

National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board

27 November 2017



The Librarian signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fulbright Commission on Thursday 26 October 2017

KEY EVENTS SINCE LAST UPDATE

18 September:

Attended the National Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland Advisory Group.

19 September:

Represented the Library at the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit meeting at the British Library.

20 September:

Took part in the SLIC Board meeting at the Robertson Trust in Glasgow.

28 September:

Gave a talk to the Paisley Philosophical Institute: *The Myth of the Universal Library*.

29 September:

Visited Paisley Museum & Art Gallery.

3 - 4 October:

In the company of the Chair, visited Sabhal Mor Ostaig on the Isle of Skye.

10 October:

Hosted, with the Chair, a joint event for the Library Board and Library Foundation in the Boardroom.

25 October:

Attended a conference, *'Priorities for the creative industries in Scotland post-Brexit – talent, support and new markets,'* at the Royal College of Surgeons.

26 October:

Welcomed the Library's patrons and donors to the Annual Celebration in the Library.

7 November:

Took part in the IASH (Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities) Advisory Board annual meeting at the University of Edinburgh.

8 November:

Welcomed attendees to the National Bibliography Stakeholder Seminar in the Library.

9-10 November:

Attended the Research Libraries UK Members' Meeting at the British Library.

17 November:

Hosted a visit from Susan Reilly, Director – Digital Library, Copyright & Licencing, Qatar National Library.

22 November:

Attended a Mintel Analyst talk: *'Brexit and the economy'* in the Library.

23 November:

Attended a reception, *Celebrating Creative Perth*, at the Scottish Parliament.

Library Staff return to Causewayside

Staff from Pentland House completed their move back to Causewayside on Monday 23 October. The Acquisitions, Metadata & Maintenance and Serials teams are now relocated to Level 3. The moves were conducted fairly smoothly, with staff unpacked, logged on, and up and running with little delay after arriving from Pentland House. Despite the challenging time scale, and the complexity of the moves, the CB Renewed Project has delivered on time.



Acquisitions and Description, Level 3

Whilst there is still some snagging work to be addressed, and some clearing-up to be done at Pentland House, the key objectives have been met. In addition to the Acquisitions & Description relocation, we now have a revamped Maps collections area (further information below) for public and staff on Level 3, a Digital Production Unit on Level 6, a Collections Project room on Level 3, staff rest areas on Levels 3 and 4, remodelled unisex toilets on Levels 4, 6 and 7, and a new meeting room/office on Level 5. A further unisex toilet on Level 5, and meeting rooms/offices on Levels 6 and 7 are close to completion.

The success of the project was down to all the staff who have been involved in renewing Causewayside: Project Manager Linda Macmillan, the Estates, IS, Portering teams and contractors, and of course the staff from Acquisitions & Description, Maps, Digital, Collections Care and Collections Support Services.



Maps collections area (staff)

Maps Reading Room Move

On 11 September the Maps Reading Room moved to its new home in the Causewayside Building. This is the fifth home for the Maps Reading Room, having been housed in George IV Bridge from 1959-1974, then in the former Middlemass biscuit factory building on Causewayside from 1974-1987. For the last 30 years the Reading Room has had various locations within the Library's Causewayside Building. Our latest move sees the former Seminar Room being re-designed to create a modern, secure and welcoming space. Access to the Maps Reading Room for the public is via the Salisbury Place entrance.

Although the space is smaller than the previous Reading Room, it is designed to accommodate the maximum number of readers that currently visit the reading room at any one time. We have also taken the opportunity to upgrade many of the facilities and to provide a bright and welcoming space for readers. The main maps table is height-adjustable, as are the four public PC tables. The Reading Room also has its own projector and screen which can be used to provide talks to small groups of up to twelve people. Readers have greater choice of when to visit, with the previous three opening days being increased to four via an appointment system. An online booking system has been implemented to enable this and to allow us to be more flexible with how staff are utilised. This allows the maps team to contribute significantly to the Library's digitisation programme.



Maps Reading Room

When the new Reading Room was designed, staff suggested imagery for the room. The existing modern satellite image is now complemented by a view of the world in hemispheres from a 19th century atlas, and James Gordon's striking Birds' Eye View of Edinburgh. These images provide a glimpse of the comprehensive nature of our map collections

The Changing Library - Quarterly Update

'The Changing Library' is a culture change programme designed to support achieving strategic goals by enhancing staff engagement; and encouraging innovation, resilience and professional development in the Library.

Learning at Work Week 2017

Learning at Work Week (L@WW) ran from 11-15 September 2017. L@WW connects staff from different parts of the Library to share knowledge, insights and experiences. It creates social bonds; generates new ideas and encourages collaborative working. In 2017 we had 150 bookings over 19 events.

Feedback on L@WW 2017:

- 94% learned something new about the Library.
- 88% met colleagues they had not met before.
- 97% enjoyed taking part.
- 100% said L@WW is good for the Library.

Comments included:

- *I enjoy finding out what the Library is doing and meeting colleagues from the Library. You can be working away in your area and you forget the bigger picture and L@WW gives a chance to see what the Library is involved in.*
- *It was wonderful getting an insight into the different projects going on in the Library. I really enjoyed meeting other staff members and hearing about what they had been working on.*

Staff Survey 2017

The Library took part in the annual Civil Service People Survey for the third time in October 2017. The survey measures levels of staff engagement and provides a useful benchmark for internal and external comparisons. Our response rate this year (80%) is in line with previous years and compares well with the overall Civil Service rate (67%).

Results are due in mid-November and these will form the basis of a new iteration of our action plan to maintain and improve levels of staff engagement.

Digitisation – Quarterly Update

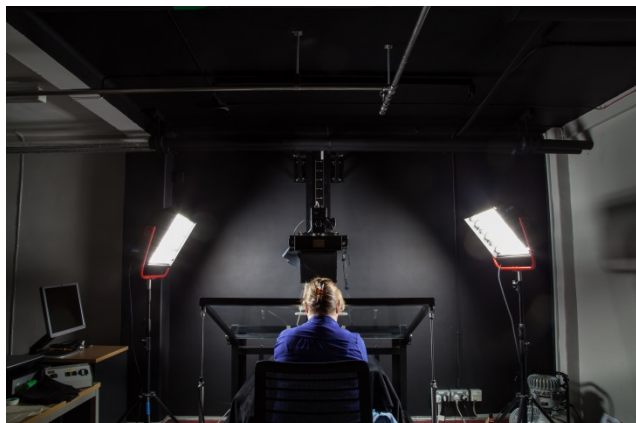
Mid-September-October 2017

The quarter two 2017/18 digitisation figures have now been compiled, and stand at 27,653 items, up from 23,555 in quarter one. This is slightly above the pro-rata target of 100,000 items this year, and takes the cumulative total to 51% of the year's target.

The second phase of populating the new digitisation suite on Level 6 of Causewayside is now complete. The existing digitisation staff from Level 13 of George IV Bridge have moved. This consists of the Digitisation Officer, Digitisation Assistant, an HLF-funded Skills for the Future trainee, and a number of pieces of their digitisation equipment. The move was completed on schedule, and a few final snagging issues are being resolved. The third and final phase will be undertaken in the new calendar year when new equipment and staff arrive.

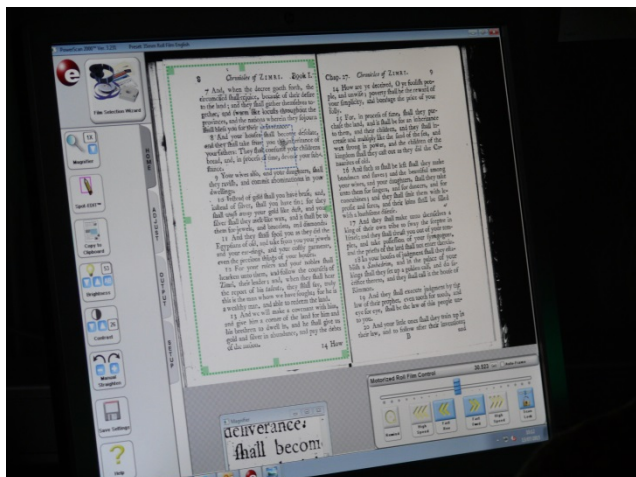
As part of the creation of the new digitisation suite, faster network switches have been installed in both the digitisation studio and the data centre. This means that data can be transferred at speeds of 10Gbps between the cameras and the storage in order to improve the workflow and ensure that there are no bottlenecks in the throughput of

images. This network speed is normally only seen within data centres. Following a successful implementation of this fast network technology at Kelvin Hall, it is also being used in the digitisation suite.



Procurement of the new mass-digitisation equipment continues, as does the planning of the staff. This is being managed carefully, as the intention is to move to two working patterns (early and late) to maximise the amount of time that the equipment is in use.

A trial of microfilm digitisation has now concluded. An automated microfilm scanner was rented for five months to digitise 625 rolls of microfilms. These contain black and white photographs of books that were captured over the past decades. The aim of the trial was to see whether it is more cost effective to scan microfilms than to digitise the same collections using modern digital equipment. A full report of the trial is now being prepared.



Scanned image from microfilm

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

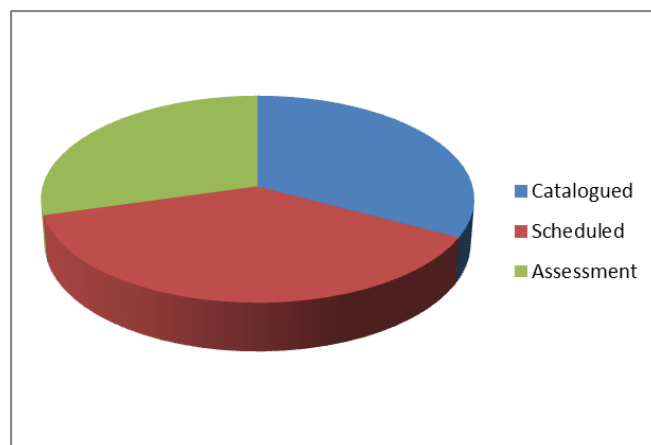
In the second quarter of 2017-18, 7,521 items from the hidden collections were added to the catalogue, with a further 19 collections now completely catalogued.

This included 2,916 retro-converted manuscript records, 4,652 items from the published collections, and 13 moving images.

Completed collections include:

- Dunn collection: 20th century publications collected by the town planner and gay activist, Ian C. Dunn (1943-1998).
- Ritchie-Calder Collection: publications donated to the Library in 1987 by the family of the Scottish author, journalist and academic, Baron Ritchie-Calder (1906-1982).

Since the beginning of the programme in 2015, 134 hidden collections have been catalogued, 162 have been scheduled for cataloguing, and 120 collections await assessment or are being assessed for cataloguing.



Note: Figures at 14 November 2017

Treasures Exhibition: Reformation

The Library is marking the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation with a display running from 19 October to 13 January. It showcases some outstanding rare and illustrated items from our early foreign printed book collections. The events that drove the Reformation are explained through key texts, including indulgences, papal bulls, and copies of Luther's ninety-five theses in Latin and German. The exhibition takes full advantage of the fact that German books of this period are often decorated with fine woodcuts to show contemporary portraits of the main players and venues, as well as scenes from daily life. Exhibition curator Anette Hagan gave a talk to accompany the exhibition, '*Martin Luther and the Reformation: What was it all about?*' on 31 October.



Biblia, das ist, die gantz Heilige Schrift, vol. 2, (Wittenberg: Hans Lufft, [1541]). Shelfmark: RB.I.124.

The display draws heavily on the Crawford Collections, the most substantial of our deposited printed collections. The Balcarres Heritage Trust, which owns these collections, also facilitated some private loans to the exhibition.

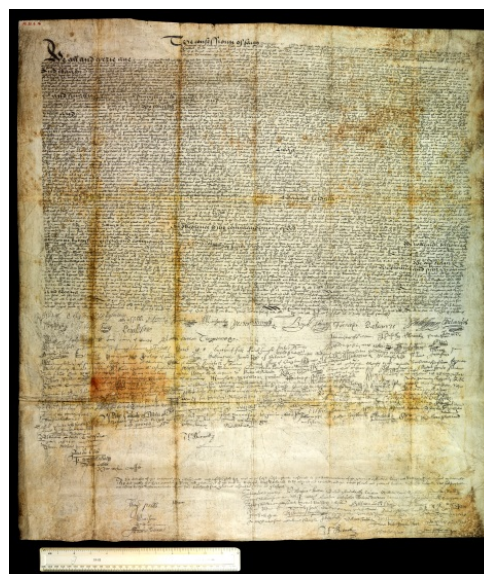
One of the exhibition highlights is this hand-coloured copy of Luther's translation of the

New Testament, printed in Wittenberg, the town where the Reformation began, from our own collections.

University of Glasgow Student Internship

During October-December Jamie McDougall, a final year PhD student in Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, has been undertaking an AHRC-sponsored internship. Jamie is working in the Manuscript and Archive Collections Division of the Library on imaging, transcribing, and encoding a selection of the 25 Scottish Covenants. The Library holds a significant number of these among the Advocates' Manuscripts.

Produced in a variety of different formats between 1580 and 1648, these religious oaths were ordered to be sworn by all men and women in Scotland regardless of social standing. The Covenants are widely regarded as having a profound impact on the development of political thought and national identity in Scotland, but surprisingly little work has been done on the surviving documents and their thousands of signatures.



The 1638 National Covenant, subscribed in Peebles and Jedburgh.

This internship is giving Jamie an invaluable insight into how a national religio-political venture was received and understood by the people in the parishes of Scotland. Digitising and transcribing these documents will enable academics, secondary school teachers, genealogists, and interested members of the public to uncover local dimensions to this significant moment in Scottish history. Jamie is being mentored by Dr Ulrike Hogg and Ines Byrne, who have facilitated this internship.

Visit of the Society of Indexers

On 26 October Dr Ulrike Hogg, Manuscripts & Archives Curator, and Robert Betteridge, Rare Books Curator, hosted a visiting group from the Society of Indexers: the professional body for indexers in the UK and Ireland. The group of eight were shown early printed and manuscript indexes from the Library's collections. A very positive report of the visit will be going onto the Society's website and magazine.

Highlights included a fifteenth-century manuscript of the short recension of Ranulph Higden's Polychronicon with a map and full index (Adv.MS.33.4.12) and one of the first indexes, in the modern sense, printed in English: Sir Thomas North's translation of Plutarch's *The lives of the noble Grecians and Romanes*. London: Richard Field for Thomas Wight, 1595. (H.F.104).



Part of the index of: Schedel, Hartmann. *Liber chronicarum*. Nuremberg: Antonius Koberger, 1493. (Inc.73)

Student doctors delve into medical history at National Library of Scotland



For the seventh year running, students at [Dundee University Medical School](#) have developed a deeper understanding of worldwide health issues by utilising rare and valuable Library medical resources from our [Medical History of British India website](#) and [India Papers collection](#). These form part of [Dundee's BMSc International Health](#) module and this partnership enables student doctors to take a year out of medical training to hone research skills. As well as tracking how medical knowledge and attitudes have changed since the 19th Century, students gain an insight into the role of the National Library of Scotland in preserving the past and facing future challenges. Francine Millard, Digital Projects Officer, welcomes up to ten students to the Library each October when they join as readers. This year they were joined by Veronica Denholm who introduced them to the Library's services, including the Library's varied e-Resources.

Medical History of British India

[browse and search](#) | [about the collection](#) | [further resources](#) | [acknowledgements](#)



Directory and Chronicle Asia project

The *Asian Directories and Chronicles project* is based at the Europa Institute Basel (EIB) where it is the subject of multiple PhD projects, and it is a major research focus for [Data Futures](#). It has already produced more than ten research collections using new analysis techniques as well as supporting scholars at Aix-Marseille University, ENS-Lyon and Heidelberg University. It is also one of Data Futures' primary evaluators for Web Annotation Data Model workflows – offering a major leap in annotation workflow technologies for sustainable scholarly annotation.



Eric Decker from the Institute for European Global Studies approached the Library for a collaborative contribution, namely to digitise our copies of the 'missing' volumes (which we hold). The project investigates the flows of information and movement of people in Asia in between 1863 and 1942 as described in a publication series called 'Chronicles & Directories.' The project, called 'Global Information at a Glance: Power, Law, and Commerce through the Lens of Asia Directories,' is led by Professor Madeleine Herren. It will use both manual and automatic methods to extract different categories of information, such as table of contents or datasets on foreign residents living in Asia at the time. The digitised books and the extracted data will be made available to the public.

Social Media status

In the period since September 2017 our social media follower numbers have grown by 5% (Facebook), 11% (Twitter), and 13% (Instagram). Our highlights have included promoting the Gaelic language in a responsive way (as per the picture below showing 'the moon' as our Gaelic word of the week on the day of the total solar eclipse in September). We also took part in some good natured rivalry with the Bodleian and British Library in October, which drew much positive comment and engagement. Finally, for National Poetry Day we recorded a special video in collaboration with the Scottish Poetry Library and released it exclusively on our social media channels.



Looking ahead, we are halfway through Twitter inductions for the Front of House/ Access team for George IV Bridge, with a start date for the feed of mid-November. We are also investigating how to best use Twitter Moment for our events and services and looking at how to improve our live video on social media with reference to the excellent work done by the National Museums of Scotland. Finally, we are looking at better ways of communicating our research collections and services.

Recent Manuscript Accessions

Acc.13852



Photograph of Patrick Geddes, his wife Anna and their children, Norah, Alasdair and Arthur, with Aunt Jeanne Bothwell and household staff in the garden of Craufurd, their home at Lasswade, circa 1896

The Library's important holdings of Patrick Geddes papers have been augmented by the donation of further family letters and photographs. Most of the letters are from Sir Patrick's daughter, Norah, Lady Mears, to her parents and siblings, and provide valuable insights into the Geddes family's life and activities as well as Norah's developing interest in garden design. Geddes enthusiasts will be delighted by Patrick Geddes's discursive letter from India to his young grandsons in which he extols the delights and educational value of roaming near and far.

Thomas Elder Dickson

Acc.13859

This small, but perfectly formed, collection comprises the papers of the art critic and landscape artist Thomas Elder Dickson (1899-1978). Thomas Elder Dickson was Vice-Principal of Edinburgh College of Art from 1947 to 1968 and President of the Society of Scottish Artists for three years after the Second World War. He published on issues relating to art, mostly Scottish, for over forty years. This new acquisition is a complement to other material related to Thomas Elder Dickson in the Library collections, principally relating to his monograph on the artist Sir William George Gillies (Edinburgh University Press 1974). The collection includes exchanges with various artists about their working methods, and drafts of Dickson's own essays (some unpublished) on the character of Scottish art, as well as lectures and related writings.

The collection evidences Dickson's strong interests in psychology and its applications to the teaching of art. For example, in March 1837 he read a paper on 'The Concept of the Imagination in Contemporary Aesthetics' to the Scottish Branch of the British Psychological Society and in 1941 he published an article on 'The relation of recent aesthetic and psychological research to Art education' in the *Journal of Education*. In this he notes that: 'One of the hardest things the teacher has to do is to prevent this distortion of the "innocent eye" that supreme gift of childhood which so few have been able to preserve.'

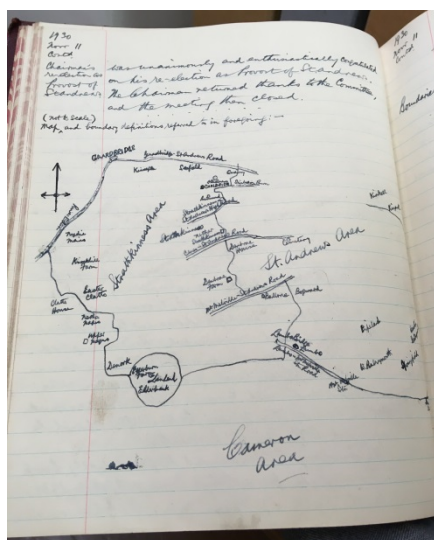
North East Fife Conservative Association

Acc.13853

The Library has recently acquired the records of the North East Fife Conservative Association. This collection spans the years 1900 to 2015 and includes minute books,

correspondence, photographs, ephemera and other material. Taken as a whole, the collection provides an invaluable insight into the organisational history of this long-standing local group and its predecessors during a period of significant change in Scottish society. Included are the minute books of numerous local groups including the Scoonie Unionist Association, later East Fife Unionist and Liberal Association; Leven Branch, St. Andrews Unionist Association, later St. Andrews and District Unionist Association; and reports of the Women's Sub-Committee (1931-37). The collection provides an important insight into the growth of women's associations in this part of Scotland and more generally how local political organisations have developed and changed over the last hundred years.

The gift of this collection complements the Library's strong collections of modern political manuscripts and archives, which include the papers of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, Scottish Green Party, Scottish Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party.

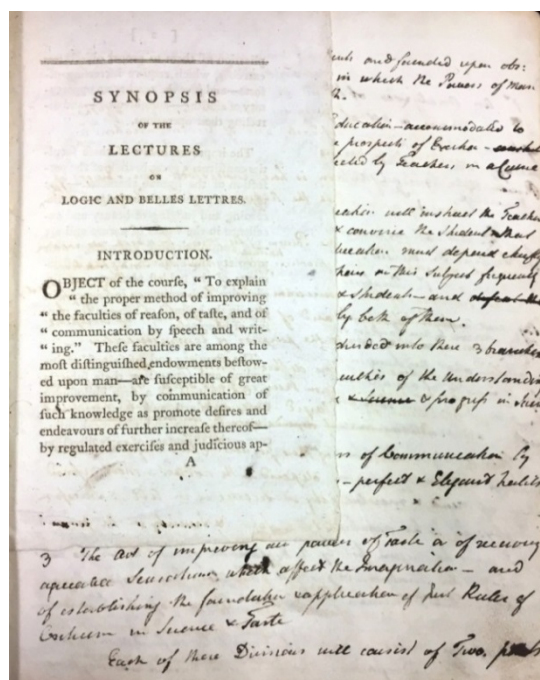


This image depicts a hand drawn map taken from the minutes books of the St. Andrews and District Unionist Association committee meeting on 11 November 1930. The image relates to a boundary dispute that had arisen and the minutes record that 'Mr Younger, Mr J. M. Roger, Miss Moir, and the Hon. Sec. had gone further into the matter of the

Strathkinnes and St. Andrews district boundaries, and that a satisfactory and amicable conclusion had been arrived at.' This image and description is one example of the insight this archive provides into the changing nature of local political organisations within this area of Scotland

Acquisition of Professor George Jardine's manuscript notes Acc.13844

The Library recently purchased an interleaved volume of Professor George Jardine's *Synopsis of the Lectures on Logic and Belles Lettres* (1797). Jardine was a professor of Logic at the University of Glasgow, and a former student of Adam Smith, who himself had taught a course on rhetoric and belles lettres at the University. Jardine's *Synopsis* was republished in 1804, but the Library did not previously own a copy of the 1797 edition. This interleaved volume contains extensive manuscript annotations and additions which Jardine used as the basis for his expanded 1804 work. The manuscript provides a key insight into the writing process of a prominent Scottish rhetorician and University reformer.



Harry Potter: History of Magic exhibition at Edinburgh City Library

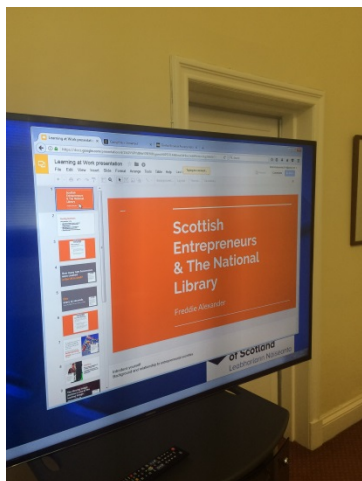
The Library has lent a number of books relating to Harry Potter to Edinburgh City Library as part of a nationwide exhibition on the theme of magic. The series of 20 exhibitions across the United Kingdom link to the British Library's new major exhibition of the same theme and title. The Library has taken part in this exhibition as founding partners of the Living Knowledge Network, a network of 24 national and city public libraries in the UK. The display will run until the end of February 2018.

L@WW Seminar Presentation

Freddie Alexander, Front of House team member, gave a presentation at L@WW to address the National Library's engagement with young businesses and entrepreneurs, approaching this topic through his prior work with Entrepreneurial Scotland.

With a burgeoning start-up sector in Edinburgh and Glasgow, this is a major user demographic for the Library.

The Library has demonstrated its strengths in working with the private sector, for example the Maps Library support for a range of industries from genealogy to archaeology, and even wallpapering.



However, when discussing entrepreneurs and start-ups, the Library should consider what barriers to entry it has not addressed. These barriers include a lack of knowledge, particularly about costs and the availability of free information, and the desirability of returning to the Library.

In order to address these barriers the presentation proposed that the Library consults young entrepreneurs. Through this, a strategy can be developed, implemented, and marketed to start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Medical Humanities Group meeting

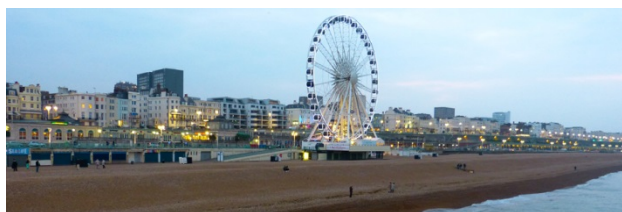


On Monday 6 November the Library hosted the second meeting of the Scottish Medical Humanities Group. The meeting, chaired by Sir Kenneth Calman, aimed to consider how medical humanities can help realise another Scottish initiative, Realistic Medicine.

In her '[Realising Realistic Medicine](#)' report, the Chief Medical Officer, Catherine Calderwood, puts forward a vision for health care in Scotland. The report calls for a refocusing of values to better serve patients, making good communication the cornerstone of clinical practice and treating patients as individuals. The group discussed the role medical humanities can play in meeting this challenge

The Library at Cogapp hack day

At the start of October the Library was invited to participate in one of Cogapp's hack days (<https://www.cogapp.com/>). Cogapp is a digital media agency based in Brighton that periodically holds 'hack days' where they set aside their daily work to experiment and try out new ideas with a variety of different technologies and data sets. Rachel Nimmo, Assistant Data and Systems Librarian, and Martin Shatwell, Digitisation Developer, travelled to Brighton to share some of the Library's published data sets and partake in some of the hack day projects.



<https://studyabroad.illinoisstate.edu/destinations/uk/brighton/>

One of the tasks was to see if it would be possible to automatically extract metadata terms from the transcription data of the Library's digitised Antiquarian Books of Scotland (ABS) collection (<http://digital.nls.uk/120821910>). The transcriptions data for the ABS collection is created automatically when the books are digitised using optical character recognition (OCR) software. The proposal for the project was to test whether, if this raw OCR data were run through Natural Language Processing (NLP) software, it would be possible to list people and places from within the text and generate subject keywords about the text. While the results of the NLP processing were mixed they weren't without promise. There were a handful of erroneous results – some of which could be traced back to faults with the OCR (long 's' characters being read as the letter 'f') – but in a lot of instances the NLP software was able to extract and create correct terms.

The other task Library staff participated in was to see if it would be possible to produce playable music files from the Library's digitised printed sheet music (<http://digital.nls.uk/97135480>). To achieve this the images were resized and run through OCR software optimised for printed music, to produce a data format which details musical notation. This was then transformed into a .wav file using a piece of open source software called MuseScore. This file could then be played through a browser so could appear playable beside the image of the sheet music. This worked as a proof of concept and a different way of looking at what can be done with the Library's digital content across varying media formats.

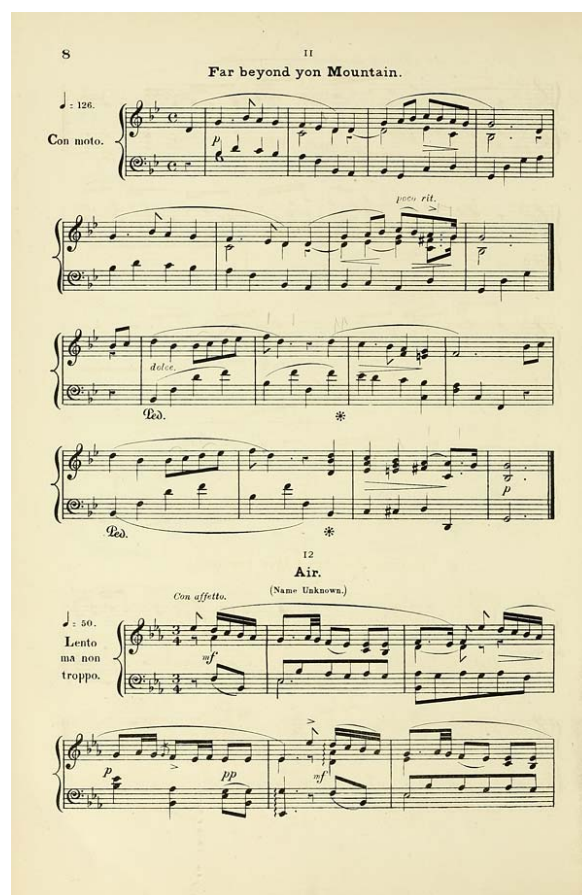


Image: Musical score from the Library's Special Collections of Printed Music

The demo site can be found here:
<http://labs.cogapp.com/nls-terms/>

Improved reader registration process

Registration with the National Library of Scotland gives everyone living in Scotland remote access to an extensive range of [eResources](#). These consist of:

- Hundreds of thousands of digitised books, periodicals and manuscripts spanning over five centuries;
- Millions of records and abstracts via online services and databases;
- Thousands of full-text newspapers, journals and reports; and
- Hundreds of full-text reference works.



This means readers do not have to physically come into the Library, but can be anywhere from Shetland to Stranraer.

Until recently staff in Reference Services sent people who had registered with a Scottish address a letter by post. Receipt of this letter and subsequent activation by use of the included password was confirmation of their Scottish residence.

There were three issues with this procedure:

- About half of recipients did not activate their registration within the three week timeframe and thus had to contact enquiry staff again to arrange remote access.
- Time involved in producing the letters and dealing with follow up issues was significant.
- Cost of producing and posting the letters.

Recently Reference Services worked with colleagues from Front of House and Digital Development to implement use of an

automated postcode checker, which would recognise if a postcode was Scottish. If so, the person registering is sent an email with the password details and receives immediate and continuing access.

The benefits of this are:

- Ease of remote access to eResources which improves the reader experience;
- Increased usage of eResources;
- Staff time saving in producing the letters of 201 hours per annum; time which can be devoted to enquiry work; and
- Saving of £6,528.00 by not producing and mailing the letters.

Thus implementation of the postcode checker improves the service, but also saves us time and money.

Wee Windaes Resource

In association with the University of Edinburgh, we will be promoting the Wee Windaes resources overseas at the forthcoming Scottish Writing Exhibition in Philadelphia this December. This is run by the Association of Scottish Literary Studies at the annual Modern Language Association convention and involves over 200 Scottish literature titles (all periods). The MLA convention is attended by university lecturers, and the Exhibition by those interested in Scots in particular.



Connecting Scotland's Sounds

The Connecting Scotland's Sounds project, funded 2016-2017 by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to champion Scotland's audio heritage, is now drawing to a close. Autumn knowledge exchange activities have included coordinating an Archival Management of Oral History Collections course in Inverness, a Scotland's Sounds stakeholder meeting in Perth, and preparing to host the British & Irish Sound Archives (BISA) conference on 17 and 18 November at the National Library.



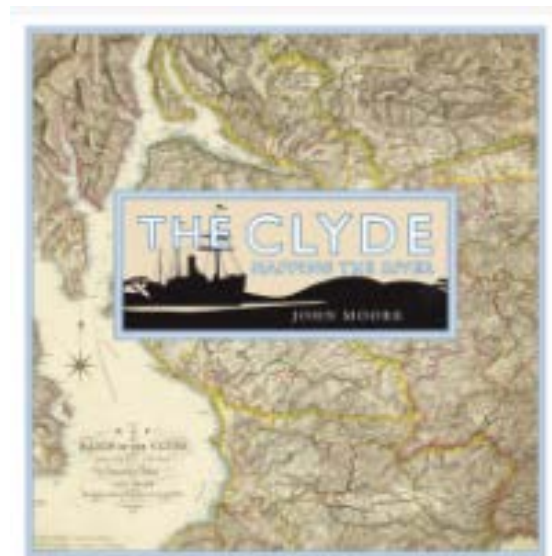
Still image from [Sounds like Scotland](#) by Iain Gardner, Animation Garden

We have also been engaging new audiences through community podcast projects with Media Education in Orkney, Glasgow, Helmsdale and Fife, and a Scots song project with Local Voices in two schools in the East Neuk of Fife. UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was celebrated with the launch of a two-minute animated sound piece called [Sounds like Scotland](#). It features 14 archive recordings – some born digital, some digitised – from twelve sound collections across Scotland.

The Scotland's Sounds network will continue to be coordinated by the National Library of Scotland to champion the preservation and sharing of Scotland's archive sound recordings and build on the momentum created by the Connecting Scotland's Sounds project.

Collaborative Birlinn-Library map book news

There have been several items of news for Scottish map books co-published by the Library in the last few months. *Scotland: Mapping the Islands*, published in October 2016 by Birlinn in association with the National Library of Scotland, has been shortlisted for this year's Saltire Society's Research and Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award. The results will be announced on 30 November. Map Curator Chris Fleet, one of the book's co-authors, has also given talks on the book at several book festivals around Scotland recently: the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August, the Spirit of Moray Book Festival in September, and the Faclan Book Festival in Stornoway in October.



The Clyde: Mapping the River by John Moore, another collaborative Birlinn co-publication with the Library, was published in October.

Finally, *Scotland: Mapping the Nation*, originally published in 2011, was reprinted to meet popular demand in October, having been out-of-print in hardback for some years.

Collaborative PhDs update

We are delighted to welcome two new PhD students to the Library under the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme. The new students are Rachel Dishington and Alice Doyle.

Rachel is researching 'Engineering "Modern" Scotland: The Stevenson maps and plans and Scotland's built infrastructure, c.1800–c.1900.' She is being supervised by Professor Charles Withers, University of Edinburgh, and by Chris Fleet and Alison Metcalfe of the Library.

Alice is researching 'Archive and Narrative in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum.' She is being supervised by Dr Scott Hames and Dr Peter Lynch at the University of Stirling along with Dr Amy Todman and Eilidh MacGlone of the Library.

Alice and Rachel join our original SCHC student Naomi Harvey who is starting her second year at Heriot Watt University. Naomi's project is 'Collecting and preserving access to intangible cultural heritage within the digital environment: Evaluating new models for Scotland.'

SCHC studentships have a focus on the Library's collections and help develop skills relevant to the Library. They include supervision by expert Library staff, collaboration with our specialist teams throughout the PhD, and a six-month work placement with us, as well as financial support from the Library.

Congratulations to Andrea Wallace and Anne Peale who have obtained their PhDs as part of collaborative schemes with the Library. Anne researched 'Works of travel in an age of high empire: John Murray III and domestic markets for the far away, c.1859-1892,' a collaboration between the Library and University of Edinburgh.

Andrea researched 'Surrogate intellectual property rights in the cultural sector' at Glasgow University as part of the Library's collaboration with [CREATE](#). Andrea has been appointed to a lectureship in the Law School at the University of Exeter.

The Library's Research showcase on Friday 16 February 2018 will focus on our involvement with collaborative PhD schemes and the PhDs currently being undertaken by members of staff.

Renewal of the Library's Memorandum of Understanding with the Fulbright Commission

The Library has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Fulbright Commission to continue the Fulbright-National Library of Scotland Scholar Award for a further four years. The new MoU was signed by Penny Egan, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission and by the National Librarian.



The award enables a scholar from the United States to come to the Library to undertake intensive study on our collections, collaborate with Library staff, and produce research outputs during and after the fellowship. Scholars are embedded with curatorial or specialist divisions to facilitate knowledge exchange.

The first competition under the new agreement begins in February 2018 for a scholar to come to Scotland in the academic year 2019-20.

United Nations Depository Library (UNDL) Programme



The National Library of Scotland has been part of the global [United Nations Depository Library \(UNDL\) Programme](#) since its foundation in 1947. The Programme covers 355 libraries in 136 countries, providing documents and publications throughout the world without charge. This in turn allows citizens to fully engage with the workings of the United Nations. The depository library program remains one of the best examples of how the shared expert knowledge of librarians can help local communities navigate a complex set of government datasets, knowledge and information tools.

The damage by Hurricane Sandy to the United Nations' printing facility in New York in 2012 resulted in their decision not to renew the facility, and to give access to their publications in digital format only. There are concerns that this move to digital access could have seriously negative consequences.

The UN Publications Board undertook a consultation of the UN Depository Libraries in 2014 (which the Library participated in). However, it wasn't until 2016 that the Board took the decision to progress online access, leaving a three year gap where libraries were without access to current UN documents and publications. There is now a new online platform in place called the [UNiLibrary](#) operated by the OECD.

In a world where only 40 percent of the population has an internet connection,

coupled with the prohibitively high cost of the commercial model for the UNiLibrary platform, these changes will undoubtedly result in diminished access and participation in this long established depository scheme.

The American Library Association (ALA) formally recognised the importance of the changes to the Depository Library system in June 2016 when it issued a [Resolution for the Restoration of the United Nations Depository Library System](#).

The National Library of Scotland has brought this matter to the attention of the Chartered Institute of Information Professionals (CILIP) and it is currently considering adding its voice to that of the ALA, which will in turn assist the [IFLA Government Information and Official Publications Section](#) in advocating for a solution to be found for the common good.

Battle of Ideas

On Saturday 21 October the Library hosted an all-day series of panel discussions and debates with The Institute of Ideas as part of the larger 'Battle of Ideas' festival which takes place in London. The topics discussed were: Are we living in a post-truth society? How can we revive the Scottish economy? Whose culture is it anyway: the cultural appropriation debate, and From the spirit of Shackleton to 'cotton-wool' kids: are we too risk averse?



Panel members for the day included: Marguerite Hunter Blair (Chief Executive, Play Scotland), Stuart Waiton (Lecturer in criminology, Abertay University), Joyce McMillan (Scotsman columnist), Iain Macwhirter (Herald columnist), Seonag Mackinnon (Director of Communications, Glasgow Caledonian University), Theo Dounas (Architecture lecturer, Robert Gordon University), and Annie George (Saltire award-winning playwright). The format for the day encouraged active participation by the audience and contributions from both panel and audience members were lively, engaging and informative.

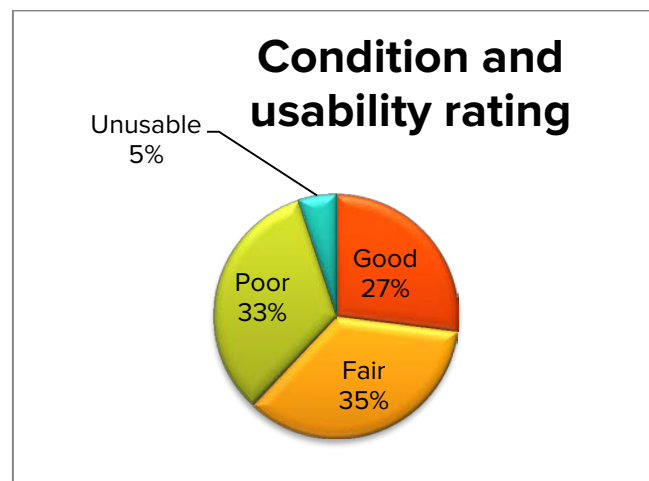
Condition survey of the Gray Collection

In addition to preparing collection items for exhibitions, loans and digitisation, the Conservation Unit undertakes programmes of remedial and preventive conservation to stabilise collection items and ensure they can be handled safely by readers. Priorities are set depending on the significance of collections as determined by the curators, their condition, and their level of use.



The Gray Collection was nominated by the Rare Books Division because of its significance: the majority of the books are in their original bindings, making the collection

an invaluable source of information for studies on the history of bookbinding, the book trade, and the readership of books in Scotland between the 16th and 17th centuries. The Conservation Unit agreed the collection deserved attention because many of the books exhibited handling damage and none of them had protective boxes.



A survey of the 1,500 volumes in the collection was undertaken by Simona Cenci, one of the Library's book and paper conservators, over the course of several months. The aims of the survey were to assess the condition of the volumes and measure their dimensions, paving the way for a prioritised programme of re-housing and conservation. The description of the physical condition of the volumes was undertaken by creating a bespoke database, modelled on databases developed by the Ligatus Research Centre for similar projects, such as the St. Catherine's Library Conservation Project.

Following the survey, the data was analysed to plan a programme of boxing and a prioritised programme of conservation for the items in worst condition and those which are likely to be in demand for exhibitions, in particular the exhibition at the John Gray Centre in Haddington scheduled for 2018. The boxes have already been made by the Library's Preservation Services Unit, and the conservation treatments will be undertaken in phases over several years.

Recent acquisitions by General Collections

North American first editions with dust jackets of works by Muriel Spark

We already had some of Spark's North American first editions but have now acquired an additional fourteen titles, including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *The Public Image* and *The Abbess of Crewe*. The dust jackets are attractive and quite different from the more familiar UK editions.

Bogie Man issues no.1 to no.4. Glasgow, 1989-1990. The Bogie man: Chinatoon / Alan Grant and John Wagner. London, 1993

Bogie Man is an influential comic strip published independently in Glasgow and set in the city. The title character is Francis Forbes Clunie, a Scottish mental patient who suffers from the delusion that he is Humphrey Bogart. An early example of a Scottish creator-owned comic, it blazed a trail for the later success of Scots such as Grant Morrison and Mark Millar in the comics industry.

The seven murals of the creation with description / by Alasdair Gray. Glasgow, 1964.

A very rare pamphlet describing the murals based on the Seven Days of Creation that Gray painted in Greenhead Barrowfield Church in Bridgeton, Glasgow between 1958 and 1964. The painting of the murals is described in fictional form in chapter 28 of Gray's 1981 novel *Lanark*. The Church was demolished in the 1970s.

Selkirk Free Press

This Borders weekly newspaper was published in the 1930s and seems to have largely failed to get into public collections. We were recently able to add a bound run from 1932-1933 to the collections.

Beano. Issue 1, 30 July 1938



First issue of Britain's longest running comic, and probably the most important comic ever to be published in Scotland, this is a major addition to the collections. We also purchased a number of issues of both the Beano and Dandy from the 1940s and also completed our holdings of Beano books with the annuals for 1942 and 1945.

Cinefantastique: Volume 6 Number 3. 1977

This issue of the respected American fantastic cinema magazine is almost wholly devoted to an appraisal of the 1973 film 'The Wicker Man' which is set on the remote and fictional Hebridean island of Summerisle. The much reprinted quote about the film 'the Citizen Kane of horror movies' comes from this publication and it is still probably the most important publication about 'The Wicker Man,' which is now considered one of the most important British films of the 1970s.

SCOLMA Conference

On 11 September the Library hosted the 55th annual SCOLMA (UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa) conference. Organised by SCOLMA treasurer and Manuscripts curator, Alison Metcalfe, the conference theme was *Document to digital: how does digitisation aid African research*. Jody Butterworth, curator of the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) at the British Library, was the keynote speaker, and described the work of the programme, highlighting several projects it had successfully supported to protect and preserve archives under threat in Africa.



A diverse programme of speakers then showcased a range of projects to digitise archival collections, from crowd-funding the digitisation of the Peter Mackay archive at the University of Stirling, to the colossal undertaking to digitise the Gacaca Archive, the court records of genocide trials in Rwanda. In addition to using digitisation for preservation and access, other speakers demonstrated how it is enabling use of collections in innovative ways, including through a repeat landscape photography project, which uses historic and current photography to analyse ecological change due to climate and human factors.

With speakers and delegates from across the UK and from Africa, the papers raised plenty of discussion and potential opportunities to work together on future digitisation projects.

Rare Books international leadership

October saw Rare Books Curator Anette Hagan represent the Library at the International English Short Title Catalogue Board Meeting in London. As part of the day's proceedings she gave a presentation on the Scottish Book Trade Index resource maintained by the Library. The Library is one of the top five libraries in the world for holdings of books in ESTC, which records items printed in the British Isles and other English-language items before 1800.



Anette also attended the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) research seminar at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam on the theme of 'Putting it together: Research Access for Hybrid Collections,' and the CERL AGM as a member of the Co-Coordinating Committee.

In August Helen Vincent, Rare Books, Maps and Music Collections Manager was re-elected to a second two-year term as Chair of the International Federation of Library Associations Rare Books and Special Collections Standing Committee.



Recent Acquisitions, Rare Books

William McGonagall, *The execution of James Graham, Marquis of Montrose, Edinburgh, [1894-1902]*

A rare, unrecorded broadside poem printed for the 'world's worst poet,' William McGonagall, who spent the last 25 years of his life churning out bad poetry at a prolific rate. The subject of this poem was the seventeenth-century Scottish nobleman, the Marquess of Montrose, who signed the National Covenant, but later became a staunch supporter of the Royalist cause during the Civil War. Montrose was hanged in Edinburgh in 1650. His head was cut off and displayed on a spike on the Old Tollbooth, outside St. Giles' Cathedral, until 1661. The poet writes of said head:

And, while in the act of combing his
beautiful hair,
He was visited by the Clerk Register,
who made him stare,

Because he told him he shouldn't be
so particular with his head,
For in a few short hours he would be
dead...

Peter Harrington £1,500



James Frazer, *The golden bough*, London, 1890

The Scottish scholar Sir James Frazer's seminal work on anthropology and comparative religion has never been out of print. This copy of the two-volume first edition belonged to another Scottish

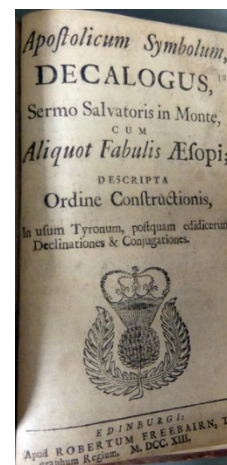
anthropologist, Major-General James Forlong, who, through his study of local religions when serving in the Indian army, developed his own radical theories on comparative religion. Forlong has annotated his copy with some pithy comments, but of particular interest is the very rare inserted 16-page leaflet, *Questions on the manners, customs, religion, superstitions, &c.* Frazer had the leaflet printed a year or two before publication of his book and circulated it to fellow anthropologists, such as Forlong, in order to gather information from them.

James Burmester £1,750

Apostolicum symbolum, decalogus [+9 other items], Edinburgh, 1713

This pamphlet volume came from the library of Fettercairn house, which was sold at auction in December 2016. It contains an unrecorded printing of a Scottish schoolbook, *Apostolicum symbolum*, by the Edinburgh printer, Robert Freebairn, who a couple of years later joined the Jacobite uprising in Scotland to become the printer to James, the 'old Pretender.' The pamphlet volume contains a diverse mix of works printed in England and on the Continent. *Apostolicum symbolum* is entirely in Latin and is aimed at schoolboys, containing religious texts followed by a selection of fables from Aesop.

Christopher Edwards, £1,500



**Lucretius. De rerum natura libri vi.
Paris, 1570**

The Library has recently acquired a book bound in vellum for King James VI. It was almost certainly bound by Edinburgh binder John Gibson. Gibson was appointed bookbinder to the King on 29 July 1581 and continued in this role until his death on 26 December 1600. This is one of a small group of books known to exist in bindings produced for James before the union of the crowns in 1603 and is a significant purchase. Of the nine examples identified, two are already held by the National Library, and there is only one other held in Scotland, at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.



The significant feature of the binding is the finely gilt-stamped royal arms of Scotland which, unlike the other two examples held by the Library, is flanked by the initials I and R

(i.e. Jacobus Rex) with a 6 above. The binding is also complete in its original form. The Library's other two examples have had their spines repaired with loss of the original leather.

Maggs Bros Ltd., £16,000

**[Louis Régnier de la Planche], *A
legendarie conteining an ample
discourse of the life ... of Charles
Cardinal of Lorraine, and ... of the
house of Guise*, [London/Geneva?],
1577**

An anonymous English translation of a French Protestant attack on the house of Guise, one of the most powerful noble families in sixteenth-century France. The book contains a scurrilous passage describing an incestuous orgy involving Mary, Queen of Scots, at the time when she was queen consort of France. Mary's mother was from the house of Guise and the alleged orgy, with the Cardinal of Lorraine and other family members, is described as a calculated attempt of the family to maintain their control over the French monarchy by ensuring that Mary became pregnant. Her husband, the sickly teenager Francis II of France, was deemed incapable of fathering a child. This copy was bound for the famous sixteenth-century English bibliophile Thomas Wotton, known as the 'English Grolier,' with his armorial stamp on the covers.

Maggs Bros Ltd., £6,000

Library Map Images website wins CILIP award for an Outstanding Electronic Information Resource

We are very flattered and pleased to report that the Library's [Map Images website](#) has won the CILIP Knowledge and Information Management Group Award for 2017 for an Outstanding Electronic Information Resource. The award was given on 8 November at the CILIP Headquarters in London, and presented by Ayub Khan, the CILIP Vice President. There were many submissions, and two other categories of prize – Commended and Highly Commended – but the Library's Map Images website was the winner. The judges praised the website for its clarity, search methods, ease of use, rich content, and quality. It now makes 200,000 detailed maps available as high-resolution, zoomable images, for free, to a broad and growing audience.



Ayub Khan (CILIP Vice-President) presenting the Award to Chris Fleet, on behalf of Library

Staff member joins Linked Open Data Working Group

After a successful application, Alexandra De Pretto, Data and Systems Librarian, has been accepted as a member of the [Joint IGeLU/ELUNA Special Interest Working Group on Linked Open Data](#). IGeLU and ELUNA are the customer user groups of Ex Libris, the supplier of the Library's current and replacement library management and resource discovery systems.

The Linked Open Data group gathers use cases from Ex Libris customers. It presents to, and discusses them with, the company to inform product development and enhancement. Alexandra has been keeping abreast of linked open data developments and initiatives for some time, has passed accredited training in the subject, and is the coordinator of the Library's Linked Open Data Community of Interest group. It is as a result of this knowledge and experience that she was accepted onto the Working Group.

Linked open data (also known as the semantic web) is an important global development initiated by Sir Tim Berners-Lee. It establishes machine-actionable links (or relationships) between data, and is being adopted by libraries as the description, standards and vocabularies they use become linked open data compliant. It has the potential to automatically link the Library's resources with other library and non-library resources (such as Wikipedia) in ways that were not previously possible. The plan for the Library's National Bibliography of Scotland includes linked open data development of the service.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee on linked open data:
https://www.ted.com/talks/tim_berners_lee_on_the_next_web

Scots Scriever departs



Hamish MacDonald's residency as Scots Scriever came to an end in October, with Hamish signing off at an event on Wednesday 4 October. As a round-up of his time as Scriever, some of the outputs from his time at the Library are:

- Making available rare, out-of-print Scots texts online for the first time. These will be added to via [Wee Windaes](#) as more items are digitised, both as part of the Library's wider digitisation strategy and specific selected Scots texts and manuscripts.
- A collaboration with the Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Language at the University of Edinburgh, who have done further research into the Buke of the Howlat and created a special PDF handout for Wee Windaes, adding a further 'layer' of knowledge about Scots language.
- Further enhancement of our relationship with Education Scotland, who have published a report on the impact on literacy of learning Scots. The report mentions the joint work with the Scriever, Wee Windaes and also the results of over two years of discussions with BBC Scotland which has resulted in previously unavailable programme footage being released for the Scotland on Screen website. This demonstrates the impact the Library has had in this area of the curriculum and also the strength of our

collaboration with Education Scotland and other large stakeholders, which we hope to build on.

- Many schools, both primary and secondary, have now imbedded study of Scots literature and language as part of their learning plans to promote literacy.
- A positive impact internally within the modern collections team as evidenced by feedback from Graeme Hawley: 'hosting the Scriever in our team was a pleasure and privilege. It was great to have an expert in the language and culture of Scots to share ideas with and to be inspired by, teasing out highlights from across the centuries and bringing them to life for audiences today. The audience development potential that Scots language work offers for the Library is significant, and [the Scriever] has done incredibly varied work, and lots of it, across Scotland to set the Library on a great trajectory. It is always beneficial to be able to count practitioners as colleagues, even if only temporarily, because it helps to root the work we do to build and curate the collections with those more involved in creating and using the content that we collect.'
- Ongoing support from the Gaelic and Scots policy office of the Scottish Government who have promoted the work of both the Library and Scriever. They have also invited the Scriever to contribute to discussions on Scots language with the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

The Library has commissioned a full evaluation of the Scriever's residency and is liaising with Creative Scotland about the possibility of hosting another Scriever in the future.

A video on the origins of the Scots language, produced by Edinburgh University with the Scriever can be viewed here:

<http://www.amc.lel.ed.ac.uk/?p=2030>

Business is growing at the Library

Over the summer a number of positive developments have taken place with regards to business information and our support for enterprise and the creative economy:

- discussions with Scottish Enterprise and Business Gateway have resulted in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between them and the Library;
- the Library's [business information webpages](#) have been re-written and updated with new content – including a short story about shoes – replacing the previous SCOTBIS website;
- a business marketing campaign has been designed and will launch in January and run for three months, targeted at specific audiences;
- a Brexit briefing breakfast event took place in the Boardroom on 22 November, presented by Mintel (a market research company);
- a community of interest has been established to bring colleagues together from across the Library on the subject of how we can use the Library's collections and services to support creative industry;
- we are joining the Creative Edinburgh network to improve our ability to work more closely with 3500 other members in the creative industries;
- the Library is progressing, with Edinburgh college, the creation of a computer game to engage school leavers with our business eResources;
- and, finally, the [@NLS_Business](#) twitter feed has topped 1,000 followers.

Business enquiries continue to be handled by Reference Services colleagues and by Elaine Simpson in General Collections, who also attends a number of business networks

and events in Edinburgh and the central belt, promoting our resources to the business community.

What's Your Story partnership with Scottish Book Trust

The Library has teamed up with the Scottish Book Trust for another year to support their young writers' development programme.

What's Your Story is a yearlong programme open to 14-17 year olds in Scotland.



The programme includes a two-day induction event at the Library, a week-long residence at Moniack Mhor, and central involvement in the planning of the summer StoryCon Conference. The most important part of the programme, however, is the mentoring process that takes place throughout the year. The young writers work with their mentors to produce writing or illustration that they present at the end of the year in a showcase.

The showcase for the most recent cohort of young writers took place this September at an evening event in the Library's boardroom. The assessment panel for applicants to the 2017-18 programme (which includes a representative from the Library) met in late October, and the seven new young writers will attend the Library for their induction weekend in December.

Filming of National Museums of Scotland Researchers investigating the Fettercairn Jewel

On 28 September a group of researchers from the National Museum of Scotland were filmed at the Library for a web-feature on the Fettercairn Jewel. The Jewel, a very rare example of a Renaissance gold pendant locket, was recently purchased by the NMS for the nation. Researchers from the NMS have been working with Dr Ralph McLean to investigate the provenance of this jewel by working through the extensive family papers of the Forbes family who owned the Fettercairn estate (Acc.4796 & Acc.13827).



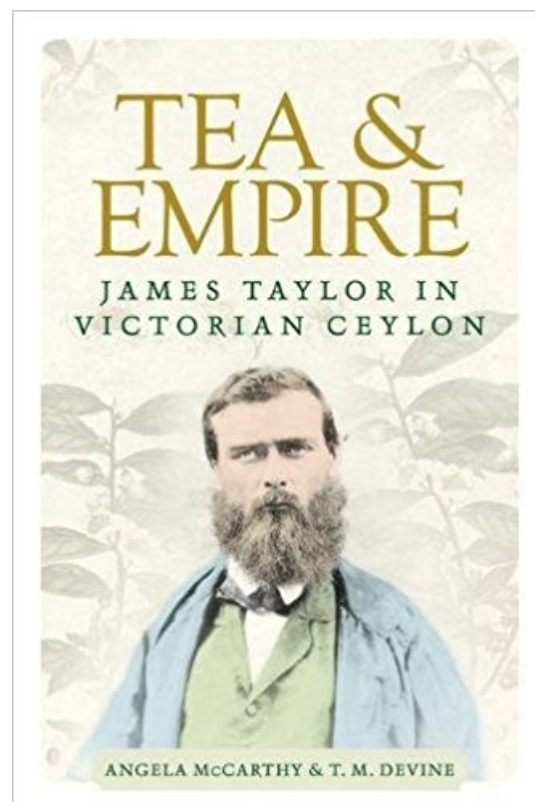
The short film, which was invigilated by Dr McLean and Rachael Laburn, is due to be launched on the NMS website. It details some of the findings made by the research team, as well as showcasing the research potential of the Fettercairn papers held at the National Library of Scotland.



Sir Tom Devine and Angela McCarthy – James Taylor and Ceylon Tea talk

On 5 October Professor Sir Tom Devine and Professor Angela McCarthy gave a talk at the Library to launch their new book *Tea and Empire: James Taylor in Victorian Ceylon*. The book tells the story of the 'father of the Ceylon tea enterprise' James Taylor who emigrated from Kincardineshire to establish his tea-growing business. Taylor's papers and photographs from his time in Ceylon, which are held in the Library, were heavily used for this publication (MSS.15908-10).

Dr Ralph McLean and colleagues from the Conservation department, Gordon Yeoman and Sarah Wilmott, arranged a small display of Taylor's manuscripts and photographs to accompany the talk. The Library's events Manager, Kenny Redpath, introduced the event which included free samples of Sri Lankan Tea featuring James Taylor as figurehead.



Royal National Mòd

The Library had a presence at the Royal National Mòd in Fort William during Mòd week, 13-20 October 2017. This is the third year in a row that the Library has participated, as part of our ongoing partnership with the Mòd organiser, An Comunn Gàidhealach.

The Mòd, described as 'Scotland's premier festival celebrating its Gaelic linguistic and cultural heritage,' is a huge event, comprising competitions for all age-groups and abilities, fringe events and a Showcase. The Mòd is an appropriate opportunity for the Library to raise its profile within both a Gaelic and a non-central-belt community. Equally important, it is an annual gathering place for Gaelic speakers and Gaels, and for friends and families to meet.

The Library had a stand for five days as part of the Mòd Showcase and also ran four events as part of the Mòd Fringe.

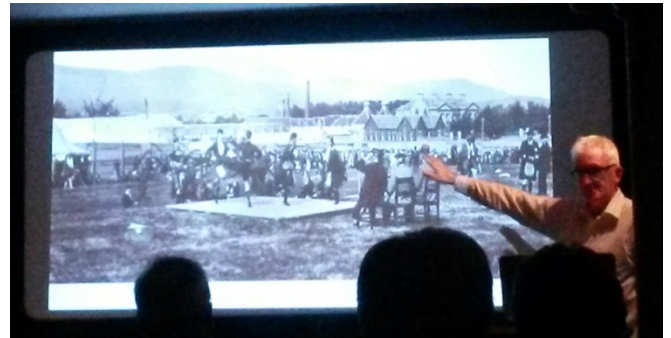
Dr Susan Ross, the Library's Gaelic Wikipedian, ran two Editathons to explain how to edit Uicipeid, (the Gaelic Wikipedia). One was on the subject of Lochaber, and the other on Gaelic Song and Mòd History, which used the Library's digitised An Comunn publications as its source. Both also included short talks from expert speakers and musicians.



Lochaber Uicipeid event

The Library's Sportswriter in Residence, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, gave two illustrated talks, one on 'Colm Cille, Camanachd and the Mod Cup,' which was timed to coincide

with the Shinty final, and the other reflecting his own background growing up in Fort William and his present enjoyment of the Library's collections, in 'From Lochaber to the National Library of Scotland.'



Hugh Dan MacLennan

The Library's stand enabled us to show a selection of films of Lochaber from MIA, and also a PowerPoint of selected Gaelic treasures from across the collections. In addition, MIA also provided films for use in the main competition hall, which were screened during gaps for adjudication and which reached large audiences.

The Mòd was also an opportunity to identify and bring back, purchase or claim Gaelic and local publications and films for the collections.

Prior to the Mòd we issued a press release appealing for early Mòd programmes, as we only have two published before 1946. This has resulted in a number of positive leads. It follows a very successful appeal at last year's Mòd, when Mrs Dairon got in touch after her daughter saw the appeal on Facebook. This resulted in a large donation, which included the programmes of the 1893 and 1894 Mòds, which are now digitised and available on the digital gallery. Usage statistics for the An Comunn digital pages showed an increase in traffic during the Mòd also.

Staff in attendance were Allan Mackay (MIA), Jennifer Giles (General Collections), Susan Ross and Hugh Dan MacLennan.