



National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board 26 June 2019

LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS THIS QUARTER

29 March 2019

Visited the Tunnocks factory in Uddingston;

26 April 2019

Attended and spoke at the launch of the Business and Intellectual Property centre in Glasgow;

14 May 2019

Introduced Tom Mole, who gave a talk at the Library on Lord **Byron's Don Juan** to accompany the Treasures Display;

27 May 2019

Attended the launch of the Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture & Society at the University of Edinburgh;

10 and 11 June 2019

Attended the Heads of Legal Deposit Libraries Committee meeting and chaired the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries Board meeting in Cambridge;

29 March 2019

Attended the Staff Engagement Group end of year staff party in the Boardroom;

8 May 2019

Visited the Paisley Museum for a tour of the development;

16 and 17 May 2019

Attended the Research Libraries UK Board retreat at the Wellcome Trust;

3 and 4 June 2019

Attended the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIPS) annual conference in Dundee;

17 June 2019

Welcomed delegates to the 10th International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference in Glasgow;

8 April 2019

Hosted Alex Graham at Kelvin Hall, introducing him to the trainees funded by him;

9 May 2019

Represented the Library at an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit at the British Library;

23 May 2019

Held an in conversation with author Ian Rankin prior to the press launch of the announcement of the donation of his archive to the Library;

5 June 2019

Hosted a meeting of the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland (APNLGS) at the Library;

20 June 2019

Introduced Dame Anne Glover, President of the RSE who **opened the Library's summer exhibition** at the Library and hosted a dinner for selected guests.

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

The Metadata and Maintenance Team continues to catalogue the Ruari McLean hidden collection. Work has moved on to the pamphlet material in the collection, and these items clearly reflect Mr McLean's interest in illustration and typefaces.



The team also provide metadata for uncatalogued material uncovered through both the audit of the Library collections, and through the digitisation programme. The items featured in the photograph below have been identified by staff in Collection Support Services as part of routine audit work. Cataloguing of these *invisible* hidden collections is an ongoing process.



One Third Digital Update

The Library's different digitisation studios in Edinburgh and Glasgow continue to make good progress and managed to exceed the 2018/19 target of 200,000 items. In Q4 we digitised 42,936 items, including 37,928 maps, taking the total number of items digitised for the year to 201,679. We have now digitised 78% of the single-sheet maps of Scotland held by the Library; the remainder are due to be completed by the end of 2020. The combined total of Non-print legal deposit and digitised materials now amounts to over 19% of our physical collections and current projections continue to suggest that we will reach 33% of collections in digital format by around the middle of 2023/24.

The mass digitisation team at Causewayside is working on a number of projects, including the MacKinnon photographic collection, India Papers and Scottish Exam papers. They successfully completed digitisation of the Encyclopedia Britannica, finished image capture of the League of Nations material and also began a project to digitise the collection of Library exhibition posters. Over the next quarter they will begin work on digitising An Comunn materials, re-commence capture of the Antiquarian Books Scotland (ABS) collection and start work on Pamphlet Series 4.

The team at the Causewayside studio recently welcomed visitors from the National Library of Ireland and the National Library of Wales, who learned about our processes and shared their knowledge and experience. The latter was especially interesting as they use the same I2S equipment and software as we do, and are in the early stages of newspaper digitisation, so there is much to learn from their approach.

At George IV Bridge digitisation of the John Murray Archive through our contractor Adam Matthew is progressing well with over 1,300 manuscripts now digitised under this project.

Cataloguing for the Medieval Manuscripts Digitisation project which is funded by Alex Graham is progressing well and running to schedule. Around 70% of the project's cataloguing work is now finished and staff are enjoying the scope and breadth of vastly different materials dating from the late 11th century right through to the mid-16th century. The geographical origins of the manuscripts cover a wide area, providing a great learning experience for comparing manuscript production practices across western Europe in the middle ages. Procurement is now underway to purchase a new mass digitisation system which provides an unrivalled range of adjustability, allowing us to digitise manuscripts safely at a high production rate. It is hoped that this new system will be in place by August/September 2019.

There has also been lots of positive activity at Kelvin Hall. To coincide with the release of *Mary, Queen of Scots* in cinemas, the moving image team digitised a long forgotten MQS black and white STV melodrama from 1961. The cast included Peter Wyngarde, John Laurie and Tom Conti, and the screening was picked up by Scottish Television who were amazed we had the completed production in our vaults. The team also made available new digital access copies of early works by Peter Mullan and David MacKenzie which were screened at the Glasgow Short Film Festival in March.

The *Unlocking Our Sound Heritage* project keeps making very good progress and has now digitally captured around 900 sound items (tapes) since its start in October 2018. Cataloguing is carried out once a tape is digitised, and it is expected that on average circa 2.5 intellectual items will be catalogued per digitised tape.

Finally, we have started to raise the profile of our digitisation activity by providing interesting images for the Library's social media channels, using the hashtag #NLSdigitised on Twitter and Instagram. Social Media Officer Stewart Hardy is analysing the engagement levels with this activity: our first three tweets attracted more than 400 retweets and 1000 likes on Twitter between them.



The Changing Library

Following a review of The Changing Library (TCL) at Library Leadership Team, it was agreed that TCL was effectively mainstreamed with Organisational Development work on staff engagement and that the substantive work covered previously by TCL would be best reported through the Staffing and Remuneration Committee. It was agreed that TCL, as a project, should therefore be considered closed.

Digital resources: Global reach: 2018-2019

In this current planning year (2019-2020) we will extend the reach of the Library collections by supplying, where possible, more of our digitised resources to external services (Wikipedia, Flickr, YouTube, Internet Archive etc). In preparation for this work we reviewed, for 2018-2019, the reach of existing Library resources on such sites as well as the Library's maps and digital gallery sites. We will prepare figures for 2019-2020 on a quarterly basis.

EXTERNAL SERVICES

Wikipedia

3,300 images used in
3,601 articles with

39,000,000 views across 91 wiki projects



Flickr bit.ly/FlickrNLS

2,500 images with

2,500,000 views (approx.)

Internet Archive

4,850 items in
13 collections

1,200,000 views



YouTube bit.ly/YouTubeNLS

201 videos with

75,500 views

66,000 minutes watched



INTERNAL SERVICES

Digital Gallery digital.nls.uk

525,614 users with
719,173 view sessions
4,411,350 pages views, 6.13 pages
per session

3:17 minutes per session



Maps maps.nls.uk

1,324,786 users with
3,334,479 view sessions
13,340,510, 4.00 pages per session

4:12 minutes average duration on
site



Interesting observations

The most viewed video on YouTube [A riveting squad at work at John Brown's shipyard, Glasgow in 1949](#) with 37,841 views.



The top referrer for maps was Facebook with 177,552 referrals, and the English language Wikipedia was the 5th referrer to Digital Gallery with 4,841 referrals.

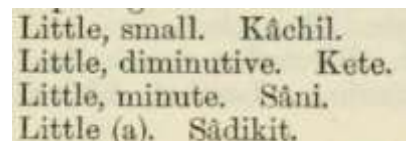
This [poignant image](#) of a soldier sleeping in a WWI

trench is the most popular image on Flickr with 132,108 views.



The English Wikipedia [article on Robert the Bruce](#) contains an image of his marriage to Isabella of Mar from the Library's Forman Armorial (produced for Mary Queen of Scots). The image has never been published on the Library's website.

The item that has been most viewed from the Internet Archive is an 1852 copy of [A grammar and dictionary of the Malay language : with a preliminary dissertation](#) with more than 50,000 views.



Social Media update

Since March, the Library recorded 302,000 engagements across all of our social channels and our follower numbers have increased by 1.9% (Facebook) 5.4% (Twitter) and 16% (Instagram).

Back to the Future: 1979-1989 launch

On Thursday 2 May we launched the *Back to the future: 1979-1989* website and 80s retrospective programme. To promote this we created the #Talking1980s hashtag and, in the weeks leading up to the launch, canvassed our peer organisations to post 80s-related content on the launch day. On the launch day we posted a Twitter thread (and Facebook and Instagram posts) and also engaged with #Talking1980s content from Marks and Spencer, BBC Scotland News, HarperCollins, Orkney Library, National Museums of Scotland and many other archive and heritage organisations. The social buzz around #Talking1980s meant that it trended for most of the day around Scotland and generated further content. We smashed through our overall campaign target, of 1 million Twitter accounts reached, in just one morning and the current total stands at over 16.2 million Twitter accounts (helped by a retweet by Stephen Fry). Sentiment was also highly positive. We continue to promote the website through popular culture, memes, live Twitter Q&As with journalists and individual essay threads.

Other social media highlights

- We explored 19th-century cardboard peepshows in our #Noncreepypeepy thread, which was not only popular on Twitter, but recorded our highest ever figures for Instagram (over 1600 likes and 15,000 video views). We used a combination of text, stills and video to form posts and threads – underpinned by our curators locating and distilling information and facilitating access. This thread was exciting and very well received. We will continue to search for collection materials which can be explored in similar ways;
- Participating in #StarWarsDay (May the 4th be with you) along with our departmental accounts;
- Being mildly trolled by Microsoft Excel (seriously!).

In the last period we were visited by the Scottish Government (Ministerial Appointments) team, who came to us for information and guidance on recruitment via social media. We also supplied social media stats and content to social media managers in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector, to use in their own presentations.

We shall be speaking at the following events in the coming weeks:

- Social media training event at the Archives and Records Association (Stirling University):
- CILIP Scotland Annual Conference (Dundee).



National Library of Scot...
@natlibscot

This is your Scottish Libraries weather upd-

HANG ON

THAT'S NO MOON

WE HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

#StarWarsDay #MayThe4thBeWithYou
#Talking1980s



9:24 AM - 4 May 2019

180 Retweets · 807 Likes



National Library of Scot...
@natlibscot

We want you to take a look at our
peepshow.

#Noncreepypeepy



2:15 PM - 2 Apr 2019

92 Retweets · 372 Likes



Rare Books and Manus

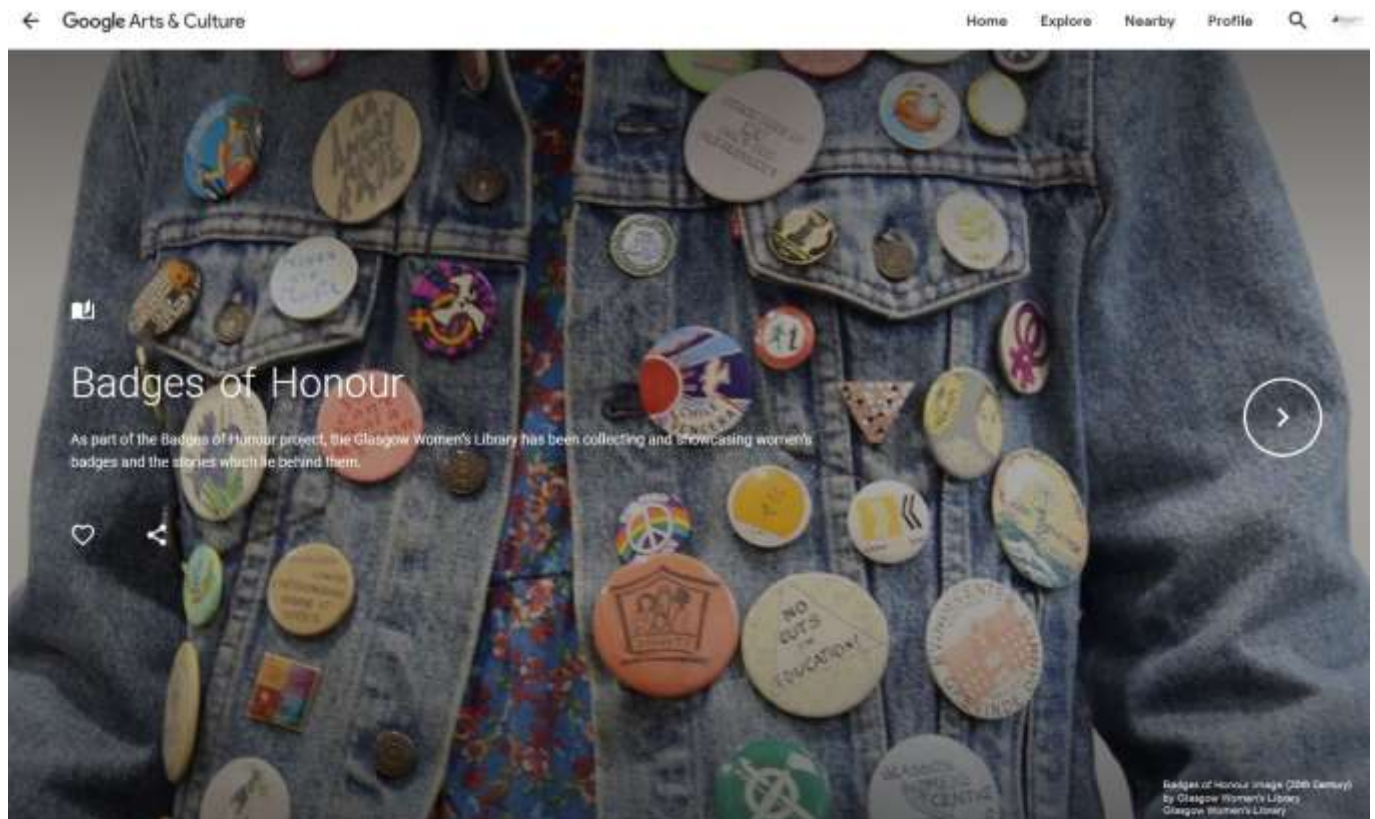
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Google Arts and Culture intern

Google Arts and Culture (<https://artsandculture.google.com/>) is a free service to highlight and promote cultural heritage by way of highly visual online exhibitions. A short project will take an evidence-based approach to evaluate the potential of the service as a means of showcasing the Library's digital resources to a wider audience. The work will be carried out by a paid intern who will work with the Digital Access and Public Programme teams to repurpose and publish existing curated materials collections from past exhibitions and Treasures displays. They will gather evidence and metrics, and share their findings with the Library and the wider Scottish library profession.

The Library has recently established and graded an intern role which is designed to help people with little work experience gain skills, knowledge and experience to help them join or re-join the job market. The Google Arts and Culture internship will be the first of these positions.

The internship is full-time for 6 months and is fully funded as a result of successful applications to the National Librarian's Innovation Fund and the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) innovation fund.



Rare Books purchases

David Urquhart, *The flag of Circassia/Speech of Mr. Urquhart*, Glasgow, May 23, 1838, London, 1863.

David Urquhart (1805-1877), controversial Scottish diplomat, author and politician was based in the British embassy in Constantinople in the 1830s, where he worked to counteract what he perceived to be the growing threat posed by Russia to the Ottoman empire. He also supported the Circassian people of the northern Caucasus in their long struggle against Russian control, organising a delivery of arms and munition to them.

Urquhart's activities nearly led to war with Russia in 1836 and the following year he was sacked and recalled to

London in an attempt by the British government to defuse the situation. Urquhart's enthusiasm for the Circassian cause was undimmed as shown in this speech made in Glasgow in 1838. The text of the speech was re-printed in this broadside for the Circassian Committee, a pro-independence British organisation, shortly before Russia finally completed conquest of the region in 1864. The broadside includes a colour illustration of the Circassian national flag that Urquhart designed in the 1830s.



Adab Books £85

Beside the bonnie brier bush/The days of auld lang syne, [New York, 1895?]

Colour lithographed poster, produced for the American publishers Dodd, Mead and Company, to advertise their illustrated editions of Ian Maclaren's stories based on rural life of Perthshire, *Beside the bonnie brier bush* *The Days of Auld Lang Syne*. The former work is considered a classic of the 'Kailyard school' of Scottish literature and was very popular in America, being the best-selling work of fiction there in 1895. 'Ian Maclaren' (real name Dr John Watson) was a Free Church minister and author, who lectured at Yale University in 1896. The poster, designed by American artist Jules Turcas, plays on Scottish stereotypes, showing a dour looking elderly Scotsman, with a village in the background, and thistles in the foreground.

Between the Covers £475



East of Fife record and local advertiser (1859-1866), Anstruther, 1856-1914.

A complete run of nearly seven years of a local Scottish newspaper covering the Anstruther, Pittenweem, Cellardyke, Crail, St. Monans and Elie districts. The newspaper was started in 1859 and changed its name to the East Fife record in 1914, before stopping in 1917. It is rare to find such a substantial run of a 19th-century newspaper for sale and this acquisition complements the Library's existing holdings of this title.

Jim Anderson Books \$2005 CAD

AB.11.219.1-3

Charles St. John, *Natural history and sport in Moray*, Edinburgh, 1882.

Charles St. John (1809-1856) was an English naturalist and sportsman who spent much of the second half of his life living in the north of Scotland, captivated by the rugged landscape and abundant wildlife. This work, drawn from his personal papers, was first published posthumously in 1863 and is a month-by-month compilation of notes on sport and natural history in Moray between 1847 and 1853. A second edition was published in 1882, illustrated with 40 etchings (heliogravures) by George Reid and J. Wycliffe Taylor, and vignettes reproduced from the author's sketchbooks. This is a specially-bound private printing of the illustrations to the second edition in oblong folio format. It was presented by the publisher David Douglas to John Alexander Harvie-Brown, the famous Scottish naturalist who assisted the publisher in the production of this edition. It has 47 etchings as compared to the 40 issued in the standard work.

Spike Hughes £550

AB.10.219.2



The gladiator, Torridon, 1884-1892?

A privately printed "gazette", produced on a portable lithographic press by members of the Darroch family, owners of Torridon House, Ross-shire and resident there between 1873 and 1910. A small number of the issues were also printed at the family residences in London. Many of the stories and pieces of "fashionable intelligence" relate to members of the Darroch family and the indices give the names of numerous contributors. The text and humorous illustrations give insights into the life of a wealthy, landowning family in a remote part of the Highlands in the 1880s and early 1890s. The periodical was presumably only printed in small numbers for friends and family. Only one issue has until now ever been recorded, inside a time capsule placed in Coire Church, Torridon, when it was being built in 1887, and rediscovered in 2015 when the church was being converted into a residential property.

Lyon & Turnbull (auction) £3,000

RB.I.325



Digital Preservation News

Artificial intelligence, policy and reducing the cost of video preservation

The Library is the industrial (think cultural industry) partner for a PhD exploring the use of artificial intelligence to assist curators when identifying sensitive digital content. The Library is keen to make as much content accessible to the public as possible, and not to place blanket restrictions on collections. We are also keen to understand the cost of providing access to collections peppered with sensitive content and ensure our services are sustainable over the long-term. Can AI help? Rebecca Oliva is the University of Glasgow student who is leading this research and Rebecca gave a great presentation in May as part of her annual review. Gaining an understanding of the artificial intelligence and sensitivity space has been her priority and this will shift to working with the Library's digital manuscripts later in 2019.



Rebecca Oliva presenting at her annual review at the University of Glasgow

Digital Preservation Officer

Graham Purnell joined the Library in January to fill the new Digital Preservation Officer post and started to research video formats, such as MKV and FFV1, that could reduce the impacts and costs of storage space in the future. The need to rescue video tape formats through digitisation and preservation and the storage costs related to this is a growing concern for organisations holding tape media. Graham published the results of his research online to benefit the wider community and attracted a great response from peers across the world. This was noted by Google when it floated his work into the top 10 results when searching for FFV1 <https://www.dpconline.org/blog/uncompressed-avi-ffv1>.

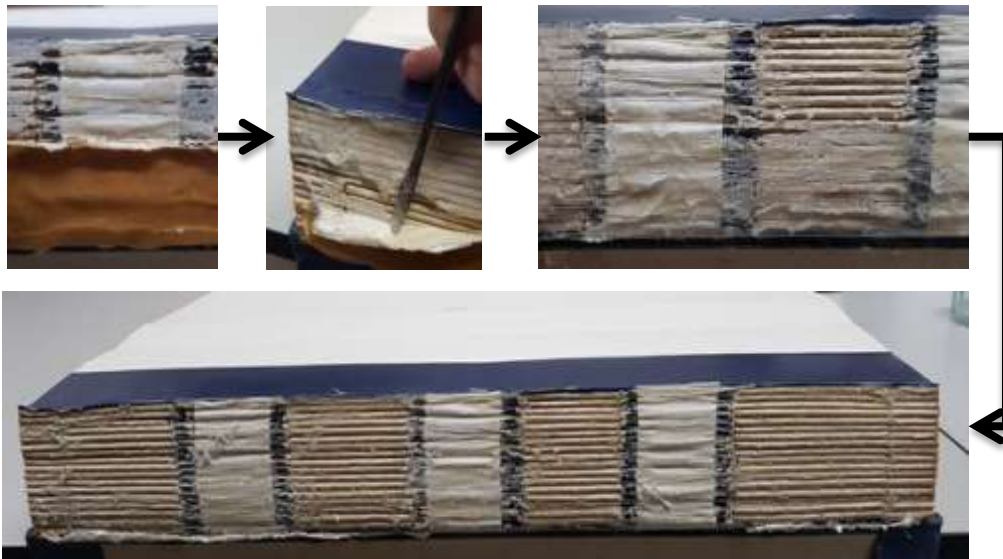
Digital Preservation Policy and Plan

And finally the Library Leadership Team approved a new Digital Preservation Policy and Plan that provides a great and much improved overview of how the Library preserves the nation's digital culture. A public version of the policy is available for everyone to read at <https://www.nls.uk/about-us/corporate-documents#other>.

General Collections news

Newspaper digitisation scoping project

The project to investigate the potential for digitisation of Scottish newspapers continues. Jennifer Higgins, the scoping project officer, is looking at a number of strands which will feed into a final report of options and recommendations. Recent activities include an investigation into the impact of partial dis-binding, a two-day visit to the British Library to look at their newspaper digitisation work, and a survey of local libraries to establish their appetite for newspaper digitisation. We are taking a responsible approach to this work, examining both positive and negative impact on key stakeholders, and establishing a good level of support for a Scotland-wide project in the process.



LKN launch and presentation

There was a launch of the Living Knowledge Network on 2 April at the British Library. The National Library of Scotland, a founding partner to the Network along with the British Library and National Library of Wales, was represented by Graeme Hawley, who gave a presentation about the role of the National Library and the Scottish Library Information Council (SLIC) in Scotland. It was attended by all of the 21 other partner Libraries, including The Mitchell Library, and Edinburgh Central Library.

Business Breakfast Briefing

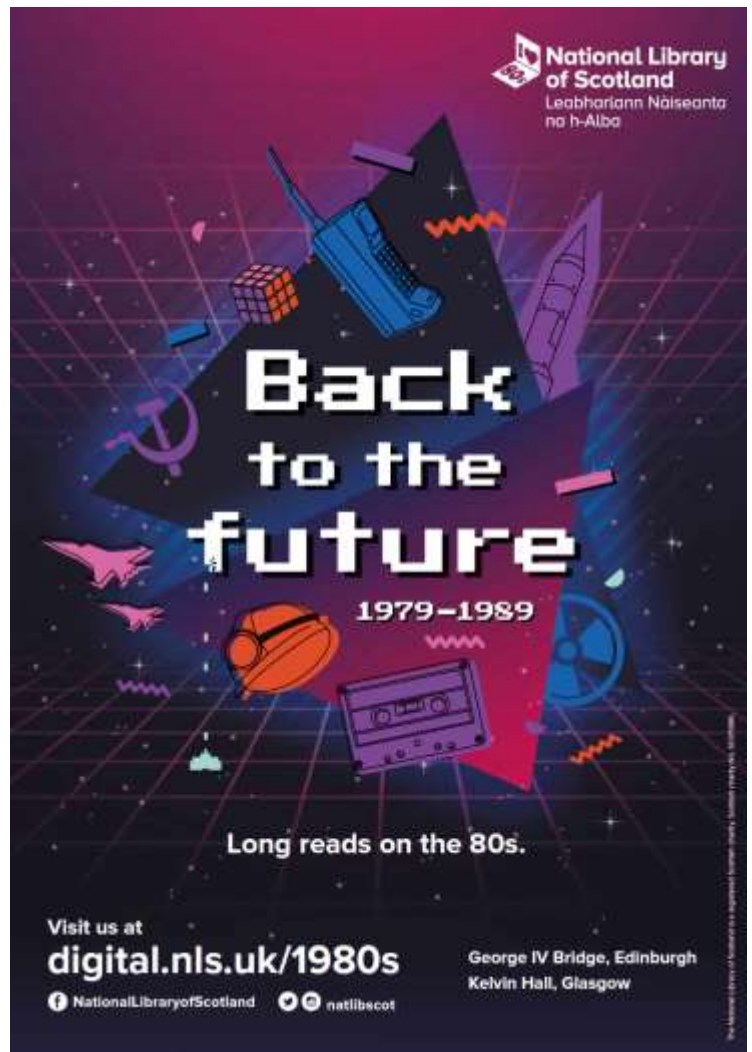
The Library held another information session for our business and enterprise users, in partnership with Mintel. This session looked at sustainability in the food and drink industry, and gave examples of emerging best practice and hopeful solutions for plastic reduction. At a time when news about ecological damage is especially bleak, it was great to hear about workable solutions that help consumers to shop ethically too (such as using blockchain technology as a way of authenticating food provenance).

Back to the future: 1979-1989

The Library launched its retrospective of the 1980s on 2 May. By the end of the first day of launch it had a social media reach of over 2 million people, and had been featured in both *The Scotsman* and *The Evening News*. Using #Talking1980s, dozens of libraries, archives, and other organisations (including Sainsbury's and Marks and Spencer) have joined the Library on Twitter to look back at this transformative decade.

Our purpose-built Library microsite launched with 19 essays, 18 moving image films, and a range of resources including 11 digitised volumes of the Cabinet Information Office's *Britain: an official handbook*. Essays cover a diverse range of topics, including the right to buy, Scottish football, synth pop, the Challenger Space Shuttle, Section 28, a focus on the events of 1979, the closure of the Gartcosh steel works, and the home computing revolution. A guest written essay by Kate Adie on the topic of Tiananmen Square is a first-hand account of what she witnessed in Beijing in the early hours of 4 June 1989.

New essay content will be added at the start of August to coincide with the opening of a Treasures exhibition (which will run until November). Also during August there will be a video installation on themes from the retrospective as part of the Fringe. Kelvin Hall will be running a season of 80s films, and will be holding a week of 80s and retro gaming activities the last week in July.



The website address is <https://digital.nls.uk/1980s/>

Further work with fashion

The Library's work with third-year Heriot-Watt fashion students continues to explore how our collections can be made more visible to people studying and working in creative industries, with the latest project looking at how our collections could be profiled in zine format. Three zines have been produced in response to a brief to profile the Library's collection strength with regards to visual inspiration, technical data, and business information resources which might be of use to those working in the fashion industry. The results of the project are on display in the cases at the top of the main staircase.



A follow-up fashion shoot of the winning design from the Library's fashion competition at the start of the year also took place, resulting in some very stylish pictures.

BIPC launch and partnership at The Mitchell Library

The Library was proud to attend the official launch of the Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) at the Mitchell Library on 26 April. This is the result of a partnership with Glasgow Life, The British Library, and the National Library of Scotland. It is the first time that a BIPC has opened in Scotland, and the first that we have been a partner to. Our presence at Kelvin Hall has really helped to strengthen this partnership because of all of the digital content that is available there. The Library has already been working with Mitchell Library colleagues since the launch, with our Business and Enterprise Partner, Elaine Simpson, attending the CanDo festival there on 7 May.



Collecting the 1980s – some thoughts on how to present 2.9 million publications

Graeme Hawley gave a presentation to the Academic and Research Libraries Group Scotland on ways to approach the massive body of publications that we received in the 1980s (approximately 2.9 million books, serials parts, maps, ephemera, and other printed material). Looking at the collection as a way of answering the question “**What’s happening?**” the presentation considered possible structures such as branches, spheres, waves, and chaos that might help to make sense of the mass. It also looked at bias in the dataset, and considered the role of research and stories in joining seemingly disconnected collection items together. The “Supporting the Social Sciences” masterclass was held at Napier University, and attended by approximately 50 library and information professionals.

General Collections - recent additions

Fringe benefits

The Library has been developing our collections of Fringe material, particularly early Fringe content that we have been missing. We recently acquired Festival Fringe brochures from 1969 and 1970, from the annual Christian Aid sale at St. Peter's and St. George's West in George Street, Edinburgh. Also at the sale we acquired the programme from 'On the mile', a revue staged at Riddles Court in 1954, featuring a not yet famous Margaret Smith.



Alasdair Gray prints

The Library has added more content from the writer and artist Alasdair Gray, who continues to produce arresting and attractive pieces. The two new prints are: "*To a critic who calls do not go gentle into that goodnight a silly poem*", a striking new signed poetry print published in 2019; and "*Bella Caledonia*", one of a signed edition of 60 prints published in 2019 to fund Gray's Bursary Trust which is awarded annually to a student in Scotland. It is a new version of one of Gray's most iconic images.

Magic

We recently acquired issue no.2 of the Magic comic, a D C Thomson publication from 1939. This wartime title only ran for a couple of years and it's very difficult to obtain. We are very pleased to pick up this title whenever we can.

Football

We continue to complete our collections of football programmes, and recently added the 1966 Cup Winners Cup Final Official Programme Liverpool v Borussia Dortmund. Although neither of these teams are Scottish, the final was played at Hampden Park, Glasgow.



Fiona Laing, Curator of Official Publications wins CILIPS Library and Information Professional of the Year Award

Fiona Laing, Curator of Official Publications in the General Collections Division, was announced as the winner of the CILIPS Library and Information Professional of the Year Award. Fiona was presented with the award at the CILIPS conference in Dundee on 3 June.

Fiona was nominated in light of a range of recent achievements such as her work to digitise the Library's collection of Scottish exam papers, her work to secure receipt of Scottish Government publications in digital format, and her tireless work to support the wider community around official publications content through groups such as the Scottish Working Forum on Official Publications (SWOP). Her knowledge about official publications is sought not just in Scotland but in the rest of the UK, knowledge she has acquired over decades. In addition to her obvious specialism, she is an exemplar of professional development, a committed member of CILIP, and has given back to the profession through mentoring of young librarians and advocacy for libraries.



Alexander Graham Trainee Archival Sound Technician

In April, the Library welcomed our new Alexander Graham Trainee to Kelvin Hall. Over the next 12 months Nicola Reade will be working with the Sound team to help process and digitise the Library's collection of 78rpm discs, largely formed from the Dean-Myatt Collection.

"I am the trainee archival sound technician for the National Library of Scotland. My role involves working with disc recordings from the Libraries' impressive sound collections; from wax cylinders, shellac 78s to microgroove vinyl. The collection is home to some incredible sound items such as very early field recordings on wax cylinder, an impressive range of Scottish sound recordings on both disc and open-reel formats, thousands of amazing oral history, radio, documentary and news recordings as well as test prints, rare acetates, jazz, folk, world, classical, traditional and popular music.

I had previously graduated from the Glasgow School of Art with a Masters Distinction in Sound Design for the Moving Image and maintain a practice in moving image and sound art. This traineeship is an exciting and rare position to be formally trained in the technical elements of archival sound digitisation as well as being able to create and work with material from the archive.

This unique role allows me to indulge and my passion for both sound and archive. This traineeship has been generously funded by Alexander Graham."

Nicola was especially delighted to meet Alex Graham on her first day.



Unlocking Our Sound Heritage - Volunteers at work

Our Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project has welcomed its first cohorts of volunteers this year. 19 people have volunteered their time (more than 100 days in total so far), helping to prepare collections for digitisation. They have also been listening to our recordings and writing summaries to help us catalogue them, including doing some research into the people recorded. This has been an invaluable contribution to help us achieve our goals of unlocking 5,000 sound items from across Scotland for the project.

Our first cohorts were also asked to get creative, by communicating the archive audio to a wider audience, either by using the audio or by being inspired by the audio. The brief was very loose, and our volunteers produced a variety of things. Abi Drysdale listened to, and was inspired by, a recording about the Italian community in Falkirk and used her skills to create a film mixing together new and archive footage with the audio.

Toby Buckley used a recording of grannies' home remedies to create a masterful hand-drawn zine, illustrating all sorts of dreaded lurgies and their wacky (purported) cures.

Louise Smith crafted a wonderful blog about the Communist Party in Edinburgh, inspired by oral history interviews. It was interspersed with snippets of the audio recordings and illustrated with contemporary newspaper accounts, sourced from the Library's digital resources.

And Lucy Fry took an interview with a cinema silent film pianist and created her own film, which researched the history of the role and the talents required to be successful in the job. Lucy also incorporated footage from the Moving Image Archive and a musical performance of her own, giving viewers an authentic taste of the world of silent cinema.

Current and future volunteer projects can be found on the [Scotland's Sounds website](#).



Recent Scotland's Sounds Stakeholder Meeting

At our recent stakeholder meeting with the Scotland's Sounds network, attendees were asked to get involved in determining Scotland's Sounds top principles and priorities for over the next 5 years. There were plenty of discussions, with excellent feedback and ideas coming from across the network.

Our top principles were grouped into 3 areas:

1. Sound is fragile and special, it needs preserving and protecting;
2. Sound is an engaging format and we need to make it is accessible and available to all;
3. Skills, Share, Connect, Distribute and Collect; what we do to facilitate.

The top priorities were: Preserving and Access

- Connecting;
- Funding;
- Collecting.

In the coming weeks, Scotland's Sounds will be drafting a published version of these principles and priorities; there will be a further chance to feedback on the language used in this draft before publishing and sharing widely. We will keep stakeholders informed throughout the process, as we value their input as stakeholders and will require their support to help us achieve and deliver these principles and priorities.

Our next stakeholder Meeting is being held in Gairloch on the 11 June.



Archives and Manuscripts

Ian Rankin Gifts his Archive to the Nation, and the Library

Ian Rankin, who has presented his literary archive to the Library, is the biggest-selling contemporary crime-writer in the U.K. This archive contains research papers, manuscripts, and **notes relating to the author's entire published and unpublished output**, as well as correspondence with some well-known literary figures in the world of British fiction, and beyond.

In addition to the donation of his papers, Ian Rankin has generously given the Library a significant sum towards funding the temporary post of Ian Rankin Project Curator. This post will enable the collection to be made available to our readers, in addition to other outreach activities. Generous contributions towards the post were also secured from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and The W M Mann Foundation.



Muriel Spark: A Journey through her Personal Archive

In March Dr Colin McIlroy gave a talk, 'Muriel Spark: A Journey Through her Personal Archive,' to the International Lyceum Club of Edinburgh, at the Royal Scots Club.

Visit of Society of Indexers Scottish Group

Kirsty McHugh, Curator for the John Murray Archive & Publishers' Collections, and Stephen Rigden, Digital Archivist, hosted a visit for the Society of Indexers Scottish Group on 23 April. The group had an opportunity to discuss how we approach the indexing of archive collections and to discover more about the John Murray Archive. We brought out a number of different manuscript items to show what you can find in a publishing archive, including some letters and ledgers relating to indexing of books in the 19th century. The visitors were grateful for a different and specialist perspective and it was a stimulating and rewarding session.



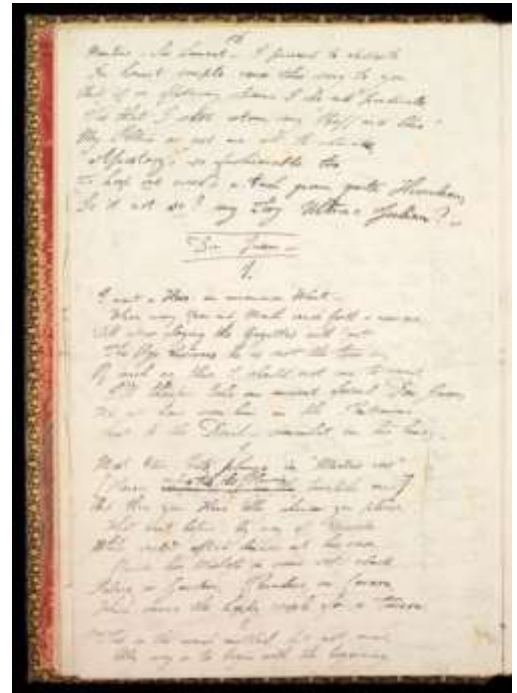
The 1820s, public event and conference

Three of the Library's curators (Dr Graham Hogg, Kirsty McHugh and Dr Ralph McLean) are members of the steering group for the research network 'The 1820s: Innovation and Diffusion'. The project, run by the Universities of Glasgow and York (funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh) aims to explore and raise awareness of this often neglected decade. The conference held at the University of Glasgow on 11-12 April was preceded by a public event at the Library on the evening of 10 April. Items from the Library's manuscript and rare books collections were the focus of four 10 minute presentations: Lord Byron's *Don Juan* (Tom Mole), literary albums (David Stewart), Felicia Hemans' prize poems (Matthew Sangster) and the campaign for a memorial to James Watt (Jon Mee).



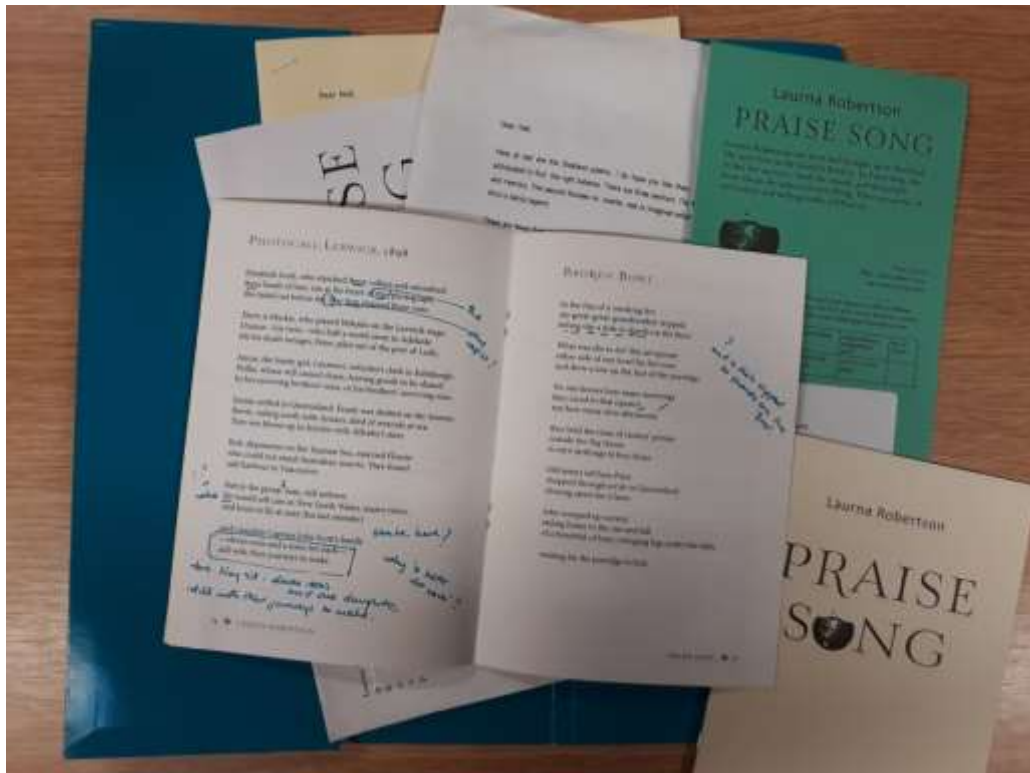
Marking the 200th anniversary of Lord Byron's *Don Juan*

On 18 April a new display 'Such Seductive Poetry' opened in the Treasures area to mark the 200th anniversary of the publication of the first instalment of Lord Byron's epic poem *Don Juan*. Organised by Kirsty McHugh the display uses items from the John Murray Archive and rare book collections to reveal the controversy around the poem's publication, the reactions of its readers and the relationship between author and publisher. The centrepiece of the display is the manuscript of cantos I, II and V of the poem in Byron's own hand (also available to view in the Digital Gallery: <https://digital.nls.uk/don-juan-manuscript/archive/134287958>). This display is complemented by a series of public events, the first of which was a talk by Dr Tom Mole, Director of the Centre for the History of the Book at the University of Edinburgh, on 14 May. The manuscript will be on display until 27 July and there are further public events planned for the 15 and 25 July.



Centre for the History of the Book volunteer placement

From January to April the Archives & Manuscripts Division hosted a student from the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the History of the Book. During her placement Margaret Stephen created a list of the contents of the HappenStance Archive which will allow public access to the collection. HappenStance is an independent publisher of poetry pamphlets based in Fife. The archive of the business was donated to the Library in 2018.



20th-century publishing history seminar

In March curators Kirsty McHugh and Dr Colin McIlroy, Modern Scottish Literary Manuscripts, hosted a session for students from the University of Dundee to explore some of the Library's collections of authors' papers and publishers' archives. We displayed items from the Canongate archive relating to Alasdair Gray, Muriel Spark's correspondence with her publishers and manuscripts, proofs, contracts and business records from the Blackwood Papers and John Murray Archive.



Rebel Roots – Album Artwork

On a misty Saturday afternoon in April, we welcomed Rebel Roots to the Library for the second time. Rebel Roots is a National Lottery Heritage Funded project, co-ordinated by youth work charity Fast Forward, working with teenagers in Edinburgh exploring youth cultures through the decades. It is a project about heritage, where the word heritage is never mentioned. This most recent workshop was facilitated by members of our Sound Collections team in collaboration with Scran.

The workshop covered an introduction to sound recordings and formats, a quiz to match the tracks to the album covers and an album.

After a quick run through some album covers, we gave each participant a blank album cover and armed with a table full of colourful and sparkly stationery, and diverse images provided by Scran, we allowed everyone to get creative. The results were a wonderful array of expression and far exceeded any of our expectations. Fast Forward are planning to frame each of their album covers for them to keep.

The whole workshop was a wonderful opportunity to invite a group of young people into the Library and give provide them with a fun, creative and educational experience. We hope that they will remember their time here and not be shy to walk into the Library again soon.



Learning and Outreach

Women mountaineers and explorers celebrated

Drawing on collection material including personal diaries and published journals, the Aiming High online learning resource looks at seven Scottish women mountaineers, explorers and adventures including the formation of the 'Ladies Scottish Climbing Club' in 1908. From Isabella Bird Bishop travelling in the Far-East to Evelyn McNicol, youngest member of the first all-women expedition to the Himalayas in 1955, the resource looks at the achievements of these seven pioneering women from the 19th-20th centuries through some of their recollections and items in the National Library of Scotland. It also includes downloadable learning activities mapped to the Curriculum for Excellence.



You can view this content here: <http://reveal.nls.uk/aiming-high/>

Parliamentary reception to mark the Iolair tragedy

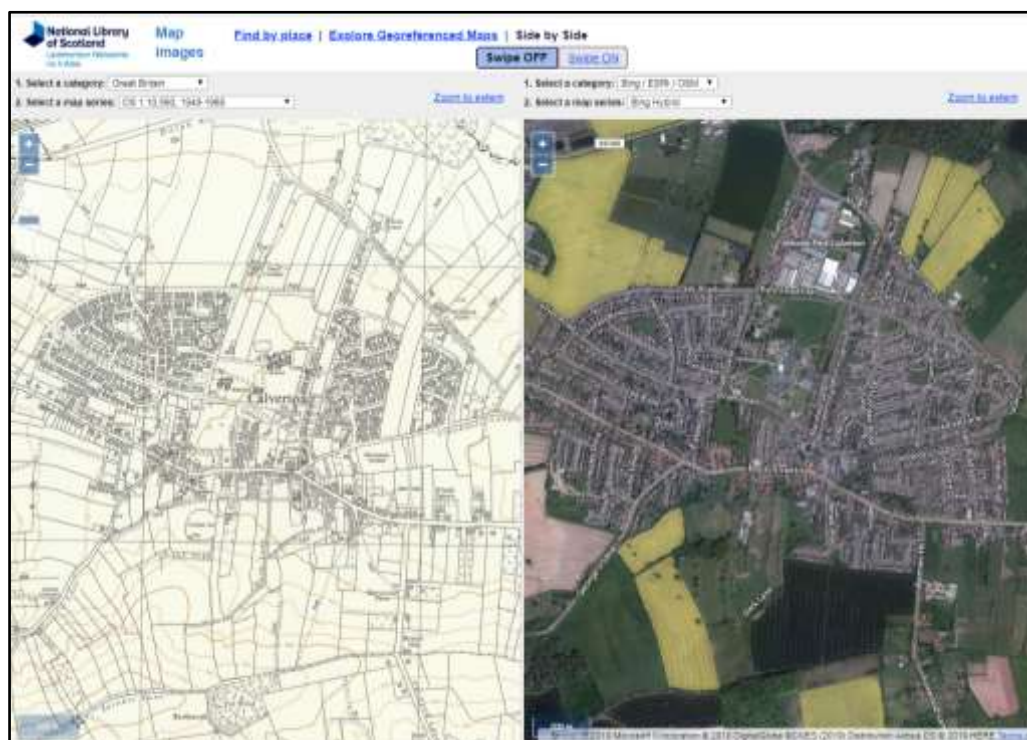
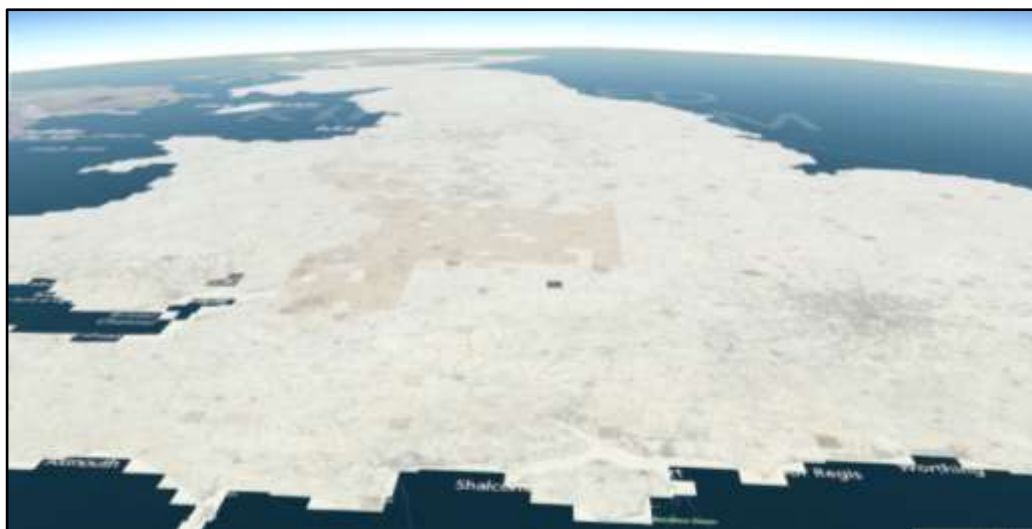
At the end of March, Learning Officer Alice Heywood and General Collections Curator, Jennifer Giles were invited to the Parliamentary reception to mark the response from the Islands of Lewis and Harris to commemorate the Iolair tragedy on New Year's night 1919 at the heart of which has been the publication of a major new book by Malcolm Macdonald and Donald John MacLeod. The publishers, Acair Books and author Malcolm Macdonald provided content for the 'Iolair' dual Gaelic/English learning resource and expressed their gratitude for the Library's efforts in raising awareness of the event through the resource:

<https://digital.nls.uk/learning/iolair/>

Maps News

Our most detailed out-of-copyright georeferenced layer of Britain goes online

Following completion of the digitisation of our [Ordnance Survey National Grid 1:10,560 mapping](#), in April we put online a [seamless georeferenced mosaic](#) of mid-20th century Britain based on these maps. The maps show farms and settlements, roads and railways, rivers and watercourses, administrative and field boundaries, woodland and land use, as well as contour lines; many street names are also shown. This is the latest out-of-copyright mapping covering most of mainland Britain. The mosaic seams together 8,657 individual maps, and is a superb way of visualising mid-20th century British landscape.



Library features in “The Lost Gold of Scotland” on the Discovery Channel

In May, the Library and its map and manuscript collections featured as a key source in helping search for famed Jacobite gold, hidden in the Highlands after the Battle of Culloden. Although 19th-century and later maps place Prince Charles Edward Stuart's Cave on the west side of Loch Erich, the earliest detailed map of the area in the 18th-century by James Stobie shows the cave on the east side. An early manuscript account included in *The Lyon in Mourning* also provides clues as to the original location where Bonnie Prince Charlie and his supporters hid. As well as viewing the collections and discussing their importance, the action-packed programme also featured several shots of the George IV Bridge building, and hopefully its airing on the Discovery Channel publicised the Library and its collections to a wider international audience.



Touring display activity

The popular touring display '*Lifting the Lid: 400 years of Food and Drink in Scotland*' is currently on tour at libraries throughout Renfrewshire. The display will visit Barrhead, Giffnock, Eastwood, Mearns and Clarkston throughout its stay in Renfrewshire. Olive Geddes, Manuscripts Curator specialising in Social History Collections, delivered a talk focused on the themes of the display at Giffnock Library on May 17. Two Library-organised school workshops took place at Barrhead Library on 15 April.



Display set-up in Giffnock Library



Visitors enjoying the display at Barrhead Foundry

The display has received positive press coverage locally, in the Barrhead Gazette and nationally in the Evening Times.

East Renfrewshire Libraries previously hosted the Going to the Pictures touring display and it is encouraging that, as well as attracting new venues, the touring displays are able to provide lasting interest and value for previous partner organisations.

2 Retweets 6 Likes



1



2



6



Elinor Clark @ElinorRC · May 3

Replying to @ERCL4 @natlibscot

This was at @salibraries. Excellent exhibition 😊



1



Positive comment on East Renfrewshire Libraries Twitter, referring to the display's previous visit to South Ayrshire

Partnerships with Glasgow Museums / GoMA, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Glasgow School of Art



For the third year, the Library has supported students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland undergraduate course in Music Education (BMus) with a visit to the Moving Image Archive in March 2019. This year, the students were tasked with devising a music score to a silent film during their Primary School placement. The students worked with pupils to create a soundscape to play alongside the film. The 30 students shared their results in April (see picture above). The music scores will be recorded and edited together with the silent film clip as an example for other music teachers of how to use film creatively in the classroom. We have spoken to course directors at RCS about embedding our partnership further in learning and assessment in the coming academic year.

Building on our relationship with Glasgow Museums, the Library collaborated on programme two Cine[sthesia] screenings with award-winning artist Anne-Marie Copestake. This coincided with *Stalking The Image: Margaret Tait And Her Legacy* (on exhibition at GoMA from November 2018 - May 2019). The screenings aimed to encourage audiences inspired by the GoMA exhibition to explore the work of Margaret Tait preserved in the Moving Image Archive.

We co-produced an event with Glasgow School of Art lecturer Dr Fiona Jardine on the film *'Weave Me a Rainbow'*. Dr Geoffrey Cox came from Huddersfield University to speak about the music of composer Frank Spedding in the film while Fiona focused on the textile elements.

In May we worked with Edinburgh International Book Festival on their outreach programme *'Citizen'* in North Edinburgh Arts, providing a screening package to engage people of North Edinburgh in sharing local stories.

Student engagement and research

The Library University of Glasgow MsC Film Curation student placements at Kelvin Hall came to an end. Student Gordon Park delivered a particularly successful set of screenings for the public on the theme 'Pride of Islands' and also assisted with research into hidden voices in the collection.

PhD student James Dougan completed his report on 'archive film and wellbeing'. His report will be reviewed in the coming months and any relevant findings shared within the Library. His internship at Kelvin Hall was supported by the SGSAH.

We submitted an application for a Wellcome-funded PhD student to work with the Moving Image Archive on 'reframing disability', working together with disabled people to uncover and re-assess the representation of people with disabilities in the collection. The outcome of the application will be known in June.

Emily Munro has been working on positively identifying film 'Potato Picking Trailer' (ref 1058) as a Halas & Batchelor studios work. Halas & Batchelor are best known for making Animal Farm (1954) but also made a wide range of public information and propaganda films in the 1940s – 1970s. She hopes to publish her findings in the next edition of Discover magazine.

Widening access and inclusion

The Library marked International Women's day at Kelvin Hall with a workshop in association with the community arts project 'Hitherto Unknown'. The workshop looked at women filmmakers in the film collection and the opportunity to document women's experiences in web-archiving.

For the Luminate Festival 2019, we hosted two Memories workshops at Kelvin Hall in partnership with Glasgow Museums. At the end of May we are supported 'Taking Tea with a Trailblazer' storytelling workshops in both Kelvin Hall and George IV Bridge.

The Library has also been engaging with LGBT Health and Wellbeing on their Luminate-funded film project. The film (on care in later life) opened the Luminate festival in Glasgow this year. LGBTQI+ experiences are dramatically underrepresented in the film and video collections. We will continue to work with this charity on projects to support engagement with the Library and to encourage potential donations of material.