this work collection level records were created for a large collection of around 800 Scottish Publishers' Catalogues dating from the late 1980s-early 2000s. They provide a fascinating insight into the variety of material being published in Scotland during this time. Work on this collection will be completed in January 2020.

The team also work on a variety of 'invisible' hidden collections uncovered during the last six months. A collection of Edinburgh Cinema press releases and press books was discovered alongside the Scottish Publishers' Catalogues and were published from the 1930s to the 1960s. They cover most of the Edinburgh cinemas in business during this time and contain publicity material for major film releases. They are a valuable resource for social history researchers. The majority of the items were ephemeral in nature, but some items were more substantial and were catalogued separately.



One Third Digital: Update for the Board, November 2019 – February 2020

The Library's different digitisation studios in Edinburgh and Glasgow have digitised around 8,000 items during November 2019 - February 2020, bringing the total since the beginning of FY19/20 to circa 44,000 items. This figure is lower than expected due to the pausing of map scanning as the sheet-fed map scanner needed to be replaced after having been in use for 6 years.

The combined total of Non-Print Legal Deposit and digitised materials now amounts to over 22% of our collections and current projections continue to suggest that we will reach the One Third Digital target by around the middle of 2023/24.

The Mass Digitisation team at Causewayside have continued to focus on digitisation of the Antiquarian Books Scotland (ABS) shelfmark, and have now completed over 12,500 of the 17,000 items in this collection. In addition, the team has worked on a number of smaller projects including pamphlets from the Advocates' series, and Scottish Government circulars.

Digitisation of the MacKinnon photographic collection is progressing well, with 126 of the 136 volumes captured at the Library, and over 4,400 individual photographs digitised at the National Galleries by the end of February 2020.

While waiting on the arrival of replacement equipment to digitise single sheet maps through a sheet-fed process, we set up the short-term hiring of a large format Versascan flatbed scanner to digitise fragile maps as part of our ambition to have all of our Scottish single sheet maps digitised by the end of 2020. Work on the Versascan is progressing very well and will see circa 5,000 fragile maps digitised by the start of April.



Pictured: the Versascan large format scanner in operation at the Causewayside studio.

Geo-referencing of single sheet map images through the external contractor CLS is now complete. In total, CLS have digitised 194,072 single sheet maps and 173,965 aperture cards from our collections over a multi-year project. The digital files, covering multiple series of maps of England and Wales, are currently embargoed but will be openly available through our website by the Library's centenary in 2025.

The digitisation of medieval manuscripts funded by Alex Graham is progressing very well, with 86 out of the 225 items digitised on the Dragon by the end of February. The digitisation team

are confident that all of the 225 manuscripts will be available through our website by the end of 2020.

At Kelvin Hall, digitisation of analogue video tapes from the *Scottish Ballet* collection is running well, with the initial target of 310 tapes completed in February. The team are now working on further materials from this collection, as well as other magnetic tapes and film reels. A new and very successful workflow was introduced for the creation of clips for the *Scottish Ballet* project, resulting in an accompanying clip for every tape digitised in the project to date. Remote visitors will be offered an 8 second 'taster' clip of each tape digitised in the collection.

The *Unlocking our Sound Heritage* (UOSH) digitisation project is progressing well, with over 50% of the target items now digitised (2,525 out of 5050). The team keeps receiving external collections from across Scotland for digitisation, including items with conservation issues and technical challenges such as multiple speed changes within tapes. The studio at Kelvin Hall remains one of the most efficient and productive ones across the UK-wide UOSH project.

Online Delivery

Digitised collections added to our website during November 2019 - February 2020 include the following:

- Over 1,200 documents from the non-political organs of the [League of Nations](#) that dealt with health, disarmament, economic and financial matters for the duration of the League (1919-1945).
- The annual Asian [Directory and Chronicle](#) series covering 1917-1941, providing listings of each country's active corporations, foreign residents and government agencies.
- The annual series of [Britain and UK Handbooks](#), produced by the British Government from 1954-2005 describing 'how Britain worked', including Britain's economic, social and cultural affairs, environment, international relations, and the systems of government.
- Sixteen books written by [Lewis Grassie Gibbon](#) (1901-1935), all published in the last seven years of his life, mostly under his real name, James Leslie Mitchell. They include the classic 'Scots Quair' trilogy which includes 'Sunset Song', and Mitchell's first book 'Hanno, or the future of exploration' (1928) which is rare and has never been republished.
- An additional 3,000 books added to the [Antiquarian Books of Scotland](#) feature. These books form a 'collection' of works which were published in Scotland or have a Scottish connection, e.g. through the author, printer or owner, but have never been received through Legal Deposit. They are therefore unlikely to be held in any of the other UK Legal Deposit Libraries.

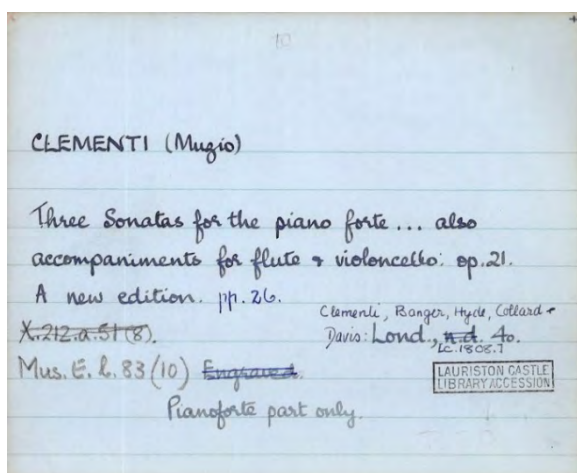
All of these collections are accessible in IIIF-compatible format through our Universal Viewer, and several of them are also available as datasets on our [Data Foundry](#).

Regarding our digital map offer, the latest addition to our website is an uncoloured [Outline edition of the standard 1:25,000](#) maps dating 1945-65. More information about this edition can be found on the [maps website](#).

Brief update on the Music Retroconversion Project

The music retroconversion project is now underway. The external supplier is keyboarding data from the scanned card images into our web form, and we now have our editors' team complete with Alex Cuadrado, Senior Editor, who started in early December, and Kirsty Morgan, Junior Editor, who joined the team in early February. The editors are checking the quality of the keyboarding and are carrying out some limited editing of the data to aid retrieval of records.

This is an example from the from the main music card catalogue to show what material we are handling. We are using the handwritten staff copy of this catalogue as it contains more information than the public typed catalogue. This example contains annotations on the back of the card that include musical incipits, i.e. showing the beginning of the music which is something not normally seen on catalogue cards.



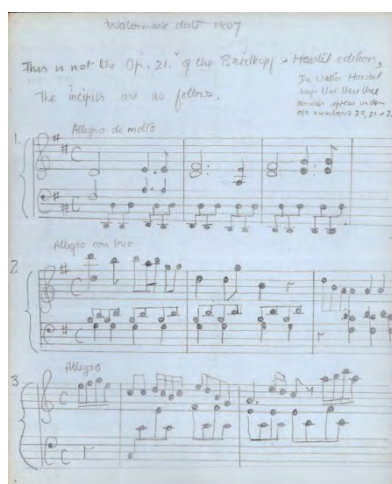
Bibliographic details of the publication described on the card:

Muzio Clementi. *Three sonatas for the pianoforte...* London: Clementi, Banger, Hyde, Collard & Davis, [c. 1808].

Shelfmark: Mus.E.I.83(10)

The front of the catalogue card with bibliographic information of the publication shows different handwriting and the corrections from previous librarians are shown.

The back of the catalogue card contains annotations about the musical work and references in other editions, as well as noting the existence of a watermark date which provides guidance to the dating of the publication; and, of course, the musical incipits:



Digital resources and web statistics – Q3 2019-20

This document combines the statistics for the use of Library digitised resources on external services and the nls.uk domain from 1 October – 31 December 2019 unless otherwise stated.

External services

Statistics for the Internet Archive and Flickr are from 1 October -7 January 2019.

WIKIPEDIA

1,322 images used in

3,818 pages with

8,323,517 views

Increase of 427,292 from last quarter



YOUTUBE [BIT.LY/YOUTUBENLS](https://bit.ly/youtubenls)

201 videos with

19,128 views

17,322 minutes watched

69 new subscribers



INTERNET ARCHIVE

4,850 items in

13 collections

283,828 views



FLICKR [BIT.LY/FLICKRNLS](https://bit.ly/flickrnls)

2,500 images with

217,275 views



nls.uk domain use

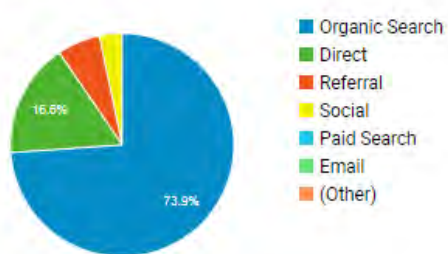
The following charts and statistics give an insight into the audiences of the five National Library domains. The Data Foundry (launched September 2019) has been included in this report for the first time because we now have data for a full quarter.

'Top channels' refers to where the audiences have come from. Users from 'Organic search' have been directed to nls.uk from a search engine, 'Direct' means users have followed a link from the nls.uk domain (e.g. from maps.nls.uk to the map ordering service), 'Social' means users have followed a social media link (e.g. Twitter or Facebook). 'Top referrals (non-Library)' provides information on users who have followed links from other websites to the nls.uk domain.

DIGITAL GALLERY [DIGITAL.NLS.UK](https://digital.nls.uk)

133,106 users with 178,748 view sessions
6.23 pages per session
3:32 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

en.wikipedia.org	1,343 users
baidu.com	380 users
conted.ox.ac.uk	223 users

Location of users

53% UK (57% Eng, 39% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
18% USA
5% Canada
5% Australia
3% India

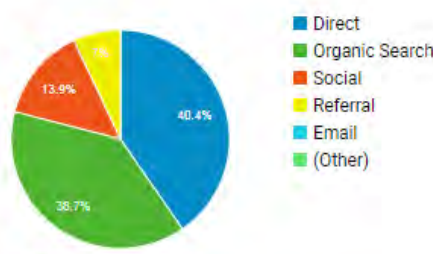
The number of web sessions was: 178,748.
The top 5 'landing pages' for these sessions included:

/gallery/ (3%)
/scientists/biographies/james-watt/index.html (2%)
/directories/ (1%)
/scientists/biographies/lord-kelvin/ (1%)
/learning/scottish-food-history/food-in-scotland/index.html (1%)

MAPS [MAPS.NLS.UK](https://maps.nls.uk)

382,711 users with 826,769 view sessions
4.05 pages per session
4.24 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

archiuk.com	1,544 users
en.wikipedia.org	1,083 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	944 users

Location of users

86% UK (77% Eng, 17% Sco, 5% Wal, 1% NI)
4% USA
1% Australia
1% Canada
1% India

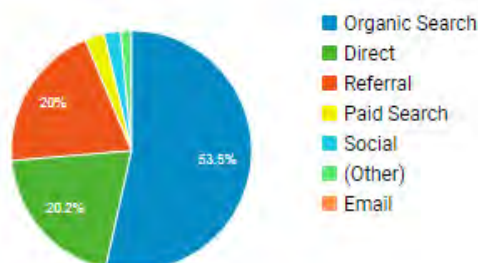
The number of web sessions was: 826,769. The top 5 'landing pages' for these sessions included:

/geo/explore/side-by-side (16%)
/geo/explore/ (15%)
/geo/find (8%)
/os/6inch-england-and-wales/ (4%)
/os/ (2%)

MAIN WEBSITE WWW.NLS.UK

135,588 users with 215,974 view sessions
2.24 pages per session
1.43 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

bbc.co.uk	837 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	384 users
baidu.com	366 users

Location of users

71%	UK (56% Eng, 41% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
12%	USA
3%	Canada
3%	Australia
1%	India

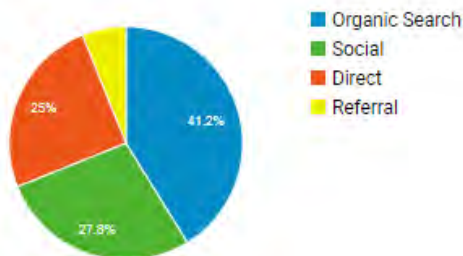
The number of web sessions was: **215,974**.
The top 5 landing pages for these sessions included:

/catalogues (3%)
/digital-resources (2%)
/family-history/emigration (2%)
/family-history/births-deaths-marriages (2%)
/exhibitions (2%)
/exhibitions/treasures/mackinnon/ (1%)

MOVING IMAGE MOVINGIMAGE.NLS.UK

37,962 users with 48,636 view sessions
2.71 pages per session
3.53 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

en.wikipedia.org	315 users
en.m.wikipedia.org	174 users
baidu.com	93 users

Location of users

79%	UK (58% Sco, 39% Eng, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
8%	USA
2%	Canada
2%	Australia
1%	Germany

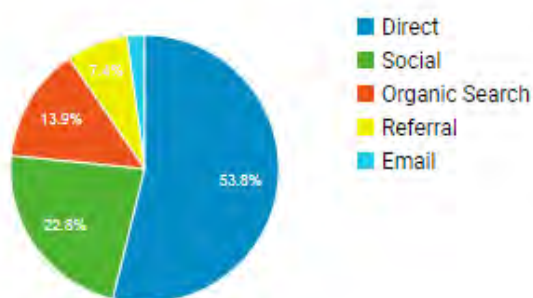
The number of web sessions was: **48,636**. The top 5 landing pages for these sessions included:

/film/5098 - (Santa comes to Lewis's) (3%)
/film/3887 - (Grangemouth: a growing town) (1%)
/film/3174 - (Paisley illuminations) (1%)
/film/5973 - (Ninian oilfield central platform) (1%)
/film/1592 - (Birth of a sewing machine) (1%)

907 users with 1,419 view sessions
3.20 pages per session
2.16 minutes average duration on site

907 users with 1,419 view sessions
3.20 pages per session
2.16 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

wiki.ed.ac.uk 9 users
baidu.com 8 users
eadh.org 5 users

Location of users

61% UK (66% Sco, 33% Eng, 1% Wal,)
15% USA
4% France
2% Belgium
2% Germany

The number of web sessions was: **1,419**. The top 5 landing pages for these sessions included:

/data/digitised-collections/encyclopaedia-britannica/ (7%)
/data/digitised-collections/edinburgh-ladies-debating-society/ (6%)
/data/digitised-collections/chapbooks-printed-in-scotland/ (5%)
/data/digitised-collections/spiritualist-newspapers/ (3%)
/data/digitised-collections/ (3%)

University of Edinburgh Guided Research Placements: *Who Taught Her That?*

In September 2019 the Library, in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, began hosting five students as part of the Guided Research Placement programme '*Behind Glass? Digital Literature, Artefact and the Language of Display*' was the title of the problem-based brief to address gaps in the Library's practice.

Since 2013 the Library has been receiving more and more of its legal deposit intake as electronic text. Without a carrier to render it into digital format, it cannot be seen by our readers. This has changed the cultural landscape.

We put physical books and manuscripts in secure, atmospherically controlled cases to protect our cultural heritage from theft and damage whilst simultaneously making them visible to visitors to the Library. Is it strange to put a Kindle or iPad behind glass in order to show our electronic text? We were delighted to submit this and other conundrums to the students for their Guided Research Placement, and asked them to consider:

1. How can the National Library of Scotland engage audiences with our digital holdings through curated displays and public events?
2. Is authenticity of the original format important?

The students responded as a team of five women curators who noticed that much of women's use of digital resources often comes in various forms of advice. They began exploring the history of different forms of instruction and guidance through the Library's extensive collections. They aimed to include many areas of women's lives, focusing on the ways in which culture and customs have been passed down to subsequent generations, as well as how they have evolved over time. Placing digital and physical items next to each other aiming to highlight and emphasise the contrasts, similarities, and partnerships that exist between different formats as well as the possibilities of each.

The result was a three-day pop-up exhibition *Who Taught Her That?* in the Boardroom.



Coinciding with Women's History Month and International Women's Day, this celebrated women's contributions to the Library's collections, the ways in which the digital age has transformed the manner in which women express themselves, and how audiences can engage with this material. Over 350 people attended the exhibition and 20% of the audience participated in completing a feedback survey. The Boardroom became both a thought-provoking conversation space and a test bed for how we make our physical

and digital collections accessible in an exhibition environment.

The students will present their findings from the Guided Research Placement at Edinburgh College of Art on the 21st of April 2020 and further information can be found on their website: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/whotaughtherthat>

Substantial increase in moving image catalogue records

As part of the wider Hidden Collections strategic programme there is a concentrated effort to push more moving image catalogue records out to the public with 1,364 added to Library Search in Q3. The newly discoverable collections include:

- [The Biggest Heating Job in the World](#) The construction of Hunterston nuclear power station made by a very upbeat South of Scotland Electricity Board. (Onsite only access)
- [Runrig](#) News piece from Grampian Television's 'Seachd Laithean' Gaelic language news programme about the band Runrig. They talk about their new album themed around the Gàidhealtachd. (Onsite only access)
- [Scottish Trade Mission to Canada](#) Filmed in 1932 on 9.5mm stock, this records the Scottish Trade Mission sailing on the 'Letitia' to Canada and meeting a delegation from the Quebec Board of Trade. (Onsite only access)
- [Tea Time](#) Harvesting, processing and exporting tea leaves in India, Ceylon, Kenya and Indonesia for McGavin's tea. (Onsite only access)

Archives and Manuscripts – some recent acquisitions

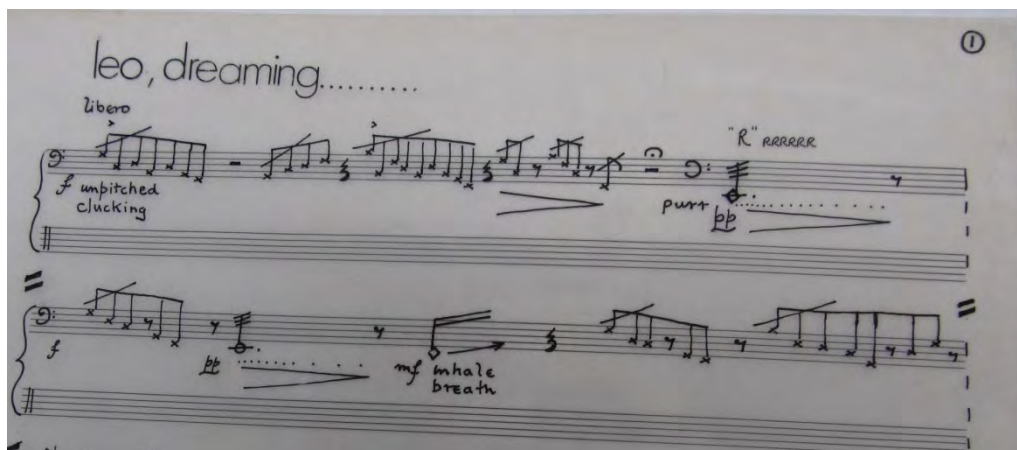
Acc.14144: The Secret History of a Victorian Diplomat

The archive of the Elliots of Minto, the Borders family whose influence extended across the worlds of Liberal statesmanship, empire, philosophy, and diplomacy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, is one of the Library's most significant political collections. We have recently purchased a remarkably comprehensive set of private journals of the barrister and diplomat Sir George Francis Stewart Elliot (1817-1907), son of the 2nd Earl of Minto, augmenting our existing holdings of his correspondence. Containing entries written over six decades, the diaries offer a window into Elliot's personal and professional life in Scotland and London and his travels around Europe and Asia, as well as several minute-by-minute accounts of special diplomatic missions during the 1850s-80s. As researchers' attention to the intimate dimensions to British and Scottish imperial history only increases, this new acquisition will provide a rich resource for historians of nineteenth-century politics, masculinity, and culture – not to mention admirers of Victorian gentlemen's stationery.



Acc. 14147: Archive of John Maxwell Geddes

The Library has received as a gift the archive of the distinguished Scottish composer John Maxwell Geddes (1941-2017). The extensive collection contains scrapbooks, scores, programme notes and other material that documents Geddes's work and achievements. He was particularly engaged in musical education and the support of youth orchestras, also as part of international initiatives. His works were often based on Scottish themes.



The beginning of a piece for trombone inspired by the Geddes family cat, Leo.

News from the Moving Image and Sound Collections: Falkirk Cowboys

A BBC documentary broadcast on the 8th December followed the workers at the British Aluminium factory in Falkirk who spent their afternoons making cowboy films. Eight of the resulting films have been donated to the National Library of Scotland collections and the documentary includes an interview with the National Library's Dr Emily Munro.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000c1hb>

one The Falkirk Cowboys

[Home](#) [Clips](#)



This programme is not currently available on BBC iPlayer

Forget the Spaghetti Western, here is the Deep Fried Western. The story of a posse of 1970s Falkirk factory workers who pooled their wages to make cowboy films in their spare time.

[Show more](#)

Last on

 Tue 10 Dec 2019
20:00
BBC SCOTLAND

Digital Scholarship Service update

Data Foundry and datasets nominated for DH Awards

The Data Foundry and three individual datasets have been nominated for the DH Awards 2019.

The DH Awards are annual, public awards for digital humanities projects, tools and resources: nominated and voted for by the public, rather than an organising committee, these awards showcase the work of the digital humanities community.

Data Foundry has been nominated for the 'Best DH Tool or Suite of Tools' category, and *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *A Medical History of British India* and *Chapbooks printed in Scotland* are all up for the 'Best Dataset' category.

The Library is also represented in other categories: Shawn Graham (Associate Professor of Digital Humanities, Carleton University) created a 'Song of Scottish Publishing' using the *Chapbooks* dataset, after seeing it publicised on Twitter, which has now been nominated for 'Best Use of DH for Fun'. And the *Open A GLAM Lab* book, which the Library contributed to during the British Library Labs Booksprint event in Doha, Qatar, has been nominated for 'Best use of DH for Public Engagement'.

This means that the National Library of Scotland is represented in four of the seven categories.

Voting closes on 1 March: <http://dhawards.org/dhawards2019/voting/>

Six months of the Data Foundry

Six months after the Data Foundry was published on 2 September, 2019, a new 'Projects' page is being added to the website for publication on 2 March, 2020.

This page will showcase activity using the data collections to date, including:

- Student data visualisation projects, including a video tour of 100 years of Encyclopaedia Britannica visualised in Minecraft
- High Performance Computing meets Encyclopaedia Britannica
- 3,000 Scottish Chapbooks...as music
- Artist in Residence

...and many more!

A number of these projects will also be featured in the next issue of *Discover* magazine. Take a look at the new Projects page to find out more about the range of activity with Library datasets to date: <https://data.nls.uk/projects>

Dataset updates

The Digital Scholarship Service will be releasing one new or updated dataset each month for the next 12 months. Recently-published datasets are:

November: *Chapbooks printed in Scotland* <https://data.nls.uk/data/digitised-collections/chapbooks-printed-in-scotland/>

December: *Asian Directories and Chronicles* <https://data.nls.uk/data/digitised-collections/asian-directories-chronicles/>

January: *Britain and UK Handbooks* <https://data.nls.uk/data/digitised-collections/britain-uk-handbooks/>

February: *Ordnance Survey Books of Reference* <https://data.nls.uk/data/digitised-collections/os-books-of-reference/>

The Library has also become a member of DataCite, enabling us to mint DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers), a form of persistent identifier which is particularly used for academic citations. All digitised material datasets on the Data Foundry now have DOIs, with more to be added to further collections.

Digital Scholarship Research Fellowship advertised

The National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship 2020-21, generously funded by the Librarian's Innovation Fund, was advertised in February.

The Fellowship provides an exciting opportunity for researchers to work with any of the collections on the Data Foundry website, over three months, to be completed before the end of March 2021. As a 'digital fellowship', the Fellow does not have to be resident in the Library, but should commit to at least a one week visit to carry out public engagement work and workshops for staff.

We are looking forward to seeing the range of projects proposed for the Fellowship and what the outcomes are!

Digital Scholarship Staff Seminar Series launches

The Digital Scholarship Staff Seminar Series got off to a great start in December, with talks by Meghan Ferriter and Abbey Potter (Library of Congress Labs) and Stella Wisdom (British Library), followed by 2020 talks by James Cummings (University of Newcastle) and Bea Alex and Mike Bennett (University of Edinburgh).

The Library of Congress talk introduced LC Labs, which acts as an incubator for new services and tools, which are then rolled out in the Library. Stella Wisdom discussed the work of the British Library's Digital Scholarship Department, with a particular focus on creative uses of datasets and digitised material, including examples of uses by artists, schools and game

designers. James Cummings discussed the use of TEI to create digital editions of texts, and its particular value as a form of description, and as a way to retain materiality, for digitised manuscript collections. Bea Alex and Mike Bennett discussed a Text and Data Mining project looking at reports of the Third Plague Pandemic (1894-1952) and the Library's OCR work to enable this research.

These talks have been a great opportunity to learn more about digital scholarship, putting the current activity in the Library into a broader context, as well as a chance to see what work other libraries are doing in this area.

The final talks for the spring series will be by Mikki Brock (Washington and Lee University) and Chris Langley (Newman University) about their 'Mapping the Scottish Reformation', and Dave Beavan (Alan Turing Institute) about the collaborative project with Queen Mary University, the British Library and the Alan Turing Institute, *Living with Machines*.

Library Carpentry training begins

A cohort of eight staff from the Library have been taking Library Carpentry classes, in collaboration with the Software Sustainability Institute, the University of Edinburgh Library and the Centre for Data, Culture and Society.

Library Carpentry offers openly-licensed data and digital skills training for librarians, from an introduction to data, to best use of spreadsheets, the data cleaning tool OpenRefine, and on to Shell, Python and R.

Plans are now underway to hold some sessions for greater numbers of staff.

Representing the Digital Scholarship Service at external events

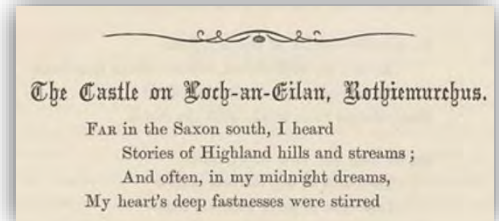
A number of external talks about the Digital Scholarship Service have been delivered over the last few months.

These include a talk at the British Library, as part of its *21st Century Curator* talks series; a webinar run by LIBER about the British Library Labs Booksprint and digital scholarship activity taking place in libraries (co-speakers including the British Library, Austrian National Library and University of Limerick); and a talk about the Data Foundry for the Archives and Records Association.

Re-use and processing of Data Foundry collections

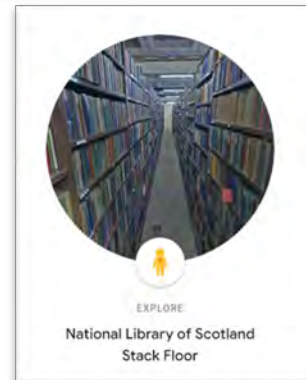
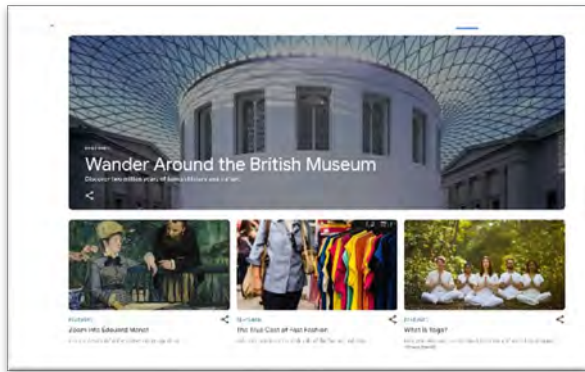
The Library recently received positive feedback from two organisations about their reuse and processing of Data Foundry collections (<https://data.nls.uk/>). This feedback justifies our decision to encode datasets using the METS international standard. (METS is a format for representing digital resources – it encodes technical, administrative and descriptive metadata, along with files and their structure and sequencing - <http://www.loc.gov/standards/mets/>).

The Library is participating in a Jisc-JSTOR pilot along with the British Library and the universities of Glasgow, Manchester and Sussex, to integrate digitised open collections into the **JSTOR** (<http://www.jstor.org/>) research and teaching platform. JSTOR colleagues downloaded the METS files for six Data Foundry collections and their Head of Digital Content reported on a recent project call that it was '*very straightforward and easy*' to ingest the Library's metadata and files into the JSTOR platform. Given this ease of use, the **Ladies Edinburgh Debating Society** (<https://digital.nls.uk/103657057>) and **The Spiritualist** newspaper (<https://digital.nls.uk/135908486>) will be the first collections from the five partners to be available via JSTOR as part of the project. The two collections will be available on the platform in March 2020.



Dr Rosa Filgueira (<https://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/about/staff/dr-rosa-filgueira>), research fellow at the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre (<https://www.epcc.ed.ac.uk/>) is developing a Text and Data Mining platform (TDM) to support digital scholarship. Rosa has been working on loading the Library's text-based Data Foundry collections into the new platform and said that, unlike datasets from other sources, the Library's data loads into the platform with '*only one line of code*'.

Google Arts & Culture Launch



On 30 January, the Library officially launched its partnership with Google Arts & Culture. In addition to 180+ items available for users to explore on the platform, the Library's first three online exhibitions are:

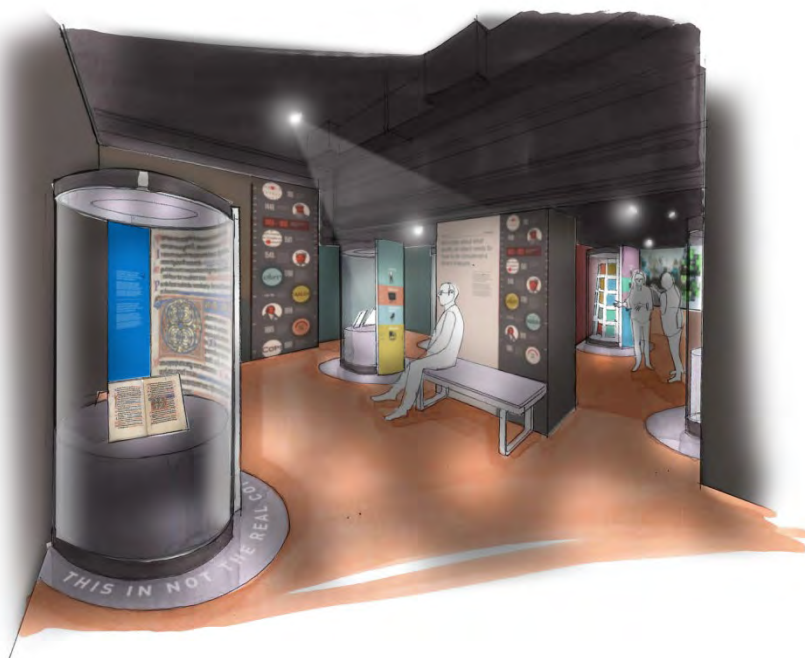
- 'From Scotland to Samoa' - following some of the travels of Robert Louis Stevenson
- 'A Tale of Two Bridges' - using the Library's excellent collection of photographs to recount the Tay Bridge Disaster in 1879 and the subsequent construction of the Forth Bridge in 1889
- 'Coast to Coast' - exploring some of the Library's most beautiful historical island maps

However, perhaps the most exciting feature of the Library's partner page is that it includes a 'Street View' tour of our Edinburgh buildings, allowing users to explore the public areas of George IV Bridge and a stack floor in Causewayside from their mobiles or desktops.

The Google Arts & Culture project within the Library - jointly funded by the Scottish Library and Information Council and the National Librarian's Innovation Fund - was set up to determine if working in this way will allow the Library to share our rich collections with more people than ever before. Since the launch, our intern Lauren McCombe is gathering data on the project's impact and preparing a report on the viability of further exhibitions – but in the meantime, [feel free to explore the first three exhibits online.](#)

Treasures Gallery redevelopment update

The Concept design for the Library's new semi-permanent Treasures Gallery has now been formally approved and the project has progressed into the developed design phase. February and March will be a busy period for the project team, as work commences on drafting text and sourcing image assets for the graphic design, as well as preparing the audio-visual briefs for the production sub-contractors. This work will be informed by the Interpretation Plan developed with external interpretation specialist Lyndsey Clark. This is an exciting time for the project as ideas start to take shape and come to life.



In January the Library worked with market research company Progressive Partnership to undertake some formative evaluation to help deliver a gallery in-line with the needs of the target audiences. Work was also done on naming the gallery; the final report is expected this month and time has been factored into the project to review the findings and integrate them into the plans as appropriate.

The project team arranged four all staff information sessions in March in order to keep staff informed and invested in the project and provide an opportunity for questions.

Location	Date	Time
GIVB Boardroom	March 11	9.00-10.00
Causewayside conference room	March 11	2.00-3.00
Kelvin Hall Learning Room	March 17	11.00-12.00
GIVB Boardroom	March 18	9.00-10.00

Aberdeen Breviary Pop-up event at Kelvin Hall, 30 November 2019

A liturgical book used in Glasgow 500 years ago returned to the city for St Andrew's Day. In a special one-day display, the Aberdeen Breviary was on show at the National Library of Scotland at Kelvin Hall and over 200 people took the opportunity to see this treasure from the collections.



Rare Books Curator Dr Anette Hagan said: 'This book is a huge deal. We managed to secure it for the national collections five years ago and are delighted to be taking it back to the city where it was first used centuries ago. There are only three other surviving sets of the Aberdeen Breviary.'



This book of daily devotions was used by local clergy at St Mungo's Cathedral in Glasgow in the early 1500s. Printed in 1509 by Walter Chepman, the Aberdeen Breviary is the first substantial work printed in Scotland, and how it was put together reveals a lot about how Scottish printing developed. It was the reason that King James IV granted a licence for the first printing house in 1507 to the Edinburgh-based Chepman and Myllar. The Aberdeen Breviary was also the first printed book to collect the lives of St Andrew and other Scottish saints. Bound at the end of the first volume of the breviary is an extra 16-page booklet — the only known copy of 'Compassio Beate Marie'.

Unlocking Our Sound Heritage – Volunteers

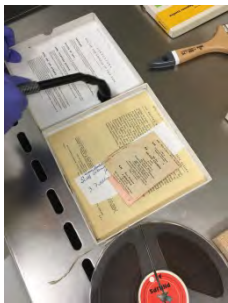


To date, the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project has worked with 68 people who have volunteered on 387 days. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

From the first cohort of six, one moved onto an MSc in Information Management & Preservation, and three found employment, one with the National Library of Scotland, one with the library service of Glasgow City Council and one as an archivist with a science education company. The other two have carried on with existing studies.



Some of our volunteers come as student placements. We have hosted three students from University of Glasgow and four students from the University of Strathclyde. We also worked with the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities to provide a series of learning workshops and volunteering opportunities for PhD students across Scotland.



The Library recently advertised for more volunteers and 34 applicants were so enthusiastic we offered them a place. Between February and May there will be three generalist cohorts comprising eight each. We also identified specialists skills within the applicants, and have arranged for them to volunteer individually or in small groups to facilitate support for the cataloguing of music, the search for rights holders, the preparation of physical items for digitisation and the imaging of items. There will also be a group that will help plan and prepare a series of podcasts.

The Library is also hosting volunteering and training days for our colleagues who are part of The Sound Experience, and undertaking a skill-share day with our colleagues in Conservation. Conor and Nicola are learning how to remove mould from open reels using the down-draft table and in return sharing their knowledge of sound formats.



After a trial at Leith Library, the first full remote volunteer programme has been initiated by Aberdeen City Art Gallery and Museum, who are engaging volunteers to help complete short oral history summaries from recordings made in Aberdeen.

Unlocking Our Sound Heritage – Creative Re-use of Archival Sound

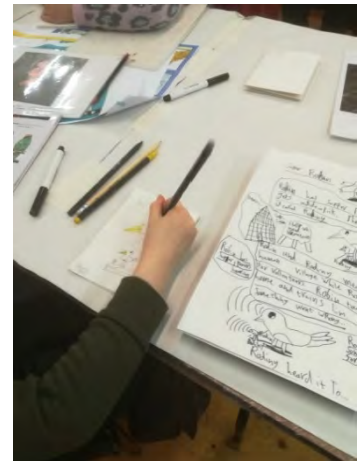
Val O'Regan

The project engaged its first artist-in-residence from the Birdhouse Studio in Argyll, Val is working with all the pupils of Innellan Primary school. Workshops were held where children from primary 1-3 were inspired by the recordings of birdsong from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club to paint their impressions of the birds.



Pupils from primary 4 - 7 were invited to design zines which illustrated the conversations that the birds were having. After their workshops, the children were taken to Benmore Botanic Gardens on a bird-spotting walk. The children's artwork will be exhibited at the Botanic Gardens from 20 to 22 March.

Val will also host workshops for visitors to Benmore, who will be inspired by the recordings to design a batik square that will become part of a wall-hanging. You can follow Val's work with the project on Twitter @Birdhousestudio.Argyll (Photographs © Val O'Regan)



Steve Urquhart

Steve applied for the Library's Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Artist in Residence position. Although he was not successful, the project has been eager to find a way of realising his proposal. Funding has now been secured to support this proposal from other sources, principally the National Librarian's Innovation Fund, and match funding from Creative Scotland, along with a small contribution from Unlocking our Sound Heritage.

The aim of Steve's project (which is called 'Doing Bird') is to engage a group of prisoners and members of their families, to creatively explore ornithological and birdsong recordings from the archives of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. He will work with participants inside one of Scotland's prisons to produce an ambitious, personal and celebratory new composition for radio, digital listening and performance, blending archive material with their own creative responses. Steve hopes the project will inspire prisoners as they prepare for release, as they rebuild family connections; their engagement with Scotland's archive of ornithological recordings will help them to recall positive memories, to spark creativity, and to consider actively their connection to the world beyond prison walls. You can find out more about Steve's creative practice at <https://www.listentosteve.com/>

Helen McCrorie

Helen was also keen to work with the Scottish Ornithologists' Club collection and had sourced funding elsewhere. Her project will use the birdsong to inspire the local community and the Scottish Wildlife Trust rangers on the Isle of Eigg. This will lead to a video project about the island's birdlife which will be shown at the island's Bird Film Festival in April. (Photo: Mike Garratt via Wikipedia)



Tapespondents - Unlocking Our Sound Heritage



In January the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project team travelled to Newhailes House in Edinburgh to collect recordings made by Sir Mark Dalrymple, and held by the National Trust for Scotland. Rather than writing letters, Sir Mark preferred to record them, instead of correspondents, he called them tapespondents. These are now in the process of being digitised, imaged, catalogued and rights cleared.

The team fully completed and returned its first collection from the University of Strathclyde. The next collection to be uplifted will be from Fife Cultural Trust in March.

Project partners are:



Rare Books purchases

James Bisset, *Bisset's magnificent guide, or, Grand copperplate directory, for the town of Birmingham*, Birmingham, 1808

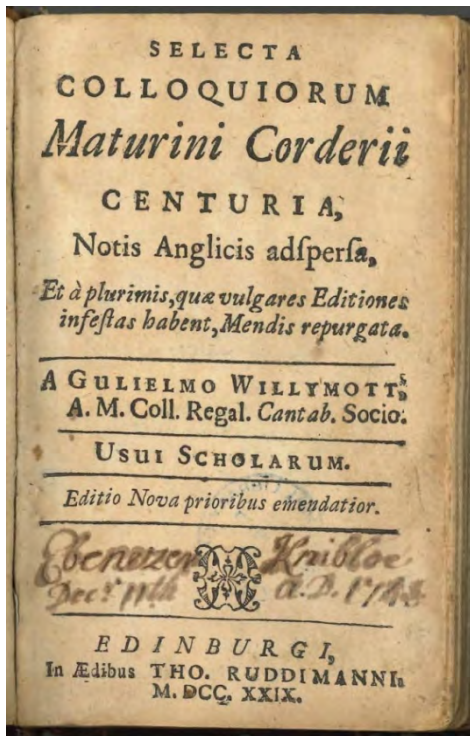
The final directory produced by Scottish artist, author and entrepreneur James Bisset of the rapidly growing industrial city of Birmingham, the 'toy-shop of Europe'. By the early 19th century, businesses were using trade cards to advertise their work to customers. Using copper-plate engravings, the directory provides a collection of images, based on these trade cards, creating a catalogue of Birmingham's businessmen and manufacturers at the start of the 19th century.



Susanne Schulz-Falster Rare Books £2,000

RB.m.787

Mathurin Cordier, *Selecta Colloquiorum Maturini Corderii centuria. Editio nova*, Edinburgh, 1729

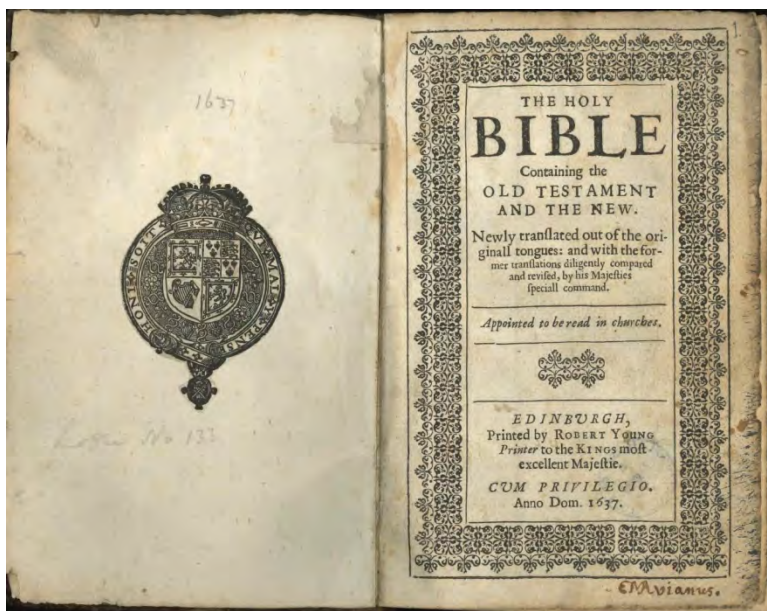


This is an unrecorded edition of an abridged version of the French-born author's Colloquia. It was printed by Thomas Ruddiman, who was a Latin scholar in his own right, and a printer, as well as serving as librarian of the Advocates Library. Cordier's Latin grammar was immensely popular across Europe, with more than 150 editions appearing before 1801. Inserted at the end of this copy is a 25-page English translation of Cordier's admonition to his students (the final chapter of the present book) prepared by Ebenezer Knibloe in his own hand and dated 2 June 1746. Knibloe, an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland, supported the losing side in the 1745 Jacobite uprising. He went to the United States in the late 1740s or early 1750s, settling in New York State and serving as a Presbyterian minister. He remained a loyalist during the American Revolution.

Patrick Olson Rare Books £1,030

RB.s.2979

The Holy Bible containing the Old Testament and the New + The Psalmes of David in meeter, Edinburgh, 1636-37 + Edinburgh, 1633



A volume containing the second octavo edition of the 'King James Bible' printed in Scotland. It was printed by Robert Young, the London printer who was sent to Scotland to print the controversial Book of Common Prayer for King Charles I. This is a variant, unrecorded printing of the bible with a different imprint. Bound in with bible is a 1633 Edinburgh printing of the psalms which is also unrecorded.

Dominic Winter (auction) £1,100

RB.s.2980(1-2)

James Valentine, [*Engraved envelope with anti-slavery messages and illustrations, by James Valentine of Dundee*], Edinburgh & London, 1850?

James Valentine of Dundee, later to become the founder of a hugely successful photography business, set up his own business as an engraver and copperplate and lithographic printer in



1838. As a member of the Congregational church he would have been a supporter of the anti-slavery movement which by the mid-19th century was very much focused on slavery in the USA.

This envelope may have been produced in the aftermath of the controversial Fugitive Slave Act passed by the US Congress in 1850, which required all escaped slaves to be returned to their owners and American citizens to cooperate with the captures.

Michael Kemp £250

AP.1.219.35

Alexander Monro, *Abhandlungen von anatomischen Einspritzungen und Aufbewahrung anatomischer Präparate aus dem Englischen* [Treatise on anatomical injections and storage of anatomical preparations], Frankfurt am Main, 1789.



A German translation of a work on the preparation of anatomical specimens, based mainly on the writings of Alexander Monro (probably primus, it is not made clear in the text), the famous Scottish surgeon and anatomist (1697-1747). It includes a folding plate depicting an anatomical syringe invented by the German physician Johann Nathanael Lieberkühn for the preparation of medical specimens by injecting wax-based fluids into cavities to create durable, long-lasting specimens. Both Monro and his son Alexander (secundus) built up substantial collections of anatomical specimens for their teaching careers at Edinburgh University.

Antiquariat Michael Kühn €1,400

AP.1.220.9 (Purchased with assistance from the Ronald W Clark Fund)

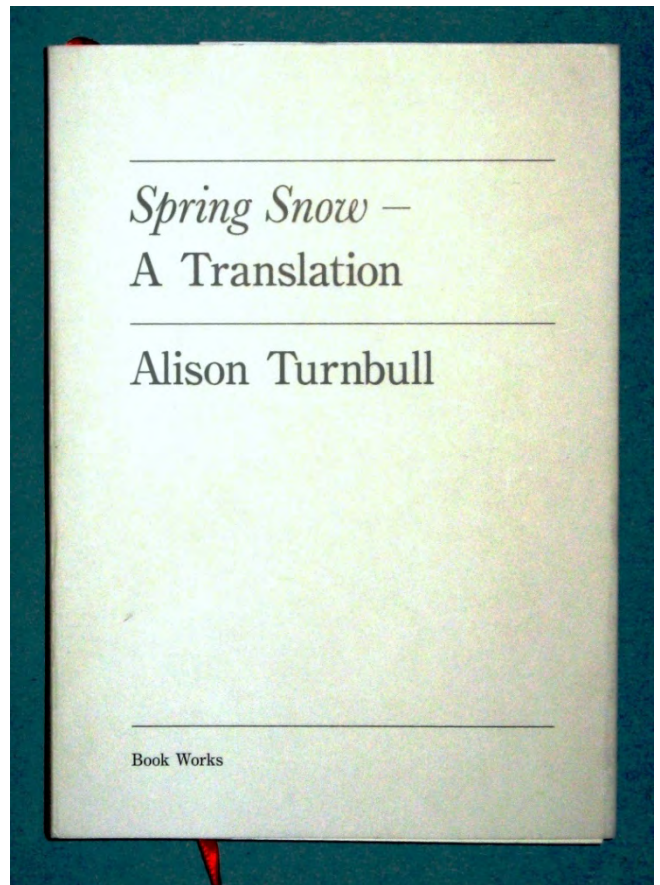
General Collections – recent acquisitions

Scottish conceptual artists

Scotland is a world leader in conceptual art with many Scots appearing on the shortlist for the Turner Prize. Scottish artists exhibit all around the world which means that many of the catalogues and other key publications relating to Scottish conceptual artists are not claimable via Legal Deposit. Former member of staff Dennis Smith made a donation of £1,000 to the Library to buy publications relating to Scottish conceptual art and more widely Scottish contemporary arts. We used the donation to buy works by or about amongst others Christine Borland, Katie Paterson, Charles Avery and Alec Finlay that were published in Melbourne, Stockholm, Zurich, Santa Fe and Frankfurt amongst other places. This was a great boost to our collections on Scottish art and we hope to develop this area of collecting.

Dennis Smith donated this unusual translation of Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima's classic novel *Spring Snow* to the collections. Mishima is known for his evocative use of colour in his work and Alison Turnbull has translated the work into a book of colours. She isolates and orders each of the six hundred colours mentioned in the text into what looks like a paint colour chart. What emerges is a visual essay on the nature of translation.

<https://www.alison-turnbull.com/Spring-Snow-A-Translation>



European Commission donation

The Library recently added items to its official publications collections from a donation received from Graham Blythe, Head of the European Commission Representation in Scotland, prior to the closing of their Headquarters in Edinburgh.



Donation of heritage trail content

Developing our collections that focus on place, we were pleased to receive a donation of 116 heritage trail booklets and leaflets from all over Scotland that were lacking from our collections. The ability for people to find 'their place' in our collections is hugely important in terms of developing connection between people and our collecting mission.



The end of a decade

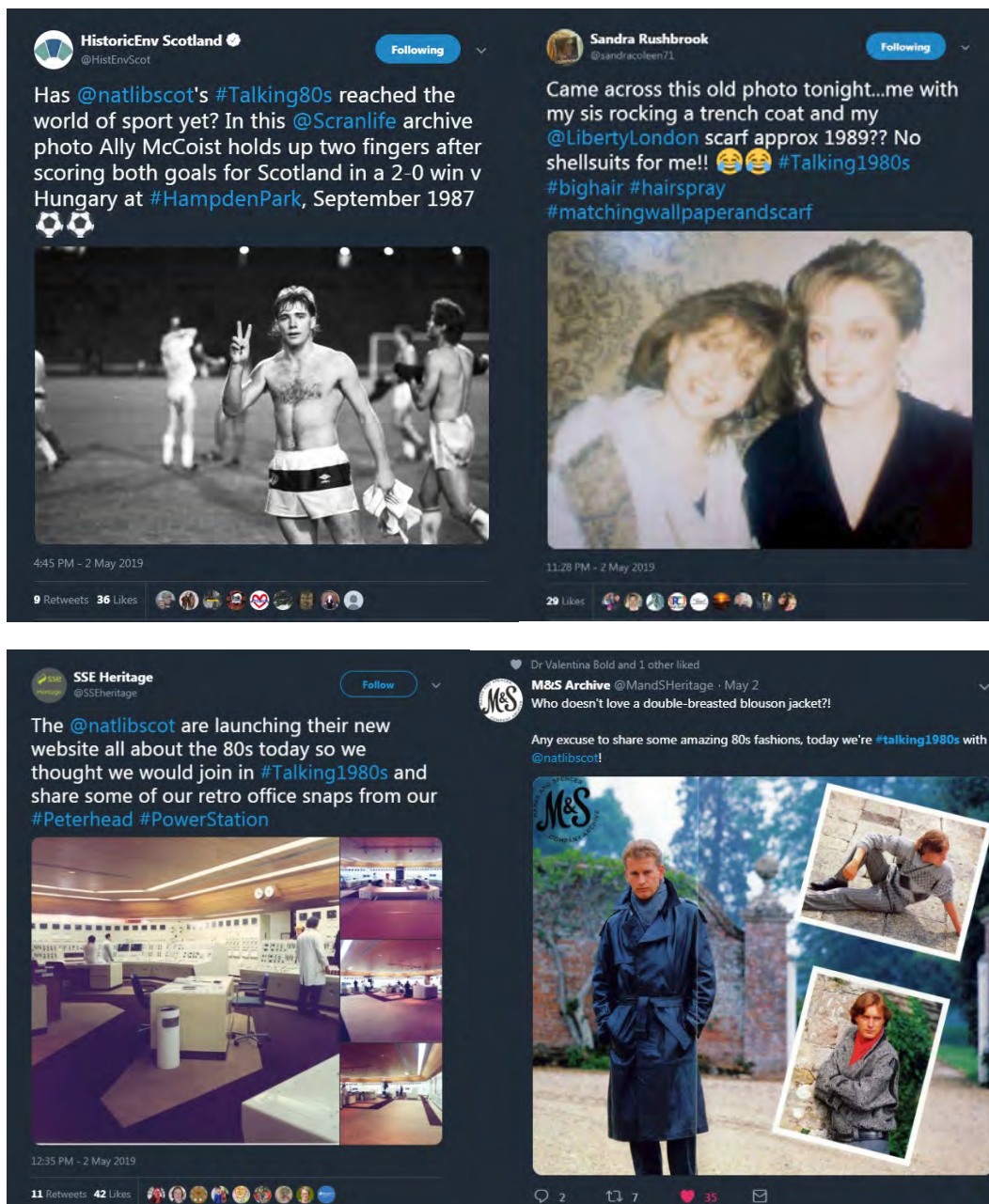
The Library's *Back to the Future 1979-1989* retrospective on the 1980s concluded at the end of December with a range of events and features. A final tranche of essays and digitised film archive footage went live on 7 November with two display cases at the top of the stairs in George IV Bridge on the topic of the Berlin Wall to coincide with the 30th anniversary of its fall. By the end of the retrospective the Library had published 63 long reads on a wide range of topics and themes (from Gartcosh, revolution in Europe, The Troubles, and Grenada, to denim, computer technology, and accelerative change), and 39 films (including a hen party in Glasgow, an anti-nuclear demonstration outside of Torness, and a visit by Princess Diana to a marmalade factory).

A season of public events in December began with an In Conversation event with Scottish author Damian Barr, on the subject of his memoir *Maggie and Me*. It was followed by a talk on Alvin Toffler's book *The Third Wave* by Graeme Hawley, and a re-showing of the Library's 80s Fringe film in the Boardroom. Kate Adie (guest writer of the essay on Tiananmen Square) gave the inaugural annual lecture to the Library's supporters, on 22 November.

As well as an opportunity to look back at the 1980s as a decade of transformational change, the retrospective also pushed the Library into new territory by delivering an 'exhibition' mainly online, and mainly without being able to digitise the 2.9million publications at the heart of the topic. Editorial content and opinion pieces by living witnesses to the decade became the main driver, and as such the retrospective felt like a departure from the norm. A small selection of modern publications, *Britain: an official handbook*, were digitised and made available on our website under the Open Government Licence to support research.



The retrospective travelled especially well on social media under the Library's #Talking1980s, with a social media reach well in excess of 20 million. It pitched the Library as a place to study the recent past and share memories, delivering in the process a week of family friendly events at Kelvin Hall, a seminar on computer games, a broad range of positive media coverage, and the engagement of new advocates for the Library's mission.



By engaging partner organisations with a topic like the 1980s, to which they could contribute, we were able to augment both the topic and the conversation around it. More importantly, we were able to break through the usual limit of single-organisation reach and engagement and achieve high visibility to influencers and news organisations, further increasing the visibility and momentum of the topic. The Library's 1980s retrospective overshot its social media target by 2,000%, continuing throughout December under #AdventOf80s.

Literary modernism workshops

On 7 February the Library welcomed the 'My Bookcase' project for workshops on early 20th century Literary Modernism. We looked at first editions of key modernist texts from the collections including works by Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot. The workshop, hosted by Ian Scott (Curator, General Collections) looked at how key modernist works were edited and published and the influence they had on literature and publishing.

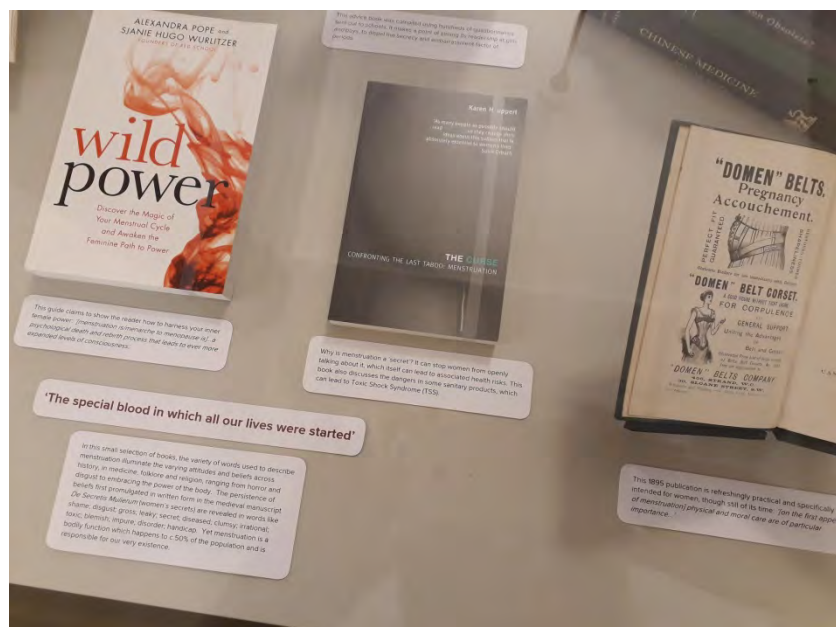
For more information on the My Bookcase project, visit here: <http://www.mybookcase.org/>

Period poverty

Following [MSP Monica Lennon's period poverty bill](#) and the Scottish Government's [Let's Call Periods, Periods](#) campaign, the Library has recently committed to supplying free sanitary products in its buildings. Non Jones and Mike Saunders of the Staff Engagement Group were instrumental in supporting the Library's participation in this scheme.

General Collections curators Dora Petherbridge and Jan Usher have been working with Professor Bettina Bildhauer and Dr. Camilla Mørk Røstvik of St. Andrews University, who have recently won a RSE Arts & Humanities Research Grant to research the factors behind how period poverty become a policy initiative in Scotland. They will give a talk at the Library on 6 May, *21st Century periods*. Dora and Jan put together a display 'The special blood in which all our lives were started' in George IV Bridge front hall.

Prof. Bildhauer is a founding member of the Scotland-based [Menstruation Research Network](#), a Wellcome-Trust-funded UK-wide group facilitating menstrual research.



Learning and Outreach

Digital Gallery rollout in Barlinnie

Fiona Laing, Official Publications curator in General Collections, and Graeme Hawley, Head of General Collections, visited teaching staff of the Scottish Prison Service at HM Prison Barlinnie on 27 November. The visit was the culmination of several months of work to make our resources on our digital gallery available offline within Scottish prisons. The project began after a conversation between Fiona and Jim King, Head of Learning at SPS at the CILIPS (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) 2018 conference. Working with Tony Stuart in Digital Department, and Fife College, the Library has been able to make the vast majority of its digitised collections available in Barlinnie and Shotts. A full rollout and official launch in all of Scotland's prisons will take place later in the spring.

The impact on teaching staff was immediately clear when Fiona and Graeme visited to demonstrate and introduce the resources, with palpable delight at what the arrival of so much quality content, themed by topic, would mean for staff and their learner communities. The availability of the same content to the population inside prison and their families outside was also seen as a real benefit. The relationship with SPS will continue to develop over the coming year.

What's Your Story induction weekend

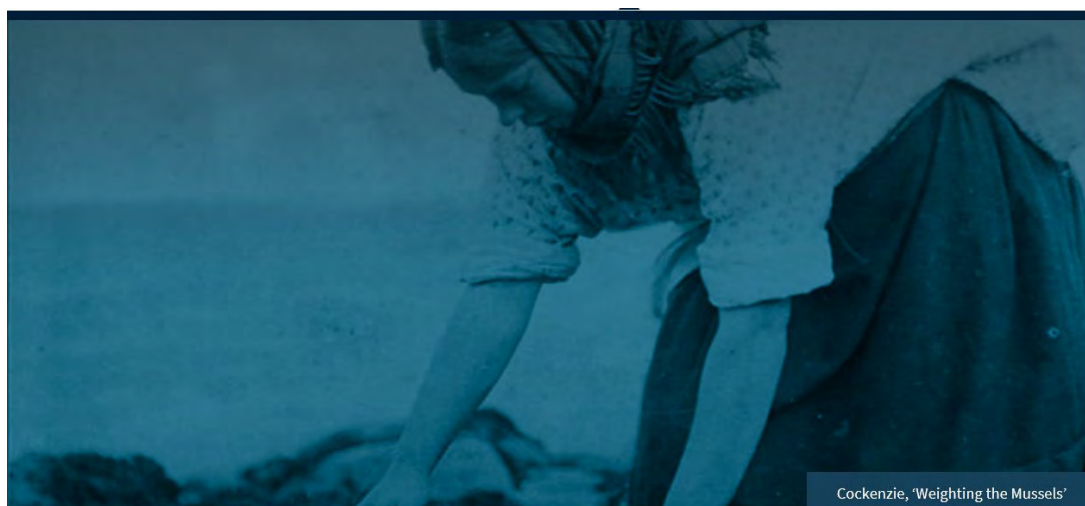
The Library once again hosted the induction weekend for the Scottish Book Trust's '*What's Your Story*' programme on 17 – 18 January. Seven young writers and illustrators aged between 14 and 17 from around Scotland aged will spend the next year with a mentor. In addition to a week at the writing retreat at Moniack Mohr, and a key role in the development of the programme for the StoryCon conference in Glasgow, the programme of activities now includes a Friday and Saturday induction weekend at the Library. Graeme Hawley, Ian Scott, and Dora Petherbridge from General Collections introduced them to the rich and varied world of contemporary publishing, and profiled ways that they could put the Library's collections to creative use.



From Shore to Shore: Images of Scotland's Coastal Communities from the MacKinnon Collection

<https://digital.nls.uk/learning/from-shore-to-shore/index.html>

To mark the 2020 Year of Coasts and Waters, the learning team has created an online resource to celebrate Scotland's coastal communities with a sample from the MacKinnon photograph collection which spans from the 1840s to the mid-20th century. Each photograph has been pinned to a historical geo-referenced map overlaid with modern maps and satellite imagery. The resource also includes a 'living memory' section with contributions from retired fisherman based in Moray and East Lothian, a selection of archive films and downloadable learning activities in English, Gaelic and Scots mapped to the Curriculum for Excellence.



More events mean more visitors to the National Library at Kelvin Hall



The Access and Events Team at Kelvin Hall ended 2019 with their most successful events period to date. The 23 public events delivered by the team during October- December, in addition to those run by Learning and Outreach and Curatorial colleagues, set a new standard of success. The team welcomed 310 people to these events, quadrupling audience figures of 77 from the same period in 2018. Such figures are hugely encouraging and demonstrate what can be achieved at Kelvin Hall.

Film series Cinesthesia continues to grow in popularity with themes including winter sports, mental health, Gaelic film, knitting and zoo babies. The deliberate diversity encourages a wide audience, including families. The drop-in screening of Zoo Babies on 7 December drew an audience of 35, the busiest Cinesthesia screening yet. Attendees also had the chance to make their own balloon animal to take home as a souvenir, with staff on hand to help.

This season also allowed staff to trial a new format to the programme by having drop in screenings, with the chosen films playing hourly on a loop. Feedback on this format has been positive and it is something that will continue to develop over the coming year. Future screenings will see the Team working with external parties, such as Fairfield Govan volunteers, research student placements, and Kelvin Hall partners Glasgow Life, to develop an even more ambitious series of film shows which are all promoted through Facebook, Eventbrite, <https://kelvinhall.org.uk/whats-on/> and <https://www.nls.uk/events/kelvin-hall>

'Film Detectives' workshops for schools

St Louise @stlouiseprimary · Jan 29

P7 had an amazing opportunity at @nlskelvinhall to learn about how moving images of Scottish life are preserved and celebrated. We learned about the curators' work and how images were captured! We want to revisit with our families to delve into the archive! Thanks @intofilm_scot



Following a successful pilot in 2019, the decision has been taken to continue the schools workshop 'Film Detectives' at Kelvin Hall, in partnership with *Into Film Scotland*. Film Detectives is a workshop for children in primary 5-7 and in senior 1 - 2 that introduces them to the processes of film archiving. During the hands-on workshop, pupils gain insight into where the films come from, how they are stored and repaired, and the importance of digital preservation and restoration for enabling access to our film heritage. *Into Film* arrange bookings with their school Film Clubs and pay for transport to the venue in Glasgow.

Library Social on 1970

On the 17 January General Collections co-hosted a Library social for people affected by dementia with Learning and Outreach colleagues. The focus of the morning was on news stories of 1970. We looked back at the break-up of the Beatles, the opening of the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, and Dana winning the Eurovision Song Contest, all through the pages of the 'Daily Record' alongside relevant vintage items from the collections.

(Image: Public domain, Wikimedia Commons)

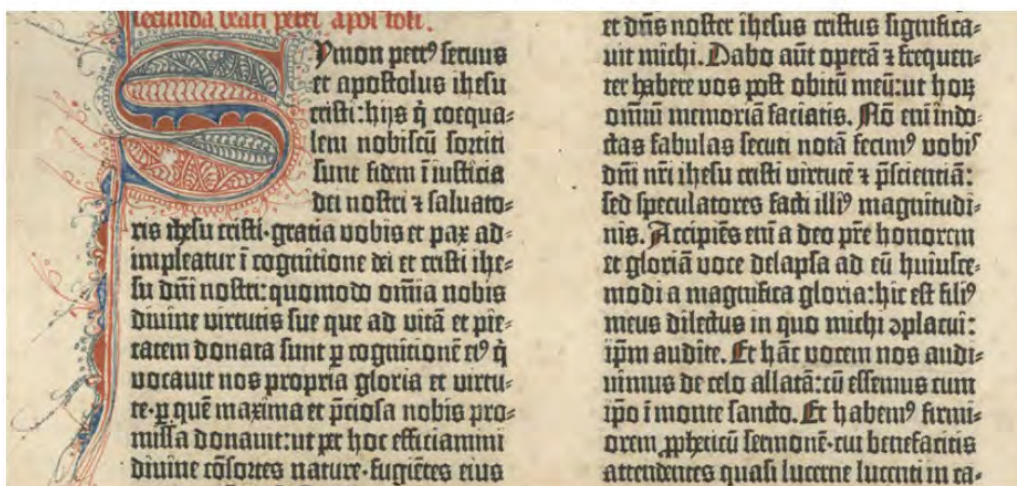


Successful Conclusion of the Europeana Rise of Literacy Project

The twelve European libraries that were involved in the Europeana Rise of Literacy Project (2017 – 2019) have now received their final instalments of the European Commission grant. The project created the first text-based collection on Europeana (<https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en>). It explores the spread of reading and writing in the nations represented through curated content and digitised images. The participating libraries, which are spread from Latvia to Italy and from Wales to Serbia, contributed fully-digitised items such as broadsides and catchpenny prints, illuminated manuscripts, newspapers, letters and embossed books, as well as printed books in more than a dozen languages. The Library showcased material in English, Scots and Gaelic. Rare Books curator Dr Anette Hagan, as lead curator, coordinated and proof-read two online exhibitions ([the first at https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/exhibitions/rise-of-literacy-in-europe](https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/exhibitions/rise-of-literacy-in-europe)) and more than 60 blogs (example at <https://blog.europeana.eu/2018/10/europes-first-printed-book/>) produced by the partner libraries. In total, the National Library added 625,000 images to Europeana! Around 2,200 broadsides and some 100 printed books were digitised for the project. Along with already scanned Gaelic and medieval manuscripts that formed part of the project, they are now on our Digital Gallery with enhanced metadata.

Europe's First Printed Book

October 30, 2018 Bible books early printed books Gutenberg Rise of Literacy



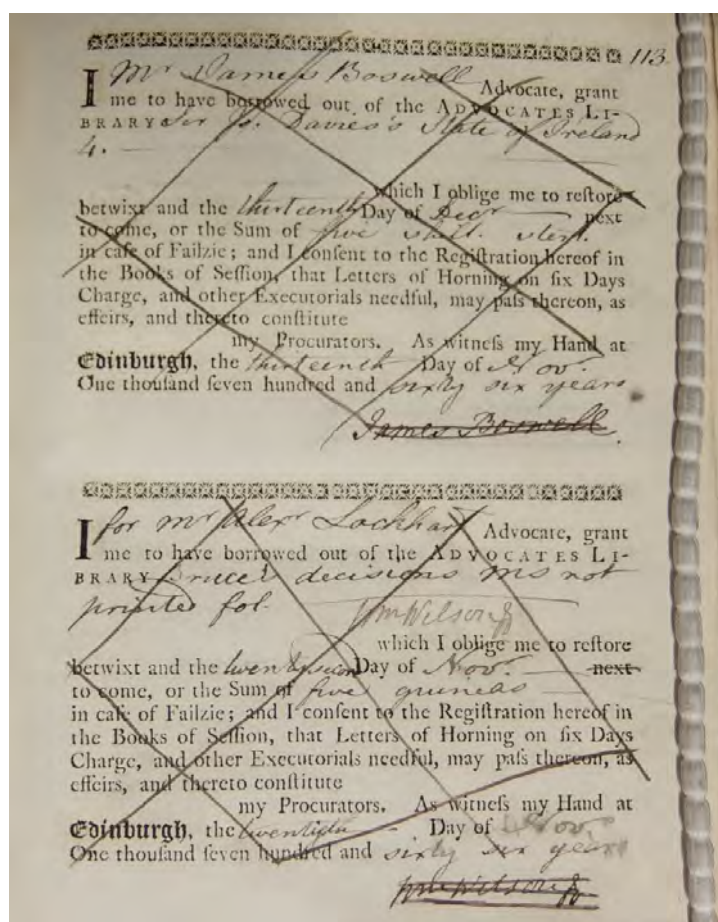
How do we know what Europe's first printed book was? Until the 18th century this question was open to speculation. 15th-century printed books usually have no title page and do not always give the printer's name.

<https://blog.europeana.eu/2018/10/europes-first-printed-book/>

AHRC funded project Books and Borrowing 1750-1830

The Library will be taking part in the AHRC funded project 'Books and Borrowing 1750-1830: An Analysis of Scottish Borrowers' Records'. The project will bring together data from 13 Scottish libraries' historic borrowers' registers in order to construct a new qualitative and quantitative account of the histories of reading, culture and knowledge construction in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The project aims to create and make freely available the largest open-access database of material in the history of reading yet undertaken, consisting of at least 150,000 records of borrowing in Scotland from the period.

The National Library will provide access to the Advocates Library's deposited Receipt Books: the record of books borrowed by advocates from their library. The borrowing of some of the leading figures of the age is included: from Enlightenment philosophers such as Lord Kaimes and Lord Monboddo, political figures such as Henry and Robert Dundas, to the radical Thomas Muir, and literary figures from James Boswell to Walter Scott. The majority of these books are now part of the Library's collections and the project will open up new areas of research into these collections. As well as the collection itself, the Library also holds the borrowers' registers of the Gray Library in Haddington, 1732 – 1816, and recording over 5000 borrowings. Robert Betteridge, Rare Books Curator, Eighteenth-Century Collections, will be part of the project's Advisory Board.



Centre for the History of the Book student placement

The Archives & Manuscript Collections Division is currently hosting a student placement from the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the History of the Book. A 70 hour volunteer placement is undertaken by students as part of their MSc in Book History and Material Culture to give them an opportunity to get hands-on experience of working in a heritage institution.

This year our student volunteer, Holly Boud, is creating a box list of a small collection of papers related to the publishers W & R Chambers (Acc.13178). These complement the Library's larger collection of Chambers papers (Dep.341). Peebles-born brothers William and Robert Chambers moved to Edinburgh and began publishing in the early 19th century. Today the firm is perhaps best remembered for reference works such as *Chambers Encyclopaedia*, but their papers represent the full scope of their publishing activity, the importance of the brothers in scientific and political circles, and give insights into the lives of the Chambers family over several generations.



Placement student in Special Collections Reading Room

The Special Collections Assistants team are currently hosting a student from Strathclyde University, Tara Copic. She is currently studying for her MSc in Information and Library Studies and also works part-time at East Renfrewshire Libraries as a library assistant. Her placement in the Library is for 11 weeks and her main task is to re-classify and update the shelfmarks of the manuscript reference stock in the Special Collections Reading Room (SCRR), both on the physical items and in Alma. Tara will also have the opportunity to spend some time shadowing staff on the desks in the SCRR as well as visiting Reference Services and the Map Library.

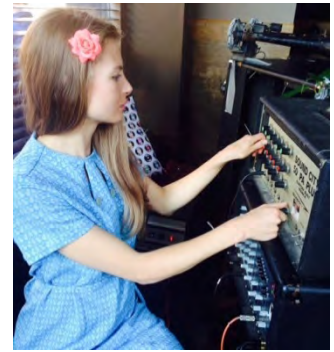


Alexander Graham Fragile Formats Trainee

Nicola Reade (Sound Trainee)

Nicola Reade has completed the practical aspect of her traineeship, digitising around 600 shellac discs from the Dean-Myatt collection.

For the final few weeks she is working on a project to geo-locate lost sounds. Nicola is working on creating a digital map of these lost sounds and linking to their stories and the audio recordings. Currently her map identifies such sounds as the location of historic colonies where puffins can no longer be seen, Megginch Castle where *Great Scott Records* had their base, and the first radio station in Scotland in Glasgow.

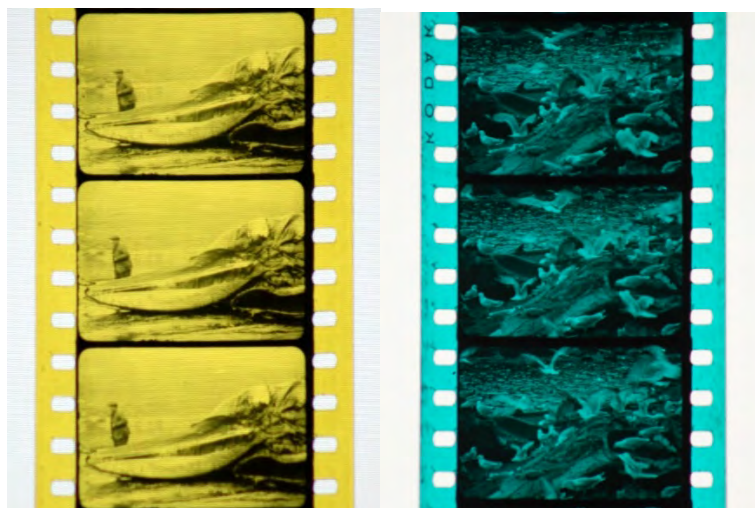


Nicola would welcome any suggested lost sounds for inclusion and details can be emailed to n.reade@nls.uk

Jarvis Gray (Moving Image Trainee)

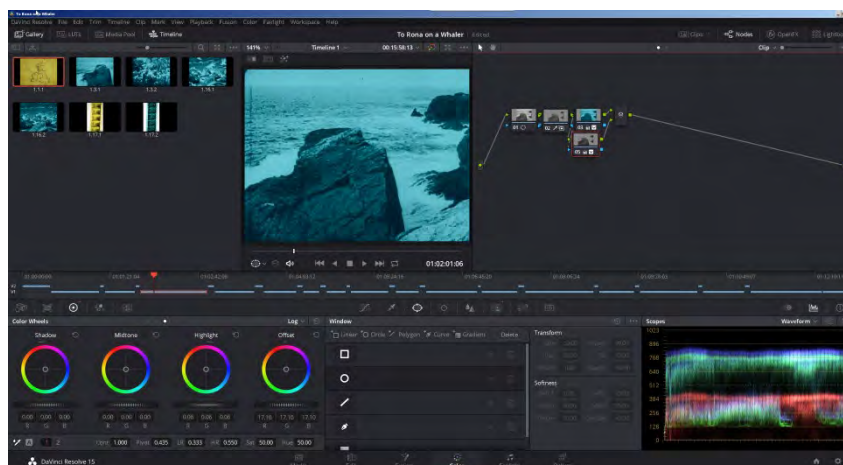
As part of Jarvis Gray's time as a Moving Image Trainee he explored how to recreate digitally the tints present in a film previously digitised in standard definition black and white.

Tinted films were dyed entirely. The prints were immersed in water-based acid dyes and then dried. The tinting technique was used to colour the entire frame. When projected on the screen the black areas remain black and any white areas are the colour alone. Although it is technically possible to recreate the colours of these tints with the original chemical process, it is an expensive and dangerous process and therefore not a viable option for any moving image archive. The experimental work centred on the early 20th century film 'To Rona on a Whaler' with the aim of developing a process which could be replicated to other films with a tint present.



These are the images taken of the original film print as reference for the digital recreation of the colours. These were taken into Photoshop and multiple RGB readings were taken at various points across the frame. For the true colour, the space at the edge of the frame was used. The

black and white digitised copy of the film was cut into its individual coloured scenes using Divinci Resolve software and each scene was then coloured to achieve the desired effect.



Jarvis reported that '*When grading an image, it is a balancing act between achieving the tint look and keeping the black level as true black. The first step was to crush the Blacks and lock them so no other colour could affect them. Then using the highlight wheel to add the colour so that areas that were white were now the full colour used. Once I was happy with the highlights I moved onto the mid-tones, toning the colour a little bit at a time. When viewing the print there was detail in the grey tones and I did not want to overpower that with the colour. I believe the result is perfect for our viewing copies.*'

New Fulbright Scholar

Dr Dana Van Kooy, the Library's Fulbright Scholar, arrived in January. She is Associate Professor of Transnational Literature, Literary Theory and Culture in the Humanities' Department at Michigan Technological University, where she has been Director of the English program, and has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in literature, drama, literary theory, and gender studies

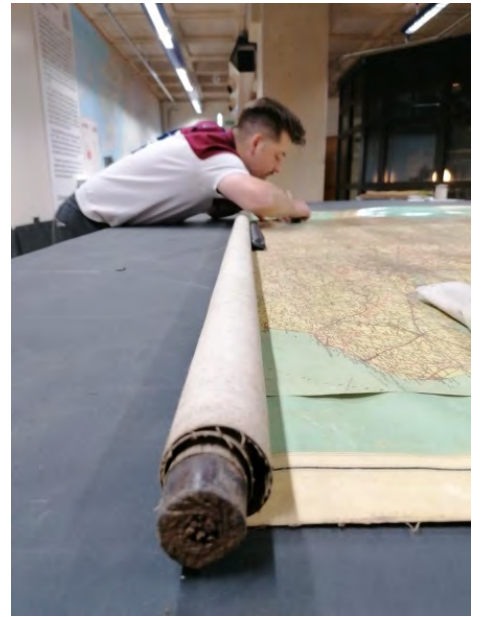
While in residence at the Library, Dana is working with modern and special collections. Her book-length project, *Atlantic Configurations and the Aesthetics of Disappearance* traces the cultural construction of three configurations that have been used in literary texts and dramatic performances to 'map' the Atlantic World throughout the long eighteenth century. Associated with modernity and modern sensibilities, these configurations have shaped and continue to influence modern conceptions of land, race, gender, and what it means to be free. Following writers as they travel from Scotland and Ireland to North American and the West Indies, Dana focuses on how literature and performance re-enacted the Atlantic's revolutionary histories to materialize a distinctive geography as well as the felt conditions of freedom and its loss.



Icon Preventive Conservation Intern - update

Joe Jackson, our Icon Preventive Conservation Intern, has been busy during the second quarter of his internship at the Library. He has been auditing our emergency response equipment and making sustainable recommendations for replacing and developing parts of this kit. He has been placing pest traps and using the data gathered to solve environmental issues on the stacks floors, and he will supervise a Preventive Conservation placement student who will join the Library in the Spring.

Joe has also been busy helping colleagues to condition assess and re-house large format roller maps and he will continue his work to refine a methodology for re-housing the Library's collection of thermoplastic relief maps.



Gaelic Arts Access Project Officer / Oifigear Inntigidh Ealainean Gàidhlig

Tha sinn toilichte fàilte a chur air Angela NicDhòmhnaill (Angela NicEachainn), a bhios air cùmhnannt goirid, mar Oifigear Inntigidh Ealainean Gàidhlig. Fhuair an obair seo maoineachadh fialaidh bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus taic cuideachd, bhon Chomunn Ghàidhealach. Buinnidh Angela do Bheinn na Fadhlaidh agus tha ceum aice ann an Eachdraidh agus Ceiltis. Tha i air a bhith ag obair iomadh bliadhna, an dà chuid, ann an craobh-sgaoileadh agus ann am foghlam. Bi Angela ag obair air lorg fhaighinn air feadhainn - mar ùghdaran is sgrìobhaichean-ciùil - aig a bheil còirichean leth-bhreacachaidh an-dràsta, air ceòl is stugh litreachais, a tha An Comunn Gàidhealach air fhoillseachadh, thairis air na bliadhnachan. Mar bhuidheann, tha An Comunn Gàidhealach a' brosnachadh na Gàidhlig agus dualchas nan Gàidheal agus 's iad cuideachd a tha a' cur a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail air adhart gach bliadhna. Tha an stugh ris am bithear a' coimhead mar-thà anns an Leabharlann againn ach, le bhith a' faighinn cead air còirichean bhon fheadhainn aig a bheil iad, faodar an uairsin an dileab bheartach seo a dhidseatachadh agus sin a chur air an làraich-lìn againn. Gu dearbha, bhiodh sin gu mathas gach neach aig am biodh ùidh agus, bhiodh e cuideachd a' ciallachadh nach fheumte tighinn a-staigh dhan Leabharlann, airson sealltainn ris na bhiodh ann.

A bharrachd air a bhith ann an conaltradh ris an fheadhainn aig a bheil na còirichean, bidh Angela cuideachd a' sireadh agus a' clàradh fheadhainn aig a bheil sgeulachdan ri innse, ceangailte ris a' Mhòd 's ris an stugh air a bheilear ag obair. An ceann ùine, bidh na h-gallamhan a nì i air an cur air a' Ghailearaidh Dhidseatach.

Tha stugh bhon Chomunn, a chaidh fhoillseachadh bho chionn ùine, air a bhith air a dhidseatachadh mar-thà 's tha e air an làraich-lìn againn aig <https://digital.nls.uk/an-comunn-gaidhealach/archive/125660248>

We are pleased to welcome Angela MacDonald (Angela MacEachen) as our Gaelic Arts Access Project Officer, a fixed-term post which is generously funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig and supported by An Comunn Gàidhealach. Originally from Benbecula, Angela has a degree in History and Celtic Studies and is a qualified teacher, with a background in broadcasting as well as teaching.

Angela will work on tracing rights owners, such as authors and composers, for Gaelic literature and music published by An Comunn Gàidhealach, the organisation which promotes Gaelic language and culture and organises the annual Royal National Mòd. This material is already held in our collections, but obtaining permission from rights owners means we can digitise this body of rich Gaelic material and add it to our website for all to use - and without needing to visit our Library.

While contacting potential rights owners, Angela will also be identifying those with stories to tell, and will arrange interviews to record them, which we plan to add to the Digital Gallery to complement the collections content in due course.

Older An Comunn publications have already been digitised and are available on our website at



Two Library collaborative PhD students on placement

Both Charlotte Lauder and Alice Doyle are working on projects funded by the [Arts and Humanities Research Council](#) through the [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership](#) scheme, which allows universities and heritage organisations work together to co-supervise a PhD. As part of this, students have the opportunity to undertake a placement at their heritage institution to gain relevant experience and acquire new skills within a research-led, professional environment.

Alice Doyle (University of Stirling and National Library of Scotland)

PhD title: 'Archive and Narrative in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum'.

Supervisors: Dr Heidi Egginton and Eilidh MacGlone (National Library of Scotland), Dr Scott Hames (Stirling) and Dr Peter Lynch (Stirling)

Alice Doyle is working on a collaborative PhD project with National Library of Scotland and the University of Stirling called 'Archive and Narrative in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum'. Alice is currently a month into her second placement with the Library, having previously spent twelve weeks in Spring 2018 becoming acquainted with the ins-and-outs of the [UK Web Archive](#). That placement explored how web-based material is selected, collected and preserved for the archive. Alice has now switched her focus to thinking about access.

As well as cataloguing contemporary manuscript material into the Library's ArchivesSpace management system, Alice has also been working on a survey of the Library's referendum-related material and thinking about the challenges – practical and ideological - that such a varied collection poses. As well as archival and web-based material, the collection boasts promotional ephemera such as badges, car stickers, and lanyards; printed material ranging from home-made pamphlets to official publications; moving image and sound recordings; and a range of specially-made artworks – including a large wooden tree structure. Working with colleagues across the Library, Alice is hoping to develop a 'one-stop' subject guide that will guide researchers to the full range of material available for use, as well as providing crucial contextual information on how and why the collection was compiled.



Charlotte Lauder (University of Strathclyde and National Library of Scotland)

PhD title: 'Press, print and nation: recovering popular Scottish magazine culture and national identity, 1870 to 1920'.

Supervisors: Dr Graham Hogg (National Library of Scotland), Prof Kirstie Blair (Strathclyde), Dr David Goldie (Strathclyde)



Charlotte Lauder's research focuses on national identity in popular magazines produced in Scotland between 1870 and 1920 which have been neglected by the scholarship because they have been considered ephemeral, transient and part of popular culture. Charlotte's PhD recovers such titles and their histories, and analyses them within the contexts of modern Scottish literature and national identity. Charlotte's primary case study is the *People's Friend*, by far the most popular and widely read magazine in Scotland between 1870 and 1920, and still in publication today. To mark the *Friend's* 150th anniversary in 2019, Charlotte presented her research on the history of the *Friend* at several public engagements events across Scotland – including the Library – and was interviewed by BBC News, STV News and BBC Radio Scotland.

During Charlotte's 6-month placement in Rare Books at the Library, she is working on a project that assesses our collection of Scottish periodicals, magazines and serials from 1800 to 1950. The project will identify the areas of strengths in the collections, any gaps, and make recommendations for the digitisation of its periodicals, magazines and serials to meet its aim for one third of collections in digital form by 2025. The project's output will be:

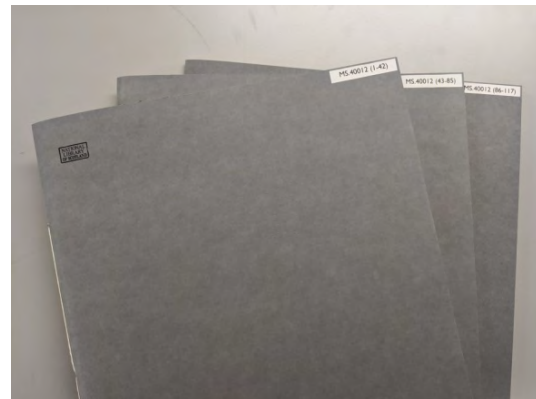
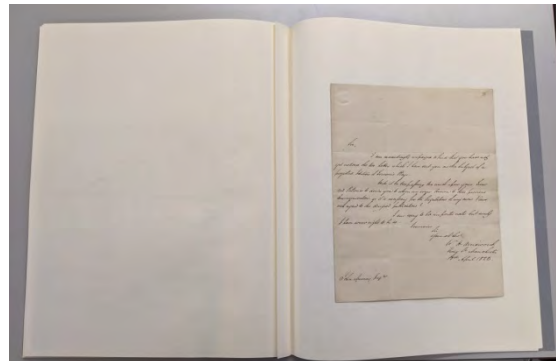
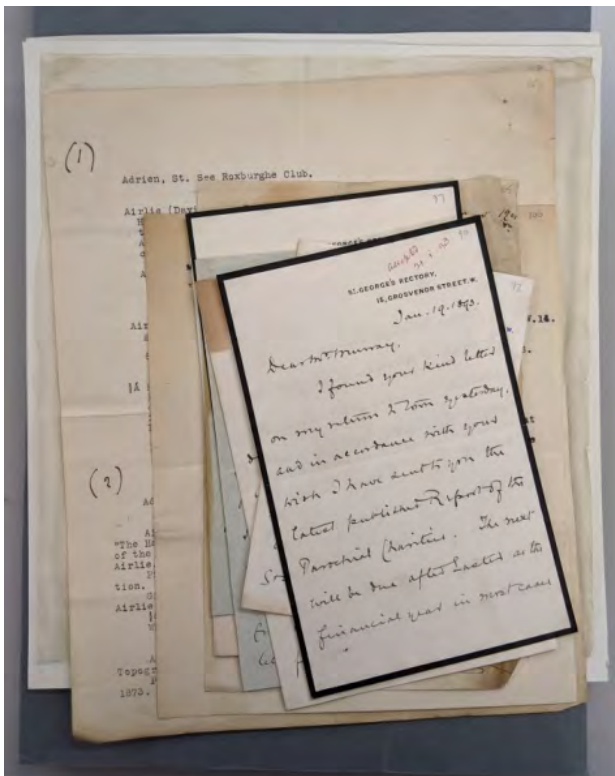
1. Written report assessing the Library's collection of periodicals, magazines and serials
2. Subject guide ('Periodicals, Magazines and Serials') for the website
3. Interactive map visualising the geographical spread of the collection of periodicals, magazines and serials based on place of publication in Scotland, and the subject areas of the collection of periodicals, magazines and serials (e.g. law, religion, education, health).

Collections Care Highlights for Librarian's Report, February 2020

JMA Project Conservator

Claire Hutchison has started in the post of Project Conservator and has been working on the John Murray Archive. Prior to this posting Claire worked at the Library as an intern responsible for conservation work on the newspaper collection. The Project Conservator has been given the task of conserving some of the 200 years' worth of correspondence from the archive.

Following previous work carried out in 2015-2017, Claire will conserve manuscripts before placing them into fascicles. These are archival quality booklets made by the Library's preservation services team to accommodate single sheets. This will allow manuscripts to be read and ensure their protection during handling.



Loans Update: Burning Bright: The Scottish Colourists: The Lightbox: September 2019 – 12 January 2020

Library collection items including photographs, newspaper cuttings and manuscript letters alongside two of S.J. Peploe's sketchbooks held here on deposit were loaned to The Lightbox Gallery in Surrey for their Scottish Colourists exhibition.



Treasures condition assessing – short and long-list: December 2019 – February 2020

The Conservation team have been working to condition-assess all items identified for the new Treasures exhibition; both those for the first iteration to be displayed from July, and those on the long-list identified for display during the 5-year run of the exhibition. This has been a team effort to survey over 160 items in order to inform the rotation schedule for the exhibition. Gordon Yeoman, Exhibitions Conservator, has trained members of the team in undertaking exhibition condition assessments and highlighting the key measurements required for stand-making. This has been the focus for the team over several months. This collective approach has meant that training has been successfully combined with delivering a key piece of work.

Book cradle making session – January 2020

As part of a series of training sessions with the rest of the Conservation team, Gordon Yeoman delivered a book cradle making session at Sighthill. After Gordon's retirement at the end of March, the way that the Collections Care team will deliver exhibition support will change. All Conservators will have a role to play in delivering the conservation aspects of the Library's exhibition programme. As part of this knowledge exchange, Gordon demonstrated how the different machines at Sighthill can be used to make cradles. This has allowed the team to see the process and to understand the importance of, and the challenges involved in, measuring items for display.

Development visits to the conservation studio throughout February

As part of the publicity for the Library's Annual Appeal, raising money for photographic conservation, the Development team has been involved in raising the profile of the work which is done in the Collections Care Division. As a result of this we have welcomed a number of special guests to the studio throughout February.

Claire Thomson, our photographic conservation expert, has hosted three separate visits and has described what is involved in caring for our photographic collections by highlighting some of the items that she has worked on over the years. The first visit was for nine Annual Appeal Patrons; the second was for two members of staff from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (supporting the MacKinnon project) and the third was a private tour for world-renowned photographer, and Chancellor of Napier University, David Eustace.



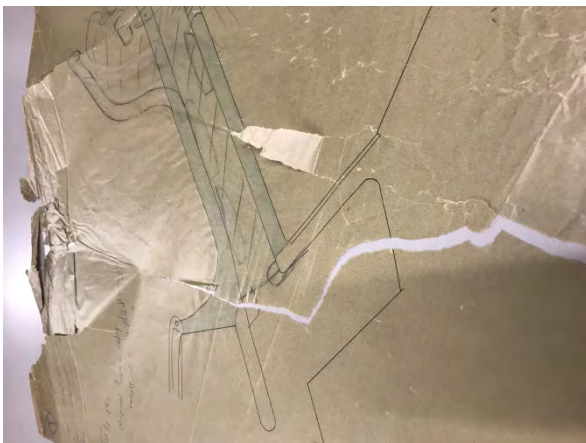
Digitisation Support

In addition to ongoing 'mass digitisation' support, Mary Garner has assisted with 12 'boutique' digitisation projects; curator-led projects to digitise discrete collections as part of the wider digitisation programme. These have included Fringe Programmes, Official Publications, Library posters, rare books and manuscripts. Particular recent highlights were fourteen manuscript volumes of Lady Anne Halkett's '*Meditations*', 1651 in original bindings. Two items required stabilisation treatment prior to proposed digitisation. MS.6495 required a partial resew. The first 13 sections (ff.1 -289) were resewn with linen thread through the existing sewing holes. Replacement cord was used to support and reinforce broken cords.



Scottish Manuscript Maps

Work is underway to treat single sheet Scottish maps and plans for digitisation on the anticipated hire of A0 equipment. The project space on level 4 in Causewayside is being put to use to treat condition-assessed material from the maps strong room. Manuscript maps and plans from the Stevenson collection are the priority, and so far over 70 items have been prepared for digitisation, with an ongoing programme to treat many more in the coming months.



New Collaboration: Watercolour World



Over 450 images from the Library's digitised art-related Rare Book and Manuscript collections were uploaded in January from the Digital Gallery (digital.nls.uk/gallery/) to the website of Watercolour World. Established in 2019, this UK charity is working with public and private libraries to create a free online database of documentary watercolours painted before 1900. The Library's digitised watercolours have now been geographically indexed on a global map and tagged by subject by the charity, allowing visitors to the Watercolour World website to search across collections by location or theme and compare watercolours of people, places, the natural world, and historic events from multiple collections. The first set of manuscript images we uploaded to the website, under a Creative Commons license, include digitised versions of artworks from the Hutton Collection of antiquarian drawings of churches and other ecclesiastical buildings in Scotland; and the 'Edinburgh Characters': a set of 150 hand-coloured caricatures of Edinburgh personalities made by a local artist between 1799 and 1805.

A scoping project has been carried out to identify non-digitised watercolours across the Manuscript collections, and more images will be included in the Watercolour World map as they are digitised on-site by the Digital team over the next few years. We hope that this new 'window' into the Digital Gallery will open up this part of the collection to new audiences, including contemporary watercolourists around the world, and inspire creative re-use of our digitised collections.

The Library's watercolours can now also be viewed on the Watercolour World website here: <https://www.watercolourworld.org/collection/national-library-scotland>

Scions of Scientific dynasty visit the Library

In January Dr Heidi Egginton & Kenneth Dunn welcomed to the Library three members of the Thomson/Adam Smith family to see some highlights from their archives, which were donated in 2017-18 by Ben Thomson. We have long-established links with various branches of this illustrious family, this donation being the latest in significant tranches of gifts to the national collection.

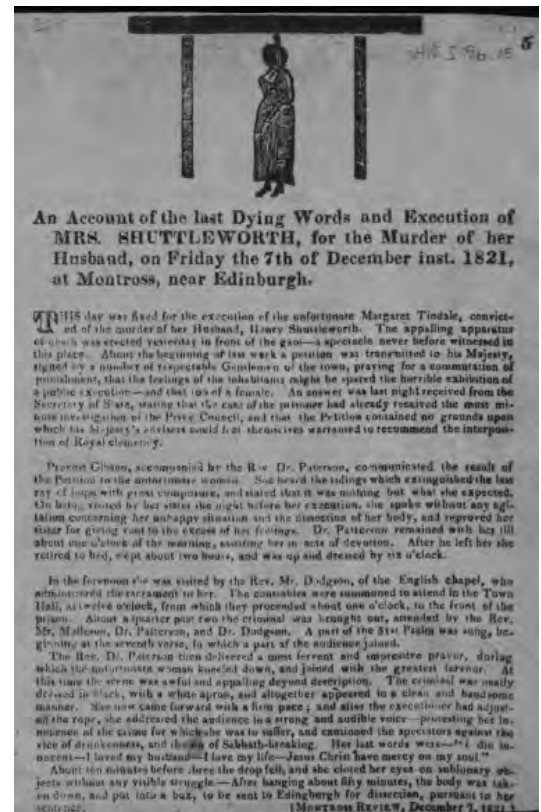


The recently-acquired collection comprises the private papers of Sir J. J. Thomson (1856-1940), the Nobel prize-winning physicist credited with discovering the electron; his wife Rose, Lady Paget Thomson (1860-1951), also a scientist; their son Sir George Paget Thomson (1892-1975), another Nobel laureate who became an early specialist in nuclear fission; his wife Kathleen Buchanan-Smith (1900-1941), a writer and philanthropist; and their four children. This gift complements the archives of several other Scottish members of this extraordinary family, including those of the Victorian theologian George Adam Smith; the pioneering woman BBC editor, mountaineer, and literary journalist Janet Adam Smith; and the diplomat Sir John Adam Smith.

These recently-presented papers, which cover the period 1880s-1970s, have greatly enriched the Archives and Manuscript holdings relating to modern science and the history of ideas, illuminating almost a century of scientific progress and intellectual family life in Aberdeen, Cambridge, and London. We were pleased to invite Mrs Rose Bell (daughter of the above Sir George Paget Thomson), and her daughter and niece to the Library. This visit not only gave us the opportunity to discuss our work-in-progress on the archive's inventory, but also to hear some of their own memories of their remarkable relatives.

Napier workshop and event

Dr Graham Hogg (curator 19th-Century Printed Collections and Photographs) from Rare Books, Maps & Music Collections recently delivered a workshop for final year undergraduates at the School of Arts & Creative Industries, Edinburgh Napier University. The workshop looked at the Library's extensive collections of broadsides, newspapers and ephemera relating to capital punishment in Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries. On 28 January Professor Anne Schwan and Dr Katrina Morrison from Edinburgh Napier University, and Simon McFadden, an MRes student based there, gave a series of short talks on execution broadsides, with particular reference to the Library's collections, as part of the Library's public events programme.



1820s event

'The 1820s: Innovation and Diffusion' is a Royal Society of Edinburgh funded project (2018-20) led by Dr Matthew Sangster (Glasgow, English Literature) and Professor Jon Mee (York). Dr Graham Hogg (Rare Books), Dr Ralph McLean and Kirsty McHugh (Archives & Manuscripts) are the Library participants. Following a successful conference on the 1820s held in Glasgow last year, the Library hosted a public event on 30 January to showcase some of its collection items from that decade, with a series of short talks given by five of the speakers who presented at the conference, including an amazing magic lantern show.



Digital Map Projects

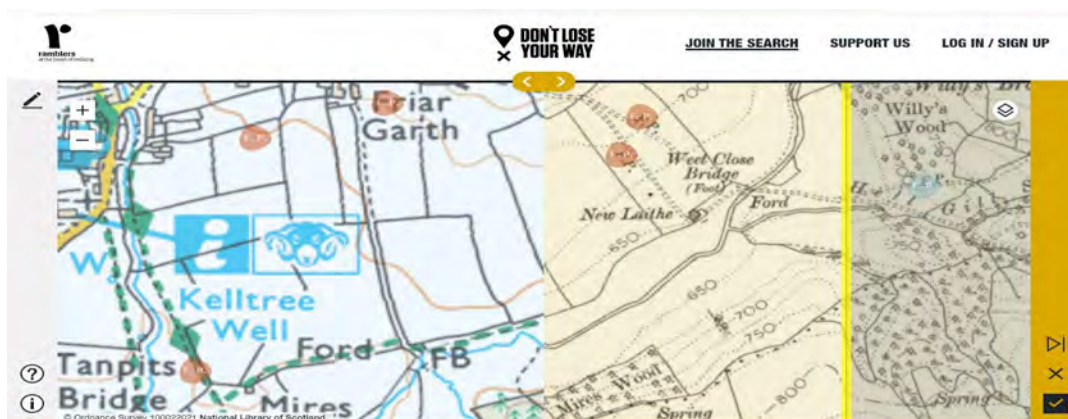
New academic research projects on water resources in Southern India

The Library has recently been successful in being awarded funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for two collaborative research projects with the University of Lancaster. Both of these will integrate maps with other spatial data to examine water resources in Tamil Nadu. One of these projects is a one-year AHRC Urgency Grant, which will fund a post-doctoral research project looking at water scarcity in the Coimbatore environs. The research will employ GIS-based strategies and digital humanities methods to assemble data related to regimes and economies of water bodies over a 200-year period. The other project is a 4-year, MA+PhD research project funded by the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership. It will use spatial humanities methods to produce insights into the water histories of the Kavery Basin, and to examine the representation of water resources and scarcity in the cartographic archive, from post-conquest surveys to satellite imagery. In addition to contributing to the research profile of the Library, both of these projects will contribute to the Library's online map collection, as well as its Digital Scholarship Service.



Georeferenced maps and data support new transcription project by The Ramblers

In February 2020, The Ramblers launched a new crowdsourcing project to trace footpaths that are missing from the Definitive Maps of rights-of-way held by local authorities in England and Wales. Under current legislation, these paths must be properly recorded through confirmation on historic maps before 2025, or else they will be lost. The Ramblers' [Don't Lose Your Way campaign](#) invites the public to trace these missing footpaths using current and historic maps. The interface uses the Library's historic Ordnance Survey and Bartholomew georeferenced maps, as well as the [GB1900 gazetteer](#), which records the location of 380,000 F.P. (Footpath) symbols on the OS maps of a century ago. As well as publicising the Library's maps to new audiences, the project is a useful illustration of the value of extracting data from maps to create new data, and the continuing popularity of crowdsourcing interfaces using maps. View the interface at <https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/find-lost-ways/>



Internet Librarian International (ILI) Conference, October 2019

The Library was represented at the ILI 2019 Conference which took place at Olympia, London, by Louise McCarron, Head of Reader Services, and Craig Statham, Maps Reading Room Manager.

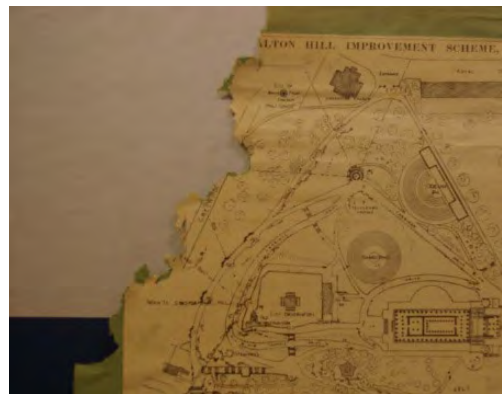
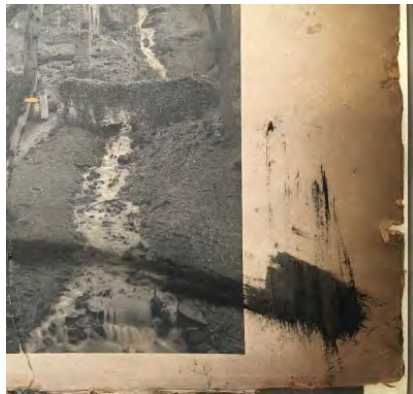
Louise presented a paper titled '*Dipping our toes into user experience (UX) research*'. It detailed a project that used a range of UX research techniques such as observation studies and exit interviews to gather information on how our readers use the reading room spaces and what they like or dislike about them. The data gathered during the project will be used to inform future developments of the reading room spaces and more research is planned.

Craig's paper was titled '*The Evolution of a reading room*', and set out how the Maps service went through a transformation between 2017 and 2018, due to changes in the way people access the service as a result of digitisation. Coupled with the move to a new reading room and the loss of years of knowledge caused by staff retirements, he laid out how these changes enabled us to look afresh at the service and turn the challenges into positives.



2019 Annual Appeal Success

The subject of the 2019 Annual Appeal was Photography Conservation. Three folders of material relating to the Cities and Town Planning Exhibition devised by Sir Patrick Geddes were identified as priorities for treatment. The mixture of drawings, photographs, maps, plans and prints are undated, but were gathered by Patrick Geddes to demonstrate his method of city survey as the exhibition director in 1910. The folders contain a number of calotype prints thought to be by David Octavius Hill.



Above: Photographs showing the damage to the Patrick Geddes/Cities Exhibition collection.

The three folders were presented to the Library in 2012.