

National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board

24 June 2020



LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS SINCE MARCH 2020

Since the last Board meeting the Librarian has:

Hosted:

3 ALL Staff meetings via Teams Live Events (average of 180 attendees across the meetings);

2 Management Forum meetings (with 42 and 56 managers attending these)

Chaired:

16 Library Leadership Team meetings;

Whitley Council meeting (Management and TUS)

2 Strategy Review Meetings

One Third Digital Programme Board

Hidden Collections Programme Board

Library Security Board

Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries Board meeting

Attended:

GB Project Co-ordination Team meeting

2 Capital Programme Board meetings

UK Research and Innovation Arts and Humanities Research Council meeting

Research Libraries UK AGM

Heads of Legal Deposit Libraries meeting

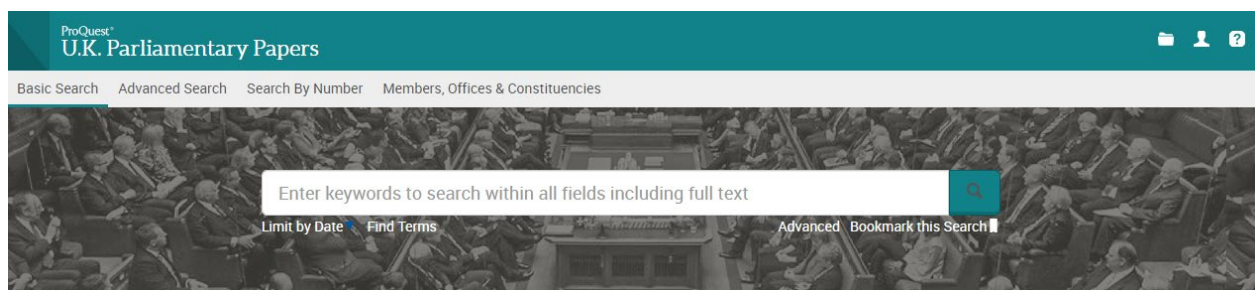
Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

Hidden collections work in the Metadata & Maintenance Team during Q4 was focussed on providing access to the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers. This is an extensive and historic print collection, and up till now discovery and access has been through the use of printed finding aids and staff knowledge of the collection. The collection is arranged in the logical and chronological sequence of the annual sessions of the House of Commons, which has a bearing on how we have been able to disclose it through this project.

Although the physical collection had never been catalogued by the Library, we had access to the bibliographic dataset for the UK Parliamentary Papers digital archive, published by ProQuest. As such, we knew that there was potential for re-purposing this data to disclose the Library's historic physical collection via the Library catalogue, and make considerable progress with the hidden collections. Using a variety of data editing tools, such as MarcEdit and OpenRefine, staff extracted and manipulated the bibliographic data for the digital archive. Through use of these tools and skills they were able to construct shelfmarks based on the bibliographic notation for each item, and thus create Library holdings and disclose this extensive collection through Library Search.

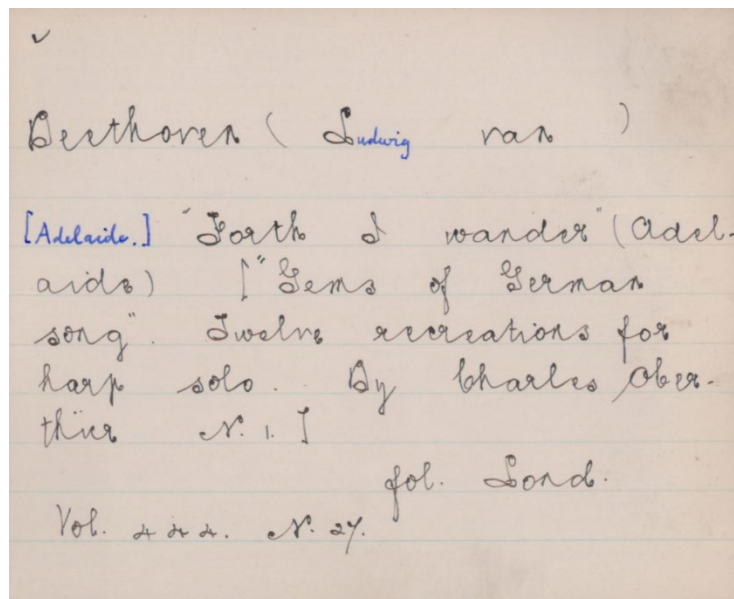
This was a new approach to hidden collections work for the team, and it involved substantial preparation and testing to refine the process. Staff were able to utilise skills acquired during recent Library Carpentry training, and to explore new ways of approaching this work. As this work involved purely global data manipulation staff were able carry it out online, and so complete the work following the closure of the Library due to COVID-19. Staff finished the work in the first week of April.

Overall, the outcome of this data manipulation exercise provides access to a total of 162,141 items of an important, historic collection. Work on the House of Lords hidden collection is now being planned using the same methodology and it is hoped will be completed during May/June. This work can be carried out easily at home and will progress hidden collections work substantially during lockdown.



Music Retroconversion Project

The Music Retroconversion project has translated successfully to remote working, with both the Project Editors and the external company transcribing records now working from home. As of mid-May, the two largest catalogues, the Main Music Catalogue and the Victorian Catalogue, have been completely transcribed – 174,668 records in all, amounting to nearly half the total to be transcribed. The Victorian Music Catalogue presents the challenge of handwritten Victorian cards with relatively minimal and unstandardized information.



Handwritten catalogue card from the Victorian Music Catalogue

Besides works by classical composers and Scottish traditional music, titles which will be discoverable online for the first time from these catalogues include the Library's copy of 'Yes, We Have No Bananas' and a setting of 'The Hums and Songs of Winnie-The-Pooh'.

Kirsty Morgan, Music Retro Junior Project Officer, has just won the E.T. Bryant Memorial Prize awarded by IAML UK and Ireland (the professional association for music librarians) for a significant contribution to the literature of music information fields by a student or early career professional for 'Linked Data in Small Archives: A Case Study of the David Fanshawe World Music Archive', her dissertation for her M.Sc. in Library and Information Studies at the University of Strathclyde.

Metadata from Home

Although Rare Books curators currently are unable to catalogue in Alma, they continue to work on a number of cataloguing and metadata projects. A manual bookplate index is being transcribed, which will enable future digitisation and Data Foundry projects with this material. James Mitchell has added or upgraded 103 entries in Aldis, the pre-1701 bibliography of Scottish books maintained by the Library, which will be added to the National Bibliography of Scotland, and is working through a slip index of Scottish authors, with so far 63 new names identified for whom Metadata colleagues can create entries in the Library of Congress Name Authority File, also known as NACO, used by libraries around the world as the source of standard forms of author names. Authority work is one of the most important ways in which the Library contributes to the worldwide creation of quality metadata, and this work will also feed into the development of the National Bibliography of Scotland.

We have also received a copy of the thesis 'Scottish Authors, Imprints and Works, 1800-1950: Establishing Sources of Information and Workflows for the National Bibliography of Scotland' submitted by Sarah Mann, student on the MSc in Library and Information Studies course at Robert Gordon University, which arose from a request by RGU for the Library to suggest thesis topics for its students on this course. Sarah visited the Library and received support from Anette Hagan, Rare Books Curator for her work, which will provide a valuable contribution to work on NBS entries for this time period. NBS continues to attract interest from Library and Information Science students, with a future internship building on the authority work described above being planned.

International Work Online

The transition to online working extends to international professional organisations: Helen Vincent and Anette Hagan recently attended meetings of, respectively, the Governing Board of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the Executive Committee of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) which were held virtually – in the case of IFLA, involving the finding of a time suitable for participants around the world from China to Greece.



Digital resources and web statistics – Q4 2019-20

This document combines the statistics for the use of Library digitised resources on external services and the nls.uk domain from 1 January 2020 – 31 March 2020 unless otherwise stated.

External services

WIKIPEDIA

1,322 images used in

6,397 pages with

9,857,519 views

increase of 1,534,002 views from last quarter



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

206 videos with

19,045 views

18,810 minutes watched

82 new subscribers, a 19% increase from last quarter



INTERNET ARCHIVE

4,850 items in

13 collections

225,319 views



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

2,500 images with

188,313 views



INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

In most areas we cannot yet see if there is a change in the use of these resources due to COVID-19. However, the Wikipedia article about the [Third Plague Pandemic](#) contains an [image](#) from our [Medical History of British India](#) collection. This article is now the number one viewed article on the English language Wikipedia that contains Library content. The article went from around 8,000 views a month ago to 192,666 views in March 2020 – an increase of 2,300%.



- 6—The soldiers will carefully search all parts of the house, and in doing so may force open all inner doors which are not on application opened by the inmates.
- 7—In the case of the house of a Hindu the soldiers will not enter the cook-room or the god room unless—
- There are persons in these rooms who refuse to leave them, or
 - There is reason to suspect that these rooms contain a corpse or a sick person, or
 - Access to other portions of the house can only be obtained through these rooms.

nls.uk domain use

The following charts and statistics give an insight into the audiences of the five National Library domains.

[Scotland's Sounds](#) has been included in the report for the first time.

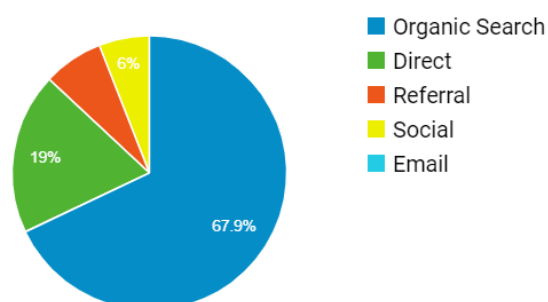
'**Top channels**' refers to where the audiences have come from. Users from 'Organic search' have been directed to nls.uk from a search engine, 'Direct' means users have followed a link from the nls.uk domain (e.g. from maps.nls.uk to the map ordering service), 'Social' means users have followed a social media link (e.g. from Twitter or Facebook).

'**Top referrals (non-Library)**' provides information on users who have followed links from other websites to the nls.uk domain (e.g. Wikipedia)

DIGITAL GALLERY [DIGITAL.NLS.UK](#)

175,331 users with 298,810 view sessions
5.95 pages per session
3:26 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

en.wikipedia.org	835 users
baidu.com	189 users
classroom.google.com	188 users

Location of users

53%	UK (54% Eng, 42% Sco, 3% Wal, 1% NI)
22%	USA
5%	Australia
5%	Canada
2%	India

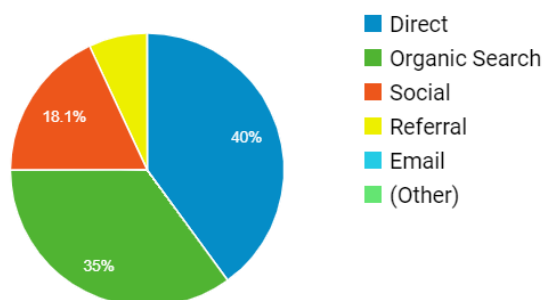
The number of web sessions was: **109,161**. The top 5 'landing pages' for these sessions included

/gallery/	(3%)
/oor wullie/	(2%)
/mqs/trans1.html	(2%)
/scientists/biographies/james-watt/index.html	(2%)
/directories/	(1%)

MAPS [MAPS.NLS.UK](#)

461,151 users with 986,191 view sessions
3.93 pages per session
4.19 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



referrals (non-Library)

archiuk.com	2,232 users
en.wikipedia.org	1,156 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	1,068 users

Location of users

86%	UK (78% Eng, 17% Sco, 5% Wal, 1% NI)
6%	USA
1%	Australia
1%	Canada
0.5%	India

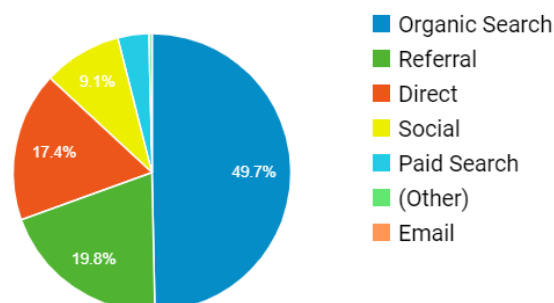
The number of web sessions was: **986,191**. The top 5 'landing pages' for these sessions included

/geo/explore/side-by-side	(17%)
/geo/explore/	(15%)
/geo/find	(8%)
/os/6inch-england-and-wales/	(4%)
/os/	(2%)

MAIN WEBSITE WWW.NLS.UK

145,413 users with 230,838 view sessions
2.21 pages per session
1.40 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

uk.search.yahoo.com	419 users
baidu.com	311 users
edinburghlive.co.uk	269 users

Location of users

69%	UK (54% Eng, 43% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
12%	USA
6%	Australia
3%	Canada
1%	India

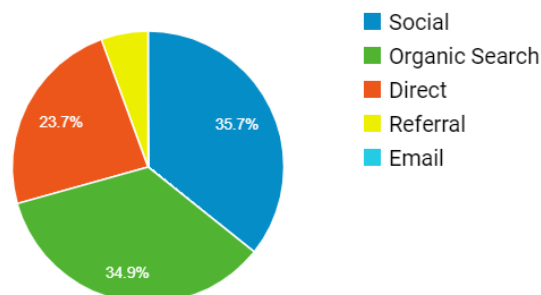
The number of web sessions was: **230,838**. The top 5 landing pages for these sessions included:

/family-history (7%)
/digital-resources (3%)
/catalogues (3%)
/family-history/emigration (2%)
/ family-history /births-deaths-marriages (1%)

MOVING IMAGE MOVINGIMAGE.NLS.UK

49,885 users with 63,330 view sessions
2.54 pages per session
3.49 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

en.wikipedia.org	310 users
en.m.wikipedia.org	175 users
baidu.com	89 users

Location of users

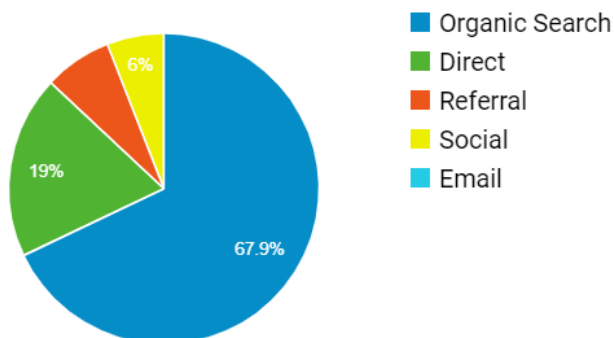
79%	UK (56% Sco, 42% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI)
8%	USA
2%	Canada
2%	Australia
1%	Germany

The number of web sessions was: **55,981**. The top 5 landing pages for these sessions included:

/film/9309 - ('Robin's Saturday' – amateur film) (2%)
/film/6101 - ('Baxter's Bus Services') (1%)
/film/2255 - ('Stock of Broom – the Edinburgh Merchant Company) (1%)
/film/ 10638/188936581 - (Grampian TV news tape, 1983) (1%)
/film/2254 - ('The Erskine Bridge') (1%)

1,661 users with 2,529 view sessions
3:27 pages per session
3:54 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

dhawards.org	189 users
baidu.com	29 users
electricarchaeology.ca	20 users

Location of users

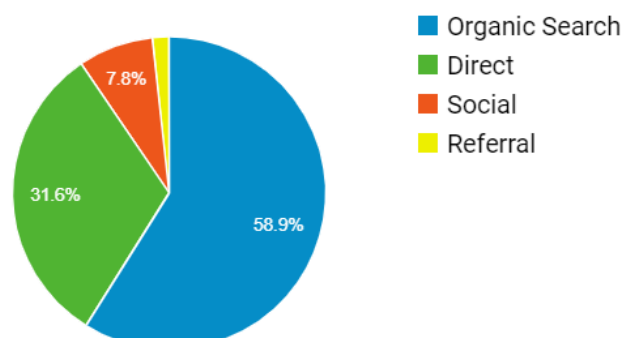
53%	UK (54% Sco, 42% Eng, 3% Wal, 1% NI)
22%	USA
5%	Australia
5%	Canada
2%	India

The number of web sessions was: **2,529**. The top 5 'landing pages' for these sessions included:

/data/digitised-collections/encyclopaedia-britannica/ (7%)
/projects/mapping-quarries-and-colleries/ (5%)
/data/digitised-collections/os-books-of-reference/ (4%)
/data/digitised-collections/a-medical-history-of-british-india/ (4%)
/projects/ (4%)

555 users with 806 view sessions
2.23 pages per session
2.00 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

www.gla.ac.uk	1 user
glasgowlife.org.uk	1 user
moodle.gla.ac.uk	1 user

Location of users

81%	UK (71% Sco, 27% Eng, 2% NI, 1% Wales)
8%	USA
2%	Australia
1%	Germany
1%	Canada

The number of web sessions was: **806**. The top 5 landing pages for these sessions included:

//unlocking-our-sound-heritage-uosh/ (17%)
/our-sounds-from-uosh/ (7%)
/online-sound-collections/ (6%)
/online-sound-collections/collections-with-online-recordings/ (6%)
/news-page/contact/ (3%)

Archives and Manuscripts – some recent acquisitions

The Library has a large and fascinating collection of Scottish tour journals written by men and women holidaying in Scotland. We continue to add to our holdings in this area and one of our recent acquisitions includes an illustrated tour manuscript written by Elizabeth Cowburn in the summer of 1854. The volume, chronicling her tour of the highlands and islands, includes Cowburn's own sketches, but also printed illustrations which she has pasted in. This item will be of interest to scholars studying both Scottish tourism and Victorian manuscript culture.

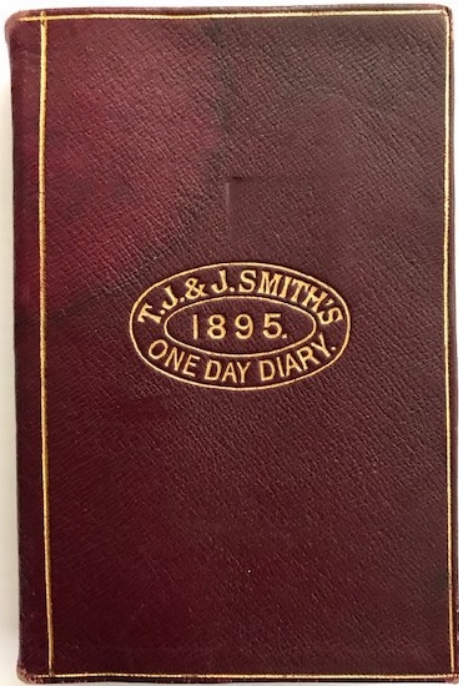


Manuscripts Acquisition: Suffrage and the Season in aristocratic Scotland, Acc.14162

The Manuscripts division has purchased a remarkable diary of the Hon. Elsie Cameron Corbett (1896-1977), augmenting the papers of her brother Lord Rowallan, the distinguished soldier and Scout movement leader. Their father, Archibald Cameron Corbett, 1st Baron Rowallan, was a Scottish Liberal politician and one of Britain's most successful property developers. Covering the year between May 1913 and April 1914, including the London 'season' and a whirl of social engagements on country estates across Scotland, Elsie's diary is a fascinating insight into the private and political life of an intelligent and well-educated young Scotswoman on the outbreak of war. As well as a voracious consumer of literature and theatre productions, by the age of 18 she was already a passionate temperance campaigner and suffragist. The diary gives a vivid picture of Elsie's emotional landscape, as it became a means for her to contemplate her many close friendships with - and attractions to - other Liberal women. She would go on to serve as a Red Cross nurse in Serbia during the First World War, and later settled in Oxfordshire with her companion Kathleen Dillon. We have also placed on reserve a further set of diaries chronicling Corbett's continental lecture tours with Dillon during the 1930s. The papers, once publicly accessible, will be a rich resource for those interested in early-twentieth-century women's politics, leisure, and social lives.



Manuscripts Acquisition: The transatlantic travels of an independent Scotswoman, 1895



Another significant purchase which will enrich the Library's collection of women's private archives, the diary of Anita Guthrie Williamson (1868-1948) records a momentous year in the life of a single woman who inherited a large fortune. The only daughter of a Liverpool shipping magnate and Scottish Liberal MP, Williamson was presented in 1895 with the sum of £20,000 by her father, equivalent to around £1.7 million today. Aged 27, she embarked on a grand summer tour of the United States, travelling through New York City and Chicago in sleeper trains to California and recording her experiences along the way in this daily diary. The manuscript (which we have placed on reserve and hope to acquire once it is safe to do so), describes Anita's fascination with American culture and her encounters with a wide range of people on her travels through the valleys of Northern California and along the west coast - including a "barman" in

Monterey who served her with her first cocktail, after which she had "to be put to bed early". The rest of the 400-page diary documents her return to "regular" life in Cheshire and at the family's Scottish estate, Glenogil House in Angus. As Williamson was also highly educated, politically engaged, and a keen book collector, the manuscript promises to hold extensive possibilities for studying the social and cultural worlds of the Scottish élite at the turn of the twentieth century.

Rare Books purchases

The following were safely acquired before lockdown began but unfortunately we can't provide our usual photographs for them:

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

James Valentine of Dundee, later to become the founder of a hugely successful photography business, set up his own business as an engraver and copperplate and lithographic printer in 1838. As a member of the Congregational church he would have been a supporter of anti-slavery movement which by the mid-19th century was very much focused on slavery in the USA. This envelope may have been produced in the aftermath of the controversial Fugitive Slave Act passed by the US Congress in 1850, which required all escaped slaves to be returned to their owners and American citizens to cooperate with the captures

Michael Kemp £250

AP.1.219.35

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

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

Antiquariat Michael Kühn €1,400

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

(Adam Smith) Jan Znosko, *Nauka ekonomii polityczney podlug ukladu Adama Smith*. [The science of political economy based on the System of Adam Smith]. Wilnie [Vilnius], 1811.

Rare first edition of an important work by the Polish economist and philosopher Jan Znosko. It is essentially a summary of the *Wealth of Nations*, with additional commentary from Znosko. The work, published in the now-Lithuanian city of Vilnius, was one of the very first works to introduce Polish speakers to the ideas of Adam Smith. The first translation of the whole *Wealth of Nations* into Polish only appeared in 1954.

Lynge & Son €3,800

RB.s.2987

Charles Macfarlane, *Constantinople in 1828. A residence of sixteen months in the Turkish capital and provinces*, London, 1829.

The Scottish author Charles Macfarlane (1799-1858) spent most of his early life in Italy, but in 1827 he travelled to Turkey and spent sixteen months in Constantinople and the surrounding provinces, publishing this, his first book, upon his return. A prolific writer, he wrote a number of novels and short-stories with a Turkish setting. This first edition contains superb colour plates of scenes relating to the life in the city. A two-volume octavo edition and a French edition appeared in the same year.

Quaritch £975

IN PROCESS

Valentine and Sons, *Tour in Norway*, [Dundee, c. 1888].

A handsome album of 40 striking albumen print photographs of Norwegian scenery and life, produced by the Dundee-based firm of Valentine & Sons. Established by the Scottish engraver and photographer James Valentine (1815-1879), the firm became, under his sons and grandsons, the longest-surviving and possibly the largest of British photographic publishers. By the 1880s the firm had branched out to photographing other European countries, such as Norway. The album was probably produced for the UK market and features atmospheric views of Norwegian towns, as well as scenes showing salmon fishing, railways, an old woman baking flatbread, and hay-making.

Quaritch £1250

IN PROCESS

[A volume of 12 radical tracts published in Glasgow in 1834-1835]

The volume includes a work relating to the Radical War in Scotland of 1820 and the movement to get a pardon to the men convicted for their participation in the uprising. There are also works on newspaper publishers and printers who were imprisoned for their refusal to levy the stamp tax on newspapers, and a work which describes the Duke of Wellington, who had strongly opposed the parliamentary reform bill of 1832, as a "military dictator". The radical orator Thomas Morrison, the grandfather of Andrew Carnegie, is also represented here with *Rights of land. Copy of a letter to Andrew Jackson, President of the United States of America*.

Spike Hughes £425

General Collections update

Web archiving

Web archiving work has been taking place since the lockdown began to capture the published online impact of COVID-19 on Scotland. By the middle of April, 2,795 new URLs had been added to the UK Web Archive collection 'Coronavirus - Impact on Scotland', with over 85% of them added by Trevor Thomson, General Collections Assistant. The result of this graft is an incredible resource for the future study of the virus and its impact in Scotland. By comparison, 973 new URLs have been added by all other LDLs for the rest of the UK Coronavirus collection. In addition, since the start of March, General Collections have targeted a further 735 URLs not relating to coronavirus. Lockdown has placed a number of understandable restrictions on some collection development work, but web archiving is something that can be done from home, and right now is also where a lot of the publishing activity is taking place.

Business information

Sole traders, entrepreneurs and small businesses have been quick to adapt to the COVID-19 crisis, and so has the business networking scene. Networking is an important part for businesses: it's a first contact point for potential new customers; a great way to spot emerging trends; a place to meet useful upstream and downstream suppliers and buyers; and for many – sole traders particularly, a social space too that can take the place of colleagues.

The Library is well represented now on a number of business networks, courtesy of Elaine Simpson, Business and Enterprise Partner, and the lockdown has seen no let-up in activity. Elaine has been attending one or two networking events a week and promoting the wonderful business e-resources that the Library can offer to businesses. The message is getting out there, with great onward promotion through Creative Mornings and ConnectED particularly.

eResources outreach

Individual communications were sent to over 60 organisations, charities, and third sector bodies in Scotland to highlight the usefulness of our eResources with regard to COVID-19 and its related social and economic impact. Three products (Cambridge Journals Online, Oxford Journals Online, and Sage) were flagged, with a spreadsheet of journal titles compiled, filterable under six themes: COVID-19; economics, employment and the environment; healthcare; international relations; politics, and society. These three resources had been chosen not only because of their remote access, but because of the ease of use of interface, and the high volume of excellent current content. The communication also raised the profile of our scores of other eResources more generally, but the approach of highlighting a smaller number of topic-specific resources seemed to be appreciated.

The Library received great feedback for the initiative. Many replied and expressed an interest in further communication. Further outreach will take place with these bodies, and other organisations. Several of the above flagged our eResources in their own communications to their stakeholder and partners, with some newsletters going out to over a thousand people. The

next communication to these organisations will focus on remotely accessible eBooks. Opportunities to partner further will be explored. For further information, contact g.hawley@nls.uk.

Library Events online



During May, the events team have been very busy coordinating and delivering a vibrant virtual events package. The centre piece of our programme has been our curator talks, which have proved enormously popular with both existing and new audiences. Over 400 audience members tuned into watch talks from Rosemary Hall, Ian Scott, Ralph McLean, Colin McIlroy, and Graeme Hawley who presented the first online performance of 'The Joy of Spines'. Not only did these talks reach domestic viewers, but were watched by attendees from the United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Germany, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Palestine, and El Salvador.

We recorded Joy of Spines and look forward to seeing how many viewers will tune in to watch on-demand. Rounding out this month's programming we have Anette Hagan's talk on Gaelic Printing on Tuesday 26 May, and the premiere of Graeme Hawley's next talk, 'The Shape of Our Collections' on Thursday 28 May. Both of these will be recorded and available for on-demand streaming.

The events team have also been heavily involved in supporting the Access division to devise and deliver online workshops that simulate and develop upon the format of existing in-person workshops. These have also been extremely popular, and limits on attendee numbers have been increased to meet the high demand.

Feedback has been sought for each event and workshop, with results from audiences being overwhelmingly positive. Some response highlights include:

'I am grateful to NLS for organising these online events at the current time.'

'Very interesting and accessible.'

'The best thing is that I don't have to travel to Edinburgh for such events - it must be a god send to people in Shetland for example.'

Creative Writing workshops with poet Marjorie Lotfi Gill, coordinated by Learning and Outreach, have also resumed in a virtual format and have proved extremely popular. Feedback for these has included:

'The workshop was excellent. Creative writing is a great way to engage with the library's collections.'

'I really enjoyed it. It was really useful for me from a personal and professional level.'

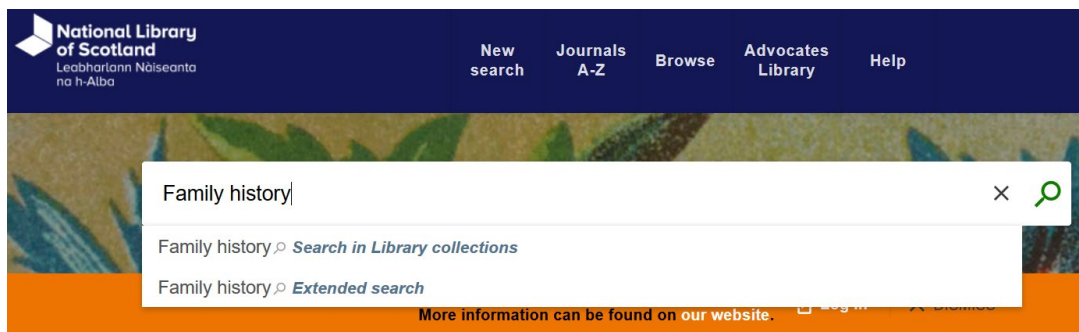
Finally, as a way of continuing our regular monthly workshop programme for families, we have created a series of four family activity pages, all themed around the Year of Scottish Coasts and Waters and inspired by the Library's collections. These pages are being published on the Learning Zone on a fortnightly basis, and focus on the topics of 'lighthouses', 'seabirds', 'islands', and 'fisher lassies and the fishing fleet'. Each page features recordings of story, a craft activity, a word search, and links to related collections content.

Library Search developments

Library Search (<https://search.nls.uk/>) is a fundamental, core service to the Library which allows users to search for and access resources from our collections. Up until recently the on-going development of Library Search had slowed significantly because resources were reassigned to other work that took priority. A positive outcome of the COVID-19 lockdown is that development work on Library Search has recommenced while other projects have necessarily been paused as we work from home. The Library Search Coordination Group has taken the opportunity to revisit the service, reviewing its development plan, reset priorities, and have been actively working to implement new features and functions.

We would like to highlight in particular the following:

- The Library Search Coordination Group reviewed development plans for Library Search, resulting in a clear plan of work and agreed priorities.
- In direct response to user feedback, we have re-prioritised search results by making **Library Collections** the default search and have modified the interface to make these options more visible and intuitive:



Library collections searches the four main collecting databases: Alma Main Catalogue of published resources, Manuscripts and Archives, Moving Image Archive and Digitised Collections; it also includes Non-Print Legal Deposit material.

Material from subscribed eResources can be searched under **Extended search**, alongside open access content.

- We published a [Library Search Development](#) page on the website highlighting some of the completed, ongoing and planned developments for the benefit of our users and staff.
- Other work is currently taking place behind the scenes, including:
 - Investigating the opportunity to add a **Library Chat** widget and/or quick access button to Library Search
 - Testing the **Collection Discovery** functionality to promote and showcase specific items, starting with eBooks that users can access from home
 - Adding within the header the service title **Library Search**, as it is currently missing;
 - Reviewing configuration for all data sources and troubleshooting outstanding issues
 - Exploring options for a specific interface for the National Bibliography of Scotland, and reviewing the feasibility for a Gaelic language version of the service

- Adding thumbnails to Non Print Legal Deposit eBooks
- Improving the linking between past and continued journals, either where the journal title has changed or the format we collect has moved from print to electronic.

Total Library Collections in Library Search	
May 2020	
Alma (Main Catalogue)	5,792,820
Non Print Legal Deposit (articles and eBooks)	6,002,552
Digital Gallery including maps	224,537
Archives and Manuscripts	51,057
Moving Image Archive	6,350
Total Library Collections	12,077,316

Six Library collections published on JSTOR

On 1 June 2020 [six of the Library's digitised collections were published](#) on the widely-used the JSTOR service. The collections were added as part of JSTOR/Jisc pilot to explore how libraries might make their openly licensed collections available on the platform. The collections contributed were:

- Encyclopaedia Britannica
- Scottish schools exam papers
- Gazetteers of Scotland
- Edinburgh Ladies' Debating Society
- Medical History of British India
- The Spiritualist Newspaper

Delivering our collections to JSTOR

In the past, when asked to contribute our digitised collections to a service or project it has taken a huge amount of work and time for the Digital Department. Image and metadata files need to be extracted and processed, and our schemas and vocabularies explained to the recipients. It can take weeks of work. This time it took only 10 seconds or about as long as it took to type the URL of our Data Foundry into the JSTOR/Jisc Expression-of-Interest application.

To support the Library's digital scholarship developments and initiatives, last year Digital Gallery collections were reprocessed as data in a structured way following international standards (METS, MODS). They were then published on our Data Foundry. We advised JSTOR to download the files relating to the six collections directly from data.nls.uk, confident that they would be able to work with the data because it followed standards they were familiar with. Of all the content received from participants ours was found to be the easiest to integrate into JSTOR and therefore our content was the first to be published.

Next steps

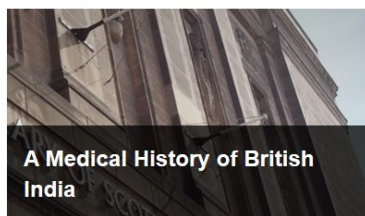
Next we will feedback to JSTOR on the integration of our data and images into their platform. We will also participate in user research sessions, making suggestions for improvement. And it is hoped in time that statistics about the use of our collections on JSTOR will become available, these will be integrated into the digital quarterly and annual statistics.

About the JSTOR/Jisc pilot

This collaborative project seeks to identify primary source/special collections that have been digitised locally by libraries and make them available on the JSTOR platform. The pilot aims to test the impact that making these materials more widely available through JSTOR might have on increasing their discoverability and use. Participating organisations include:

- National Library of Scotland
- British Library
- University of Sussex
- University of Manchester
- University of Glasgow

Explore National Library of Scotland Collection

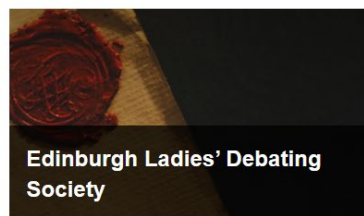


A Medical History of British India

468 items

This dataset forms the first half of the Medical History of British India collection, which itself is part of the ...

[Explore this collection](#)

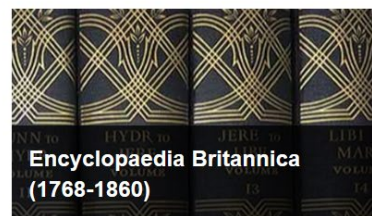


Edinburgh Ladies' Debating Society

16 items

This collection consists of the complete runs of two Edinburgh journals, 'The Attempt' (10 volumes, 1865-74) and its successor 'The ...

[Explore this collection](#)



Encyclopaedia Britannica (1768-1860)

195 items

The first eight editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica, issued from 1768-1860, comprise a total of 143 volumes. The Britannica was first ...

[Explore this collection](#)

Collections Care Highlights

Conservation webinar

Shona Hunter, Conservator, delivered a live webinar, as part of the Icon' *Conservation: Together At Home* series, about her work to conserve and display the Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil entitled *What a performance! The preservation and photogrammetry of a giant pop-up book at the National Library of Scotland*. For those that missed the live version the recording of the talk can be found at <https://icon.org.uk/groups/book-paper/conservation-together-at-home-webinar-series> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zjP5_VOlso&feature=youtu.be

Intern update

Joe Jackson, our Preventive Conservation Intern, has taken a very positive and industrious approach to lockdown. He has been working hard to improve our emergency response protocols as well as researching training options for our Emergency Response volunteers. Thanks to our remote access Building Management System, Joe has been able to interrogate and analyse live environmental monitoring data across the Library's estate and this has helped us to identify areas of concern during lockdown. This analysis and research will help to inform our resumption planning and identify priority areas for collection surveys when our team is able to return to the Library. Joe has also been attending training and on-line learning connected to sustainability in conservation and heritage pest identification.

Just prior to lockdown, Joe was able to supervise a Preventive Conservation student placement at the Library. Anne Trail, a Masters student at Northumbria University, worked with Joe on a number of projects including pest identification and collection re-housing. This is a first for the Library and we are hopeful that, when it is safe to do so, we will be able to welcome other Preventive Conservation students as part of our annual placement programme.

Digital Preservation Coalition – Novice to Know-How online training

The Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) is an organisation with an international membership, including prestigious institutions such as the Library of Congress, the British Library, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), and, of course, the National Library of Scotland.

Members of the DPC have access to an important network of digital preservation specialists through the DPC website and its excellent Digital Preservation Handbook and blog. The DPC also organises excellent seminars, workshops, and conferences. As part of their training strategy, and perhaps reflecting the increasingly geographically dispersed nature of their membership, the DPC, in collaboration with the UK National Archives, recently launched an online training course called Novice to Know-How, which members were invited to participate in and give feedback.

Last week I finished the course and it was a very valuable addition to DPC members' services. The structure of the course is a mix of audio tutorials, slides, and supplementary quizzes to reinforce learning in each module. The estimated duration of the course is 11 hours, although this can be carried out when time permits over a four-week period. The modules in the course were:

Introduction to Digital Preservation

Files, File Formats and Bitstream Preservation

Using DROID (a file format identification tool developed by UK National Archives) - optional module

Select and Transfer Digital Content

Ingesting Digital Content

Preserving Digital Content

There is also an optional online tutorial about digital preservation risk management.

The full text of the training course, and a course completion certificate, can be downloaded as a series of PDFs

The information and concepts in the course, although designed for digital preservation practitioners, are broad enough in scope to be valuable for anyone who has responsibility for digital content creation or curation in the Library. There has been significant demand for the course, the DPC's first foray into online training, and there is currently a waiting list for participants.

I recommend the course to anyone in the Library who would like, or feels they need, a comprehensive understanding of digital preservation and the challenges it presents.

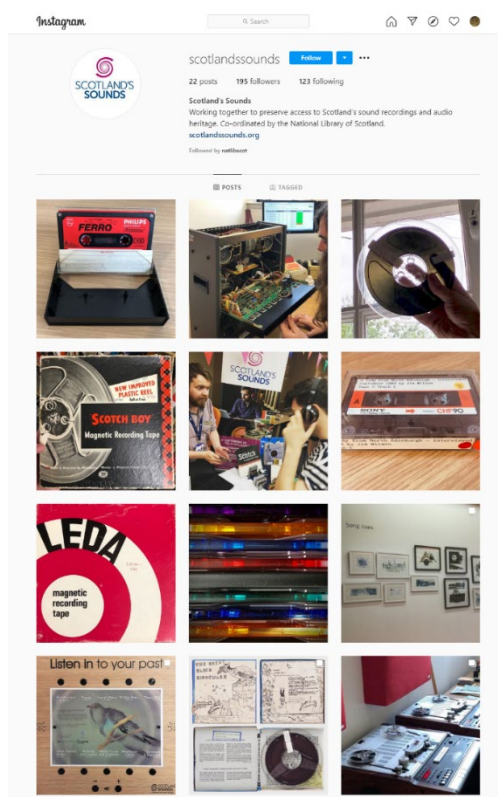
Moving Image and Sound Collections

Social Media Engagement

The digital engagement between the public, the staff and the collections continue to be very good. For example, On Friday 24th April, Shona Gonnella, Access and Events Assistant at Kelvin Hall, replied to an enquiry which had been sent to movingimage@nls.uk asking to include a link to one of our publicly accessible films in a Catalanian digital magazine.

On Saturday 25th April the magazine published their [article](#), and included a link to the film in our catalogue.

In the 5 days following, the film, '[Majorcan Medley](#)', was viewed over 31,000 times. That is more than the total of all viewings of the top ten most popular films during the whole of March! During the first three days after the article was published 82% of all traffic recorded to the Moving Image catalogue and collections was from Spain.



Amazing the reach that a single item can have if it is put in front of the right audience.

The sound team have launched a Scotland's Sound Instagram account to go to show off some lovely images of collections from National Library and partners.

At the same time they are using the @ScotlandsSounds twitter stream and the @ARAScot Archive A-Z (#ArchiveZ) to highlight some amazing sounds from collections held across Scotland for the next 26 weeks.

The conversations and feedback we have been able to have with users over Twitter, Instagram and Facebook are an important endorsement of the effort that staff are putting in to provide a great user experience even while working apart from each other and our visitors. When those users have lots of followers it also helps to raise the profile of the collections. For example Scottish author Sara Sheridan tweeted about sharing the collections with her

mother, and RLUK Executive Director David Prosser did so about reliving childhood memories.

Tweet

Sara Sheridan @sarasheridan

I have introduced the mammy to the moving image archive online @natlibscot and she is reliving the 30s to the 50s in Edinburgh and can spot ppl she knew and I don't think I have ever seen her this excited. 100%

4:17 PM · Apr 27, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

7 Retweets 161 Likes

Dr Emily Munro @ellomunro · Apr 27
Replying to @sarasheridan and @natlibscot @nlskelvinhall 🥰

Sally Pellow @scarymummy · Apr 27
Replying to @sarasheridan and @natlibscot
Omg just found my mother on film in 1955 - what a joy!

National Library of Scotland at Kelvin Hall @nlskelvinhall · Apr 28
Our curators would love any additional information you or your relatives can give us on the films you're watching - drop us a line at movingimage@nls.uk if you recognise someone or something!

Annie @toady · Apr 27
Replying to @sarasheridan and @natlibscot
I once showed my Grandad "Victorian and Edwardian Ramsgate in pictures". His eyes were like saucers, he was born 1895. Recognised so many people. I cried

David Prosser @RLUK_David · May 12
It is only really as an adult that I've really appreciated how beautiful Oban and its surroundings are. As a kid it was just where relatives lived. But on a (rare!) fine day there is nowhere quite like it and the surrounding islands, especially Iona movingimage.nls.uk/film/6746

David Prosser @RLUK_David · May 12
Looking through the NLS collection of 2300 films (movingimage.nls.uk), I particularly like this one of Oban from 1951. Silent and in rather washed-out colour, it won an amateur film-making competition and shows two little girls on holiday in Oban movingimage.nls.uk/film/1780

David Prosser @RLUK_David · May 12
For me, the charm is that the girls look almost the exact age my Mum and aunty would have been then. It could almost be them going to the shops and the beach, having an ice-cream, watching the shinty. I'm sure they would have played on the same swing

David Prosser @RLUK_David · May 12
These films are perhaps not of the greatest artistic value, but their preservation within the NLS collection provides an invaluable act of memory. Especially those of everyday life, giving an insight into how we lived our lives, into what has changed and what remained the same

David Prosser @RLUK_David

And the fact that they have been digitised by the NLS means that I can relive those childhood holidays and memories of my grandparents, uncles, aunties, and cousins from a locked-down London

5:49 PM · May 12, 2020 · Twitter Web App

New Moving Image Content Online

While millions of people are staying at home, we have been prioritizing the new content we can make available for everyone to watch, since updating the cataloguing to include more content which can only be viewed on site has almost no immediate value for the public. The newly added content is a mix of digitised just before lockdown, or recently catalogued, or recently released for remote viewing due to update rights agreements. New content includes a large collection of shipping films from Tom Urie (eg [Gardyloo](#) – a day out on a sludgeboat from Leith which is much lovelier than it sounds) and this [Margaret Morris Movement](#) film which has already been picked up by the Margaret Morris Movement organisation and shared with all its members. The Access and Events Team have lists of all the new content and will be promoting on social media as appropriate opportunities arise. Some other examples of new material made publicly accessible this week taking our total to 2358.

- [The Caring Profession](#) (1971)
- [Children and Smoking](#) (1973)
- [Dying of Thirst](#) (1975)
- [Family Outings in Arran](#) (1940s)
- [Gie's a Haun'](#) (1983)
- [Having a Period: Menstruation](#) (1980)
- [Inverary School](#) (1963c)
- [Locomotive, the](#) (1949c)
- [Mudhook Y.C. Schools Week](#) (1965)
- [Picture of Pictures](#) (1983)
- [Ring Net Herring Fishing](#) (1950s)
- [South Shawlands Church Youth Group](#) (1951)
- [Young Mother's Club](#) (1950c)

Scotland on Screen

Scotland on Screen is available to everyone, but it is also promoted to school children via a tab in the Glow accounts. There are 30 self-contained lessons for children to work through on topics including animation, emigration, Scots language and – a popular one – Scotland's new towns. After schools closed and people were searching for home schooling activities the use of the site jumped up. We hosted 563 sessions on Monday 23rd of March (first day of home schooling) which is an increase of 693% and during that week over 2300 users came to the site.

Who Taught Her That?

The University of Edinburgh students gave a presentation on their guided research placement project to engage audiences with Library's digital holdings through curated displays and public events. Sheena MacDougall, Learning and Outreach Officer, supported the students to create their exhibition 'Who taught her that?' in the GIVB Boardroom in March for International Women's Day. They created a video explaining what they did and what they learnt which can be seen [here](#).



Before the lockdown: Edinburgh Festival of Sound

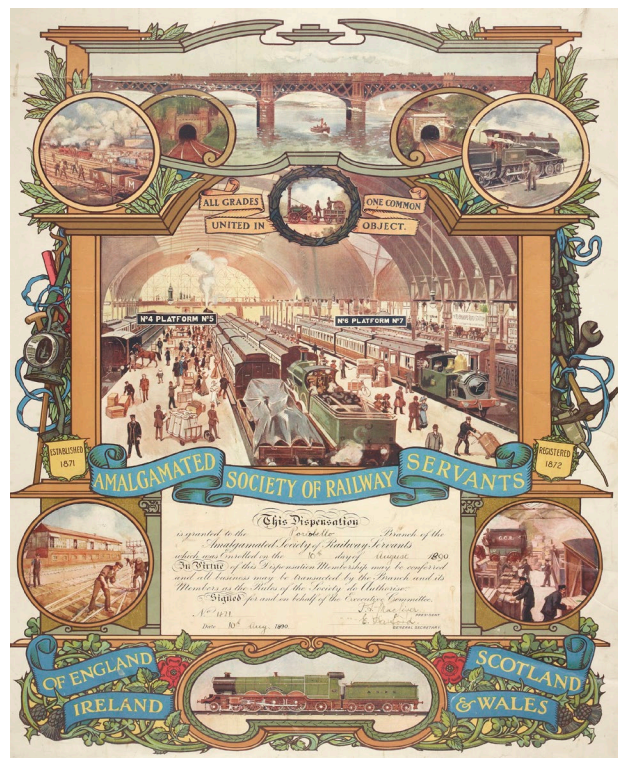
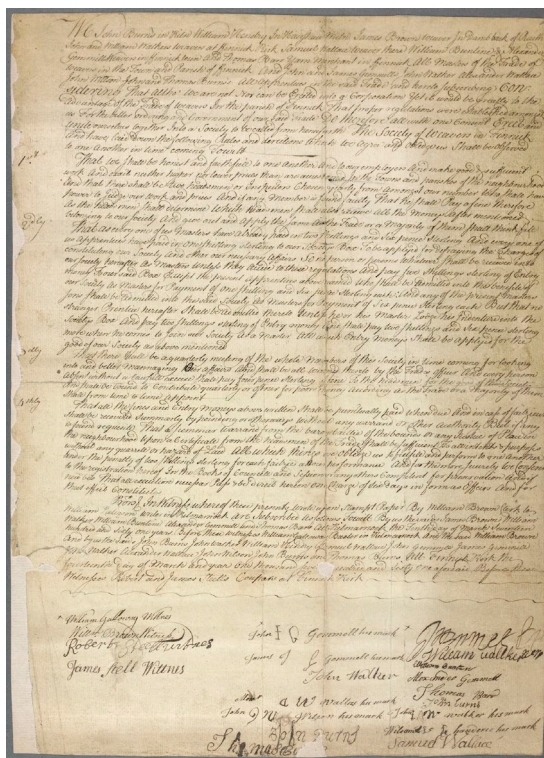
When we were still going out and about in the works the Sound team had two successful events. Firstly a 2 day stall at the Edinburgh Festival of Sound, interacted with and answered questions from around 40 sound professionals (technical and academic) and delivered a presentation on creative re-use of sound archives to around 50 attendees. (Volunteer Toby's zine based on the recording of Grannie's Remedies 1917-1920s, was particularly popular, as was Volunteer Abi's audio visual work on Italian ice cream cafes and fish and chip shops in Falkirk, it made the organiser almost cry [He's Italian] and everyone also loved the work done by pupils at Innellan Primary School)) Second the team created and ran a one day workshop with the Scottish Council on Archives. This was about moving image and sound collections and proved very popular. The initial offering was by invitation and subsequent expressions of interest were high meaning we will work with the SCA to run the event again when we can.

Dr Ian MacDougall (1933-2020)

The Library received news just after Easter that Dr Ian MacDougall, the pioneering historian who played a pivotal role in documenting the Scottish Labour movement, sadly died.

Dr MacDougall was a driving force in the establishment of the Scottish Labour History Society, in 1966. He later served as the main research worker for the Scottish Working People's History Trust. He spent his career safeguarding the records of the Scottish Labour and Trade Union movement, identifying archives belonging to organisations and private individuals across the country which would otherwise have been lost or destroyed.

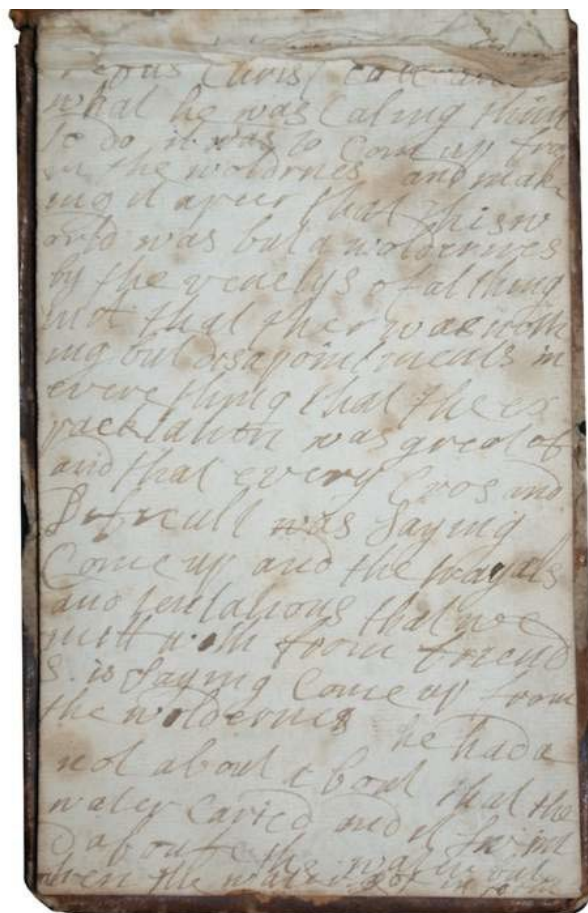
From the mid-1960s onwards, in partnership with Iain Maciver (1943-2007), who was on the staff of the Library's Manuscripts Division from 1968-2003, he helped to place over a hundred relevant archives at the Library. These included archives of the UK's earliest known Co-operative society and the surviving personal papers of the 'hero of Red Clydeside', John Maclean. Dr MacDougall did much to cement the importance of oral testimonies in historical research: his many books told the stories of Scottish people's lives and work in their own words; the most recent was published last year. Dr MacDougall was a kind and generous friend to countless scholars and curators. The Library will honour Dr MacDougall's legacy for future generations in its endeavours to continue his work of preserving working people's archives and fostering the study of labour history in Scotland.



Images: (left) Deed of establishment of the 'Society of Weavers in Finnick', 1761, otherwise known as the Fenwick Weavers' Society, the UK's oldest Co-operative, Acc.4702/3; (right) Dispensation to the Portobello branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, 1890, Acc.4597/1. Both archives were preserved for the national collection through the good offices of Dr MacDougall.

Pre-lockdown purchases

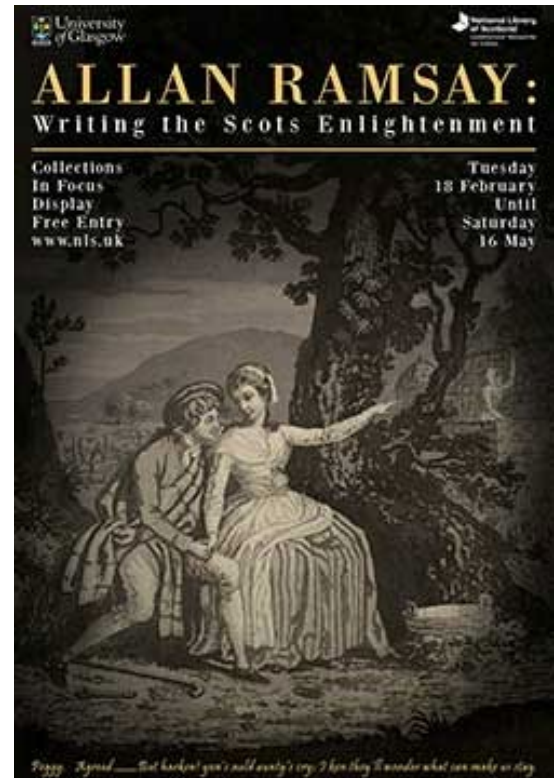
As the Edinburgh Book Fair was cancelled owing to the Coronavirus there was frenetic activity between the Library and various sellers in the days leading up to the lockdown. In the last two weeks before lockdown Archives and MSS acquired the following pieces to add to the Library's collections: A diary recording the final days of Grizel Nimmo (1688-1730) who was part of a family of merchants in Edinburgh. The diary notes her deteriorating health, the administration of the sacrament and some of her last words. Correspondence and receipts of Evan Baillie relating to his 1806 election campaign. Baillie, who made his fortune as a plantation owners with over 2000 enslaved workers served as the MP for Bristol between 1802 and 1812. An interleaved copy of Thomas Crichton's poem *The Library*, which contains many corrections and additions by the author. A set of monthly accounts from the Park Hill Estate in St Vincent shortly after the abolition of slavery in 1834. The accounts are addressed to the Edinburgh lawyer Allan Macdowall who had invested in the estate. These items have yet to be added to the catalogues, but are safely held in the Library's strongrooms pending our return to the building.



[diary of the final words of Grizel Nimmo]

Allan Ramsay: writing the Scots Enlightenment

To demonstrate the Library's commitment to our partnership with the University of Glasgow's AHRC funded project 'The Collected Works of Allan Ramsay', under the Professor Murray Pittock, which aims to bring out new scholarly editions of Ramsay's (1684-1758) works and correspondence, a new Collections in Focus display was launched on 18 February at the Library. The display was put together by Dr Ralph McLean and colleagues from Glasgow, Dr Craig Lamont and Dr Brianna Robertson-Kirkland, who selected items from the Library's rare books and manuscripts collections to showcase the contribution that Ramsay made to Scottish literature. There is an online feature which focuses on some of the highlights from this collection, and on 12 May Ralph provided an online talk on Allan Ramsay which provided further information on the background and significance of some of the items that were on display.



Burns Scotland



Dr Ralph McLean continues to represent the Library in our partnership with Burns Scotland, the group which seeks to promote the distributed national Burns collection held by a number of institutions located around the country. Burns Scotland has continued to meet online to continue to promote the collections through the Burns Scotland website, where some of the Library's digitised collections feature. Burns Scotland also continues to make plans for the Burns collections post-Covid, especially in light of Professor Murray Pittock's report to the Scottish Government

which outlined the importance of Burns to the Scottish economy. Burns will be an important feature in the Library's revamped Treasures Display area.

Scott 250

Dr Ralph McLean has remained connected to wider plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott in 2021. Abbotsford is taking the lead in co-ordinating events and exhibitions across the country to commemorate the anniversary. A Facebook group has been organised to incorporate various stakeholders and Zoom meetings are soon to take place to co-ordinate strategies and organise plans. The Library will contribute to Scott 250 through a collections in focus display on the theme of Scott and the historical novel which will be put together by Ralph.



Digital Scholarship update

The National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship

Recruitment for The National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship went ahead as planned at the start of May. The Fellowship supports a three month period of research into any aspect of the Library's data collections on the Data Foundry, using digital methods. This is the Library's first digital (remote) fellowship, requiring one week of in-person engagement activity at the Library over the course of the three months. We interviewed candidates from the UK, Ireland, Italy and Canada, with a range of interesting projects.

Digital Research Intern: Jupyter Notebooks

Recruitment is underway for a Digital Research Intern: Jupyter Notebooks, funded by the Librarian's Innovation Fund. This is an online position, to be carried out remotely. The intern will provide 'at-a-glance' information about Data Foundry datasets using Jupyter Notebooks - a tool to make code available in an accessible and easy-to-use way. Jupyter Notebooks are increasingly being used by GLAM organisations to create 'workbenches' highlighting key features of datasets. These notebooks will provide key information about datasets, which will help users to form research questions around the collections.

Artist in Residence

Martin Disley, the Library's Creative Informatics-funded Artist in Residence, is making some exciting progress with his project using GAN (Generative Adversarial Networks) with the Library's collections. Following previous experimentation with the Library's Bridges photograph collections, he now has access to EPCC's (Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre) facilities and is able to use machine learning techniques with the Scottish Admiralty Charts, a much more extensive collection.

This is resulting in the creation of new, imaginary maps of Scotland, which never existed – including compasses and map titles (which, if you look closely, are made up of an imaginary alphabet). The Admiralty Charts collection will form the focus of Martin's final piece, over the summer.



Example GAN-generated Scottish Admiralty Charts by Martin Disley.

DH Awards results

The results of the DH Awards were announced in March. The Library was nominated in the following categories:

- Best DH Tool or Suite of Tools: Data Foundry
- Best Dataset: Encyclopaedia Britannica; A Medical History of British India; Chapbooks Printed in Scotland

Encyclopaedia Britannica came 1st Runner up in the Best Dataset category.

The Library was also represented in other categories:

- Best Use of DH for Fun: Shawn Graham (Carleton University)'s 'Song of Scottish Publishing' using the Chapbooks dataset was 1st Runner Up
- Best use of DH for Public Engagement: Open A GLAM Lab book, which the Library contributed to during the British Library Labs Booksprint event in Doha, was Joint 2nd Runner Up

This means that the Library was represented in four of the seven categories, with successes in three of the categories: <http://dhawards.org/dhawards2019/results/>

Dataset updates

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

March: British Navy Lists <https://data.nls.uk/data/digitised-collections/british-navy-lists/>

This dataset gives details of officers who served in the British Royal Navy during the First and Second World Wars and covers the years 1913-1921 and 1939-1945.

April: Edinburgh Boundaries <https://data.nls.uk/data/map-spatial-data/edinburgh-boundaries/>

This dataset contains a selection of traced boundaries relating to Edinburgh, including the boundaries of landownership (1804-1817), Police Wards (1822-1848), Sanitary Districts (1864-1880), Municipal Wards (1852-1902), and Registration Districts (1865-1902). It also includes the extensions of the Royalty Boundary from 1685 to 1885, and Bartholomew's Chronological Map of Edinburgh (1919).

This page on the Data Foundry also includes an interactive map, created by Chris Fleet (Map Curator), to visualise the data.

May: British Air Force Lists <https://data.nls.uk/data/digitised-collections/british-air-force-lists/>

This dataset gives details of officers and staff who served in the Royal Air Force during the First and Second World Wars and covers the years 1919-1922 and 1938-1945.

Data Foundry projects

Keep up to date with projects using Data Foundry collections on the new projects page, which features new uses of the Library's datasets, ranging from High Performance Computing environments enabling large-scale analysis of the Encyclopaedia Britannica collection, to a case study of The Ramblers' use of Library data, 3,000 Scottish chapbooks as music, and a Minecraft version of the first eight editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica! <https://data.nls.uk/projects>



Screenshot from a student project exploring Encyclopaedia Britannica in Minecraft, as part of a course teaching data visualisation at the University of Edinburgh; full details and video here: <https://data.nls.uk/projects/data-visualisation-student-projects/>

New map website additions and online user surge

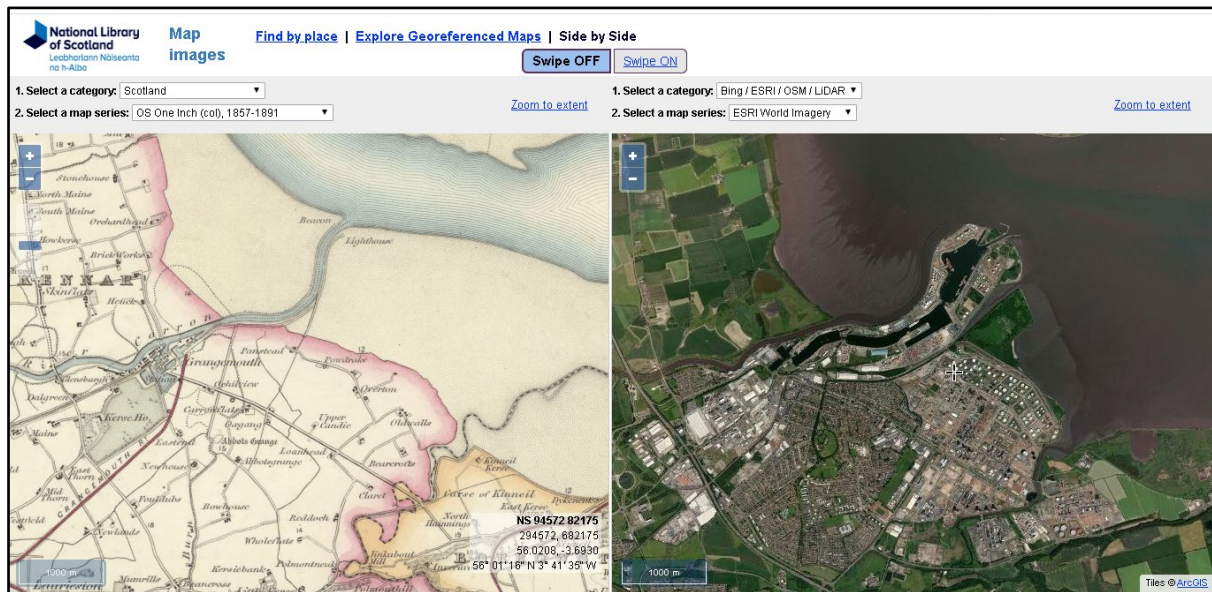
We were lucky that when the lockdown started, we had almost finished a major map scanning project with a loaned, large-format flatbed scanner. With this we had been able to scan over 3,800 fragile, folded or special collection maps in February-March 2020. Since then map staff have been able to actively work from home with VPN access to the relevant images, Library software and map servers to put these online.

The main website additions to mid-May have been 450 new printed [maps of Scotland](#) dating over the last five centuries, almost doubling the number of maps of the whole of Scotland we now have on our website. We have also added a further 300 printed [county maps of Scotland](#), useful too for now allowing a much more comprehensive presentation of landscape change over time.



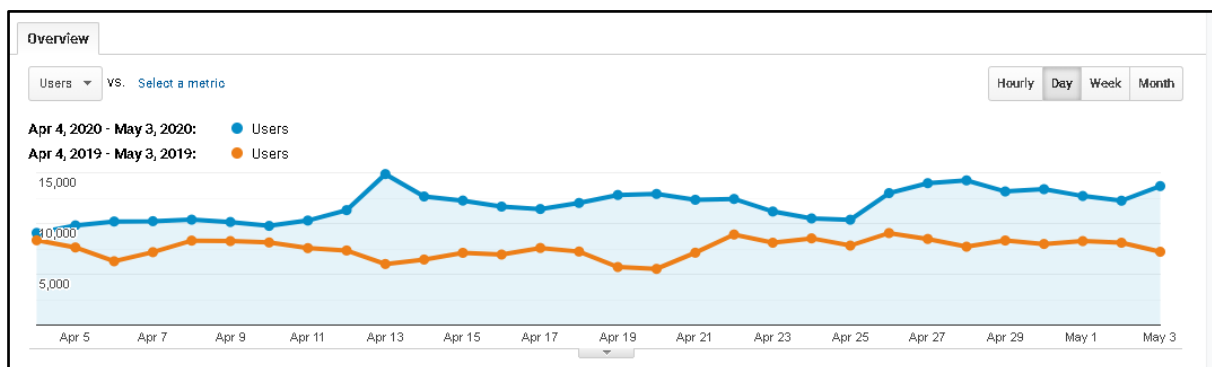
Philippe Galle, *Scotiae descriptio* (1579)

We have also made available online five colourful and attractive new series of Ordnance Survey maps. These maps were primarily intended for practical recreational and travel purposes, and they were issued in a convenient folded form with covers. The series are particularly useful in showing an overview of features such as towns and villages, roads and railways, as well as woodland and land-use. We have also [georeferenced](#) several of these series, so they can easily be [compared to the present day](#).



Comparing Grangemouth on one of the new georeferenced Ordnance Survey series from the 1850s (left) with the present day (right) in our [Side-by-side viewer](#).

Not surprisingly, the lockdown resulted in a large surge in maps website users. April 2020 was our busiest month ever on the maps website, with 444,094 user sessions and 1,730,504 page views. This translates to a daily average of 14,800 user sessions and 57,683 page views. Compared with April 2019, we had over 50% more users, 70% more new users, and 60% more user sessions. The graph below compares April 2020 (in blue) with April 2019 (in orange).



Online Reader Workshops

Reader Services have been working with the Events team to develop and launch a series of online Reader Workshops. Delivered via Zoom from the living rooms and kitchens of staff, the first workshop 'Navigating the maps website' was fully booked within a couple of days so another date was quickly advertised. An online survey is emailed to participants after the event and feedback from the first maps workshop was very positive:



'Very helpful event and I am very pleased that you are continuing events in a new way while in lockdown'

'I visit Edinburgh occasionally and try and get to the library 2 or 3 times a year, inevitably for a specific event if I can. However, the online workshops are very handy and in this day and age will prove a godsend as travel/safety is suddenly compromised!'

The survey also asks participants if they have a preference for how workshops are delivered. So far, most people have indicated that they had no preference for either in-person or online delivery with a small number of people expressing a preference for in-person and an equal number for online delivery. It will be interesting to see how this develops as more workshops are delivered and the feedback grows.

The second workshop 'Family history from home' which concentrates on our Digital Gallery resources was also quickly booked up with a second date being offered to the waiting list. A third workshop called 'Discover your online library' is in preparation to start in early June and will cover the Library's eResources.

A group of staff from across Reader Services is being trained by Events as Zoom champions to provide additional support for the workshops. As the presenters grow more confident with this new way of delivering workshops we will increase participant numbers and, if demand continues, these could run alongside the onsite workshops in future.

Scottish Ballet Project Completion



The year-long Scottish Ballet project was almost fully completed when staff began working from home. The project has been a success with all targets either exceeded or achieved.

	Target	Actual	Comment
Tapes digitised	310	341	+ 10%
Hours digitised	Unknown	435 hours 18 mins	Target achieved
Files ingested into Scality	310	372	Figure at end April
Clips created for offsite access	As many as practical	310	Target exceeded
Still images selected	310	310	Target achieved
Catalogue records complete	All	152 (all from 310)	Target achieved
Events delivered	1	3	Target exceeded

The impact of the project is not just the preservation and availability of new collections themselves. The project included

- Procurement compliant purchase of high spec computer and analogue video machines generating template specifications which will be reused.
- Creation of new digitisation and cataloguing workflows
- Pilot ingest of moving image files into 'Scality' digital preservation storage
- Partnership working with colleagues at Scottish Ballet including a Scottish Ballet staff member working at Kelvin Hall and being line managed by the Moving Image Curator.

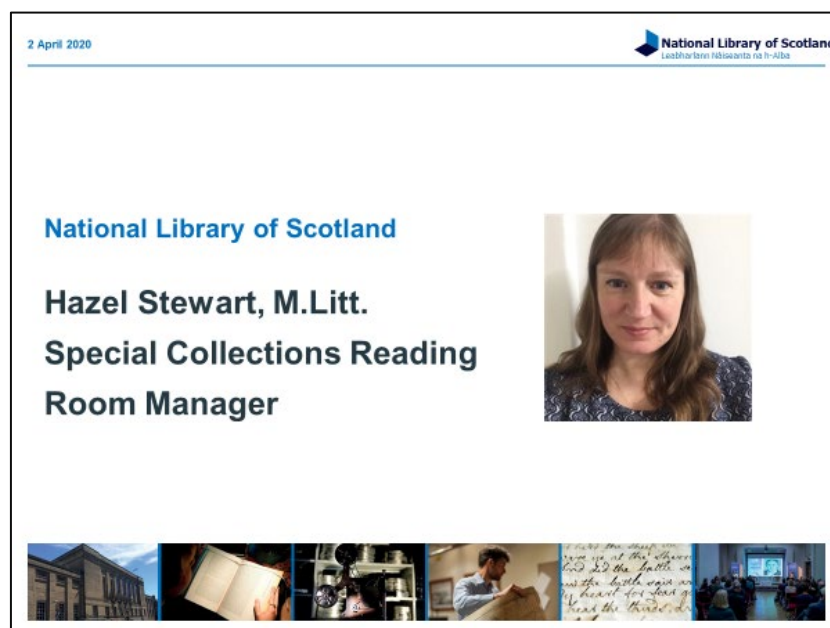


Visit the Scottish Ballet [biography page](#) for a list of catalogued works, or explore these highlights published online in April:

- [Vespri](#) (1978)
- [Economy in Straightjacket But Still Room for Movement](#) (1987)
- [Overgrown Path Studio Rehearsals](#) (1992/1993)
- [Sleeping Beauty](#) (1994)
- [Scottish Ballet Sponsorship Video](#) (1994)

Online presentation for Strathclyde PG students

The Special Collections team hosted a placement student from the MSc Information & Library Studies postgraduate programme at Strathclyde University during January-March 2020. The Senior Lecturer, Dr Perla Innocenti, requested that I visit the University to give a guest lecture to the students on my career in the Library, the work of the Special Collections team and the challenges and opportunities of the sector. The lecture was scheduled for the beginning of April but recent events meant that this had to be cancelled. Dr Innocenti then suggested that I provide an online presentation that could be uploaded on the University's VLE. I created a ten slide PowerPoint presentation, which included the requested information plus photographs of the Special Collections Reading Room and an overview of current projects the Library has undertaken. The presentation was well received by the Dr Innocenti and the postgraduate students.



FFV1

The Library Digital Preservation Steering Group in April considered and approved a formal proposal to adopt the FFV1 format for preservation storage of digitized moving image. This was the result of lots of good conversations, and testing, and preparation work between MI & SC Preservation and Technical Team and Digital. The adoption of this lossless compression for digitized moving image preservation storage does add complexity to the workflow but the reduction in preservation storage requirements gained through the adoption of FFV1 is estimated to have both a significant monetary value, and additional benefits in the reduction of stress on the network.

Lauren McCombe, Google Arts and Culture project intern

In September 2019, Lauren joined the Library on a 6-month paid internship to work on a project to carry out an assessment of and prepare exhibitions for the Google Arts and Culture service

(<https://artsandculture.google.com/>). Prior to coming to us, Lauren had been applying for jobs in the libraries for two years but with her limited experience in the sector she was unable to secure an interview. Frustrated and disheartened she applied for the internship at the Library with little expectation of success however, we immediately recognised her potential and out of 173 high-quality applications, we appointed her.



Lauren's time with us was spent learning the Google Arts and Culture platform, exploring and reworking content and images from past exhibitions before publishing them online via the service. She also advised the Library of the resourcing requirements for preparing the exhibitions, produced usage metrics and a report assessing the service. We provided Lauren with training, gave her an understanding of how the Library operates and offered her employability support to help her re-enter the job market.

Lauren's internship was an extraordinary success. In her we got a talented, resourceful and fun colleague who not only delivered on her project but exceeded our expectations. But more importantly, on the back of her experience of working for us Lauren has gone on to take up a permanent position at Stirling Council Libraries. The last we heard from Lauren was that she started her new job on the day that the nation went into COVID lockdown, and left to her own devices in an office without colleagues, she set about mastering the technicalities of the library's 3D printers. She is now printing PPE on behalf of the Council as part of a nationwide initiative. They are lucky to have her!

Lauren's internship was supported by the National Librarian's Innovation Fund and the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) Innovation and Development Fund.

View the Google Arts and Culture exhibitions Lauren prepared at <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-library-of-scotland>

Read more about Lauren and her 3D printing at Stirling Council <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/news/2020/may-2020/council-libraries-use-3d-printers-to-produce-face-masks/>

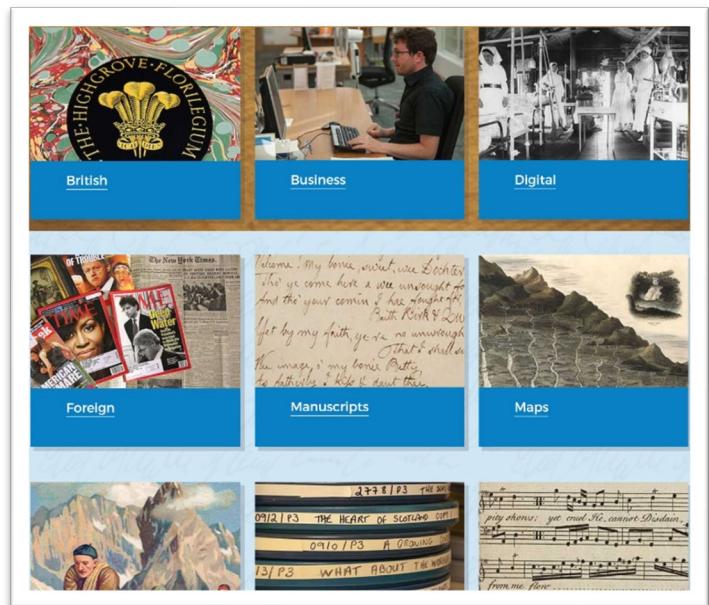
Taking User Research Remote

Since September, Helen Wiles, our Usability Intern, has been conducting research with users, from interviews about key digital services such as [Library Search](#) to designing usability testing for the [Data Foundry](#) site. This research helps us understand what users need from our services and how they interact with them. The evidence and feedback that is gathered informs us where we should focus our efforts in making improvements.

In March, the Digital Access team planned to get user feedback about the [Collections page](#) on the website, hoping to re-categorise the collections in a way that really made sense to web users. This was going to take place in Library buildings in Edinburgh and Glasgow in the form of focus groups and [card sorting](#) exercises, but due to the coronavirus, this had to be put on hold.

To allow this work to continue during the lockdown, the Digital Access team experimented with [Optimal Workshop](#): an online application that allows card sorts to be created and operated remotely. Before recruiting users to participate in the exercise, we asked staff from across the Library to try it out. More than 60 staff took part providing lots of useful feedback that helped improve and streamline the version for users.

Recruitment for the card sort was announced in the Library's May newsletter, with the plan for it to go live to users around the world from the 25 May 2020. Already more than 80 users have signed up to participate with some from as far away as Australia. The outputs of the exercise will give us valuable insights about how people might categorise items in our collections.



Street View of the Library now live in Google Maps

A couple of years ago Pavel, a member of the Google Maps team, visited the Library to create a [Google Street View](#) of the interior of our buildings in Edinburgh. For three days he worked in the Library with specialised imaging equipment and software to photograph the public areas of George IV Bridge (Visitors Centre and the reading rooms) and a stack floor at Causewayside. Working out of normal office hours so as not to inadvertently capture staff or users in the Street Views, he methodically and carefully moved his Street View imaging trolley through the Library. When positioned Pavel started the imaging process and a camera fitted with a special lens rotated four times through 90 degrees to capture a 360-degree view. When finished he moved forward or sideways three metres and repeated the process. He did this for hours and hours taking thousands of photographs. On completing all the photography, the imagery and location data was dispatched to Google for processing. After several months, the Digital Access team received a version of the Street View to review and edit. The editing process involved blurring out sensitive and untidy areas such as documents on enquiry desks and boxes of flyers on the floor of the Visitors Centre. During the edit process it was noticed that Google had inadvertently disorientated floor 11 of George IV Bridge through 180 degrees placing the front door at the rear of the building – it took more than a year for Google to resolve this problem and this delayed publication of the Street View.

The Library's Street View was published by Google when our first [Google Arts and Culture exhibits](#) were launched at the end of January 2020. You can navigate to the Street Views of the Library using Google Maps or follow the links below

- Visitors Centre <https://bit.ly/SV-VC>
- General Reading Room <https://bit.ly/SV-GRR>
- Special Collections Reading Room <https://bit.ly/SV-SCRR>
- Causewayside stack floor [https://bit.ly/ SV-CB](https://bit.ly/SV-CB)