



National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board March 2021

LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS SINCE NOVEMBER 2020

<p>1 December 2020</p> <p>Attended the American Patrons National Library and Galleries of Scotland quarterly meeting.</p>	<p>21 December 2020</p> <p>Recorded a piece with Sir John Leighton, National Galleries of Scotland for the American Patrons National Library and Galleries of Scotland.</p>	<p>12 and 13 January 2021</p> <p>Attended Agile Training with members of the Library Leadership Team.</p>
<p>21 January 2021</p> <p>Represented the Library at the <i>Towards a National Collection Steering Group</i> meeting.</p>	<p>3 February 2021</p> <p>Provided an update to the NLS Foundation meeting.</p>	<p>8 February 2021</p> <p>Attended the Library Audit Committee</p>
<p>23 February 2021</p> <p>Member of the <i>New Patterns Panel</i> at the Paisley Book Festival</p>	<p>25 February 2021</p> <p>Attended the Public Library Strategy Advisory Group meeting.</p>	<p>8 March 2021</p> <p>Met with the Faculty of Advocates' recently appointed Keeper of the Library Stephen O'Rourke, Q.C.</p>
<p>9 March 2021</p> <p>Represented the Library at the British Library Advisory Council meeting.</p>	<p>11 March 2021</p> <p>Attended the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit meeting.</p>	<p>17 and 19 March 2021</p> <p>Attended the Research Libraries UK conference.</p>

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

The Metadata Team continued hidden collection work during the latest lockdown. The Senior cataloguers started work on born digital monographs from Education Scotland, this is a substantial collection of ca. 8,000 nursery, school and college inspection reports spanning the years 2000-2016. The Senior Cataloguers are also completing necessary name authority work for this collection.

During October 2020, the Cataloguing Assistants began creating metadata for print monographs listed in the HMSO catalogues. This work was enabled by the digitisation of the printed volumes, allowing work on this collection to continue from home. Working on this collection has increased staff knowledge of the Official Publications collections and has imbedded new cataloguing skills across the Team.

The Metadata Team are keen to discover new ways of metadata creation and at the end of 2020 an opportunity arose to explore the reuse of bibliographic data recorded in non-MARC formats in other areas of the Library. During December 2020, the Head of Metadata and two Cataloguers began to investigate ways transforming bibliographic data held on Excel spreadsheets into MARC, starting with Penguin Books (P.med.659) hidden collection.

This was a new approach to metadata creation for the Team and planning this work took a substantial amount of specialist staff time. However, the outcome was successful. Other hidden collections of Penguin/Puffin books listed in the same way can now be converted and loaded into Alma following the new procedure. Further hidden collection work using this approach has followed. Reference Services and Visitor Services' staff will be using a specially designed spreadsheet to list monographs from the HMSO catalogues while working from home. This has allowed non-specialist staff to become involved in hidden collections work and has provided Metadata Team members an opportunity to interact with colleagues from other areas of the Library and to build training and support skills.

Music Retro-Conversion Project Finishes

The Foundation-funded elements of the Music Retro-Conversion project finished on schedule on November 30, with all the Library's music catalogue cards scanned, transcribed and edited. The outsourced transcription work began in December 2019, and the 12-month Senior Editor role also began then, with the 9-month Junior Editor role running from February to October 2020. The Junior Editor had only been in post for a few weeks before lockdown which meant the project staff had to work from home, and the external firm carrying out the transcription, based in [Chennai](#), India also had to work from home for several months of the project. However, all transitioned well to remote working, so that the project was still able to run to schedule during these months. 251,362 records were ingested into Alma by the end of November, with a further 33,353 by 15 January 2021, and the final 10,549 to be added shortly. An article in Discover NLS, a story in the January Library Newsletter, and a series of Library blogs about the project have promoted that our music collections are now findable online to a wide audience.

Following the end of her post, the Junior Editor Kirsty Morgan moved to take up a role as Music Librarian to Chetham's Music School in Manchester: permanent music librarian posts are extremely rare and there is great competition for them, so we are very happy that her time at the Library as volunteer with Scotland's Sounds and then working for the Music Retro-Conversion Project has helped the professional development of this early career librarian.

The Retro-Conversion project included the transcription of a number of Song and Tune Indexes which as the name suggests did not contain bibliographic records and were never intended to be ingested into Alma, but which contain much valuable information about Scottish music. The Senior Editor Alex Cuadrado is now working on a small project supported by the Librarian's Innovation Fund to translate the handwritten musical incipits on these cards into digital form, to enable the eventual publication of this material on the Library's Data Foundry and open it up to discovery and digital scholarship.

Below: thanks to the Music Retro-Conversion project, searching for 'Beethoven' in Library Search will now reveal 2,431 scores including an early arrangement of Beethoven's second symphony arranged for piano duet, probably played at Newhailes House in Musselburgh at the time, and Chuck Berry's rock and roll classic *Roll Over Beethoven*.

^
X
X
^

Score

Grand Symphony [no 2] in D. Arranged for two performers on the piano forte ... by W. Watts.

Beethoven, Ludwig van; Watts, William; Watts, W

1816

Consult in Special Collections Reading Room, Edinburgh (stored onsite)
(Nha.Mus.69(4)) >

Top

Citation and ex... Citation and export

Details

Links

Request item

Permalink

E-mail

Print

Export to Excel

EndNote

EasyBib

Citation

Export BibTeX

Export RIS

Details

Title	Grand Symphony [no 2] in D. Arranged for two performers on the piano forte ... by W. Watts.
Names	Beethoven, Ludwig van > Watts, William > Watts, W >
Date	1816
Physical description	fol.
Notes	BEETHOVEN (Ludwig van) ; WATTS (William)
Library note	This catalogue record is generated as a result of automated processes
Identifiers	MMSID : 99115992610804341

^
X
X
^

Score

Roll over Beethoven. Song.

Berry, C

Consult in Special Collections Reading Room, Edinburgh (stored onsite)
(Music.1961-1965.F(B)) >

Top

Citation and ex... Citation and export

Details

Links

Request item

Permalink

E-mail

Print

Export to Excel

EndNote

EasyBib

Citation

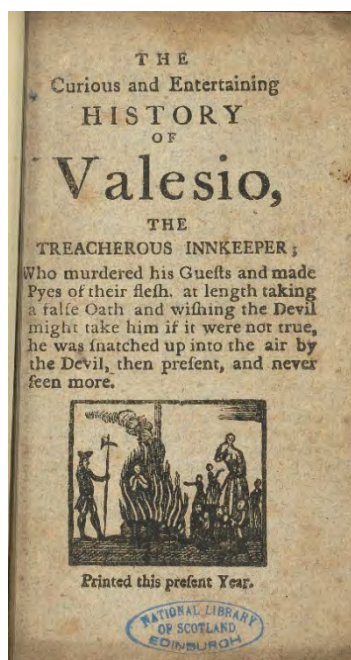
Export BibTeX

Export RIS

Details

Title	Roll over Beethoven. Song.
Names	Berry, C >
Library note	This catalogue record is generated as a result of automated processes
Identifiers	MMSID : 99116003068904341
Source	Library main catalogue

One Third Digital Update



During November and December 2020, the Mass Digitisation Team was able to digitise a further 365 volumes from the ABS collection, as well as 798 chapbooks from our Rare Books collection before Scotland went into its 2nd national lockdown at Christmas.

Working from home since then, the team focussed their work on proofreading and validating chapbook transcriptions as part of the Library's Wikisource project. Between the 8 team members and around 60 other colleagues from across the Library, 450 chapbooks have been transcribed during the reporting period, bringing the project total to just under 2,000 with a further 400 items outstanding.

In addition, the team continued their regular image quality assurance work from home, as well as rights assessment to

support the preparation of new datasets for the Data Foundry.

Image above: chapbook (circa 1800
from the Lauriston Castle collection.

Shelfmark L.C.2895(20)

The **medieval manuscript project** funded by Alexander Graham, one of our donors, has seen some staffing changes in November, resulting in a lower than usually throughput rate. A further 11 volumes were captured before Christmas, bringing the total to 154 out of 226. It is anticipated that capture will be able to be completed within 6 months after lockdown ends.

A further 3,955 Scottish single sheet maps were captured during November and December, following the installation of new scanning equipment. There are around 4,300 maps left to capture before the Library reaches its target to have all its single sheet maps of Scotland digitised. This should take around 4 weeks once staff are able to return to the studio.

While the maps team have been busy preparing the next batch of (non-Scottish) maps for capture, they also georeferenced and published online newly out of copyright Ordnance Survey [National Grid, 1:1250 / 1:2500](#) and [National Grid, 1:10,560](#) maps which were published in 1970.

Regarding the special collection maps, work to geo-reference the [Charles Goad Fire Insurance Plans of Scottish Towns, 1880s-1940s](#) was completed. While being a small set of 218 plans, this is a high-impact collection due to its large scale and great detail.

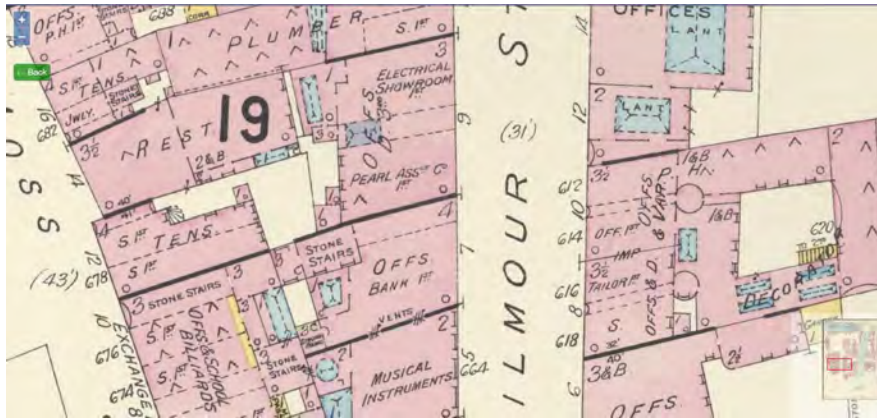


Image above: Charles Goad Fire Insurance Plan for Paisley, Gilmour Street, 1934.

The specialist digitisation staff in the Moving Image Team managed to digitise 56 items from film, and 144 from video tape before Christmas. The high number of tapes digitised being a result of the appointment of Angelo Perdikou as a fixed term Video Preservation Technician working to preserve at risk content on magnetic tape, funded by the Foundation.

As part of the *UK Heritage 2022* project 1,500 video tapes were crated and transported to London in mid-December for digitisation. This work is expected to begin shortly.

There are now over 2,780 items from the moving image collection available to view off-site (2,165 full length items, the remainder being clips) plus another 1,242 available to view on-site in both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

During November and December, the specialist digitisation staff in the Sound Team digitised 448 sound items under the UOSH project, including a collection from the Scottish Poetry Library comprising of both published and unpublished materials.

Since lockdown started, associated digital production work was able to be completed working from home. Tasks included rights identification and negotiated agreements with rights holders; cataloguing; and the creation of access copies from existing digital masters.

Overall, across all of the Library's digitisation studios, a total of 6,422 items were digitised while staff were on site during November and December 2020.

Associated conservation work saw a focus on the Stevenson map and plans with over 350 maps treated and repaired. Other work included a thorough assessment and preparation of the Google test shipment items, as well as contributions towards the UOSH project in Glasgow.

The Digitisation Metadata Team have added descriptive metadata to 559 digitised items across five different collections including the ABS collection and Chapbooks. To these items, the team added 6,765 subject headings in the DOD and created full level catalogue records for 59 items which were previous uncatalogued. The team

have also finished DOD work on re-structuring the Exam Paper collection, enabling the merging of newly digitised items with those already displayed [online](#).

Collecting Covid-19 with Edinburgh University

A new collection is being created in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research Collections (CRC). The centre cares for the University of Edinburgh's cultural and heritage collections. When CRC launched a [Collecting Covid-19 Initiative](#) in April last year, staff and students submitted web-based works as evidence of how their lives had changed under lockdown and the pandemic. The University does not currently archive the web at scale, but by working with the Library's Web Archivist acting as host to the Legal Deposit system, has been working to collect and present open copies of the University community's online work.

The Collecting Covid-19 Initiative web archive collection will appear in Edinburgh University's Archives catalogue and the UK web archive site.



Moving Image and Sound Collections

Wick Kinora Reels

At the end of November there was excellent media coverage for our digitisation, re-animation and careful restoration of footage of Wick from the turn of the 20th century.



The Wick Society gave five Kinora reels to the Library's Moving Image Archive about 20 years ago for protection and preservation. The Kinora was an early moving image device for which individual frames of film were printed onto small cards attached to a circular core. The reel of cards — like a large round flip-book — was placed in a Kinora viewer and revolved by turning a handle.

Deemed to be the work of local photographer John G Humphrey (1868–1949), the 'Wick Kinora Reels' contain scenes and events that are estimated to have taken place between 1897 and 1910. The footage includes ships and tugboats arriving into Wick Harbour, fishermen 'redding' their nets, a storm in Wick Bay, and a church parade — likely marking Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in June 1897. Together they provide a unique glimpse of a local industry just before the widespread adoption of mass industrial fishing.

The digitisation of the cards and digital restoration involved creating the new online copies of the films was highly specialist technical work and has resulted in the Library now making available some of the earliest moving images made in Scotland. The BBC came to Kelvin Hall to interview Alan Russell (at 2m distance) and capture footage of the Kinora Viewer in action. They created a really nice piece for social media and the reach of the resulting coverage on the BBC and on other platforms was very satisfying.

Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Artists-in-Residence Jenny Sturgeon and Elena Mary Harris

As part of the UOSH learning and engagement stream of activities, two artists-in-residence were appointed.



Jenny Sturgeon is a musician based in Shetland. She ran workshops with a variety of locals from across the islands to produce soundscapes, songwriting and music composition inspired by a collection from the University of Glasgow, of lectures by Professor James Holms Dickson which he recorded in 1988 for his students covering subjects such as paleoecology, arctic alpine plants and conservation and with which Jenny

has found great resonance with the Shetlandic sub-arctic climate. The final celebration has been delayed, although conceived as a socially distant walk-through sound and image event, current restrictions are seeing it converted to an online event. You can hear what one participant created [here](#)

Elena Mary Harris is our newly appointed 3rd Artist in Residence. Elena will be concentrating her residency on Whiteinch in Glasgow and will be working with a variety of demographics including; across age groups, with people in addiction recovery and new Scots. Elena will be online to work with the participants to record soundscapes of the area and to produce lino prints at home, which Elena will then reproduce into posters with QR codes which will be hung in the Whiteinch area and the QR codes will link to the recorded soundscapes. The audio used as inspiration for this project comes from selected recordings of one of the Library's own collections, entitled 'Scotland's Record'.

<https://digital.nls.uk/catalogues/guide-to-manuscript-collections/inventories/acc7330.pdf>

1500 video tapes for digitisation

The magnetic tape vault at Kirkintilloch was a hive of activity in mid-December, as curatorial staff got their hands dirty packing over 1500 tapes for transportation to London as part of the UK Heritage 2022 video preservation project. Planning and preparation work was all done working from home, enabling the logistics of tape selection and packing according to format to run smoothly. Due to strict COVID restrictions, only two members of staff were allowed on site (armed with a lot of bubble wrap!) Tapes selected range from 1"inch C to Betacam SP and VHS, which were transported to [Visual Media Data Services](#) in London for digitisation paid for through the project. This is a significant step towards meeting our goal of preservation through digitisation for all 10,000 tapes in the Library collections otherwise at [real risk from technological obsolescence](#).



Collections selected range across artist's video to regional television broadcasting. There is hard hitting community video through to drama and educational production. Larger collections being digitised include:

- MG Alba - Gaelic Language Television (c. 1,000 tapes)
- Grampian Television (c. 400 tapes)
- Scottish Screen Collection (c. 200 tapes)

The digitisation phase of the UK Heritage 2022 project is the culmination of audit and selection work involving all the major regional and national film archives across the UK – in total around 100,000 works currently held on obsolete video formats will now be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

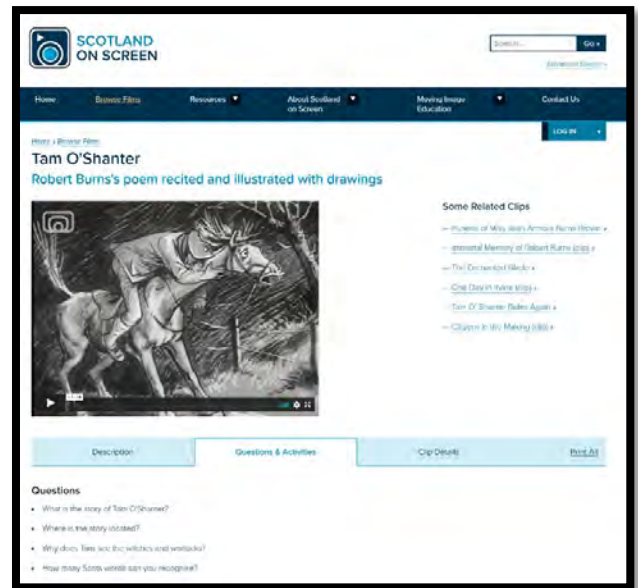
PhD on 'Testing the limits of the "hard man" in film' completed

Alex Chandler recently passed his PhD viva on 'Testing the limits of the "hard man" in film: Masculinity and male health behaviour in Scotland's public health films 1934-2000', supervised by Professor Karen Lury, Glasgow University, Dr Emma Newlands, Strathclyde University, and Dr Emily Munro, Moving Image Archive, National Library of Scotland (ARCS funded). From 2016.

Supporting Home Learning

Our site for learning, Scotland on Screen, has maintained a strong and steady increase of users during the Home Learning period since the start of 2021. Between 1 January and 24 February there have been 19,410 pageviews and 8,557 sessions with an average session duration of 7 minutes 42 seconds. The most viewed film during this period was in the run up to Burns Day of 'Tam O'Shanter' - an animation from 1958 - Robert Burns's poem recited and illustrated with drawings:

[Tam O'Shanter | Scotland on Screen](https://scotlandonscreen.org.uk/resources/lesson-guides/home-learning-cinema-in-scotland)



Our Home Learning plan with Kelvin Hall partners will continue to promote weekly social media posts for parents with school age children to engage them in our collections throughout the year. A new learning resource launched in January 2021 'Cinema in Scotland' encouraging school pupils to learn about Early Cinema in Scotland along with having some fun creating their own cinema resources at home and tips for running their own film show at home too

Find out more at <https://scotlandonscreen.org.uk/resources/lesson-guides/home-learning-cinema-in-scotland>

Digital Resources and web statistics Quarter 2 – Jul-Sep 2020/21

External Resources

Wikipedia

We are still seeing increased usage of our material across Wikimedia projects. A highlight is the use of Mary Queen of Scots signature the English language Wikipedia. This is our most popular page on the site with monthly views hitting over 800,000 in January. This compares to our previous top ranked pages, which garnered 200,000 views in a regular month. The usage of material on such popular pages contributed to the quarterly total views being above 11million.

Internet Archive and Flickr

These sites are similar in that our content on them is not updated. This quarter both have also seen a dip in usage with both seeing about 50% of the usage we normally see in a quarter. These numbers are an outlier after views have been fairly static for the last two years. Unfortunately, it isn't possible to identify why both of these platforms have seen a decrease in usage. We don't have access to as sophisticated analytics as we do for some other platforms so can only see the number of views/downloads of the material and not any contextual information. However, this is clearly an area to pay attention to next quarter to see if this decrease in usage continues.

YouTube

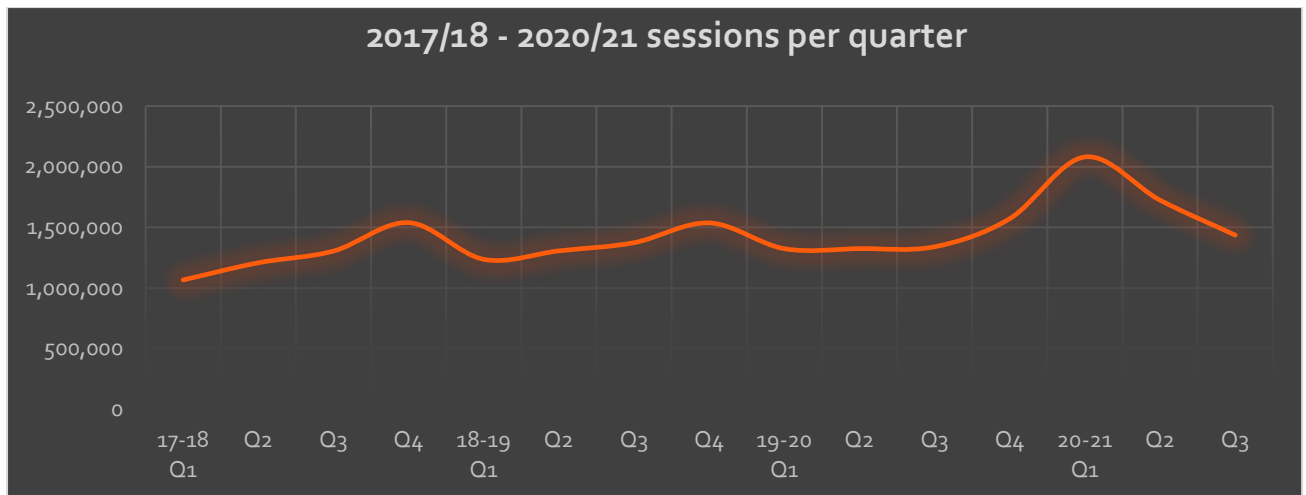
The Library's YouTube continues to build on its success. Last quarter we received a large boost over the 'Her Century' event and this hasn't stopped, even without an event of that scale. Total views have continued to rise, hitting 60,000 views. To put this in context that is the same as the last two quarters combined.

WIKIMEDIA	YouTube
35,059 Wikimedia pages	24 new videos
6,68,770 English language Wikipedia views	60,600 views
11,276,030 total views	1,206 hours watched
	193 new subscribers

Internet Archive	Flickr
4,850 items in	2,500 images
13 collections	119,594 views
76,184 views	

nls.uk domain use

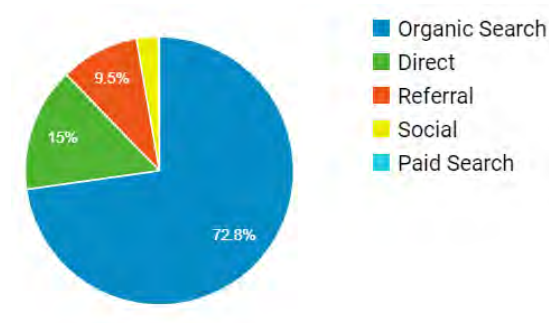
Domain use is still strong. Although a slight decrease on last quarter some areas have seen significant increases. For example, data.nls which saw close to a doubling of sessions compared to last quarter. As the following graph shows every year there are peaks and troughs in usage. It also shows how significant the change was in the first quarter this year and how usage is now returning to slightly above typical usage compared to previous years.



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

104,876 users with 149,976 view sessions
 8.12 pages per session
 4.13 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

en.wikipedia.org	967 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	188 users
rl.talis.com	123 users

Location of users

60%	UK (52% Eng, 44% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
14%	USA
5%	Canada
4%	Australia
1%	Ireland

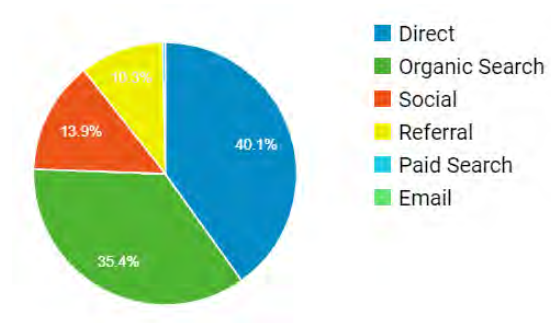
Top Landing pages

/gallery/: (4%)
 /directories/ (1%)
 /scientists/biographies/james-watt/index.html(1%)
 /british-military-lists/archive/144481815 (1%)
 /directories/browse (1%)

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

464,159 users with 980,200 view sessions
 4.20 pages per session
 4.35 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

oldmapsonline.org	5,937 users
weboftheweek.com	3,507 users

uk.search.yahoo.com	1,201 users
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Location of users

92%	UK (77% Eng, 18% Sco, 4% Wal, 0.3% NI)
2%	USA
1%	Australia
1%	Canada
0.4%	France

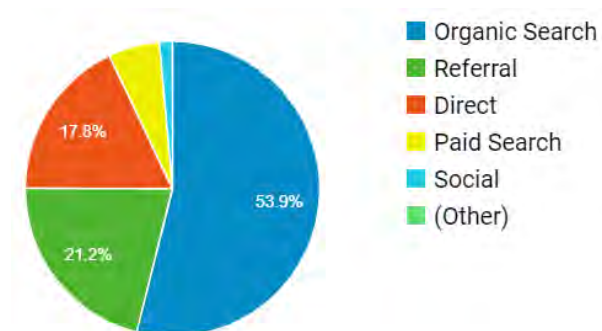
Top Landing Pages

/geo/explore/side-by-side (16%)
 /geo/explore/ (15%)
 /(11%)
 /geo/find (8%)
 /os/6inch-england-and-wales/ (4%)

MAIN WEBSITE WWW.NLS.UK

102,156 users with 165,061 view sessions
2.19 pages per session
1.33 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

n308.network-auth.com	829 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	298 users
ordnancesurvey.co.uk	142 users

Location of users

75%	UK (52% Sco, 45% Eng, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
10%	USA
3%	Canada
3%	Australia
1%	France

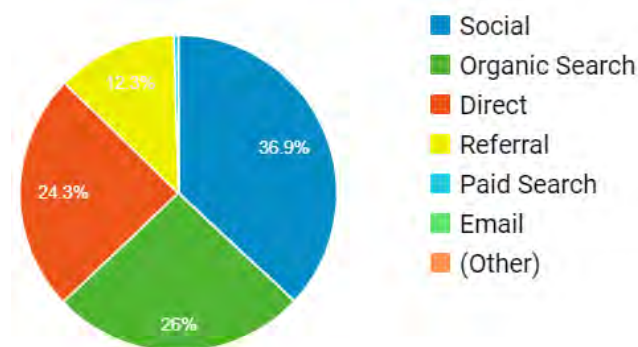
Top Landing Pages

/	(41%)
/digital-resources	(4%)
/family-history /births-deaths-marriages	(2%)
/collections/topics/slavery	(2%)
/catalogues	(2%)

MOVING IMAGE MOVINGIMAGE.NLS.UK

50,718 users with 64,822 view sessions
3.04 pages per session
3.13 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

bbc.co.uk/bbc.com	3,008 users
en.wikipedia.org	269 users
Johnogroat-journal.co.uk	174 users

Location of users

86%	UK (% 63 Sco, 35% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI)
3%	US
2%	Canada
2%	Australia
1%	Spain

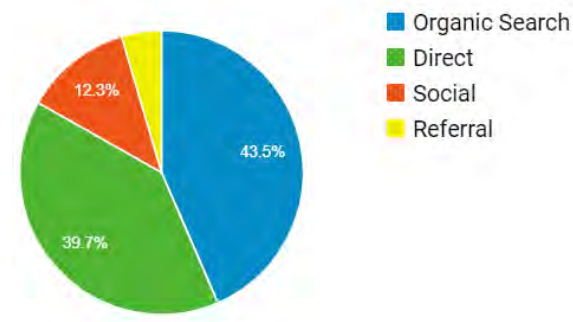
Top Landing Pages

/	(10%)
/film/4627 – (Wick Society Kinora Reels Collection)	(9%)
/film/5098 - ('Santa Claus Comes to Lewis's')	(2%)
/film/2216 - ('The Invergordon Smelter')	(1%)
/film/2219 - ('Livingston-A Town for the Lothians')	(1%)

DATA FOUNDRY DATA.NLS.UK

3,667 users with 4,709 view sessions
2.38 pages per session
1.53 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

mail.google.com	18 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	11 users
dhawards.org	9 users

Location of users

61%	UK (65% Eng, 30% Sco, 5% Wal, 0.4% NI)
14%	USA
3%	China
2%	Canada
2%	Germany

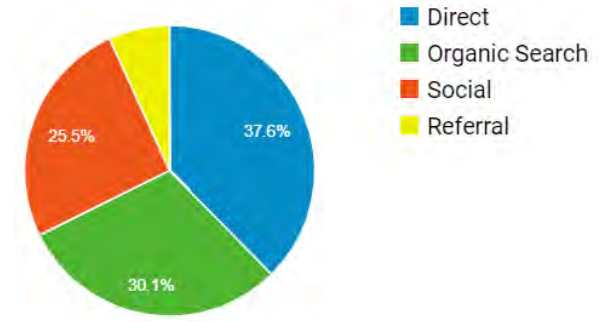
Top Landing Pages

/projects/finding-lost-footpaths-using-gb1900/ (25%)
/ (23%)
/projects/the-national-librarians-research-fellowship-in-digital-scholarship-2021-22/ (13%)
/tools/jupyter-notebooks/ (3%)
/data/digitised-collections/encyclopaedia-britannica/ (3%)

SCOTLANDS-SOUNDS.NLS.UK

1,395 users with 1,815 view sessions
1.60 pages per session
1.06 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

baidu.com	32 users
ilxor.com	21 user
moodle.gla.ac.uk	14 user

Location of users

64%	UK (68% Sco, 30% Eng, 1%Wales, 1% NI)
12%	US
3%	China
2%	Canada
2%	Germany

Top Landing Pages

/ (21%)
/index.php/2020/10/27/tenement-tapes/(16%)
/index.php/safe-sound/ (6%)
/index.php/online-sound-collections/collections-with-online-recordings/(4%)
/index.php/unlocking-our-sound-heritage-uosh/ (4%)

Digital Scholarship update

Dataset updates

Dataset release on the Data Foundry has continued to go ahead as scheduled:

November: Stevenson Maps and Plans of Scotland <https://data.nls.uk/data/map-spatial-data/stevenson-maps-and-plans/>

This dataset was created by PhD student Rachel Dishington, and contains records of 2,147 maps and plans of Scotland held in the archive of the Stevenson engineering firm.

December: Broadside printed in Scotland 1650-1910
<https://doi.org/10.34812/a272-9961>

Nearly 1,800 broadsides printed in Scotland. They have been acquired by the National Library since 1925; many of them form part of the Lauriston Castle Collection, which was bequeathed to the Library in 1926.

January: Diary, letters and poems of Marjory Fleming <https://doi.org/10.34812/weby-2v34>

The Library's first AI-generated dataset, created by PhD student Joe Nockels using Transkribus software.

Digital Scholarship Staff Seminars

The Staff Seminar Series has continued online, with colleagues from the University of Sussex and the British Library delivering well-attended talks.

James Baker (University of Sussex): 'Legacies of Catalogue Descriptions and Curatorial Voice'

Mahendra Mahey (British Library): 'Repositioning British Library Labs'

Further seminars are scheduled for the first quarter of 2021.

The National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship

The National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship 2021-22 was advertised in December 2020. Five applicants were invited to interview.

The current Fellowship, occupied by Dr Giles Bergel, finishes on 31 March 2021. Giles is due to publish a blog post about his work through the Data Foundry (and on his own personal blog) and will present at a Library public lecture in April. This will be

the end of a very successful first Fellowship, despite the changes we needed to make due to Covid, with engagement activities including:

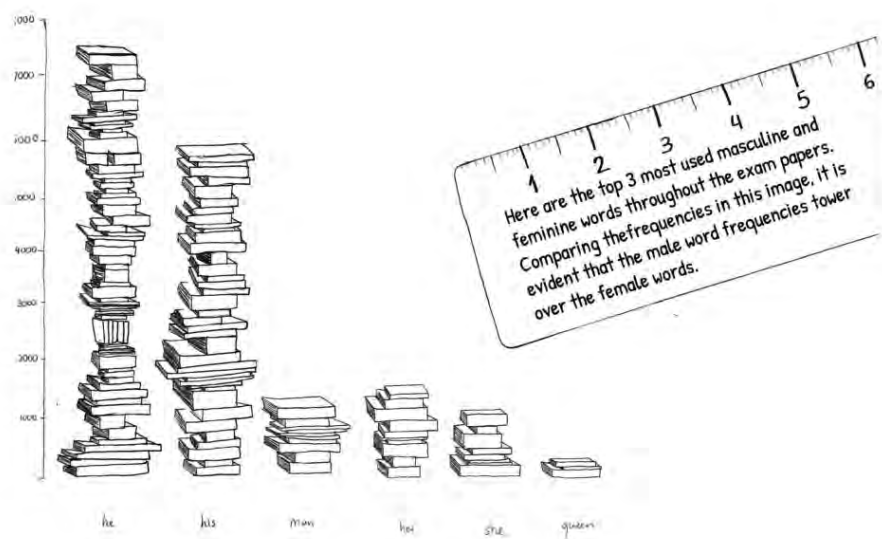
- Digital Scholarship Staff Seminar delivered
- Computer vision training for staff delivered: fully-booked, with excellent feedback from staff
- External training delivered at the University of Edinburgh
- Blog outputs on Data Foundry
- Article planned for Library's Discover Magazine
- Public lecture planned.

Data visualisation student projects completed

The Service has been working with University of Edinburgh Data Science for Design students on data visualisation projects using the Library's collections. The class of students have been using datasets to learn how to create data visualisations.

After attending a 'pitching' session, along with University teams who hold data, as well as other external companies and organisations with datasets, three groups of students chose to work with us.

All outputs – websites exploring Encyclopaedia Britannica, Scottish School Exam Papers and Britain and UK Handbooks – are now published and available on the [Data Foundry](#). Explore historic gender bias in a data comic of the Exam Papers; find out how Britain presented itself to the outside world in a website exploring the Handbooks; and explore the geographical spread of information in the first eight editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica!



Anastasia Athanadou, Yidan Yuan, Yongchang Zhu, Jingyi Chu's visualisation of the Scottish School Exam papers includes an analysis of gender bias in the collection

Goethe Institut AI in Residence collaboration

We are collaborating with the Goethe Institut, Alliance Française and Institut Français Écosse to offer an '[AI in Residence](#)' position.

The new residency involves three artists – one from France, one from Germany and one from Scotland – who will work with the Library and/or other partners to create artistic outputs over the course of the next year. Outputs will be showcased at the NEON Arts Festival and the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow.

As well as providing openly-licensed Data Foundry collections, which are ideal for creative reuse, the Library will include the artists to any internal events or relevant training, and answer any collections queries.

DH Awards 2020

The Digital Scholarship Service has received two nominations for the [DH Awards 2020](#). The [Broadsides printed in Scotland 1650-1910](#) dataset has been nominated as Best DH Dataset, and the [Jupyter Notebooks](#) created by the Digital Scholarship intern Lucy Havens earlier in 2020 have been nominated as Best DH Tool or Suite of Tools.

Recent papers

24 November, Digital Humanities Seminar (European Centre for Advanced Studies (ECAS)/University of Glasgow) - invited talk

25 November, Centre for Social Informatics Seminar Series (Napier University) - invited talk (Blogged about by Prof Hazel Hall here):

<https://hazelhall.org/2020/12/16/the-data-foundry-at-the-national-library-of-scotland-a-presentation-by-dr-sarah-ames/>)

Publications

Ames, S and Lewis, S. 'Disrupting the Library: Digital Scholarship and Big Data at the National Library of Scotland'. *Big Data and Society*. 7 (2): 1-7.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951720970576>

Ames, S. 'Transparency, provenance and collections as data: the National Library of Scotland's Data Foundry'. *LIBER Quarterly*. [Accepted for publication]

Learning and adopting the Agile approach to service development

A key pillar of our new strategy is Outstanding Digital Engagement (ODE), and to successfully deliver on this objective we recognise that the Library must fundamentally change the way in which it plans, develops, and delivers services. To advance this change, the ODE programme proposes that we take a [user-centred design](#) approach to service development by adopting [Agile](#). Agile is a way of thinking and working that helps improve the quality of products and services by focusing on, and engaging with, users. It promotes collaboration by bringing together a small team with the combined skills and expertise to carry out a task (known as a cross-functional team), fosters openness and transparency in working, and increases productivity through making small iterative improvements to services.

To help develop our knowledge and understanding of working in an agile way, we contracted training and coaching services from the [Scottish Digital Academy](#) to work with a small cross-functional team of 10 colleagues who had been set the task to improve the [eResources service](#).

Our project started on 26 January 2021 with two days training in Agile and Scrum ([Scrum](#) is a lightweight framework that helps people, teams and organisations generate value through adaptive solutions for complex problems) and since then we have been working with our Agile coach to continue learning and putting into practice the tools, techniques and Scrum 'ceremonies' which help manage the development process. This includes gathering insights and feedback from users, developing, and testing prototypes, reviewing and planning our work and progress every day, and adapting, learning and reflecting as we go.

For an agile project to be successful a considerable time commitment is required from all team members, and in our team, we work from 10am to 3pm every day on the project. We plan and carry out our work in 'sprints' that last two weeks. Before each sprint we discuss and agree what we will do in the sprint and list these activities in a 'sprint backlog'. During the two weeks of the sprint, we progress the work in the backlog, completing as much as possible. At the end of the two weeks, we have a 'sprint review' where we show stakeholders what we have done and take their feedback. The review is followed immediately by a 'retro' where we reflect on what went well and what we can improve on for the next sprint. After the retro we immediately move to the next sprint and begin its planning. We are currently in our second sprint with at least one further sprint to go.

Rare Books Acquisitions

Three examples of leather bookbindings by Phoebe Anna Traquair, including a copy of Alphonse Labitte, *Les manuscrits et l'art de les orner*, Paris: Charles Mendel, 1893, and a copy of a photographic facsimile of her illuminated manuscript of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, Edinburgh, [c. 1897]

Bonhams Edinburgh auction £4,935

Irish-born Phoebe Anna Traquair (1852-1936) was one of the leading figures in the Arts and Crafts movement in Scotland in the late 19th century. These are three superb examples of bindings done by Traquair with her monogram (two books and a small empty leather pouch for spectacles or tools). Best known for her paintings and murals, she was one of the Edinburgh women bookbinders who developed a medieval-style moulded leather technique in the 1890s which became very popular among bibliophiles.

Shelfmarks: Bdg.m.183, Bdg.s.987, Bdg.s.988



The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, newly translated out of the original tongues, Edinburgh: Heirs and successors of Andrew Anderson, 1700.

Bound with *The Psalms of David in metre*, Edinburgh: Heirs and successors of Andrew Anderson, 1700.

John Cameron £2,950, purchased with assistance of the Soutar Fund

A fine example of an Edinburgh binding on a late 17th- century Bible of full black morocco, the sides decorated with three panels using different gilt rolls, the centre panel filled with stylised flowers and with triangular tools arranged in a way that is beginning to resemble the later herringbone patterns. A fore-edge drawing of leaves and tulips and a Bible quotation: "Proverbs.12:4. A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband." suggests the book was a wedding gift to "Margratt Teyllour", the name inscribed on the title page. This binding is a superb addition to the Library's existing holdings of late 17th/early 18th-century Scottish bindings.

Shelfmark: Bdg.s.989(1-2)



Circle of Sir Francis Powell and Joseph Lockett, [An album of 117 photographs, mainly landscapes of Argyll and Bute], [Scotland, c. 1865]

Stewart & Skeels £3,750 + VAT, purchased with assistance of the Soutar Fund

This is a substantial album of highly proficient albumen print photographs, dating from the early era of the wet collodion plate process. The focus of the album is the town of Dunoon on the Cowal peninsula and the Firth of Clyde. It was possibly compiled as a reference work for the eminent English watercolourist Sir Francis Powell (1833-1914), who in 1857 moved to Dunoon and made several paintings of the landscapes of the area and sea views. In 1858 Powell married the daughter of Mancunian businessman Joseph Lockett, who also had a residence in the area. Lockett's house features three times in the album, as does his yacht "Snake". This album may represent the fruits of one or more cruises in the area taken by the Lockett and Powell families in the "Snake".

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS



[William Davisson, *Commentariorum in sublimis philosophi & incomparabilis viri Petri Severini Dani*, The Hague: Adriaan Vlacq, 1660.](#)

Bound with Petrus Severinus, *Idea medicinae philosophicae*, The Hague: Adriaan Vlacq, 1660.

Antiquariaat Forum BV € 2,950, purchased with assistance of the Clark Fund

A very rare first edition of a commentary by the Scottish scientist William Davisson (1593-1669) on the highly influential defence of Paracelsian medical doctrines by the Dane Petrus Severinus (Peder Sørensen). William Davisson was a chemist, physician and surgeon. Born and educated in Aberdeen, he emigrated to France in 1617 and qualified as a physician. He held the first chair in chemistry in France. When he published his *Commentariorum* he was physician to Johann II Casimir, King of Poland. This volume also contains an abridged edition of Petrus Severinus's work by the same Dutch publisher.

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

[Thomas Trotter, *An essay, medical, philosophical, and chemical, on drunkenness*, Philadelphia: Finley, 1813.](#)

Donald A. Heald Rare Books \$1,500

Born in Melrose, at the age of nineteen Trotter (1760-1832) became a surgeon's mate in the Royal Navy and saw active service in the early 1780s. He returned to Edinburgh and studied medicine before resuming his naval career, where he served as physician to the Channel fleet during the wars with France in 1794-95. His publications include works on scurvy and nautical medicine. Trotter wrote his M.D. dissertation on drunkenness, presumably based on his experiences serving in the Navy, which was later published in 1804. This is the first American printing of what is regarded as one of the earliest works on alcoholism.

Shelfmark: AB.1.220.94

Léon Wocquier (ed.), *Souvenirs de H. F. Marote lieutenant du corsaire l'Aventurier 1811-1814*, Liège : Félix Oudart, 1845.

Rodolphe Chamonal €1,200.00

Memoirs of Henri-Ferdinand Marote, a naval officer from Ostend, who served in the French navy during the Napoleonic Wars. As recorded in this work, he was captured by the British navy in 1811 and spent time as a prisoner-of-war in Scotland, at the camp set up in Valleyfield depot, one of three camps located in Penicuik, Midlothian. Marot was later transferred to Perth prison in 1813, before being released in 1814. No other copies recorded in the UK.

Shelfmark: AB.3.220.20

John Major (Mair), *In Mattheum ad literam expositio*, Paris: Ioannem Granion, 1518

Bound with, John Major (Mair), *In quartum sententiarum quaestiones utilissimae suprema ipsius lucubratione enucleate*, Paris: Ioannis Parvi, 1521.

Llibreria Comellas €3,000

A volume containing two works by Scottish theologian and philosopher John Major (1469-1550). A renowned and influential professor, he distinguished himself by his bold positions on theology and politics. The first item is the first edition of John Major's comments on the Gospel according to Matthew. The second item is a rare edition of Major's comments on the fourth *Book of Sentences* by Pietro Lombard, a famous Italian theologian who died in 1164. The work is preceded by an epistle of the author to two Scottish bishops: Robert Co[c]kburn and Gavin Douglas (c. 1474-1522), a writer, translator and a friend of Major.

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

The case of Lieutenant Donald Campbell, and the other children of the deceased Capt. Lauchlin Campbell, of the Province of New York. [London?, 1767?]

University Archives \$1300

The details of a court case brought by the descendants of a Scottish settler in America. In 1734 New York Provincial Governor William Cosby (1690-1736) issued a call for Protestants from Europe to settle in the northern parts of the province, promising to each family two hundred acres of land from 100,000 acres purchased from Native American tribes. In 1737 Captain Lauchlin Campbell of Islay visited New York. Cosby's successor, Governor George Clarke (1676-1760), assured Campbell that he would receive 1,000 acres for every family he brought over, and each family would receive from 150 to 500 acres depending on the size of the family. Although Campbell had attracted 93 families, totalling 485 people, he now found that the provincial government intended to give no lands either to him or to the families he had brought leading his descendants to bring the case to court. Only two other copies of the work are known to exist, none of which are held in Scotland.

Shelfmark: AP.5.220.8

A contemporary collection of four Glasgow piracies of English dramatists bound in one volume: *The provok'd husband* by Colley Cibber, after Sir John Vanbrugh (1757), *The suspicious husband* by Dr. Benjamin Hoadly (1759), *The careless husband*, 7th ed. (1759) and *Elfrida*, 3rd ed. by William Mason (1759).

David Harrison £750

All the editions are extremely rare, and the Colley Cibber is otherwise unrecorded. The volume is a remarkable survivor of Glaswegian interest in the London stage of the mid-18th century. The Scottish custom of printing and selling works still under copyright protection, according to the London publishers and the Stationers' Company in London, so-called pirated editions, was a big issue in 18th-century Britain.

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

Jean-Marie Collot-d'Herbois (trans. John Oswald), *The spirit of the French Constitution, or the almanach of goodman Gerard, for the year 1792*, Paris: Printing office of the Social Circle, 1791.

Justin Croft £4500

The first edition of this exceptionally rare book, Paris-printed under the imprint of the international revolutionary club, the Cercle sociale. It combines John Oswald's translation of Collot-d'Herbois's *Almanach du Père Gérard* (1791), explaining the Cercle's revolutionary Girondist credo for laymen and women) and his own *Triumph of freedom! An Ode, to commemorate the anniversary of the French Revolution*. The publication was apparently sponsored in part by the London Corresponding Society and the *Almanach* makes specific reference to the equality of black and white citizens while noting the continuance of slavery in America. Edinburgh-born radical atheist and vegetarian John Oswald had served in the army in India before becoming a Grub Street journalist and pamphleteer. By May 1790 Oswald was resident in Paris where he mixed in revolutionary circles, watched the debates in the national assembly and where he presented an "Ode to the Triumph of Freedom" on 4 September 1790. He joined the revolutionary armies in 1792, commanding a battalion of pikemen and died at Thouars in the battle of La Vendée on 14 September 1793. No other copies of this work are recorded outside the United States.

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

Antonio de Solis (trans. W. H. Dilworth), *The history of the conquest of Mexico, by the celebrated Hernan Cortes*, Glasgow: Printed for the booksellers, 1785.

David Harrison £1275

The sole edition of an abridgement of Dilworth's adaptation for children of the *Historia de la Conquista de Mexico* of Antonio de Solis (1610-1686). Dilworth's two-volume London edition was first published in 1759. This work on the adventures of the conquistadores may have been produced specifically for the export market, and this copy has an excellent colonial provenance in manuscript on the front free endpaper showing that the book was in Hartford, Connecticut in the 1790s and early 1800s.

Manuscripts Acquisitions

Acc.14209 – A commonplace book of Scottish Songs by Robert Burns and others

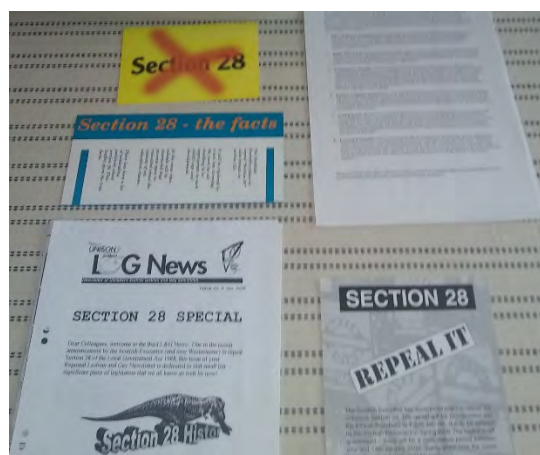


In December the Library was able to acquire a substantial manuscript volume containing around 100 Scottish songs and ballads with accompanying music. A number of these songs, but not all of them, appeared in the *Scots Musical Museum* (1787-1803), a project to which Robert Burns contributed significantly. However, a number of the songs in this manuscript contain variants and differences from those in the printed version.

Archive of Jim Mearns, 'Repeal the Clause' campaigner

Jim Mearns, a civil servant, trade unionist, and key figure in the Scottish campaigns to repeal Section 28/Clause 2A of the Local Government Act 1988, has kindly donated his private papers to the Library. The campaign to repeal the controversial clause which prohibited the discussion of homosexuality in schools, which dominated political debates during the first year of Scotland's new Parliament in 1999-2000, was previously a significant 'gap' in the Library's political manuscript collections. This archive contains correspondence, reports, and publicity materials relating to Mr Mearns's role in the Repeal the Clause campaign and as co-convenor of UNISON Scotland's LGBT Committee, as well as his membership of several Glasgow trade guilds and societies and his intellectual and cultural pursuits. OurStory Scotland have interviewed Mr Mearns for their archive of LGBTQ+ oral histories at the Library,

and in the future researchers will be able to consult the materials in the archive alongside the more personal stories preserved in his born-digital recording. The gift also includes valuable additions to the Library's holdings of publications, including a complete run of newsletters of the left-wing Scottish Labour pressure group Campaign for Socialism (of which Mr Mearns was a founder member during the 1990s), and ephemera from early Pride marches in Edinburgh and Glasgow. We hope to continue working in partnership with OurStory Scotland to collect the papers of political activists and campaigning organisations who have recorded oral histories for the archives in order to preserve as diverse a picture of LGBTQ+ politics in contemporary Scotland as possible.



Bequest of Colin Clark

The Archives & Manuscripts Division have received a bequest from the late Colin Clark, Esq. (1935-2020), art collector and son of the Scottish film executive Robert Clark. The legacy is comprised of literary correspondence between the novelist March Cost and Lady Ottoline Morrell, which augment our existing holdings; and Clark's own letters from T. J. Honeyman, the Glasgow curator with whom Clark and his father worked on art history documentary film-making during the 1950s and 1960s. The materials are a fine addition to our art and literary manuscript collections, and we are very grateful for this generous gift.

Recent additions to the General Collection

Treasure Island cut out book, £200

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*. La isla del tesoro. Libro Puffin Cut-Out
núm. 11, 1953.

Puffin books, and Penguin books in general, tried out a lot of innovative types of publications in the 1950s. One of these was a series of books that could be turned into small toy theatres. This series does not seem to have been a success as it did not last long but one of the few titles they did publish was based on *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. These are very collectable and a perfect copy like this is understandably very rare as most were used and damaged in the process, although hopefully enjoyed. They have lots of pop out parts, but this one is perfectly intact.



Robert Louis Stevenson translations, £800

Robert Louis Stevenson is one of the most translated authors in the world, and the Library continues to build its collections of his works in other languages and formats. We recently acquired two works published in the former Soviet Union.

Pekelna pliashka, published in 1947, is the first Ukrainian edition of Stevenson's *The Bottle Imp*, which was originally published in 1891 in the short story collection "Island Nights' Entertainments." The plot revolves around a cursed bottle with a wish-granting imp in it, which forfeited the owner of the bottle's soul to Hell, when he died with it in his possession. This edition was published in a displaced persons camp in Germany. The illustrator, Vadym Dobrolizh, would later emigrate to Canada, where he would become famous for painting the interior and the iconostasis of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Bereg Faleza : zapiski torgovtsa, published in Moscow in 1927 is the first Russian appearance of Stevenson's short story The Beach of Falesa. The interesting avant-garde cover art was created by Isidor Aronovich Frantsuz, an important Jewish

constructivist architect, among whose accomplishments were the design of Lenin's Mausoleum and the Monument to the Soviet Hero.

Elizabeth Blackadder (monograph), £300.

Elizabeth Blackadder – monograph (London: Mercury Gallery, 1985). Essay by William Packer, illustrated by Blackadder throughout in colour and black and white. One of a limited edition of 60 copies, this one copy number 55 with an etching 'Landscape in Japan'.

This special edition is bound in Ogura Japanese paper and signed by the artist. Each copy contains an original etching by Elizabeth Blackadder. The etchings have been printed on Somerset Waterleaf paper at the Glasgow Printmakers Studio.

Dame Elizabeth Violet Blackadder is one of Scotland's foremost artists and printmakers. She is the first woman to be elected to both the Royal Scottish Academy and the Royal Academy. This beautiful monograph was published to coincide with the Edinburgh Festival exhibition of new work by the artist held at the publisher's Edinburgh gallery.

The little red book: The thoughts of Bill Shankly (with apologies to Chairman Mao)

This collectible short booklet, published in Liverpool in 1973 by the Anfield Peoples' Press, captures the character and wisdom of one of football's giants. Born in Scotland in 1913, he is most associated with Liverpool Football Club, where he was manager from 1959 to 1974. During that time he took the team from Second Division doldrums to a national and international force to be reckoned with. A skilful manager and a passionate advocate for the game, he remains one of the most significant names in football history.

Bert Jansch

We recently bought two books about Bert Jansch (1943-2011), the acclaimed and influential folk guitarist who was born in Glasgow and brought up in West Pilton, Edinburgh. These two publications by his wife Heather are *Bert Jansch - Living with the Legend* published in 2013, and *Heather Jansch's Diary - a life in the year of ...* published in 2009. Independently published in small editions they offer a unique insight into the life and work of Jansch who influenced among many others Paul Simon, Jimmy Page, Nick Drake, Neil Young and Johnny Marr.

Gap filling purchases to capture the memory of Scotland

The Library is greatly enriched by the receipt of hundreds of thousands of publications each year, for free, by virtue of the Legal Deposit Legislation. However, we do not always receive the publications that this legislation entitles us. One of the most important uses of the collections purchase fund therefore is to buy content that we ought to have received from years ago but didn't. We prioritise Scottish publications when acquiring this way. These purchases are typically very low in monetary value, but they count enormously towards our mission to collect the memory and output of the nation. Often published at a local level, frequently in pamphlet form, they can be remarkably rare and charming, and document all manner of topics. These are the titles of just a fraction of the recent acquisitions we have made in our effort to complete a full archive of Scotland's publications:

- Clanship to capitalism: a history of Lochaber estates from 1745;
- Fish recipes from Aberdeen; King's Park Parish Church: first fifty years 1930-1980;
- Loch Maree's missing sea trout: are salmon farms to blame;
- Clyde Lighthouse Trust – invitation, programme and menu;
- International Advertising Convention Glasgow 1938 programme;
- Report on the quality of Scottish cheeses for the years 1955 to 1956;
- Kilconquhar: a hidden gem; Metrical psalmody in the Free Church of Scotland;
- Sandy McMahon and the early Celtic; St Columba's Junior School Family Favourites;
- Come Dine with Pudsey at Lews Castle College; and
- Bridging the Leven.

Just a flavour of the hundreds of gaps in the collections that we fill each year thanks to the Collections Purchase Fund.

Acquisitions Team Update for the Librarian's Report to the Board

Processing purchased print books received during lockdown

The Acquisitions Team contacted all major monograph vendors to put published print purchases on hold during the most recent lockdown. By late February, these orders had been on hold with vendors for two months, therefore, we took the decision to resume purchase deliveries at this stage. This supports vendors during this difficult time as it allows them to send us items for payment rather than continuing to hold them back at their own cost. It also enables us to ensure that all purchased items on their way to the Library are received and invoices paid by the end of financial year.

One member of the Acquisitions Team is visiting the Causewayside Building weekly, as agreed with the Associate Director for Collections Management, to inspect deliveries, extract purchases and process the invoices. We are grateful to Security and Collections Support Services colleagues for their work in receiving the mail and delivering it to the Acquisitions Team area.

The first exceptional site visit for this purpose took place on Friday 26 February 2021, when Helen Keenlyside processed 18 invoices for 54 print books received by the Library. Helen will continue to make occasional site visits going forward to ensure newly received print purchases are processed. To keep the volume manageable new print book orders are not being placed at this time but are being deferred until the next financial year.

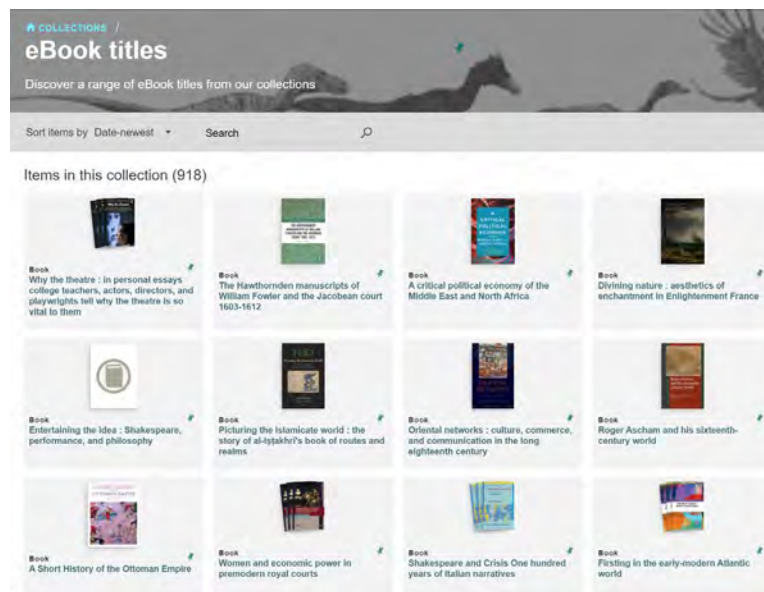


Acquisitions mail table showing donations, legal deposit and purchases received by the Acquisitions Team since Christmas 2020.

300% increase in number of eBooks purchased

72 individual eBook titles were purchased for the Library's collections by the Acquisitions Team during quarter 3, and a further 47 titles during January 2021. This brings the total number of eBooks acquired for the Library to 260 for the 2020/2021 reporting year so far. This contrasts with 64 eBooks purchased during the entire 2019/2020 period – an increase of over 300%.

All these eBooks are available to our readers for remote access from home or work. Visibility of this content is enhanced by adding the eBooks to the [Discovery Collection](#) on LibrarySearch. There are now over 900 eBooks in the eBook titles discovery collection, and this will continue to grow as new titles are purchased.

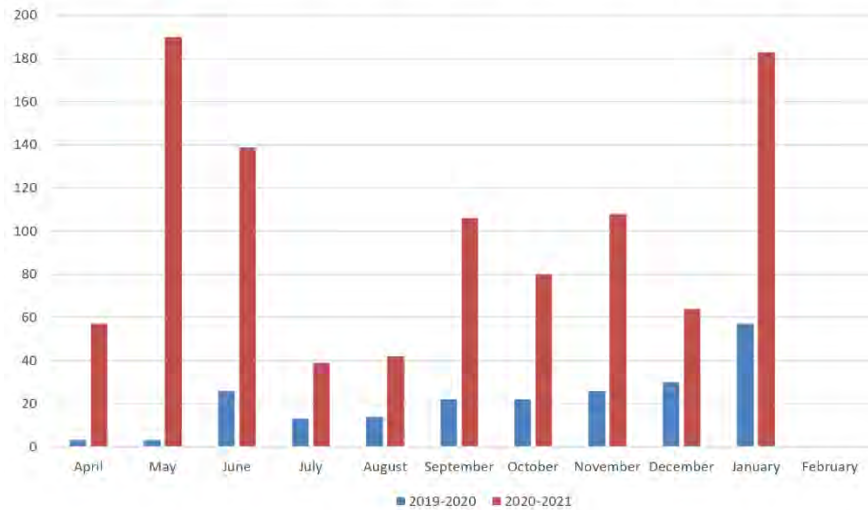


Library Search Collection Discovery feature – eBook titles collection

367% increase in eBook usage compared to same period last year

The Acquisitions Manager has collated the usage statistics for individual purchased eBooks, showing a 367% increase in usage compared to the same period last year (1 April to 31 January), with May 2020 and January 2021 showing particular spikes in usage this reporting year – see graph below.

Individual purchased eBook usage per month - annual comparison

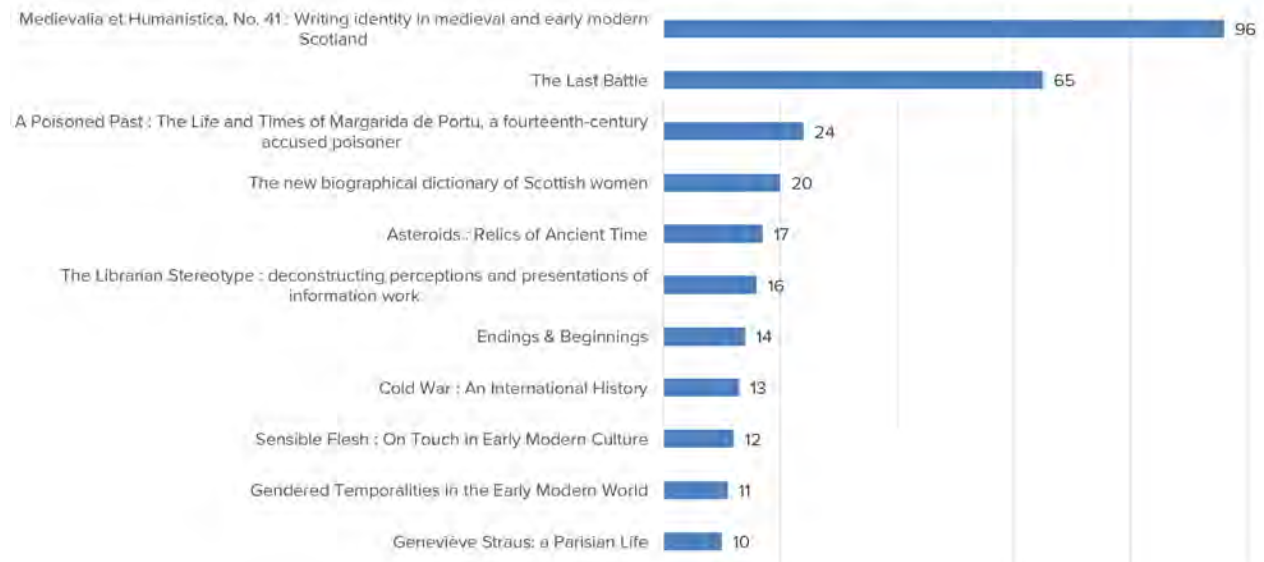


eBook usage per month – Counter5 reporting figures from Alma Analytics

No doubt partly driven by lockdown and the need to view books online, it will be interesting to see how this usage develops over coming months and years.

Two eBook titles have proved most popular during the 2020/2021 reporting year so far. Volume 41 in the Medievalia et Humanistica series, [Writing identity in medieval and early modern Scotland](#) hit the top spot with 96 views or downloads since April 2020. [The last battle: soldier settlement in Australia 1916-1939](#) came second, with 65 views/downloads since we purchased this eBook on 12 January 2021.

Most popular individual purchased eBooks 2020-2021



Most popular individual purchased eBooks – Counter5 reporting figures from Alma Analytics

Collections Care Highlights

Success for Library Intern

In September 2019 Joe Jackson joined the Library as our first ever Preventive Conservation Intern. Joe's internship was funded by the Clothworkers' Foundation and administered through Icon, the Institute of Conservation.

During his time at the Library Joe worked on an array of projects, including designing a housing solution for a collection of thermo-plastic 3D maps; introducing a comprehensive IPM (Integrated Pest Management) programme across our sites; environmental monitoring and improving how we report on this; improving our disaster response equipment provision and undertaking emergency volunteer call out exercises. Although his internship was disrupted by lockdown, we were able to secure funding to extend his time with us beyond the original 12months and Joe was able to focus on CPD and networking while working from home.

However, we were delighted when Joe was successful in securing full-time, permanent employment, particularly at this very difficult time when heritage sector jobs are hard to come by. Joe started at the National Museums of Scotland as their new Assistant Preventive Conservator in December 2020. We are pleased that he has not going far and hope that our links with NMS will be strengthened and that we will continue to be able to work closely with Joe in the future.



Joe Jackson at work in the stacks

First for the Library: Online Preventive Conservation Internship starts

Following Joe's employment success, the Library was left with some internship funding that needed to be repurposed. Following the success of other current internships across the Library we decided to develop a short-term online preventive conservation internship. The focus for the 3month internship will be reviewing our emergency planning and response documentation, benchmarking against other similar institutions, and making improvements for format, content, storage, and

access. It is hoped that some time will be available to consider options for online salvage and response training.

This internship is a first for Library as we have never hosted a fully online internship in conservation, due to the practical nature of a lot of the work that we undertake to care for our collections. The internship is also being run via Icon, the Institute of Conservation, and it is a first for them too. It will be exciting to see how the internship progresses and what the conservation sector can learn from this experience.

Following a process of online recruitment Arielle Juler was appointed as our new Intern. Arielle has completed a 12month internship at the National Trust for Scotland focussing on Integrated Pest Management within historic properties. In a past life Arielle worked as the Administrator in the Conservation Department at the National Galleries and therefore brings a unique mix of preventive conservation knowledge and experience as well as fantastic organisational and administrative skills. Arielle will have the opportunity to learn a lot about emergency planning and the Library will receive a report with recommendations for improving our approach in this area.



Arielle Juler who joined the Library on 1st March

Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition Awards goes virtual

Another implication of lockdown was the disruption to our Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition. The 2020 competition was affected when access to our buildings was restricted in the early part of 2020. Luckily, the closing date for the competition was February 2020 so all competition entries were received before lockdown came into force. The Collections Care team receive the competition entries and prepare them for judging. Once the judging has been completed, we create bespoke boxes for the bindings and ensure that those that are not becoming part of the national collection are returned to their creators.

However, the judging, that would normally take place in April, and the awards ceremony, which would normally take place in May, had to be delayed. We were able to develop a blended in-person and online judging process which was completed in October 2020 and then in February 2021 we were finally able to host our awards ceremony online.

The ceremony was held on Zoom and managed by the Library's Events Team and our technical support colleagues, Mallard Productions. The event was attended by over 100 people from places as widespread as Greece, Nigeria, and the United States.

The online version of this event, usually held in the Boardroom at George IV Bridge, was a triumph, despite some technical difficulties. This forum allowed all the winners the opportunity to discuss their response to the competition brief of the 1980s, as well as the chance to describe their creative process. It was fascinating for the audience to hear more about the process of design and construction of a bookbinding and it gave the evening a very personal flavour. Our congratulations go to our competition winners:

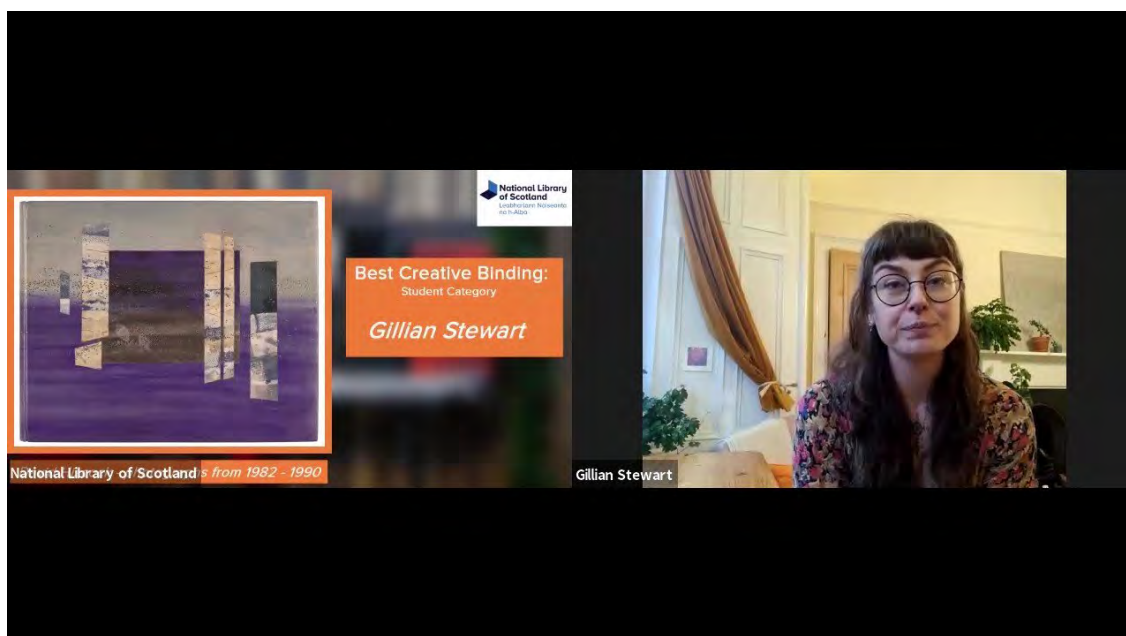
Matt Stockl: Student Craft award for *1982, Janine*

Gillian Stewart: Student Creative award for *David Hiscock - photographs from 1982 - 1990*

Chris Hicks: Highly Commended Binding award for *Candide*

Daniel Wray: Overall Craft award for *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Andreas Maroulis: Present Overall Creative award for *White Noise*



Public Programmes news

Exhibitions

The Library had planned to re-open the Special Exhibitions and Collections in Focus galleries to the public in March 2021. However, after the announcement of lockdown in late December, all plans for re-opening the exhibitions have been postponed indefinitely. Revised opening dates for the galleries and the new Treasures exhibition will be reviewed in March/April.

Touring banner displays and the planned MacKinnon touring exhibition (led by National Galleries of Scotland) are currently suspended.

Treasures of the National Library of Scotland



The installation of the new Treasures gallery was completed at the end of 2020. Installation of collection material and final snagging works will be carried out just prior to the exhibition opening to the public.

Emma Ulloa's contract as Treasures Project Manager ended in January. Calum MacGillivray (Exhibitions Officer) has now taken over responsibility for the ongoing management of the gallery.

Planning and preparations are underway for the accompanying programme, which will entail a virtual launch event, a dedicated season of events, a publication, podcast series and a dedicated *Treasures* website.

Petticoats and Pinnacles: Scotland's pioneering mountain women



The installation of the *Petticoats and Pinnacles* exhibition was completed at the end of 2020. Installation of collection material and final snagging works will be carried out just prior to the exhibition opening to the public.

As the exhibition was due to open in March as part of Women's History Month, the accompanying programme was already in-place. Therefore, this season of virtual events went ahead as planned. The recorded events will be promoted via social media when the exhibition opens to the public.

Eye of a Stranger: Henrietta Liston's travels

Final snagging work for the refurbished Collections in Focus gallery is to be completed when staff can regain on-site access. Final preparations for the Henrietta Liston exhibition will be carried out once an opening date has been confirmed.



Learning & Events

The Learning & Events team have continued to deliver a diverse range of online activities for a breadth of audiences. This includes:

- Library Socials – A monthly online programme for people living with dementia and their carers (ongoing)
- Armchair Explorers – A new monthly season of online creative workshops, exploring collections related to the upcoming *Petticoats and Pinnacles* exhibition (Dec-Apr)
- Gaelic Youth Project – A project for Gaelic-speaking young people from Edinburgh, Inverness and Portree that will result in an online showcase linked to the *Petticoats and Pinnacles* exhibition (Dec-Apr)
- Schools Q&A – A one-off session for school pupils to ask Library curators questions about our collections relating to the Jacobites (December)
- Online events programme – A weekly programme of online events. Highlights include the Ian Rankin in-conversation event in December, and February's Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition virtual showcase.

Audience engagement for our virtual programme continues to be strong, with people tuning-in from across Scotland, the UK and overseas. In response to feedback from supportive attendees, we are currently scoping the possibility of inviting people to give donations as part of the booking process for virtual events.

“Greetings from Northern Virginia, USA! I just wanted to thank you for such an excellent program this morning.”

“Amazing books which would be hard to see as well any other way. Please continue such activities.”

“Another fascinating event from the Library. Thank you!”

Public Programmes

Work is underway to produce a 5-year Public Programmes Plan, reflecting the strategic aims of Reaching People. The plan will provide both a roadmap and a toolkit for public programming at the Library, guiding the development of a vibrant and dynamic public offer for new and existing audiences. Staff and external consultation is underway, and the plan will launch in April.

Several strategic programming priorities have been identified for development over the next year. This includes:

- COP26 – scoping underway to develop partnerships and climate action programming opportunities.
- 2022 Year of Scotland's Stories – plans underway for an exhibition on John Francis Campbell of Islay and Scotland's story traditions to link with this nation-wide event.
- 2022/23 Centenary of Broadcasting – planning underway to produce a festival at Kelvin Hall to mark the centenary.
- Digital & outreach – trialling of new digital and outreach engagement to reach new audiences across Scotland and beyond, with a focus on diversifying audiences.
- Family programming – families are recognised as an under-served audience at the Library, therefore a new family programme will be developed when on-site activity can resume

General Collections news

Struggles for Liberty: African American Revolutionaries in the Atlantic World – an online resource



(The home page of our online resource)

The National Library of Scotland is launching an online learning resource – Struggles for Liberty: African American Revolutionaries in the Atlantic World. It shares the lifelong fight for social justice of African American freedom fighters, some of whom campaigned in Britain and Ireland in the 19th century.

Struggles for Liberty takes its name from the phrase 'struggles in the cause of liberty', written by Lewis Henry Douglass (eldest son of Frederick Douglass) of his mother, Anna Murray Douglass's tireless, heroic antislavery and social justice activism. It is structured by theme: the 'Story of the Slave'; the History of Black Abolition; the US Civil War; African American activists in Scotland; and the Anna Murray and Frederick Douglass Family. The resource also includes interactive maps and downloadable learning activities for teachers, including activities mapped to the Curriculum for Excellence.

To the day he died Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, human rights activist and author, was immovable in his lifelong conviction: 'nothing of justice, liberty, or humanity can come to us except through tears and blood'. With collection items from the National Library, Walter O. Evans Collection and other library holdings, Struggles for Liberty tells of the great individual and collective accomplishments of Frederick Douglass and other Black activists, who travelled Britain and Ireland in the 19th century fighting white supremacy and campaigning for the abolition of slavery.

The resource was created by Alice Heywood and Dora Petherbridge in collaboration with collector Dr Walter O. Evans, and academic partners in the US and the UK, particularly with Professor Celeste-Marie Bernier and the Arts & Humanities Research Council-funded, University of Edinburgh project, Our Bondage and Our Freedom.

The website can be found here: <https://digital.nls.uk/learning/struggles-for-liberty/>

Edinburgh University Digital Humanities students explore the Medical History of British India

About 15 years ago the Wellcome Trust funded the digitisation of the Library's collection of official publications on the medical history of British India. This impressive digital resource has recently found a new audience thanks to its inclusion on the Library's data foundry. Anouk Lang, a Senior Lecturer at Edinburgh University, has been using the collection as a focus for postgraduate and undergraduate students taking Postcolonial Writing and Digital Humanities for Literary Studies at the University. Collection orientation sessions that were planned for the students were unfortunately cancelled because of lockdown restrictions. However, Jan Usher, Social Sciences curator and Sarah Ames, Digital Scholarship Librarian were recently able to give "virtual field trips" to the students so as to give added context to their studies and to guide them through the collection and dataset. The research outputs from the latest cohort of students, which included studies into ganja smoking, sex work, and gender disparity can be seen on this website:

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/digitalhumanities2020/research/>.

The outputs from the previous cohort of students in 2019 can also be seen online, and are available at the following link: <https://aelangdh.wordpress.com/project/>.

Digital Humanities for Literary Studies, 2019-20

India Papers Project



Filming of Antique Smith's forged manuscripts of Robert Burns

As part of the Library's engagement with the University of Glasgow's AHRC funded project, Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century, Dr Ralph McLean, Manuscripts Curator, took part in filming to discuss the impact of the notorious forger, Antique Smith. Filming was originally scheduled to take place in March 2020, but was held up by lockdown. However, with the help of Zoom, filming was able to proceed before the end of the year. Smith forged a significant number of letters that he claimed were written by Burns and flooded the market with them in the late 19th century. The Library holds one of the largest collections of Smith's forgeries, which are held on deposit for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The discussion, with colleagues from the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow, focused on the techniques that Smith employed to create his forgeries, how he was able to get away with creating and selling so many for so long, and finally, how he was eventually caught and brought to justice. The documentary film will soon appear on the University's dedicated Burns project webpages <https://burnsc21.glasgow.ac.uk/>



Jacobite question and answer session with local primary school

On 3 December curators Robert Betteridge, Rare Books Curator and Ralph McLean faced a barrage of questions on all things Jacobite from local primary school pupils in West Lothian. The online session, arranged by Beverley Casebow, Learning and Outreach Officer and co-ordinated by Jo Stevenson, Events and Learning Co-ordinator, gave the pupils, who had been learning about the Jacobites, the opportunity to ask the curators anything on the subject. Over the course of an hour, questions ranged from what the Jacobites drank and ate, to how they fought and the weapons they carried. There were also some esoteric questions about how they went to the toilet. The online session also allowed the curators to showcase some items from the Library's collections, both printed works and manuscripts – including the visually arresting account of the battle of Culloden written on to playing cards.



Allan Ramsay article in *Studies in Scottish Literature*

As part of the Library's engagement with the University of Glasgow's AHRC funded project, The Collected Works of Allan Ramsay, Dr Ralph McLean, who is the Library's representative on the project's Knowledge and Exchange Team, was invited to contribute an article on Ramsay for a special issue in *Studies in Scottish Literature*. The essay, "Compylit in Latin': Allan Ramsay and Scoto-Latinity in the Eighteenth Century", forms part of volume 46 "Allan Ramsay's Future" and is available via open access on the *Studies in Scottish Literature* website: ["Allan Ramsay and Scoto-Latinity" by Ralph McLean](#). The article focusses on Ramsay's engagement with Latin, but also investigates translations into Latin that others made of his poetry. The article showcases the Library's archive materials such as the commonplace book of Alexander Fraser Tytler (Acc.11737/5), a linguist who translated several of Ramsay's works into Latin.



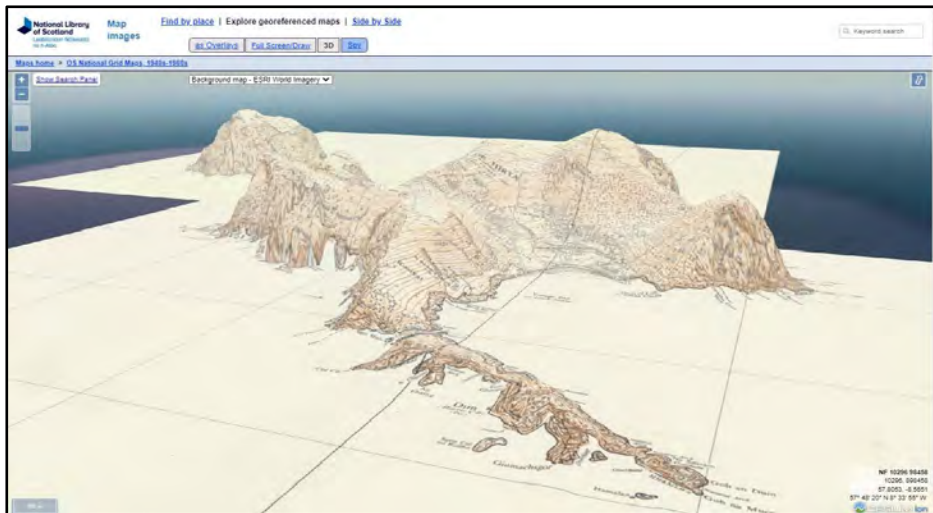
Maps website additions

Ordnance Survey National Grid maps published in 1970

In January, the Library put online 2,430 detailed maps at scales of 1:1,250 to 1:10,560 which were published in 1970, and which therefore just came out-of-copyright from

1 January 2021. These include 1,592 detailed maps at scales of 1:1,250 and 1:2,500 covering areas in Scotland, and 513 less detailed maps at scales of 1:10,560 covering areas in England, Scotland and Wales.

[View further information](#)



New online Ordnance Survey mapping from 1970 of St Kilda, seen in the Library's [3D viewer](#).

County maps of Northern England, 1760s-1840s



In February we added an additional 22 maps of counties in northern England. These maps generally provide the most detailed coverage of these whole counties, prior to Ordnance Survey mapping from the later 19th century. County maps were often privately funded by subscriptions from county landowners and gentry, and were based on an original survey, using trigonometry, at scales of one-inch to the mile, so they allowed good detail of the landscape to be shown. These particular maps have been scanned to support the *'Away from the water': the first energy transition, British textiles 1770-1890* research project, based at the University of Glasgow.

Extended coverage of Survey of India maps of southern India, 1920 – 1951



In February an additional set of 73 topographic maps were added covering part of southern India, to provide complete coverage of the River Kavery, and everywhere south of the 12th parallel north. The maps were published by the Survey of India, at the scales of one-inch to the mile (1:63,360) and half-inch to the mile (1:126,720). These maps have been scanned and georeferenced to support collaborative academic projects relating to water resources in southern India, led by the University of Lancaster. [View further information.](#)

Researching climate change with the *Map Images* website



This [new page](#) published in February, in collaboration with Henry Roberts, the Climate Change intern, gathers examples of how the Library's online map collections can be used to illustrate and understand climate change. Maps provide many insights into historic landscapes and environments, showing different ways of generating power, less polluting lifestyles and means of travel, subjects like fossil fuel extraction and consumption, as well as coastal erosion and sea-level rise. Once georeferenced, so that historic maps can be overlaid on their present-day location, comparison of change over time can be very revealing. This subject guide focusing on maps forms part of a wider *Climate Action Plan* by the Library. [View further information](#)

January 2021 issue of *Cairt* newsletter



This issue of *Cairt* contains two detailed articles. The first, by John Moore and Diana Webster, looks at the Society of Scottish Land Surveyors, explaining the background and purpose behind this little-known society, which promoted the use of Imperial or British/English measures, rather than Scots measures, from 1825. The second, by Christopher Dingwall, illustrates how maps can be combined with other documents to tell the story of how road improvements came about in the second half of the 18th century around Kenmore. As usual, there is a summary of the main National Library of Scotland maps website additions in the last six months, and the Cairt competition offers the chance to win a

copy of *Old Ways, New Roads: Travels in Scotland, 1720-1832*.

This issue of *Cairt* can be read at: <https://www.nls.uk/media/1843615/cairt38.pdf>.