



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

LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020

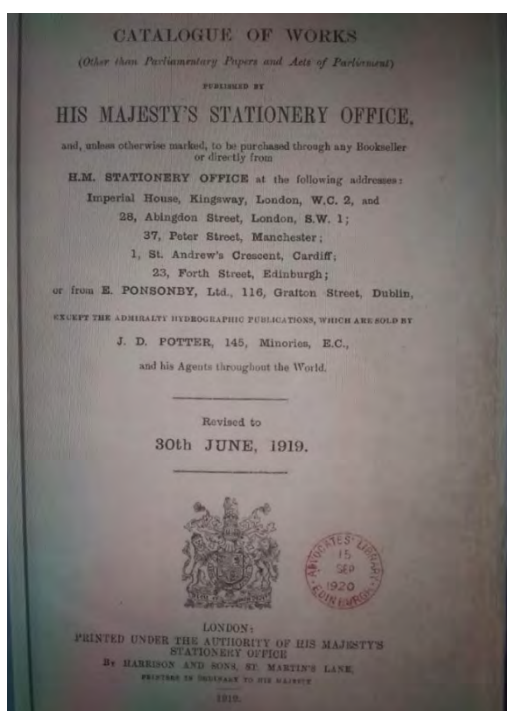
<p>9 September 2020</p> <p>Attended the American Patrons National Library and Galleries of Scotland quarterly meeting</p>	<p>16 September 2020</p> <p>Attended the Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) Board meeting</p>	<p>24 September 2020</p> <p>Attended the inaugural meeting of the Public Library Strategy Advisory Group</p>
<p>28 September 2020</p> <p>Launched the Library Strategy to Patrons and supporters (pictured)</p>	<p>29 September 2020</p> <p>Held a press launch of the Library's strategy to a selection of Scottish journalists</p>	<p>19 September 2020</p> <p>Spoke at the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) AGM via Zoom</p>
<p>26 October 2020</p> <p>Gave the opening keynote at the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) Conference</p>	<p>2 November 2020</p> <p>Attended the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) Board meeting</p>	<p>6 November 2020</p> <p>Attended the SLIC AGM and Showcase</p>
<p>10 November 2020</p> <p>Gave an evening lecture to the Robert Gordon University Information Studies students</p>	<p>11 November 2020</p> <p>Attended the Paisley Museum Reimagined Board meeting</p>	<p>24 November 2020</p> <p>Attended the Heads of Legal Deposit Libraries Council and Chaired the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries (ALDL) Board</p>

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

The Metadata & Maintenance Team continue to work on hidden collections from home. The Cataloguing Assistants have now completed work on the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament born digital hidden collections and work has started on describing the print official publications monographs listed in the HMSO catalogues. Historically official publications were not catalogued individually, instead the shelfmark was handwritten beside the relevant title in the printed catalogue as can be seen in the accompanying image. The listing provides enough information to create an online catalogue record without reference to the collection item, and as the shelfmark is also easily accessible, this an ideal hidden collection to work on from home. To facilitate work on this hidden collection the Metadata & Maintenance Manager suggested that the HMSO catalogues were digitised and this has now been done. There are thirty-five volumes ready to work on.

The Senior Cataloguers are also describing hidden collection material while working from home. They are currently working on a substantial donation of around 8,000 born digital monographs published by Education Scotland. Alongside the bibliographic description of these items they also complete the associated authority work. The National Library of Scotland participates in the NACO programme (Name Authority Cooperative Program) which is an international cooperative programme established in 1976 and is based at the Library of Congress. The programme

provides a mechanism for members to provide unique identifiers for creators. The Senior Cataloguers in the Metadata & Maintenance Team create and contribute authority records for Scottish personal, corporate, and jurisdictional names on behalf of the Library. This is time consuming, and often complex work but it is important that the National Library of Scotland takes the lead in creating authority records for all Scottish creators for a global audience. Our authority work for Scottish names is also a key component in identifying material for inclusion in the National Bibliography of Scotland.



One Third Digital Update

The Mass Digitisation Team has been working in the studio full time throughout September and October, digitising a further 350 volumes from the Antiquarian Books of Scotland collection as well as a collection of over 1,700 Scottish chapbooks. The latter is planned to be made available as one of our upcoming datasets on the Data Foundry, forming a valuable addition to the chapbooks already available there.

The team have also digitised 39 volumes of HMSO catalogues which the Library only held in print copies so far. The digital images will support the Library's work on our Hidden Collections programme and lend themselves well to working from home.

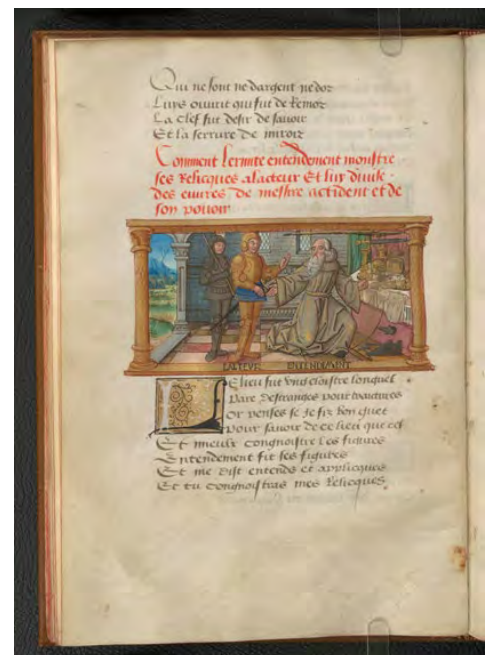
As reported previously, the team have won the Wikimedia UK Partnership of the Year 2020 award for the Library's work on the Wikisource OCR corrections during lockdown. We have now received the award trophy, pictured, and want to once again say a big thank you to the more than 70 staff members involved in this work.



The medieval manuscript project funded by Alexander Graham progressed well during September and October, with 141 out of the total of 220 items digitised as of 26 October.

The team have experimented with different lighting settings to capture the gold leaf present in some items. This has proved to be very challenging as the slightest warp in the paper or vellum results in the gold lustre not displaying in the images. It was determined that the difference between the digitisation system's goldleaf settings and standard settings was negligible and was thus not worth the significant downtime required to switch between the two. Without slowing down the project speed to circa 1/10 of its current rate the presentation of gold in the images will therefore be dependent upon the angle at which the goldleaf lays on each page.

Image: Manuscript, early 16th century, of the allegorical poem 'Le Chevalier délibéré' by Olivier de la Marche,



composed in 1483 (Adv.MS.19.1.8)

A lot of work has been carried out over the past weeks to make more collections available online. Six manuscript volumes from the Liston Papers were added to the [Digital Gallery](#) at the end of October, joining the nine that are already available there. The new items cover Henrietta Liston's Turkish travels, and their online release will coincide with the publication of a book about Henrietta Liston which is featured later in this report.

Significant effort has also been spent preparing around 600,000 images from the ABS (Antiquarian Books Scottish) collection for online delivery. Work on this is ongoing.

The digitisation of fragile and special collection maps of Scotland on the hired Versascan scanner is now complete, forming a crucial contribution to the Library's target to have all single sheet maps of Scotland digitised by the end of 2020. This target is still within reach now that our new sheet feed map scanner is in operation, and there are only around 8,000 maps to go.

Of the maps recently digitised, the latest online addition are a collection of 586 Sutherland Estate maps, including [524 estate maps](#), [40 county maps](#), and [22 coastal charts](#). These maps were made to support all aspects of estate management and agricultural improvement, and show the planning of new roads, railways, lighthouses, and fisheries. They also show the clearance of inland farms in the early 19th century and the expansion of sheep runs, among other things.

The specialist digitisation staff in the Moving Image and Sound Team worked full-time from Kelvin Hall during September and October. Digitisation of 37 items from film, 2 from video tape and 344 sound items were completed by the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project, which included oral history from a collection at University of St Andrews, highlights of which are interviews with all levels of staff at the Tullis Russell Papermill and interviews conducted by Franki Raffles with the subjects of her photographs. There was also a collection of Gaelic language material from Gairloch Museum which includes recordings teaching a baby to speak Gaelic, oral history interviews and beautiful amateur recordings of Gaelic music and singing.

Film work included:

- Ref: 2201 [A Dram Like This](#) - one of our Films of Scotland collection and Grants Whisky got in touch with us as this is the only footage they can find of one of their distilleries that has been knocked down. The footage will be used in their museum. It will be made available to view on-site shortly through the Library catalogue.

- Ref: 7749 [Beattock Station & Surrounding Area](#) - a user wished to purchase a copy of this. We had both the vinegar affected 16mm print and poor quality mini dv copy. As this was an urgent request the mini dv copy was provided but in addition the original vinegar affected film was carefully scanned and the resulting digital file was of significantly higher quality than the mini dv. We provided the customer with the new scan and this will be made available on-site through the catalogue shortly. The vinegar affected 16mm film itself will be vacuum packed and moved to the specialist freezer at Kirkintilloch to arrest deterioration.
- Ref: 5571 [Kilmarnock Demolition](#). Another customer request, this film has great footage of two water towers in Greenholm Street being demolished in 1976 and has already been made available online.



Image: screen shot of Ref: 5571 [Kilmarnock Demolition](#).

This digital capture work was supported by associated digital production work completed by other colleagues working from home on tasks including rights identification and negotiated agreements with rights holders; cataloguing; creation of access copies from existing digital masters over VPN; and for moving image material ingest into the public catalogue.

There are now over 2,720 items from the moving image collection available to view off-site (2103 full length items, the remainder being clips) plus another 1,169 available to view on-site in both Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Moving Image and Sound Collections section of this report to the Board contains further information on recent additions.

Moving Image and Sound Collections

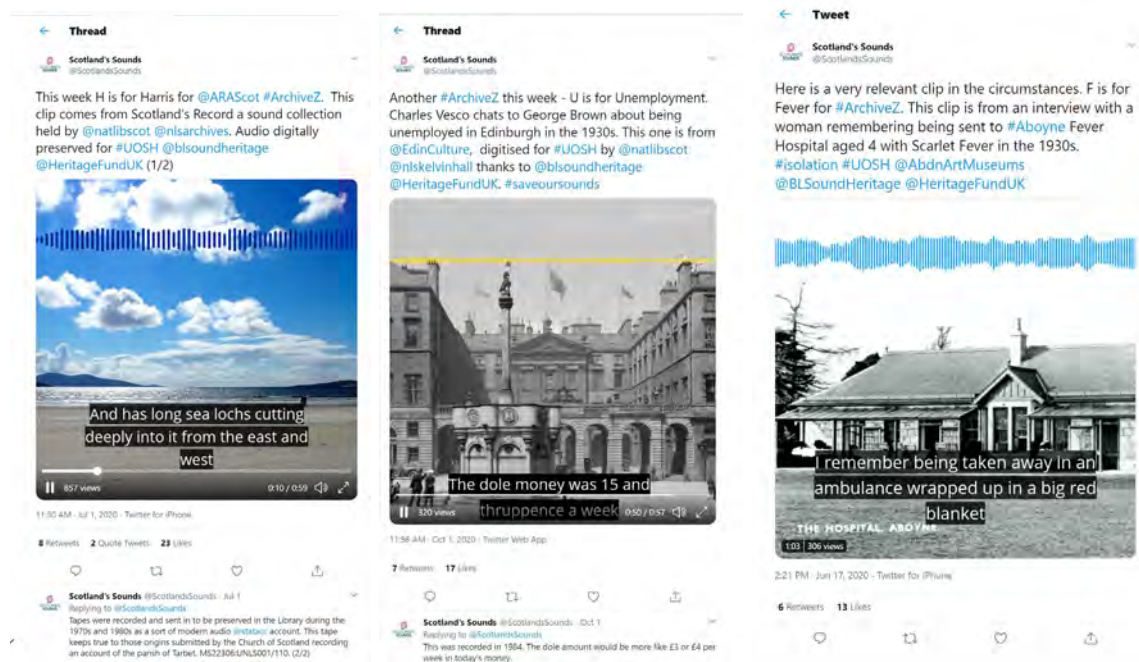
'HOME' film-making competition

In partnership with the Scottish Youth Film Festival, the winners of the Library's "HOME" film-making competition for young people were announced at the virtual Film Festival on 24 October. The six short-listed films showed the great creativity that young people had shown in capturing their experience of the 2020 summer lockdown through documentary, drama, animation, and special effects. The two winning films will be added to the Library collections.



#ArchiveZ of sound on Twitter

The Scotlands Sounds twitter account has almost completed a series of 26 posts promoting sound collections both at the National Library and across the Scotlands Sounds network. "H" for Harris, "U" for Unemployment and "F" for Fever are three examples. To enhance appeal each clip was paired with a suitable image and to aid accessibility subtitles were added to spoken word material.



Wild Scotland on Film

'The light of enchantment on heather and lochan, the curler's call, the fragrance of green bog myrtle, slow silence enfolding all' (Intertitles on silent film [Bee Keeping in the North](#), 1946)

Scotland's great outdoors features in many memorable films – think of the brooding mountains of Glencoe in 'Skyfall' or the breathtaking Aberdeenshire village of Pennan depicted in 'Local Hero'. Moving images have the power to enthrall and entertain as well as inform and educate. A curatorial talk in September and accompanying [blog](#) signposted the amazing range of films at the National Library of Scotland and why they are worthy of exploration.

Working closely with colleagues at Glasgow Life, we obtained permission to show a clip from [Pollok: A State of Nature](#) in the recorded talk and to release the film for all to view online. As Glasgow Parks Department no longer exists, it was interesting following the breadcrumb trail to pinpoint the current rights owner – we may even track down the original film-maker with the help of the Countryside Rangers! The film gained 795 views in September, making it the second top film viewed that month, no doubt as a result of click through on social media.

One of the films included in the online film show was [Impressions of Skye](#), a film made by the prolific amateur, Iain Dunnachie. The section selected for inclusion in the edited showreel had a poem recited over the film and we were keen to identify it, not least because we wanted the showreel subtitled so more people could engage with the film once the recorded talk was live on the [NLS YouTube channel](#). Working with Jo Stevenson, Events Assistant and Michael Robertson, Reference Services, it was identified as 'In the Lake District' by Neil Foggie. The poem was initially identified via a digitised 'preview' on Google Books but it was thanks to Library Search and a leaf through the [physical book on the shelf](#) that the full text was found. A small but noteworthy testament to the digital and physical library working together!

September's focus on all things outdoors also enabled the addition of a new genre term: [nature](#). Visitors online can now easily explore 127 films connected with nature and we intend making more films digitally available in the future.



Alexander Graham Trainees appointed

Following online interviews two new trainees have been appointed to the Moving Image and Sound Collections team. Funding from Alexander Graham enabled these positions - one in sound and one in moving image - to be created building on similar successful traineeships in 2019/20. The successful candidates started work at the beginning of November.

The moving Image trainee will be digitising a variety of video collections and formats for preservation. Collections will include tapes from the BBC (Kids show the Singing Kettle), Strathclyde Transport (Underground Centenary video), Lambert Creative (Scotland's semiconductor industry Silicon Glen), and the Northern Lighthouse Board (construction of the ship Pharos at Ferguson shipbuilders' yard). The Trainee will also undertake digital restoration work using Diamant software on high quality preservation 4k scans from Nitrate film. The titles are: Ironclad battleships based in the Forth 1910, Dunfermline Gala Day 1932, Queen of the South v Celtic FC - Celtic FC sail to America on the Caledonia 1931 and Aberdeen Armistice Day. Further training will include creating Digital Cinema Packages (DCP) and presentations for the MISC video wall.

The Sound Trainee will be predominantly working on the Library's collections of 78rpm discs, including rehousing, cleaning and digitizing the discs for preservation and access. The Library currently has c.15,000 78rpm discs, including over 10,000 in the Dean-Myatt Collection, and we have no means of playing these back to the public until they are digitized. The Trainee will also be trained and have the opportunity to work on a variety of technical preservation techniques for audio tape, and also audio editing for access for programmed online engagement.

Supporting those living with dementia

Films from the Library's Moving Image and Sound Archive are being used as part of Glasgow's dementia strategy which has been hailed as world leading. The Dementia Innovation Readiness Index 2020 cited Glasgow's dementia strategy, as '*a template for cities looking to improve early detection and diagnosis*'. And it also recognised the city for 'explicitly recognising' diagnosis of dementia as 'critical'. Glasgow's strategy was developed by the city's Health & Social Care Partnership, in collaboration with Alzheimer Scotland. Priorities include the provision of resources to enable people with dementia to continue living in the community, reducing stigma and increasing social engagement on the issue. One small part of the wider project has been for Glasgow Life Community Services team to create online resources for 12 care homes throughout the city and provide content to support reminiscence activities through closed Facebook groups. So far three films from the Library's collection have been selected for inclusion in the work: [a short 1959 film](#) about how jams, sauces, sweets and coffee are manufactured in the Co-op's Shieldhall factory, Douglas

Gray's [1963 history of Glasgow](#) documentary and the 1985 "[Clyde film](#)" made by members of a local arts and community group in the Cranhill.

'A Race Against Time – Digitising the Scottish Ballet Archive'

October offered the chance to talk about [The Scottish Ballet Collection](#) with online presentations about this recent acquisition and partnership project at the [CILIPS Conference](#) and the joint conference of [FIAT/IFTA](#) (International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives / International Federation of Television Archives), with the talks recorded and available to view after the conferences have ended.

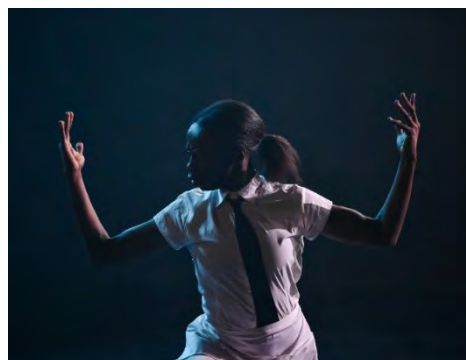


Image: Rishan Benjamin in Scottish Ballet's production of '[Tremble](#)'

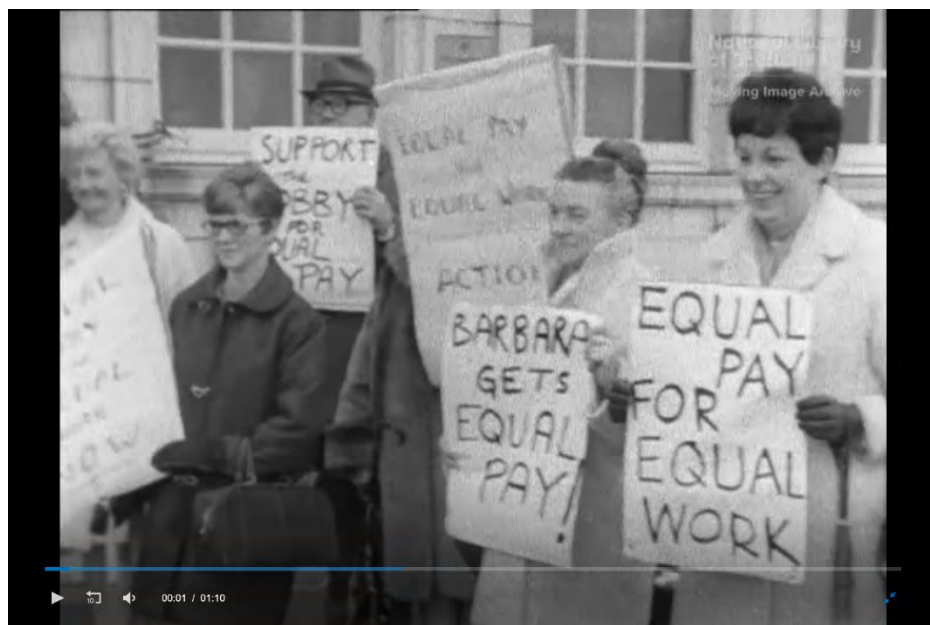
Teaching into Higher Education: Virtual visits to the Moving Image and Sound Archive

Requests for online webinars have been increasing and there has been particular interest from Higher Education institutions who would normally have visited Kelvin Hall in person. In September and October Moving Image and Sound Collections staff participated in podcasts and webinars for Edinburgh and Glasgow universities' Film Curation Masters courses.

Glasgow School of Art has engaged with the archive's online catalogue and learning resource Scotland on Screen for their first year cross-discipline module on 'Being Human'. This involves around 100 students, as well as students from their International School, learning about the archive and how to access it for research and creative inspiration through a pre-recorded video and follow-up webinar.

Grampian TV

Grampian TV – ITV's region for the north of Scotland – was launched on 30 September 1961 at 2:45pm, when the voice of broadcaster and journalist Douglas Kynoch greeted viewers for the first time: '*Good afternoon. This is the first transmission of Grampian Television Limited...*'. To coincide with the Edinburgh Television Festival at the end of August, a new [short biography](#) of the company was published as part of the Moving Image and Sound Collection online catalogue. This brings together the records for 225 of the Grampian TV programmes in the Moving Image and Sound Collection and is a starting point for researchers interested in both the organisation as industry pioneers and in the BAFTA-winning news and current affairs broadcasting. More records will be added as cataloguing work continues.



[Women for equal pay demonstration, Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen](#)

New catalogue records online

218 catalogue records (and 82 digitised films available to view online) have been added since August 2020. Priority continues to be given to films that can be viewed anywhere in the world due to the current coronavirus restrictions.

Work is underway to complete collections that have only been partially published online to date e.g. titles relating to the Scottish Amateur Film Festival ahead of the new Treasures Gallery rotation. Recent additions include:

- [New York and World's Fair](#) (1939) An early colour film featuring the film-making skill of Nettie McGavin. A biography of McGavin is currently being researched that will showcase the work of this rather invisible woman in the collection, as [not much is known about her at all](#).

- [Highland Castles](#) (1949) A new addition to the films of [James Nairn](#). This offers a good example of the rich shotlist data we are releasing as part of the Library's Hidden Collections work.
- [School in the Trossachs](#) (1964) This amateur award winning film was sponsored by the Clackmannan County Council Education Committee and features the commentary talents of none other than Michael Aspel!
- We are steadily adding to the Library's [Scottish Independence Referendum Collection 2014](#). Some examples can be found [here](#)

Halloween video for social media

A compilation of some of our scariest film clips was created and released on social media for Halloween

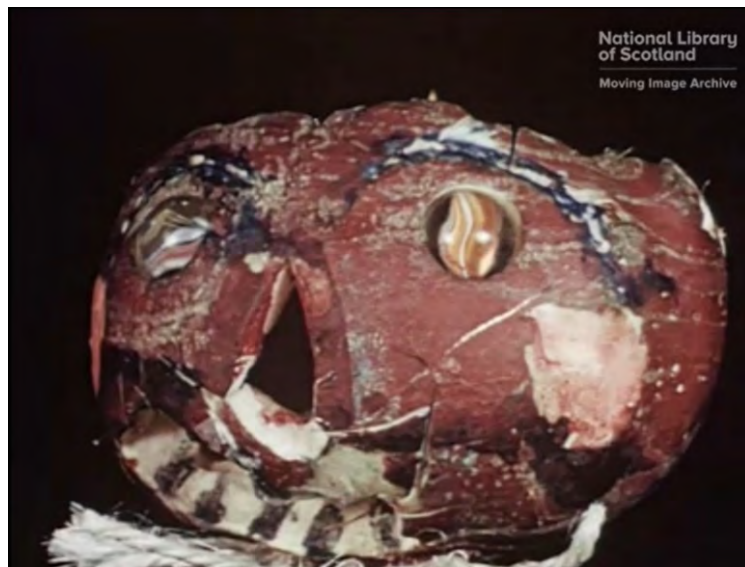


Image from '[Citizens in The Making](#)' (1961)

'Our Maryhill' archive film and intergenerational project

'Our Maryhill' which premiered at the Glasgow Film Festival in 2019 was officially shortlisted for the 2020 FOCAL International Award for Best Use of Footage on Innovative Platforms. Facilitated by the Glasgow Film Theatre the intergenerational project was in partnership with National Library of Scotland, Community Connectors, Queen's Cross Housing Association, St Charles' Primary School and John Paul Academy in Glasgow. School pupils and residents of local housing associations reflected on and expressed what their shared community means to them through rare archive footage. The project involved screenings and archive film curation workshops with participants aged 11 to 81. The FOCAL judges commented that "By delivering multiple workshops and allowing 'community curators' to be central actors on the project, Our Maryhill demonstrates how audiovisual heritage can be an innovative source of cross-generational creativity, reflection and fun."

Glasgow Doors Open Day Time Machine

CLICK THE FILM TITLE TO WATCH

GLASGOW TODAY AND TOMORROW (1949)

A fascinating film made by Glasgow Corporation reflecting the findings of the Bruce Report, published in 1945, which proposed radical changes for the future shape of the city. It includes footage of forgotten corners of old Glasgow, city streets, aerial vistas, industry old and new, ferries and the docks. The Glasgow of the future is imagined in models of a rebuilt city centre of tower blocks, avenues and roundabouts.



BUCHANAN STREET AND ST. ENOCH'S RAILWAY STATIONS (c. 1966)

This short film features two of Glasgow's lost central railway stations just before their closure. St. Enoch's Station was closed in 1966 and the station and hotel building were finally demolished in 1977 – here we see shots of the building exterior, the platforms and some of the station interior. Buchanan Street Station closed around the same time – the film includes shots of the entrance building, concourse and platforms.



Although we could not physically welcome curious visitors through the doors of Kelvin Hall this year, Liam Paterson, Assistant Curator MISC, curated a selection of films from our collections which take you back to a Glasgow of the past.

Explore cityscapes that have either disappeared or have been altered beyond recognition, as the city expanded and adapted through the 20th century. There are lost railway stations, forgotten cinemas and theatres, long-abandoned industries and the bustle of the docks.

And in the spirit of Doors Open Day, let the time machine take you inside some of Glasgow's buildings, including tenement and high-rise flat interiors, a Corporation steamie, and even Charles Rennie Mackintosh's flat in Hillhead.

<https://www.glasgowdoorsopendays.org.uk/movingimage.html>

University of Glasgow Film & Heritage Course goes live for S6 Pupils

In partnership with University of Glasgow Widening Participation we have developed a new online module for The Top Up Programme in Film & Heritage. The course starts in November 2020 and will run across Secondary Schools in the West of Scotland designed for S6 pupils looking to progress into Higher Education. It will take pupils through a film seminar and written assignment focusing the portrayal of Scottish identity on screen in archive films and current content with reference to the film *From Scotland With Love* (2014).

For further details: <https://scotlandonscreen.org.uk/resources/lesson-guides/top-up-programme>

University of Glasgow

WIDENING PARTICIPATION



TOP-UP PROGRAMME
Top-Up is a pre-entry programme that has been preparing pupils applying for, or considering applying for, higher education since 1999.

SLA Fellows Award

John Coll, Associate Director of Access, has been made a Fellow of *SLA the Special Libraries Association*. The award is made to members of the association in recognition of their contribution to both the association and the information sector. John is only the fourth member from the UK to be made a Fellow in the last decade. As well as serving on the European Board including as President in 2016, he was responsible for organising the first European Conference which took place in 2019 in Oxford. SLA has an active European chapter and has hosted a number of events in Scotland including a number at the National Library of Scotland. SLA is a global association for information professionals with over 3,000 members in 75 countries.



OpenTexts.World

When first planning the Library's mass digitisation service we looked at the possibility of examining all the books in the Library's collection to see what was already digitised and online in other organisations. Unfortunately, no single search of all digitised texts exists, despite the fact that tens of millions of books have now been digitised by libraries.

This potential for such a service was further explored in the AHRC-funded [Global Digital Dataset project](#) that we took part in last year in partnership with the University of Glasgow, HathiTrust, the British Library, the National Library of Wales, and Research Libraries UK. The project developed a prototype search across the digitised collections of the partner libraries.

During the initial Covid-19 lockdown an opportunity arose to develop a new and free service, [OpenTexts.World](#) that built on the project's prototype. This service allows users to search for and find digitised open resources from libraries' collections. In addition, it supports Digital Scholarship by allowing new cross-collection text corpora to be built.

This experimental service, which we believe is unique in the world, aggregates metadata relating to the digitised text-based collections from eight large libraries including; the national libraries of Scotland and Wales, Queen's University Belfast, Bodleian Libraries Oxford, the [Wellcome Library](#), [Digital New Zealand](#), the [Internet Archive](#) and [HathiTrust](#).

The service was developed collaboratively by National Library of Scotland and the [Scottish Tech Army](#), an initiative established during lockdown to provide organisations, such as the Library, with volunteers from the tech industry who had been furloughed. Volunteers who worked with us on the project included a software developer, a UX designer and a project manager.

OpenTexts.World was launched in September 2020 and received a write up in The Times newspaper. It has since gone on to receive positive feedback on social media and a number of other libraries have requested that their metadata be added to the service.

Our ambition for OpenTexts.World is for it to be truly global in scope, providing the public, researchers, academics, and digital scholars with access to the digitised open text-based collections of the libraries of the world. Achieving this is not without its challenges; gaining access to metadata that describe these collections, developing a multilingual interface, providing all the functionality that users need, and building and maintaining a sustainable platform. We are currently exploring options that may help us achieve our goal including considering the development of a network of interested parties and exploring external funding opportunities. OpenTexts.World can be accessed at <https://OpenTexts.World>, and we welcome your feedback.

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

External Resources

Wikipedia

We are still seeing increased traction in the number of wiki pages and projects our material is used on with a total of 32,067 pages, an increase of 35% on last quarter. For the second quarter in a row we have seen these pages registering over 10.5 million views, compared to the peak last year of under 10 million.

Internet Archive and Flickr

These sites are similar in that our content on them is not updated and therefore the quarterly view counts remain fairly static. Both sites also see a similar number of views quarterly with around 200,00 accessing the Library's content.

YouTube

This financial year has seen a big shift in the usage of the Library's YouTube presence. Building on last quarter's success and with a total of 27 new videos released. Also, in July the Library held the '[Her Century](#)' event, which resulted in an increase of 66 new subscribers in a single day. To put this in context, last financial year, the biggest monthly increase in subscribers was 35.

It is not just subscriber numbers that have soared, total views have more than doubled hitting just over 46,000 and watch time has increased by 226% with over 2,000 hours of content watched.

WIKIMEDIA	YouTube
32,067 Wikimedia pages	27 new videos
6,026,239 English language Wikipedia views	46,006 views
10,745,832 total views	2,041 hours watched
	322 new subscribers

Internet Archive	Flickr
4,850 items in	2,500 images
13 collections	224,316views
202,159 views	

nls.uk domain use

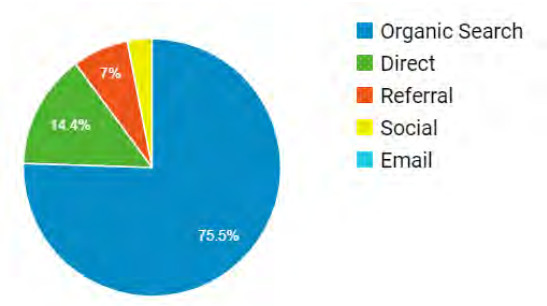
After the peak of last quarter, breaking over 2 million sessions there has been a slight decrease in quarter two. This coincides with the easing of national restrictions and the physical re-opening of the Library's public offering. Although down overall the total number of sessions is still higher than any of last year's quarters, up 30% on the same period in 2019.

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

163,945 users with 225,565 view sessions
6.16 pages per session
3.28 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels

Top referrals (non-Library)



en.wikipedia.org	1,746 users
baidu.com	251 users
svarogspecial.dreamwidth.org	216 users

Location of users

52%	UK (56% Eng, 39% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
17%	USA
6%	Australia
4%	Canada
4%	India

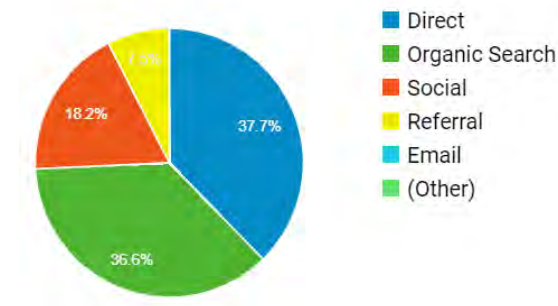
Top Landing pages

/gallery/: (3%)
/directories/ (1%)
/scientists/biographies/james-watt/index.html(1%)
/scientists/biographies/lord-kelvin (1%)
/directories/browse (1%)

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

514,306 users with 1,141,690 view sessions
3.84 pages per session
4.13 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

archiuk.com	1,573 users
en.wikipedia.org	1,406 users
Uk.search.yahoo.com	1,231 users

Location of users

87%	UK (77% Eng, 18% Sco, 5% Wal, 1% NI)
5%	USA
1%	Australia
1%	Canada
0.5%	India

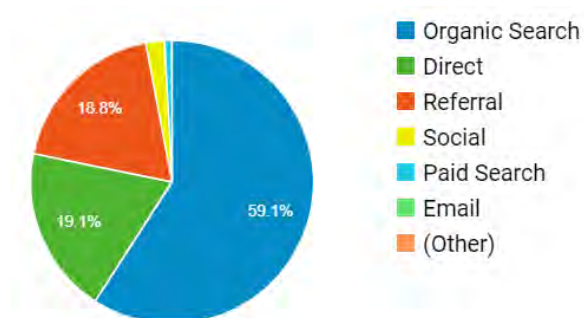
Top Landing Pages

/geo/explore/side-by-side (17%)
/geo/explore/ (16%)
/(11%)
/geo/find (8%)
/os/6inch-england-and-wales/ (4%)

MAIN WEBSITE WWW.NLS.UK

128,683 users with 199,584 view sessions
2.14 pages per session
1.32 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

n308.network-auth.com	1,140 users
uk.search.yahoo.com	363 users
rothwell.force9.co.uk	248 users

Location of users

67%	UK (49% Eng, 47% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
14%	USA
4%	Australia
3%	Canada
1%	India

Top Landing Pages

/ (38%)

/digital-resources (3%)

/collections/topics/slavery (3%)

/family-history/births-deaths-marriages (3%)

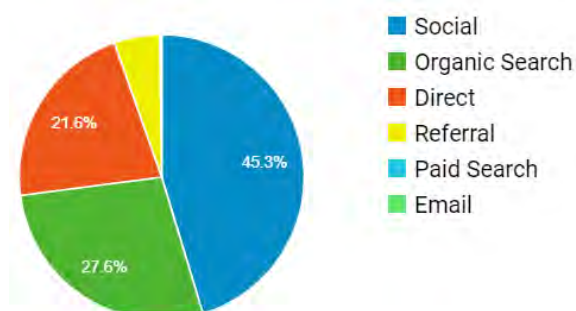
/family-history/emigration (3%)

MOVING IMAGE MOVINGIMAGE.NLS.UK

65,910 users with 83,427 view sessions
2.30 pages per session
3.23 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels

Top referrals (non-Library)



en.wikipedia.org	595 users
key.aero	149 users
speedway-forum.co.uk	123 users

Location of users

80%	UK (% 63 Sco, 35% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI)
8%	US
2%	Australia
2%	Canada
1%	Spain

Top Landing Pages

/ (12%)

/film/5973 - ('Ninian central Platform') (1%)

/film/0539D - ('Opening of New Baths, Aberdeen') (1%)

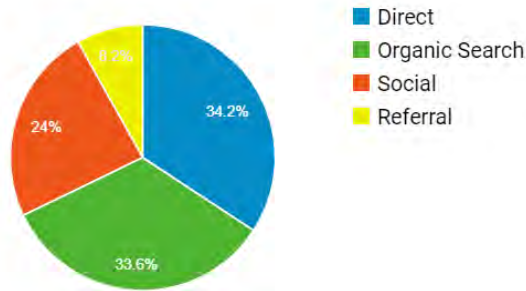
/film/ 0793 - ('Evacuation of St, Kilda') (1%)

/film/5780 - ('A Different Valley') (1%)

DATA FOUNDRY DATA.NLS.UK

1,794 users with 2,419 view sessions
2.53 pages per session
2.13 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

baidu.com	24 users
family-tree.co.uk	20 users
dhawards.org	16 users

Location of users

55% UK (62% Eng, 35% Sco, 3% Wal, 1% NI)
16% USA
3% Australia
2% China
2% Canada

Top Landing Pages

/ (23%)

/projects/finding-lost-footpaths-using-gb1900/ (15%)

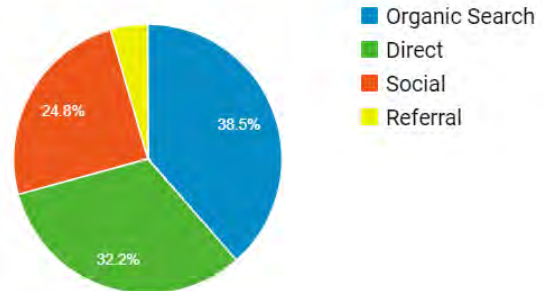
/tools/jupyter-notebooks/ (12%)
/projects/artist-in-residence/ (6%)

/data/digitised-collections/encyclopaedia-britannica/ (4%)

SCOTLANDS-SOUNDS.NLS.UK

969 users with 1,324 view sessions
1.86 pages per session
2.00 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



Top referrals (non-Library)

baidu.com	17 users
glimpse.link	6 user
scottishindexes.com	3 user

Location of users

75% UK (55% Sco, 40% Eng, 3% NI, 2% Wales)
10% US
2% China
2% Australia
1% Germany

Top Landing Pages

/ (29%)

/unlocking-our-sound-heritage-uosh/ (10%)
/our-sounds-from-uosh/ (8%)
/index.php/collections-directory/ (7%)
/index.php/2020/09/03/newhaven-fishwives/ (6%)

Digital Scholarship update

One year of the Digital Scholarship Service

September 2020 saw the Digital Scholarship Service reach its one year mark. Since September last year, we have been releasing monthly datasets, as well as encouraging engagement with the collections.

Ten highlights from the past year are:

- Launch of the Data Foundry;
- Data Foundry nominated for DH Awards 2019, and Encyclopaedia Britannica 1st Runner Up for Best Dataset;
- Papers at DH2019; LIBER2020; DH2020; RLUK2020 (postponed to 2021); SCURL AGM, and co-authored 'Booksprint' book (written in a week) in British Library Labs project in Doha
- Active membership of LIBER DH Working Group Core Group; RLUK Digital Scholarship; Network; CERL Digital Humanities Working Group; The Alan Turing Institute Humanities; and Data Science Group;
- Established Digital Scholarship Staff Seminar Series, involving visits to the Library by colleagues from Library of Congress, the British Library and a number of universities;
- A number of projects underway or completed using Data Foundry collections featured on Data Foundry 'Projects' page;
- Creative Informatics-funded Artist in Residence;
- Launch of the Library's National Librarian's Research Fellowship in Digital Scholarship;
- First Digital Humanities collaborative PhD student for the Library, exploring Transkribus with University of Edinburgh and University of Glasgow (AHRC funded);
- Recruitment of a Digital Research Intern, the Library's first remote-working post, and release of first Jupyter Notebooks (see below).

Many more projects and activities in the pipeline!

Jupyter Notebooks launched

Lucy Havens (Digital Research Intern) created five Jupyter Notebooks exploring datasets on the Data Foundry, over the course of the summer. Jupyter Notebook is a web application which allows users to write and interact with live code; Notebooks are often used in a learning and teaching environment.

Lucy's Notebooks provide initial analysis of five datasets, to enable researchers to understand what the dataset contains, and to begin to frame initial research questions using the data. The Notebooks also enable those who cannot code to analyse collections which would otherwise be impossible to explore.

The Notebooks launched on Twitter in September, with extremely positive feedback from an international audience. Digital Scholarship Service is extremely grateful to Lucy for her excellent work on this project!



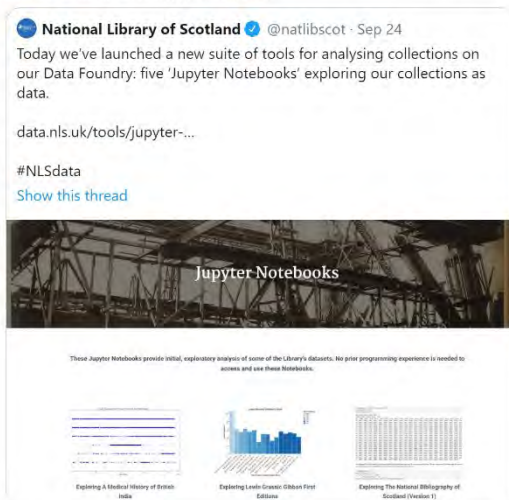
Bertrand Caron @BertrandCaron · Sep 24

La @natlibscot propose sur son site "Data Foundry" cinq #Jupyter notebooks pour explorer ses collections sur des thèmes précis en utilisant ses données avec python. Je suis très fan, ça va sans dire.



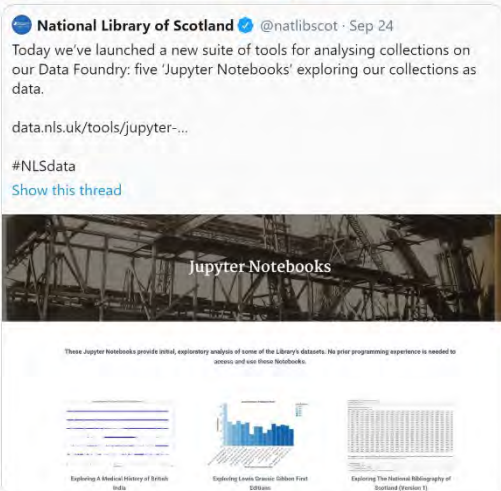
Fernando Pérez @fperez_org · Sep 30

Absolutely delighted to see @ProjectJupyter being used in this fashion by the @natlibscot, looking forward to learning from their experience, and how we can better serve this type of use case!



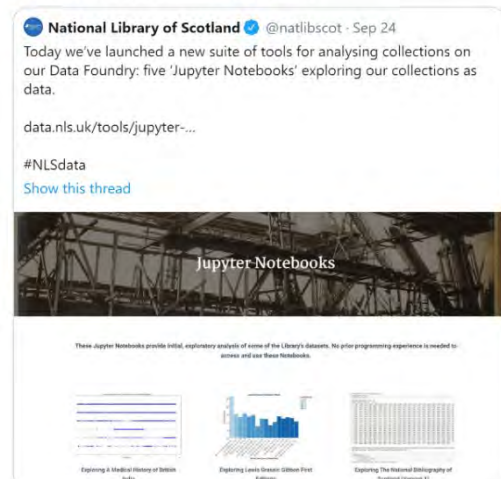
Tim Sherratt @wragge · Sep 24

Exciting to see another GLAM organisation using @ProjectJupyter to help people explore their collection data. More #glamworkbench-es please!



Daniil Skorinkin @DaniilSkorinkin · Oct 1

Национальная библиотека Шотландии опубликовала юпитеровские тетрадки с примерами анализа своих данных:



Wikimedia Community of Interest

The Library has formed a new community of interest exploring Wikimedia and the value of Wikipedia, Wikisource and Wikidata to libraries and library collections. The group will meet monthly and aims to encourage and support more activity with Wikimedia in the Library.

Dataset updates

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

September: British Army Lists <https://doi.org/10.34812/nr6p-2725>

This dataset completes our series of Military Lists (with previous publications of Navy, Airforce and Casualty Lists), and contains official Army Lists give details of officers serving in the British Army, spanning 1839-1950.

October: Rolls of Honour <https://doi.org/10.34812/qfd4-3d81>

The Scottish First World War Rolls of Honour contain listings of casualties and those who died while on active service during the War.

Digital Scholarship Staff Seminars continue

We welcomed two Research Software Engineers to our Digital Scholarship Staff Seminar Series in the past two talks, to highlight the value of these roles to digital humanities research and library work in this field.

Sara Veldhoen (KB, Netherlands): 'Generating metadata with AI? Creating automatic assistance for bibliographical metadata'

Dave Beavan (The Alan Turing Institute): 'Experiences from Living with Machines'

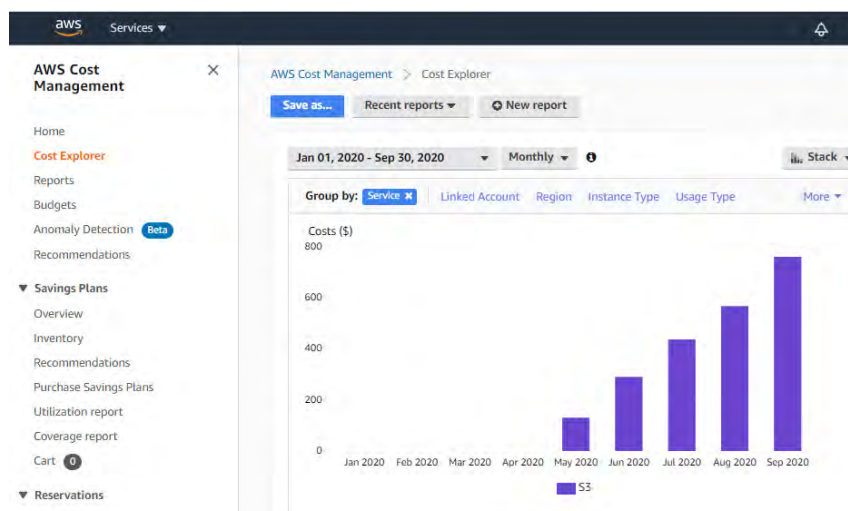
Given the broad interest of these talks, we are also now opening them up to academics and students from outside of the Library.

Library achieves long-standing goal to store 3 copies of digital preservation content

For the first time in the Library's digital history we are now storing 3 separate copies of our preservation data with a drastic improvement in our ability to safeguard digital collections and content. The idea of storing 3 copies in different geographic locations, on different storage technologies provided by different vendors is an internationally recognised approach to help preserve access to digital content over the long term and reduce the risk of loss. This has allowed the Library to achieve the highest rating for storage recommended by the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (<https://ndsa.org/publications/levels-of-digital-preservation/>).

It has been a long journey and is a great achievement for the Library. Thanks are due to several teams who worked together to make it happen including Digital Preservation, Digital Infrastructure, Curatorial, Rights and Information, Procurement and Estates. In 2016 the Library had one copy of its data, and the tape technology used to create a second copy was failing to keep up with the growth in new digital content. During that year LLT approved, subject to an understanding of the costs, the creation of 3 copies of its most valued data which required active preservation. Over 2017 and 2018 a new storage system was procured and installed and in 2019 the first copy was created with the second close behind by March 2020.

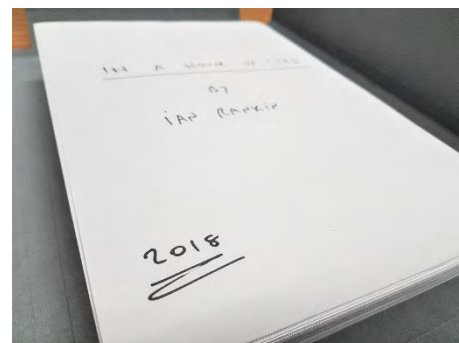
Simultaneously, and at the end of 2019, the Library procured Amazon cloud storage services to provide a low-cost 3rd copy for disaster recovery. After a few months to test out this new technology uploading our content at volume started in January 2020 and finished last month, October 2020, with more than 40 million files and 480 terabytes 'in the cloud'. Of course new digital content is being created and acquired all of the time but now the creation of 3 copies becomes a more easily managed business-as-usual activity able to be operated from home or the office.



Using Amazon cloud storage services provides us with a clear picture of the storage costs. In September it cost just under 800 US dollars to store the 3rd preservation copy (more than 400 terabytes) for a month.

The Rankin Files: Cataloguing Ian Rankin's Archive

The National Library of Scotland received Ian Rankin's archive in two tranches, in November 2018 and March 2019. The project received generous funding from Ian Rankin, the W.M Mann Foundation, and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Rosemary Hall was appointed to the position of Ian Rankin Project Curator, tasked with the arrangement, cataloguing, and promotion of this unique and important collection of materials. She began work in September 2019 and was due to complete the project in 12 months.



The Library engaged in outreach and publicity throughout the first stages of the project. In November 2019, the Library hosted an event to celebrate the re-issue of Rankin's 'lost' thriller, *Westwind*. 100 members of the public attended this event and were able to view items from the archive while getting their books signed. Rosemary regularly posted updates and collection highlights on Twitter from the @nlsarchives account, which generated high levels of engagement. In February 2020, the First Minister took a peek at some highlights during her tour of the Library.

The project ran smoothly for the first several months. After transferring the materials into archival boxes, a database was created containing a basic list of all the materials. This database enabled us to determine a logical arrangement for the items. The goal of the arrangement is to make every item discoverable when it is catalogued, as well as to make logical sense when one is browsing the archive. Rosemary then began the cataloguing of the materials. This involved creating detailed descriptions of every item in the archive and adding these descriptions to ArchivesSpace, our online manuscripts catalogue. The cataloguing of the materials was one-third complete when lockdown hit in March.



Rosemary and the Archives and Manuscripts Division were able to make valuable headway on the project during lockdown, despite not being able to access the materials. Further detailed arrangement decisions as well as descriptions were finalised virtually. While some of the proposed outreach activities and publicity have been understandably affected by lockdown, Rosemary still managed to keep the public interested and engaged with the project through the various social media and online events she organised and delivered. Rosemary ran a [social media campaign](#)

in April to celebrate Mr. Rankin's 60th birthday and to draw further attention to the archive. She then gave a virtual talk on the archive to an audience of about 100 people in early May, which led to [a feature in The Scotsman](#). In July, Rosemary conducted a virtual interview with Mr Rankin, speaking about the contents of the archive, which was recorded and transcribed. We hope this will be the first of a series of interviews which will provide readers with valuable contextual information regarding the materials in the archive. Finally, a short film is currently in production which will highlight the archive and the process of making it available.

The project was extended by one month, allowing 3 months for completion upon Rosemary's return to the building at the end of July. Despite a greatly reduced timescale from the original proposal and plan, the project has just been completed. The archive has been fully arranged, described, and recorded in ArchivesSpace. On 17th December, the Library will host a virtual event in the form of a conversation between Rosemary and Mr. Rankin. They will discuss individual items of interest in the archive as well as the project as a whole. We also aim to make the online catalogue available at the time of this event, or very soon thereafter, allowing readers to make online requests and to view the items from this significant archive upon their visit to the Library.

Link to the Scotsman feature: <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/national-library-lifts-lid-vast-archive-donated-ian-rankin-2848101>

Link to blog post for Ian Rankin's 60th Birthday: <https://blog.nls.uk/happy-60th-birthday-ian-rankin/>

Happy 60th Birthday Ian Rankin

📅 28th April 2020 👤 Rosemary Hall 📁 21st-century items, Digital resources, Uncategorised

Today marks the 60th birthday of the UK's number one best-selling crime writer, Ian Rankin. The much-celebrated Fife native is author of over 30 novels, countless short stories, several radio plays, screenplays, poetry, an opera libretto, and innumerable other creative works. He began his writing career at a young age, winning a poetry competition while still in school in Cardenden. 40 plus years later, Rankin has amassed over 20 awards for his writings and contributions to society, including the Crime Writers Association Gold Dagger and Diamond Dagger, the Edgar Award, The Edinburgh Award, and an OBE.

Henrietta Liston's Travels: The Turkish Journals, 1812-1820

'We are out of your world it is true; but we are in the Oriental one'

In April 1812 Henrietta Liston and her husband Robert, the esteemed Scottish diplomat, boarded the *Argo* and sailed from Portsmouth to Constantinople. At almost 70, Robert was appointed British Ambassador to Sublime Porte. The Listons reached Turkey in June, found the cherries in 'great perfection' and Mahmud II, the young Sultan, about to begin the fourth year of his reign. Over almost eight years' residency in the Ottoman Empire, Robert spent his time preserving peace between Turkey and Russia and 'patching and palliating, and endeavouring to prevent mischief', while Henrietta, as diplomat's consort, kept up 'a friendly intercourse with all mankind'. Henrietta also kept travel journals which, preserved in the Liston Papers archive at the National Library of Scotland, offer a unique vision of Constantinople in the early years of the nineteenth century.

2020 marks the 200th anniversary of the Listons' final departure from the Ottoman Empire. This year also sees Bilkent University, Ankara and the National Library of Scotland's collaborative venture 'Henrietta Liston, Approaching Constantinople' make Henrietta's never-before-published writing on Turkey available for the first time in print. Published in



October by Edinburgh University Press, ***Henrietta Liston's Travels: The Turkish Journals 1812–1820***, edited by Patrick Hart, Valerie Kennedy and Dora Petherbridge, is accompanied by the Library's online resource which offers a digitised collection of Liston's manuscript journals alongside transcriptions and other materials. An interactive digital map created by Chris Fleet visualises the Listons' extensive travels. A series of long reads by authors such as Sara Sheridan, Ece Temelkuran and Maureen Freely explores aspects of Henrietta's story, reflecting not only on her time in the Ottoman Empire, but on her travels in North America and her connection to the plantation society of Antigua where she was born.

The Travels of Henrietta Liston, online resource: <https://digital.nls.uk/travels-of-henrietta-liston/>

Twitter: @HenriettaListon

Henrietta Liston's Travels, Edinburgh University Press:

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-henrietta-liston-s-travels.html>

Rare Books Acquisitions

The Psalms of David, in metre. Newly translated, and diligently compared with the original text, and former translations ... Glasgow, 1769.

An otherwise unrecorded pocket Glasgow edition of the Psalms, which was acquired by the seller in New England. It has contemporary ownership inscriptions of Thomas Quentin and John Quinten, 18th-century Scots immigrants to America, which would indicate it was in the USA for over 200 years. This copy is particularly interesting for the remnants of the wrappers that were bound into the text block, presumably to give strength to the binding.

Adam Langlands \$640

AB.1.220.69

William Richardson, *The Indians, a Tragedy. Performed at the Theatre-Royal, Richmond*, London, 1790.

William Richardson (1743–1814), literary scholar, poet and dramatist, was a native of Aberfoyle. In 1773 he secured the post of professor of humanity at Glasgow, where he remained for the rest of his career. He was closely connected with the Foulis Press, who printed his *Poems, chiefly rural*, in 1774. This play was not Richardson's only literary visit to North America, *The Indians. A tale*, appeared in the fourth edition of his poems, and was issued separately under the title *The Cacique of Ontario*. Richardson's tragedy is set on the shore of Lake Huron and the drama explores important questions of European and Native American identity as well as providing a philosophical analysis of interracial relations.

Blackwell's £1500

AP.2.220.30

John Keill, *An Introduction to Natural Philosophy: or, philosophical lectures read in the University of Oxford, Anno Dom 1700. ... The third edition*, London, 1733.

The Edinburgh-born mathematician and natural philosopher John Keill (1671-1721) played an important role in the dissemination of Newtonian ideas in the first two decades of the eighteenth century. In 1700, in his role as deputy to the Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Oxford, Keill gave an important and innovative series of lectures, which expounded Newtonian natural philosophy with the aid of practical demonstrations and experiments.

Jarndyce £450

AB.2.220.44

Henry Patillo, *Sermons, &c. I. On the divisions among Christians ...*, Wilmington, Delaware, 1788.

Henry Pa(t)tillo (1726-1810), pioneer Presbyterian minister, educator, and patriot in North Carolina, was born in Balermic, near Dundee. He arrived in Virginia with his brother about 1740. He first worked for a merchant until he became dissatisfied with that occupation and became a schoolteacher. However, he constantly felt the call to become a Christian minister and, in 1758, he was ordained into the ministry of the Presbyterian church. In the 1770s he became a supporter of American independence from Britain. In 1787 he published a treatise on Christian conduct entitled *The Plain Planter's Family Assistant*, followed the next year by his *Sermons*. He also published *A Geographical Catechism* (1796), a textbook on geography written in question-and-answer style, the first publication of its kind in North Carolina. ESTC records no copy of this, or any other of his works in Britain.

Jarndyce £65

AB.1.220.62

Tablettes de l'homme du monde, ou Analyse des sept qualitez essentielles à former le beau caractère d'homme du monde accompli, A Cosmopoli [The Hague], 1715.

The imprint is fictitious; this work was published, and probably compiled, by Thomas Johnson (ca. 1677-1735), a Scotsman who was active as a bookseller in the Hague from 1701 to 1728 and then to Rotterdam until his death. With Alexander Cunningham, Johnson was the most significant agent of the Scottish Dutch book trade at that time. He created and exploited Anglo-Dutch communication and retail networks, and in doing so became one of the foremost publishers in the Netherlands during the Enlightenment.

Michael Laird \$2750

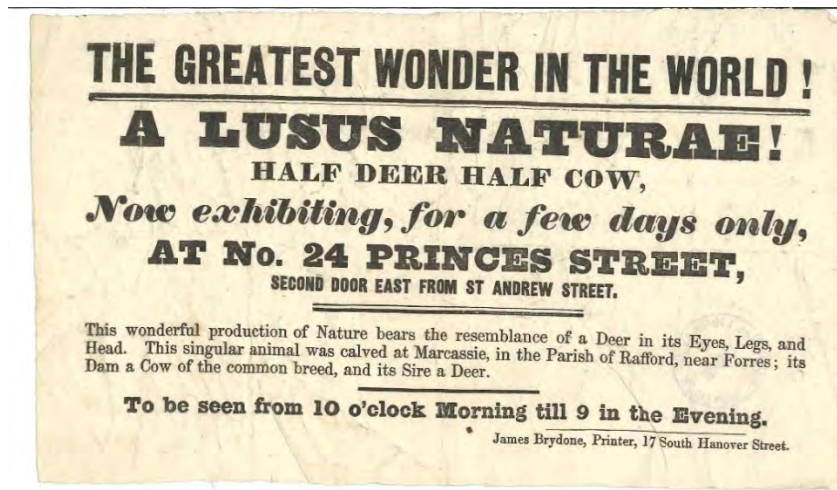
RB.s.2993

The greatest wonder in the world! A Lusus naturae, [Edinburgh, 1840?]

A curious and rare piece of ephemera from, perhaps, a more credulous age. The advertising bill states: 'This wonderful production of nature bears the resemblance of a deer in its eyes, legs, and head. This singular animal was calved at Marcassie, in the parish of Rafford, near Forres; its dam a cow of the common breed, and its sire a deer.' The animal was exhibited at Aberdeen and other Scottish towns in 1840.

James Burmester £175

AP.1.220.21



Sutherlandshire Magazine, Inverness, 1826.

A very rare, complete set of a short-lived periodical on belles-lettres with a distinctly Highland twist, which lasted for only four numbers. It was edited and published by George Sutherland Taylor, who was based in Dornoch, and printed at the Inverness Courier office. Nineteenth-century provincial periodicals such as this were often not acquired by the Advocates Library at the time, so to get a complete copy is real bonus.

Gilleasbuig Ferguson £600

AB.3.220.17

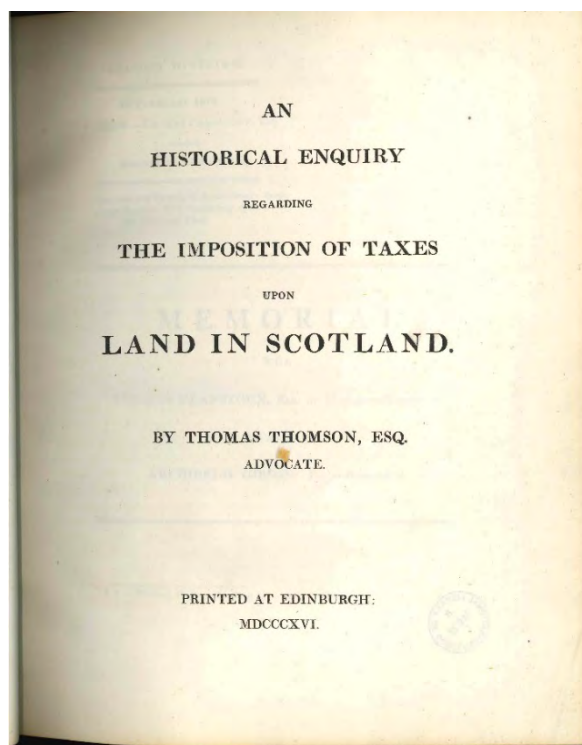


Thomas Thomson, *An historical enquiry regarding the imposition of taxes*, [Edinburgh, 1816].

Thomas Thomson (1768-1852) was a scholarly Edinburgh advocate and friend of Sir Walter Scott. He wrote extensively on Scottish history and was put in charge of Scotland's public records which he did much to restore and maintain. This is an elaborately annotated copy of his study of Scottish feudal tenure and its importance for a disputed count in the Midlothian election of 1812. It is one of only two known examples with this title page and was presumably printed for his own use. Within the volume there are several long and detailed annotations including at least two which identify their author as Thomas Thomson. All his annotations are scholarly and elaborate, sometimes posing questions of himself and frequently correcting his own facts, grammar and adding citations.

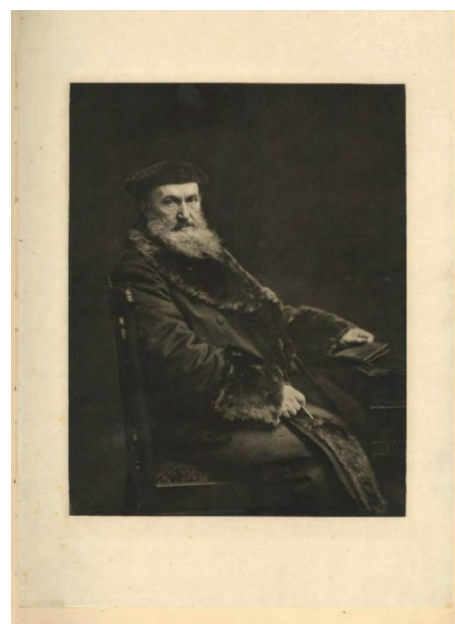
Modern First Editions £750

AB.8.220.7



Camera Work: a photographic quarterly, no. 8 October 1904, New York, 1904.

The American periodical *Camera Work* was published from 1903 to 1917 and was founded by the American photographer and art promoter Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1906). Stieglitz wanted to produce a completely independent magazine of pictorial photography which would be "the best and most sumptuous of photographic publications". The issues contained beautiful hand-pulled photogravures, critical writings on photography, aesthetics and art, and reviews and commentaries on photographers and exhibitions. Stieglitz did much to promote the work of Scottish photographer James Craig Annan (1864-1946) and his photogravures and this issue (no. 8) reproduces some of Annan's works and praises him as one of the foremost photographers of his generation.



Quaritch £2,500

FB.m.946

James Caulfield, *Portraits, memoirs, and characters, of remarkable persons, A new edition*, London, 1813.

The work highlights some lesser-known figures in British history; according to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography 'Caulfield's 'remarkable characters' are



persons famous for their eccentricity, immorality, dishonesty, and so forth.' This copy is an extra-illustrated three-volume set of this work with additional rare plates inserted as frontispieces, including, in vol. 2, the famous engraving of the self-portrait of Matthew (Matthias) Buchinger (1674-1739). Buchinger was a German celebrity, born with deformed arms, no hands and no legs, who managed to have a successful career in Britain and Ireland as a musician, magician and calligrapher, capable of writing in miniscule script. Examples of Buchinger's calligraphy, done during his visits to Scotland, are held in the Library's printed and manuscript collections.

James Cummins \$760

ABS.8.220.8-10

Manuscripts Acquisitions

Archive of the Cameran Photographic Society of Edinburgh (Acc.14188)

The Library acquired the archive of the Cameran Photographic Society of Edinburgh at auction from Swann Galleries in New York in early 2020, although due to lockdown the papers did not arrive until September. The archive includes three photograph albums, each organised chronologically and containing mounted photographic prints. The albums begin in 1894, and end in 1910. Alongside each print is given a title and date, and the name of each of the amateur photographers, so there is scope to research the members and activities of the Society. Women appear to be well represented among the membership. The Society ran an annual competition with a number of specific themes, which is reflected in the subject matter of the albums.

There is additional research value in the written records which accompany the albums, which include lists of members, lists of themes and rules for annual competitions, notes about photographic excursions taken by the Society, and a minute book, which begins in 1894 and runs until 1917. The Society was previously unknown to us, and this acquisition will offer researchers the opportunity to find out more about the practice of photography in Scotland during this period.



Manuscripts Acquisition: Photograph album of Dugald Christie, medical missionary in China (Acc.14196)

The Library recently acquired the photograph album of Dugald Christie, a Church of Scotland medical missionary to China. Christie is perhaps best known as the founder of Mukden Medical College, in what is now Shenyang, in North East China. The album contains 238 photographic prints, which capture Christie and his colleagues at work, including in the newly founded medical college.

There is also considerable historical and social interest in the album, covering subjects including the Russo-Japanese war and the Manchurian Plague, a pneumonic plague which struck the area in 1910-1911, which Christie played a major role in combating. This album is of particular relevance to the Library's existing archival holdings relating to Christie's career, and to Mukden Medical College, including those in the Church of Scotland World Missions archive.



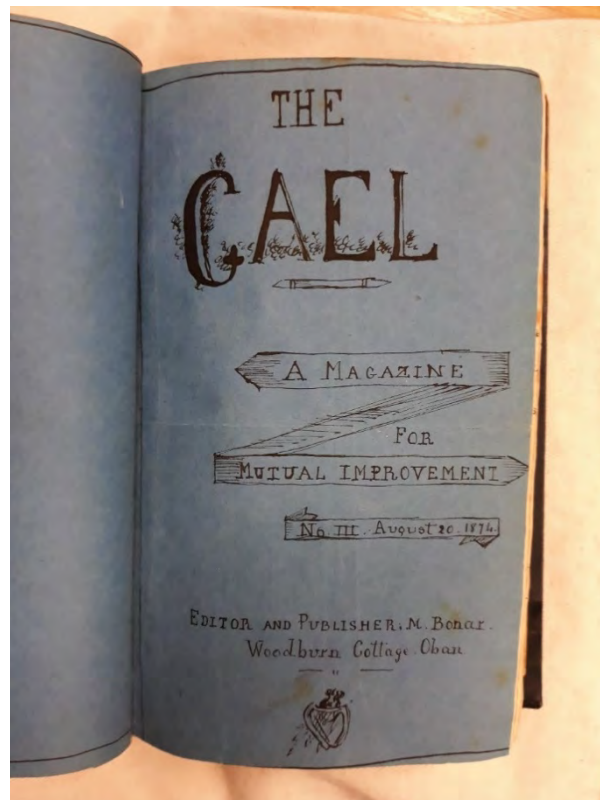
The Gael: a Victorian manuscript magazine (Acc.14198)

The Archives & Manuscripts division recently purchased a volume of fascinating home-made magazines created between 1874 and 1887 by Marjorie Bonar of Glasgow.

The family magazine *The Gael: A magazine for mutual improvement* was compiled by Marjory Bonar (1885-1918), the daughter of Free Church of Scotland, Andrew Bonar, with contributions from many family members. It seems to have begun in 1874 during a holiday in Oban. The title *The Gael* was an allusion to their very wet holiday which kept them indoors.

The 17 issues (later bound together in a volume) contains articles, poems and illustrations. It includes accounts of their excursions in Scotland, including an account of ascending Ben Cruachan and an excursion to Iona and Staffa, and even some comic sketches about a journey to America in 1881. There was a special Christmas issue for 1874 and a jubilee issued in 1887.

The way in which the magazine mirrors, and satirises, print conventions and the content of Victorian periodicals (the title page, letters to the editor, book reviews, adverts etc) will appeal to scholars of manuscript and print culture. As evidence of the influence of particular contemporary works will also interest literary and social historians.



Recent additions to the General Collection

Jenny Holzer 'Inflammatory Essays / Black Book Posters'

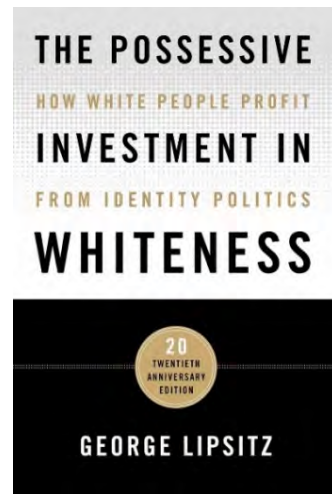
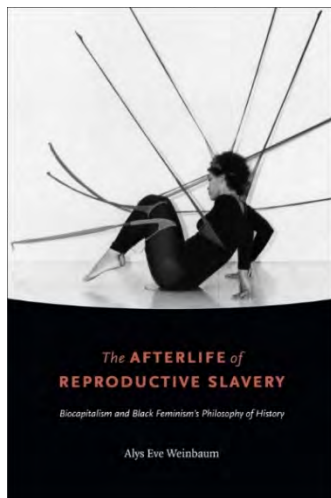
In 1979, posters began to appear around New York. They all featured exactly 100 word, and were printed on bright square paper. Over the next three years, more of these 'inflammatory essays' were to appear. The artist behind them was Jenny Holzer, who had developed a technique of incorporating text into art or making entire art out of text. Most of the text in the essays is extracted from the writings of dictators and authoritarian rulers. Their presentation out of context creates new work, and they were designed to be provocative and confusing to see. The Library recently acquired 12 of these in an addition of published copies sometimes referred to as the Black Book Posters. They were purchased from the US and Commonwealth budget. Arresting at the time, they continue to provoke and stimulate in 2020, and are an important example of the potency of the written word, now added to the collection.

REJOICE! OUR TIMES ARE INTOLERABLE.
TAKE COURAGE, FOR THE WORST IS A
HARBINGER OF THE BEST. ONLY
DIRE CIRCUMSTANCE CAN PRECIPITATE
THE OVERTHROW OF OPPRESSORS. THE
OLD AND CORRUPT MUST BE LAID TO
WASTE BEFORE THE JUST CAN TRIUMPH.
OPPOSITION IDENTIFIES AND
ISOLATES THE ENEMY. CONFLICT
OF INTEREST MUST BE SEEN FOR
WHAT IT IS. DO NOT SUPPORT
PALLIATIVE GESTURES; THEY CONFUSE
THE PEOPLE AND DELAY THE INEVITABLE
CONFRONTATION. DELAY IS NOT
TOLERATED FOR IT JEOPARDIZES THE
WELL-BEING OF THE MAJORITY.
CONTRADICTION WILL BE HEIGHTENED.
THE RECKONING WILL BE HASTENED BY
THE STAGING OF SEED DISTURBANCES.
THE APOCALYPSE WILL BLOSSOM.

FEAR IS THE MOST ELEGANT WEAPON,
YOUR HANDS ARE NEVER MESSY.
THREATENING BODILY HARM IS CRUDE.
WORK INSTEAD ON MINDS AND BELIEFS,
PLAY INSECURITIES LIKE A PIANO. BE
CREATIVE IN APPROACH. FORCE
ANXIETY TO EXCRUCIATING LEVELS OR
GENTLY UNDERMINE THE PUBLIC
CONFIDENCE. PANIC DRIVES HUMAN HERDS
OVER CLIFFS; AN ALTERNATIVE IS
TERROR-INDUCED IMMOBILIZATION. FEAR
FEEDS ON FEAR. PUT THIS EFFICIENT
PROCESS IN MOTION. MANIPULATION IS
NOT LIMITED TO PEOPLE. ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS
CAN BE SHAKEN. IT WILL BE
DEMONSTRATED THAT NOTHING IS SAFE,
SACRED OR SANE. THERE IS NO
RESPITE FROM HORROR. ABSOLUTES ARE
QUICKSILVER. RESULTS ARE SPECTACULAR.

Black studies

The Library has continued to develop its collections in this area of study and publishing, paying close attention to the increase in publishing output over the course of 2020 in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Below are two eBook purchases of US publications that are outside the scope of legal deposit. George Lipsitz' *The possessive investment in whiteness*, first published in 1998, examines, amongst other things, the structural economic injustices that benefit whiteness. This expanded edition, published in 2018, has been acquired as an eBook, with remote access to registered readers in Scotland. Professor Lipsitz visited the Library in 2018 to take part in the Black Atlantic Authorship and Art international symposium which we hosted in the Boardroom. *The Afterlife of Reproductive Slavery* by Alys Eve Weinbaum (2019) is another remotely accessible eBook that looks at slavery and capitalism as co-emergent systems, examining the ways in which biocapitalism continue to exist today.



Contemporary issues in library and archive studies



The Library has added a number of books that look at libraries and archives themselves, examining topics around language, ethics, and bias. These publications will help to support the work to address both the silences in the collection and offensive language and terms on our catalogues and webpages. The books are: *Comics and Critical Librarianship*, edited by Olivia Piepmeier and Stephanie Grimm; *Reference Librarianship and Justice – history, practice and praxis*, edited by Kate Adler...; *Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control*, edited by Jane

Sanberg; *Archives and Special Collections as Sites of Contestation*, by Mary Kandiuk; and *Masked by Trust – bias in library discovery*, by Matthew Reidsma

Caribbean Newspapers 1718-1876

The Library has added another eResource to its collections. Caribbean Newspapers is 'the largest online collection of 18th- and 19th-century newspapers published in this region and serves as a comprehensive primary resource for studying the development of Western society and international relations within this important group of islands. This unique resource will prove essential for researching colonial history, the Atlantic slave trade, international commerce, New World slavery and U.S. relations with the region as far back as the early 18th century.'

The resource, which is remotely available to registered readers with a Scottish address, provides easy access to more than 140 newspapers from 22 islands, and chronicles the region's evolution across two centuries through eyewitness reporting, editorials, legislative information, letters, poetry, advertisements, obituaries and other news items.



Successful completion of British Sign Language training course by Access staff

During a four-week period in July-August, eight members of staff from the Access teams, including Special Collections, Reference Services, Visitor Services and Maps undertook British Sign Language (BSL) training. The course was hosted virtually by Edinburgh College and was facilitated through the [Flexible Workforce Development Fund](#). Classes were hosted through Zoom and the open-source learning platform, Moodle. The participants learned to fingerspell and describe a variety of different terms including names, numbers, weather, transport, directions, time, money, dates as well as specific words relevant to Library processes. Feedback from the group was very positive and this was reflected in an online article on the training published in the [Insider](#) magazine.



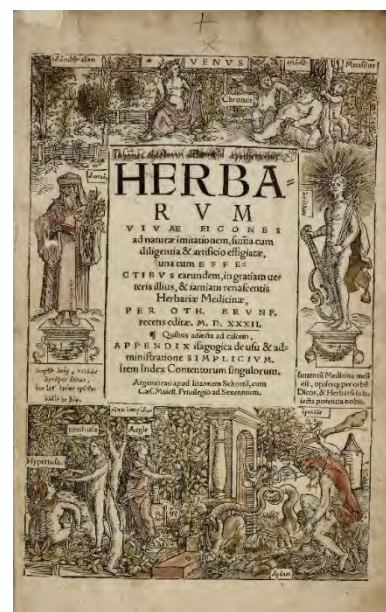
Moray Teale and Jamie McIntosh practising their BSL

James Sutherland Collections lecture

Robert Betteridge, Rare Books Curator, spoke at an online event organized by the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, which took place on 30 September. Robert talked about the the Library's [James Sutherland Collection](#): how Sutherland acquired and used his library, the Advocates Library's acquisition of his collection of numismatic and botanical books in 1705 and 1707, and the context of this acquisition in term of the Library's growth.

Image: Otto Brunfels. *Herbarum vivae eicones ad naturae imitationem* (Strasbourg: Johann Schott, 1530-1539)

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Struggles for Liberty – African American Revolutionaries in the Atlantic World

Online learning resource

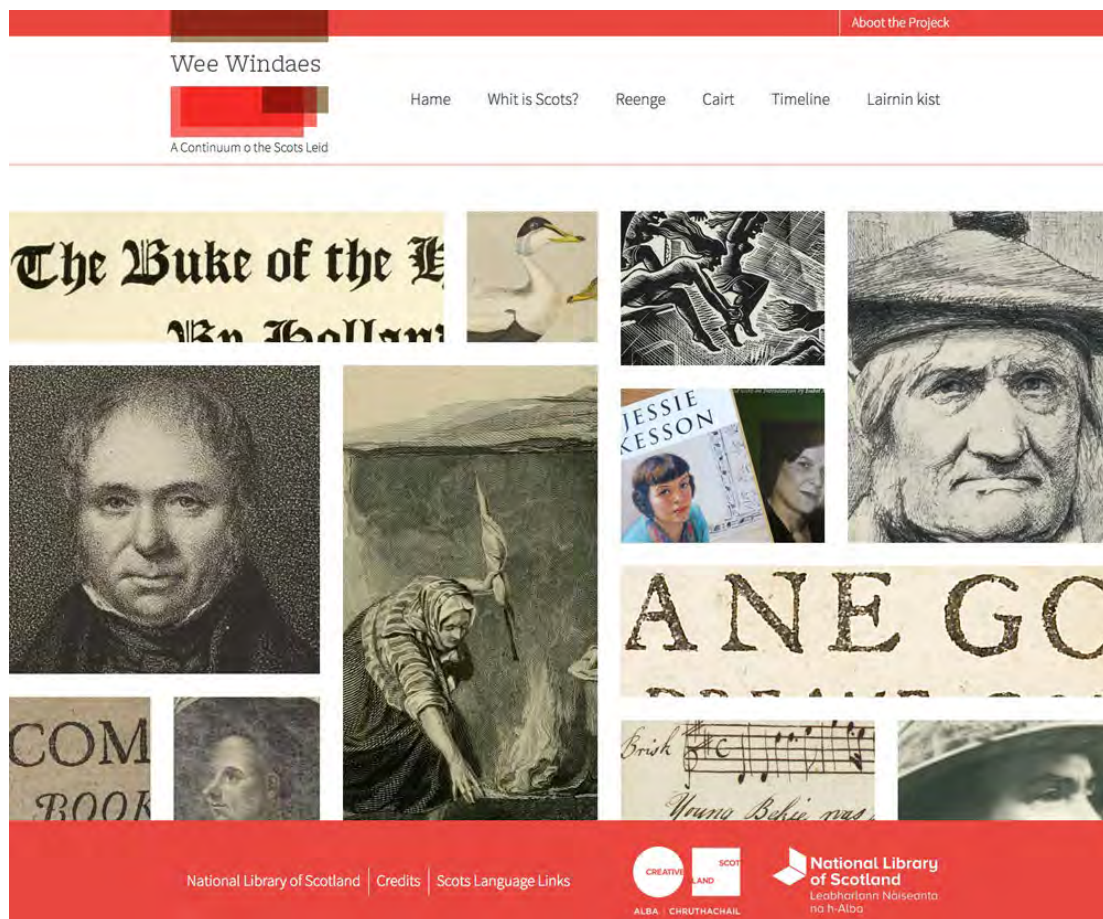
This learning resource shares the stories of the struggles for liberty in the lifelong fight for social justice by enslaved and free African American women, children and men working as freedom-fighters in the USA and throughout the Atlantic world in the 19th century. Their individual and collective histories are told to us through the books, letters, photographs and other original documents held in the National Library of Scotland and the Walter O. and Linda Evans Foundation collection and in the international library holdings across the Atlantic world. The resource also includes downloadable learning activities mapped to the Higher History curriculum.



Scots Language Awards – Project o the Year Winner for 2020: Wee Windaes

Founded in 2018, these awards give recognition to the many dedicated people who have worked tirelessly to make sure the Scots language is kept to the fore in culture, music and words. We're delighted to report that Wee Windaes won this year's Project o the Year category receiving the majority of the public's votes and facing stiff competition from the Scottish Poetry Library and others. The website first launched at the end of 2016 as part of the first Scots Scriever residency funded by Creative Scotland, has been showcasing digitised collection material written and published in Scots since the 15th century. Many unique and rare items are available digitally for the first time on the site. Since 2016, the site has grown to include contributions and research from academics and Scots language researchers.

<https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/scotslanguageawards/scots-language-awards-2020-national-library-of-scotland/>



New online estate maps

During October the Library added a further 700 estate maps online. These maps provide excellent detail of the rural landscape, especially before Ordnance Survey mapping. 580 of these relate to Sutherland Estates, an important archive which the Library has received in various deposits since 1980. The new online maps include 524 estate maps, 40 county maps, and 22 coastal charts. These maps were made to support all aspects of estate management and agricultural improvement, including the clearance of inland farms and the expansion of sheep runs, the creation of new villages, harbours, mines and industries on the eastern coast, as well as new roads, railways, lighthouses, and fisheries. Later maps show the creation of crofting lands, the expansion of shooting forests, and the sale of land. These maps contain uniquely useful and detailed information about the rural landscape in northern Scotland, many annotated as working documents relating to estate business.



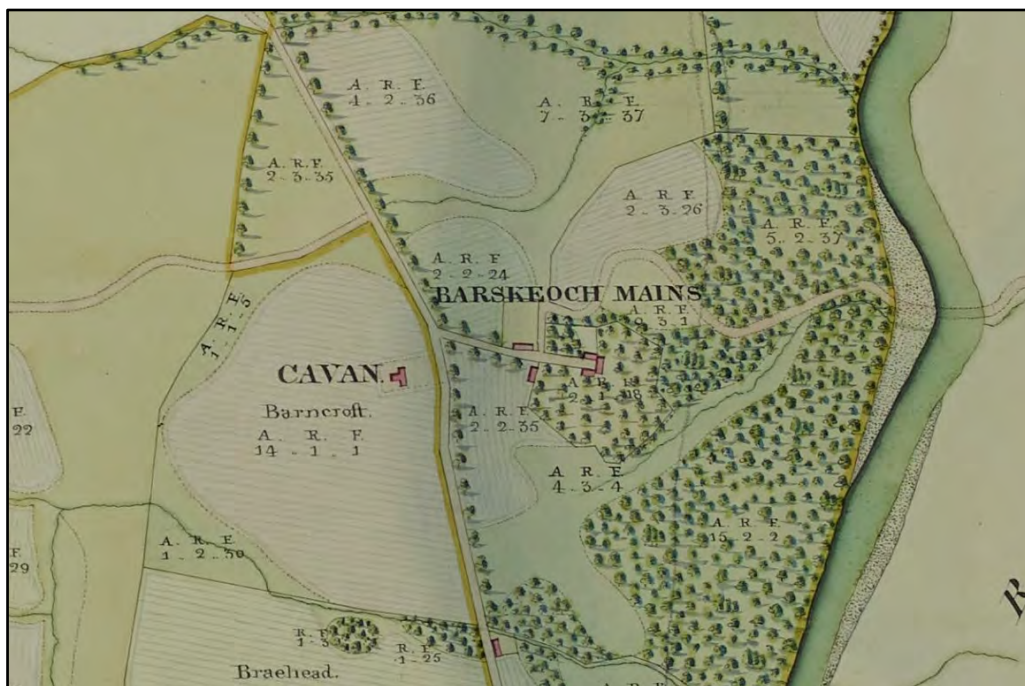
Map showing new crofts overlaying the previous landscape at Ports Kerrra, 1819.



The new fishing village at Helmsdale, 1820, populated with those displaced from inland farms.



We also put online a set of 120 estate plans, held in private hands and archives, scanned by the *Dumfries Archival Mapping Project*. This ongoing collaboration has now allowed us to put 635 local estate maps online. These include three volumes of estate plans, relating to Caerlaverock in Dumfries-shire (1775-76), Earlstoun in Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfries-shire (1800-1815), and Dunskey in Wigtownshire (1804). The maps were surveyed primarily to support agricultural improvement and estate management, as well as for the sale of landed estates, and show excellent detail of the rural landscape. The new online maps have been received well locally, and were the subject of a nice article in the [*Galloway News*](#).



The farms of Cavan and Barskeoch, north of St John's Town of Dalry (1800), owned by William Forbes of Callendar.

Collections Care news

Library first: Preventive Conservator joins the Collections Care team

Just before lockdown the Library was able to successfully recruit for a new role created in the Collections Care team. As lockdown came into effect, we had to put our new appointment on hold, but it is with real delight (and relief!) that we were able to welcome Mel Houston to the Collections Care team. Mel joins us from the National Trust for Scotland and brings a wealth of experience of installing and managing environmental monitoring systems, developing and implementing pest management systems and instigating light management monitoring and control systems.

The role of Preventive Conservator is a new role for the Library. Mel will work with several departments to make improvements to how we store, display and care for our collections. As Mel herself says, her role is 'to stop bad things happening' and to work to ensure that our fabulous national collections remain fabulous for as long as possible. Mel will also be managing all of this on three days a week.



Icon Fragile Formats Intern joins the team

Another successful recruitment process was completed before lockdown when Yolanda Bustamante Sampedro was offered the post of Fragile Formats Intern within the Collections Care team. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 lockdown meant that we had to delay Yolanda's start, but she was finally able to join the team in October 2020. Here are some of Yolanda's reflections on the start of her internship:

Due to the current situation my placement is split between George IV Bridge and Causewayside buildings, working from home on Fridays



Mondays and Tuesdays, I work under the supervision of David Kerr. He was responsible for my induction and did a great job since, so far, I have not got lost in the building or the stack floors. Bookbinding is a great interest of mine and working with David has given me the opportunity to learn binding techniques and implement new book treatments, such as the relocation of the loose spine on a large engravings book with leather, or the sewing of a tape binding.

Wednesdays and Thursdays, I assist Mary Garner at Causewayside. Working on the Stevenson maps project is a really enriching experience. I have never worked before on a conservation project focused on digitisation, so learning how to manage the level of intervention and the time given to each item is an interesting challenge. How to properly house these maps and plans has also sparked an engaging debate.



Dry cleaning and mending of a large format map.

Besides from my interventive conservation work, I have assisted Simona Cenci and Gemma Kelly on the conservation assessment of a new acquisition, got in contact with Ralph McLean about possible future surveys, witnessed the digitisation of a manuscript and attended some Webinars related to the topics I will work on during my internship. As my placement continues, I am expected to work on several different materials described as fragile, which I am sure will be the kind of challenging tasks I thrive on.

I would like to thank ICON, the Alexander Graham Traineeship Program and the National Library for this opportunity, as well as the staff from the Collections Care Department, who have

made me feel most welcome since my arrival. As someone who is just starting her professional career, being in contact with specialized and experienced professionals from the book and paper conservation world and being able to see the different tasks a Library is responsible for, is an invaluable lesson.

Microclimate PhD in collaboration with Heriot Watt University begins

As we reported in February this year, the Library successfully secured funding from the Scottish Government's Energy Technology Partnership (ETP) to support a joint PhD studentship with Heriot-Watt University's School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society (EGIS). Although recruitment for the PhD student was successfully completed by the end of 2019, worldwide events meant that our preferred candidate, based in China, was unable to start the research. However, Bo Han has now started his programme of research and the Estates and Collections Care teams have been working together to provide an induction to the Library for Bo.



As an engineer, the world of collections care and conservation is completely new to him so we are having to devise creative ways to deliver object handling training and on-site tours of the conservation studio and collection storage areas at the Library.

This three-year research project will investigate the application of Artificial Neural Network modelling to determine acceptable fluctuations in our environmental parameters while still protecting our collections. The research will test storage enclosures (boxes) and display enclosures (display cases) and will aim to produce data for the Library to use to make changes to its strict environmental protocols for collection preservation. The aim of the research will be to allow the Library to make significant energy savings and to publicise the research widely so that these benefits can be shared and understood across the cultural heritage sector.

We are delighted to welcome Bo to the team, and to be working closely with Estates on another first for the Library; a STEM-sector PhD. Bo will be supervised by Dr Fan Wang, Assistant Professor at the EGIS, and Professor Ben Richard Hughes, Professor of Building Services Engineering, from Heriot Watt University and by Ian Symonds, Head of Estates, and Julie Bon, Head of Collections Care, at the Library.

Annual Appeal photographic conservation underway

The Library's Development team launched its Annual Appeal in October 2019 aiming to raise money for photographic conservation. This had been highlighted as a priority area of work following a large-scale conservation and curatorial survey of photographic collections across the Library completed in 2018. The success of the Annual Appeal has allowed for a tender process to be undertaken and for a contract to be agreed.



Scottish American Soldiers Memorial, Old Calton Hill Burying Ground, Edinburgh 193?
An example of the type of photograph in the Geddes collection

Anna Trist started work on photographic collections at the Library at the end of October 2020. Anna is an experienced paper conservator working in the private sector and she has extensive experience of working with photographic materials. Anna's first work will be on the Geddes collection of photographs. This collection includes photographs of the Old Town of Edinburgh collated by Sir Patrick Geddes, a prolific town planner, botanist and organiser of the 1890s Cities Exhibition. The subject matter of the items includes images of iconic architecture projects including the Scott Monument and Holyrood Palace, as well as photographs of the trades and tenements in the closes and wynds of the Royal Mile.

The work will involve surveying and then treating the photographs. Treatment will include cleaning, removing damaging support materials, tear repairs, re-mounting and re-housing.

Preservation Services at Sighthill back in business

Following 5-months of lockdown the Library was able to reopen its Preservation Services Unit based at Sighthill at the end of August. This was the final Library building in Edinburgh to re-open, but the staff based on-site there were delighted to be able to return to work safely. There have been some changes made to working practices as Perspex screens have been installed between the box-making machines to ensure the safety of the operatives. There is a one-way route in place and face-coverings must be worn when moving around the building. The staff have adapted to these changes very well and are glad to be back at work.

The Preservation Unit consists of the Library's in-house box-making facilities and is staffed by Kenny McMillan, Preservation Services Team Leader, and Alan Morrison, Ian Niven and Ed Ritchie, Preservation Services Assistants. Kenny was impressed by the resilience and hard-work shown by his team on their return stating, "*The Preservation Services Unit, despite working on restricted hours, pulled together to produce 1735 enclosures to help clear the post-lockdown backlog. A great effort.*"



Screens and heightened cleaning regimes are in place at our Preservation Services Unit

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

New Framework for the Supply of Periodicals

On 8 October 2020 the SCURL (1) SHEDL (2) procurement partner APUC (3) announced that, following a thorough tender process, [LM Information Delivery](#) has been appointed as the new framework supplier for the Supply of Periodicals. Helen Keenlyside from the Acquisitions Team represented the Library on the SHEDL tender evaluation panel which comprised of library representatives from the SCURL constituencies. Helen took part in several meetings to help draft the tender strategy and ITT documents, as well as score the eventual tender submissions.

This new agreement will run from 1 January 2021 for at least two years, with the possibility of extension for a further two years up to 31 December 2024. It can be accessed by all SCURL members including the National Library of Scotland. This framework will replace the current contract, which LM Information Delivery has successfully delivered since January 2017.

The framework provides an efficient and compliant route to market for print and electronic journal subscriptions. Having an agent handle the majority (373) of the Library's journal subscriptions provides efficiencies for the Library. The agent carries out negotiations with around 250 publishers, administers renewals and cancellations, and consolidates invoices on our behalf. This simplifies administration of subscriptions for the Library's Acquisitions and Serials Teams.

1. [Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries](#)
2. Scottish Higher Education Digital Library
3. [Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges](#)

GUIDANCE FOR USING THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



The Supply of Periodicals & Associated Services

LIB1013 AP

DATES

01.01.21 - 31.12.22

Option of 2 x 12-month extension periods

Renewal of Journal Subscriptions for 2021

September is always a very busy month for the Acquisitions Team as it is the time when we need to review and renew the majority of the Library's 373 subscriptions with our journal agent, LM Information Delivery. The process is greatly simplified via LM's 'LibNet' platform, however, it still requires a great deal of care and attention from Acquisitions colleagues. Any unexpected price or format changes need to be clarified with the vendor and approved with the budget holder before proceeding to renew on the LibNet platform.

In addition, Acquisitions colleagues update purchase order lines on Alma to ensure that we have a clear record of the price, subscription period, format, and any other relevant terms for the subscription. Reporting from Alma can then provide detail on the expected commitments per budget for the Collection Purchase Fund, essential in helping the curators manage their budgets.

Subscriptions

Do you want to download a list of subscriptions to be renewed and mark the renewals/cancellations? [Click here.](#)

31 results Show 20 results / page

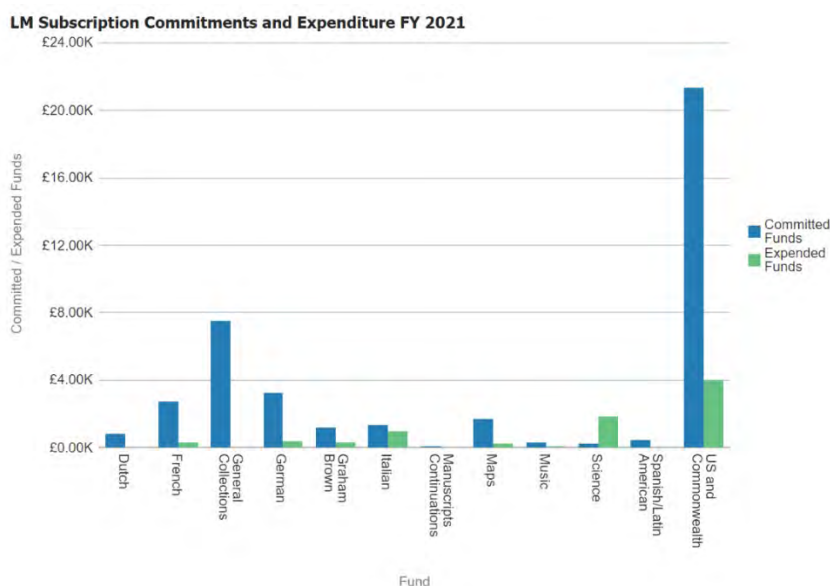
Legend:

- New
- Renewed
- To be renewed
- No renewal
- Cancelled
- Group title
- LibLogistics
- Transitioned to Open Access

« Previous | 1, 2 | Next »

Format	Status	Publication name	ISSN	Publisher	Pcs	Period	Delivery address	Cost centre
<input type="checkbox"/> Print including free online	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be renewed	ALA - AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIES (INCLUDES AMERICAN LIBRARIES MAGAZINE) REST OF WORLD, INCL. EUROPE	0002-9769	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	1	01/04/2021 - 31/03/2022	NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND, SERIALS TEAM, UPPER GRAY STREET, EDINBURGH EH9 1SW, United Kingdom	600-80020-00000-00000

Sample from the LibNet subscriptions renewal screen



Example graph from Alma analytics showing subscription commitments and expenditure for the 2020-2021 financial year to date.

Public Programmes news

Exhibitions

In September LLT took the decision to postpone the scheduled re-opening of the galleries on 29 October due to the second wave of the pandemic and tightening government restrictions. A review was undertaken and it was agreed that the exhibitions will now open until 2021.

In the meantime, the installation of *Treasures* and *Petticoats and Pinnacles* has continued on-schedule, led by external contractors Studio MB and Stuco. Whilst the installation works will be complete in November, objects will not be installed until the exhibitions open for security and conservation safeguarding purposes.

A refurbishment of the Collections in Focus gallery (previously known as the old Treasures gallery) is also underway in advance of the opening of the *Henrietta Liston* exhibition.

A visitor management plan is in-place for when the galleries re-open. This will involve the introduction of an online booking system via Eventbrite, similar to the existing Reading Rooms booking system. Exhibitions will remain free to visitors, and the online booking system will also allow for the introduction of a new online visitor survey to evaluate our exhibition programme.

Petticoats and Pinnacles: Scotland's pioneering mountain women

Petticoats and Pinnacles has been curated by Paula Williams, Curator (Map, Mountaineering and Polar Collections), project managed by Calum MacGillivray, Exhibitions Officer, and designed by Stuco with support from colleagues across the Library, generously sponsored by Baillie Gifford. The exhibition is designed as a one-way route taking visitors from 'base camp' to 'the summit' and 'back down the mountain'.



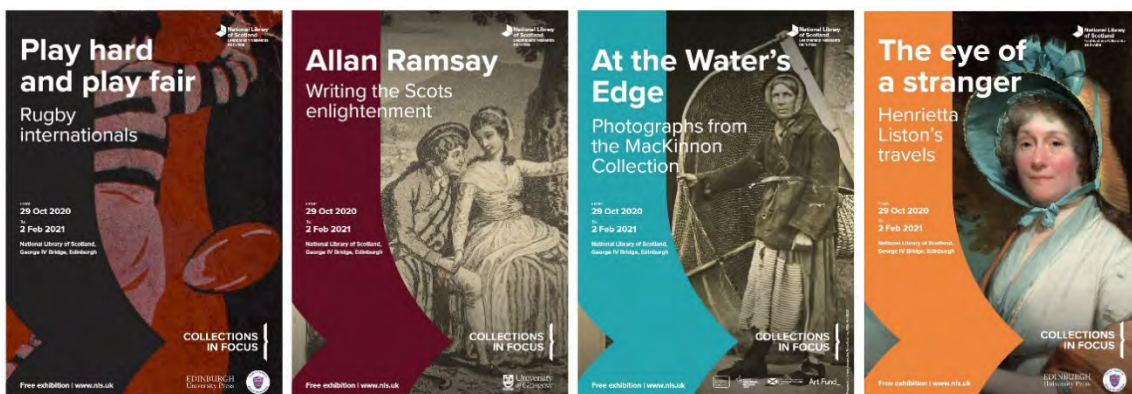
Image from the exhibition install

The exhibition will be accompanied by:

- An exclusive online opening event featuring Paula Williams and outdoor adventurer Mollie Hughes (date TBC)
- A family-friendly on-gallery interactive game exploring mountain myths from around the world
- A family-friendly exhibition trail
- An audio tour for young people and adults hosted on the free Smartify app which visitors can access on their own mobile phones, featuring narration from mountaineering woman
- A newly refreshed online resource [Aiming High](#)
- A list of all the material included in the exhibition, which will be made available through [Library Search](#)
- A curated selection of films relating to women in the mountains for the touchscreen units at Kelvin Hall and George IV Bridge (when they are back in use)
- A programme of accompanying virtual events including a themed book group, creative writing classes and public talks
- A partnership with James Gillespie High School to deliver a 6-month Gaelic language youth project supporting young people to design and deliver Gaelic language tours of the exhibition in Spring/Summer 2020

Eye of a Stranger: Henrietta Liston's travels

The Henrietta Liston exhibition is curated by Dora Petherbridge, Curator US and Commonwealth Collections, project managed by Petra Renman, Exhibitions Assistant, and supported by colleagues from across the Library. This will be the first exhibition to be displayed in the newly refurbished Collections in Focus gallery. The purpose of the refurbishment was to upgrade the gallery and remove outdated interpretation about the Library's work which will now be covered in the new *Treasures* exhibition.



As part of the refurbishment, we will introduce a new graphic identity for the gallery and its future exhibitions. As the exhibitions change every 4 months and are solely produced in-house

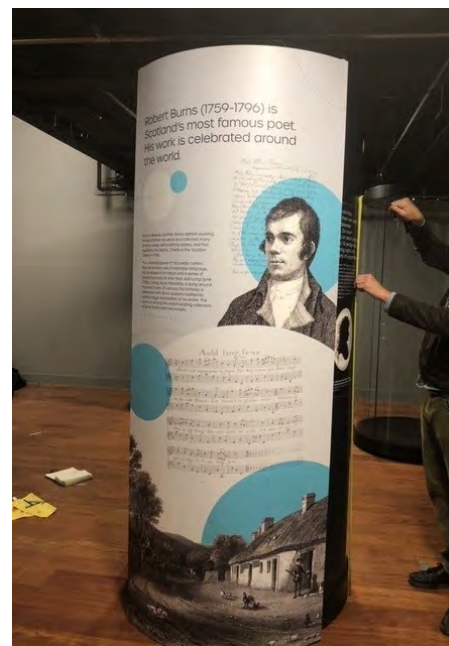
with no external design support, the new graphic identity will create a more coherent exhibition experience.

For more information about the forthcoming Henrietta Liston exhibition and associated research project please see Dora Petherbridge's update above.

Treasures of the National Library of Scotland

Treasures is project managed by Emma Ulloa, Treasures Project Manager, curated by Alison Metcalfe, Interim Head of Archives and Manuscript Collections, Dora Petherbridge and Robert Betteridge, Rare Books Curator, Eighteenth Century Printed Collections, and designed by Studio MB with support from colleagues across the Library. Installation is underway and is scheduled for completion on 26 November.

Work is underway to produce an accompanying online resource and printed publication, as well as a series of virtual programmes including a podcast and commissioned literary works by Neu! Reekie!.



Touring Exhibitions

The touring exhibitions programme is currently suspended as community venues do not have the space or capacity to host the banner displays.

Plans for the MacKinnon touring exhibition are still underway, but the programme is postponed due to the capacity of the venues to host the exhibition.

The Library's exhibition team will work with MacKinnon curator Blake Milteer and colleagues from the National Galleries of Scotland to produce a new banner display which will be made available as part of our suite of touring banner displays from summer 2021, supported by funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

Image: '*A lesson in navigation*', Cockenzie from the MacKinnon Collection



Learning

The Learning & Events team with support from Reader Services and the Moving Image Archive have created a new virtual offer for Advanced Higher students to replace our annual autumn programme. The [Students Guide](#) has been accessed by 455 online users since September and 120 teachers have engaged in our live and recorded teacher CPD virtual sessions. *'I just wanted to pass on my thanks to you and your team for the provision of the Advanced Higher resources, as well as the CPD material. We are very grateful.'* – School Senior Management, Highlands & Islands.

The Library hosted two online storytelling events and six outdoor storytelling walks in central Edinburgh as part of the Storytelling Centre's 2020 Scottish International Storytelling Festival. This is the first time we have conducted in-person learning activity since March, adhering to Scottish Government guidelines. These events went smoothly, were well attended (maximum of 6 attendees per event) and received great feedback from attendees.

We are currently working in partnership with the Scottish BAME Writers Network to develop a project to support BAME writers to access archives, develop research skills, and to use Library collections to inspire new work. The new writing will be showcased at a public event at the Library in spring/summer 2021 and we plan to create a zine to promote the work and partnership to a wider audience. We will shortly be recruiting a freelance facilitator to lead the project.

Following a successful workshop during the summer inspired by Her Century, we're now working in partnership with Glasgow Women's Library to offer a creative writing webinar on the theme of women mountaineers and explorers to take place in November.

We're developing an online monthly book group to be led by artist Katharine Aarrestad, inspired by the Petticoats and Pinnacles exhibition. We'll be exploring writing and art inspired by the themes of the display.

We're continuing to offer a monthly event for people affected by dementia via Zoom, and we're working in partnership with the University of Edinburgh, NMS, NGS, Age Scotland, Napier University, and Luminate to look at creating effective ways of evaluating and promoting the programme.

We have appointed two freelance arts educators to deliver outreach projects in partnership with communities across Scotland linked to the MacKinnon collection, funded by the Morton Trust. Planning is currently underway to decide if these projects will take place virtually or if activity will be postponed to allow for in-person delivery in spring/summer 2021.

We have appointed a Gaelic language freelancer to deliver a 6-month youth heritage project funded by Baillie Gifford, working with students from James Gillespie's High School to design and deliver Gaelic language tours of the Petticoats and Pinnacles exhibition. The project will be delivered through on-line sessions moving to in-person sessions if restrictions allow.

A' Adams Bairns?

Beverley Casebow, Learning & Outreach Officer, is currently working with Scotdec to update the curriculum-linked online resource [*A' Adams Bairns?: Exploring equality and diversity in Scotland past and present*](#) which was produced collaboratively over 10 years' ago featuring items from the Library's collections. The resource will be ready to launch in early 2021 and is part of the Library's ongoing commitment to equalities and inclusion.

Events Programme

Q2 stats:

21 virtual events / 2,459 attendees (this is a 48% increase on the same period in 2019)

18 virtual workshops / 106 attendees

35,694 Youtube and Facebook views of recorded events and workshops

The virtual events programme continues to be a roaring success with consistently high numbers. On average there are 2-3 live virtual events and workshops per week which are recorded and then added to the Library's Youtube channel, with subtitles retrospectively added.

An ongoing challenge is the technical production of virtual events which will only present more challenges as we move to a hybrid approach when events can resume on-site. There is currently a review underway as part of the Outstanding Digital Engagement Plan to assess how our technical requirements can be resourced.

In autumn we are planning some high-profile virtual events with Ian Rankin and Alexander McCall Smith. We plan to trial working with an external production company to enhance the overall quality of these virtual events.

'As someone 'treed' by the COVID-19 situation it was a pleasure to listen to two gifted storytellers, and you really made my day. I'm registered for more online events, and even if they are half as good as this, I will be happy. Please could you pass on my thanks to all concerned?'
– Attendee of virtual storytelling event.

General Collections news

Community Development Alliance Scotland virtual conference

Trevor Thomson and Jennifer Giles attended the virtual conference of the Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS) on 7 October on the theme of 'Community development: action, impact and change'. CDAS is a recently formed umbrella organisation bringing together relevant regional and national community networks and organisations, both in Scotland and beyond. It is government funded and currently has 120 members. Its aim is to foster good practice and to influence decision making and the formulation of national policy. A particular focus for discussion at the event was whether or not there is a need for a Scottish national community development strategy.

The invitation to attend followed Graeme Hawley's promotion of the Library's e-resources during lockdown to CDAS members, which received a very positive response. The conference had a range of speakers, including representatives from Scotland's Towns' Partnership, the International Association for Community Development, Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS) and the Scottish Government, covering topics such as community regeneration, health and well-being and empowering minority groups. Attendees came from a wide range of organisations, including Scotland's councils, development trusts and health boards, as well as local organisations such as Govan Community Project and Birchwood Highland. Attendance not only allowed us highlight to this large third sector group the vast range of accessible Library collections available to them, but also to promote collection development, by explaining and encouraging legal deposit and web archiving, and engaging with individual groups on this. Both the umbrella organisation and its constituent members are excellent bodies to partner with as we launch into *Reaching People*. For further information contact Graeme, Jennifer, or Trevor in the General Collections team.

October Walking Challenge

The Library's Health at Work Group organised a walking challenge for October to encourage staff to get away from their desks/kitchen tables and out into the fresh air. Teams of up to 5 people competed against one another to see which team would be crowned the National Library's winning walkers. There was also a prize for the individual who walked the greatest number of steps in total over the month. 72 members of staff from across the Library buildings took part in the challenge.

The winning team, Leg's Eleven, were made up of Gordon Barraclough, Emma Collins, Keith England, Mhairi Kirkwood and Elaine Murray (all from the Acquisition and Descriptions Department) who managed to walk a combined 2,335,614 steps over the month.

Gordon Barraclough also won the title of Champion Walker after walking a remarkable 657,351 steps. The total number of steps walked by everyone who took part was 21,889,789 which converted to miles is approximately 11,114 miles or 17,887k. This is equivalent to walking the coastline of Great Britain (11,073 miles or 17,820K) so a brilliant effort all round. The challenge was such a success that the group are hoping to repeat it in the Spring.



Elaine Murray's walk to Glendevon.