# National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board

## June 2021



Librarian outside the Library on 27 April 2021, just before the Library reopened following the second lockdown.

## Librarian's key events since March 2020

| |
|---|
| 24 March 2021<br><br>Attended the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) Board meeting |
| 20 April 2021<br><br>Represented the Library at the 'Towards a National Collection Steering Group' meeting |
| 4 May 2021<br><br>Presented the Library's bids to the NLS Foundation meeting |
| 27 May 2021<br><br>Opened the Library's Conference: 'Looking to the Future: Collaboration, Creativity and Change' |
| 8 June 2021<br><br>Gave a keynote address to the CILIPS annual conference. |

Was such a treat to be able to use the reading rooms at @natlibscot today. They have adapted in a way which is intuitive, sensible, and welcoming. Very happy to have access to this resource again!

# Library Conference: 'Looking to the Future: Collaboration, Creativity and Change'

On Thursday 27 May, the Library hosted its internal conference 'Looking to the Future: Collaboration, Creativity and Change', organised by our 2020 intern cohort. Lasting the whole day, the event gave staff the chance to hear from colleagues about the exciting work taking place across the organisation and how our work in the Library can help address social problems.

The event was bookended by two fantastic external keynote speakers. The first was Jass Thethi, founder of Intersectional GLAM, an organisation committed to dismantling structural inequalities and oppressive power dynamics within the heritage sector. This was followed by a though-provoking Q&A session facilitated by Graeme Hawley. At the end of the day, we heard from our second keynote speaker, Zarina Ahmad. Zarina is a climate change communicator and trainer who focuses on climate justice, eco feminism and sustainable food practices. Her work increasing ethnic minority participation in climate change conversations earned her a spot on BBC Four's 2020 Women's Hour Power List. Her keynote was delivered in a Q&A style conversation, facilitated by our Climate Crisis Intern, Henry Roberts.

Most of the day was taken up by staff presentations, giving us all an insight into the fantastic work going on across the Library. The day was divided thematically, with each session chaired by a different member of staff. The first session of the day was chaired by Jackie Cromarty and included talks on the theme of Equalities, Diversity, and Inclusion. The second was a session of talks on Digital Accessibility, chaired by John Coll. The third focused on Creating Media Content, chaired by Alison Stevenson, and the final session of the day was on Exploring Collections, chaired by Robin Smith. Taken together, the range of talks provided insights into how the Library can help address social problems and where we should prioritise funds and efforts.

All in all, there were twenty-three presentations. The interns scheduled the day down to the minute, and, almost miraculously, technical issues were averted, meaning that we managed to finish as scheduled at five o'clock. All six interns who put the conference together also delivered presentations providing insights into their work and recommendations for the Library to implement over the coming years.

The organisers express their sincere thanks to everybody who contributed to make this event the success that it was. Particular thanks goes to Meaghan Kerr, P.A. and Stuart Lewis, Associate Director of Digital, for their support in the planning of the conference and its implementation throughout the day.

The event was put together with several questions in mind. Chiefly: How can the heritage sector address social problems? How can we best serve the communities we represent? And how can looking to the past help prepare us for the future? The conference started a conversation among staff, and one we hope will continue into

the future, helping build a more inclusive, sustainable, and accessible National Library.

## Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

Work on the Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) hidden collection continued during Q4 with a further 4171 monographs added to the catalogue bringing the annual total for this collection to 12,625 items disclosed. Progress on this collection is perhaps best illustrated by the number of volumes completed, rather than the total of items catalogued.  At the end of Q4 the twenty-four volumes were completed, from a total of thirty-seven. An impressive achievement over the six months the team have been working on this hidden collection.

Volunteers from the Access Department have also contributed to the work on this collection, listing 1722 monographs and completing work on five volumes.  A group of five Cataloguing Assistants have provided first line support for the project and created a variety of training and instructional material, including a useful recording of the listing process, created by one of the Cataloguing Assistants, Jenn Neil.

This work has also provided development opportunities for the Metadata Team members who are working on this collection; from the Cataloguing Assistants who are providing training and support for the volunteers and are using their cataloguing skills to check the accuracy of data before passing the spreadsheets to the Cataloguers who are transforming that data into MARC bibliographic records and loading them into the Library catalogue.

The Senior Cataloguers continued work on the Scottish Born Digital Hidden Collection, cataloguing a further 1,204 Education Scotland publications and completing all associated authority work.  Across the course of 2020/21 the team described a total of 5,536 Scottish born digital monographs, providing free access to this material to anyone searching the Library catalogue, the team also created, and added to, the Scottish Electronic Collection in the Library Search Collection Discovery area. Work on these collections will continue into 2021/22.

### Moving Image - Hidden Collections

In April 2019 there were 6171 public records for the moving image collections. Two years later we have more than doubled that to 13,807. There was a sustained effort over this last quarter to push everything catalogued on the internal 'Films and Records' database out to the public facing movingimage.nls.uk and into the main 'Library Search'. As a result, a total of 5,058 records were made accessible in the last quarter of 2020/21. Many staff contributed to this feat of cataloguing, but particular thanks go to Ann Cameron, Curator, and Liam Paterson, Assistant Curator.

Records with accessible digital copies had been prioritised earlier in the year so most of this most recent 5,000 are metadata only. We can already see the public access to records is increasing user-driven digitisation-on-demand as people find the metadata and request access.

# One Third Digital Update

The Mass Digitisation team resumed their on-site studio work on 19 April, focussing on the continuation of the ABS collection. Around 150 items from that collection have been digitised since then. In addition, the team digitised around 20 outsized items on special equipment, started experimenting with newspaper digitisation to help inform the upcoming funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and started digitisation of circa 200 items related to sports, to support the Library's multi-national collaboration on the *Europeana Sports* project.

While working from home, the team, together with other colleagues, have also made further progress on the Wikisource project, improving the transcriptions of the Library's chapbook collection. Around 200 more items have been worked on during the reporting period, leaving only around 150 to do before the project is complete. To date this remains the largest ever transcription correction project carried out within the Wiki community worldwide.



Figure 1. Image above: page 27 from Football golf and shinty, hockey, Image above: page 27 from Football golf and shinty, hockey, polo, and curling (1878?), K.212.g.1(2).

This item was digitised to support the Europeana Sport project.

The team have also continued their copyright assessment work, including over 6,200 ABS items and circa 3,900 chapbooks.

Since mid-April the team also managed to digitise around 350 single sheet maps. This figure is significantly lower than hoped due to ongoing technical issues with the equipment, which we are now hoping to get replaced. There are around 4,000 maps left to capture before the Library reaches its target to have all of its single sheet maps of Scotland digitised. Further information on maps website additions can be found later in this report.

The medieval manuscript project funded by Alex Graham has picked up pace again since resuming work on site in mid-April, with 15 volumes digitised since then. It is hoped that all digitisation work on this project will be finished in the late summer.

While working from home, the Moving Image team were able to continue digital processing, cataloguing, and digital housekeeping work. 36 film and video items have been digitised since the moving image technicians were able to resume their on-site work in April, and around 1,000 items have been prepared for ingest into preservation storage. In addition, the external digitisation of 1,500 video tapes as part of the 'UK Heritage 2022' project led by the BFI began in March.
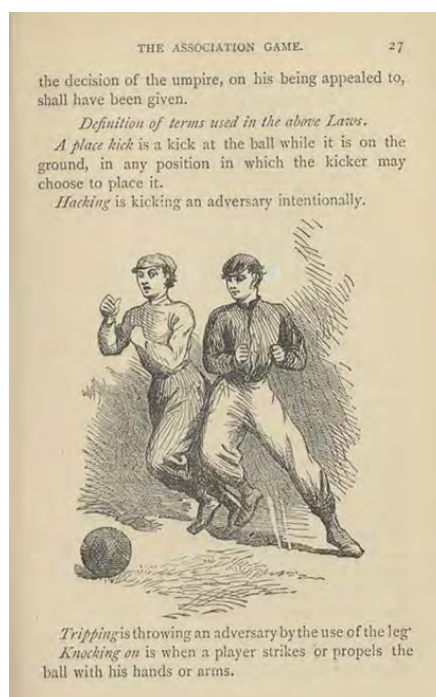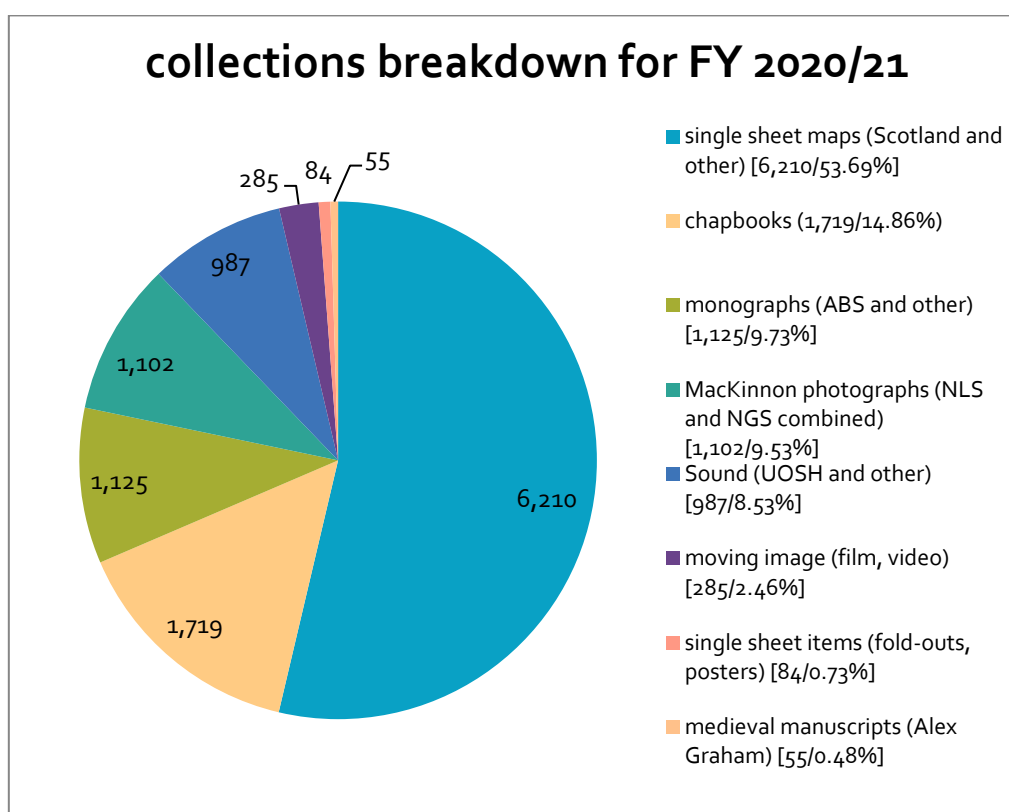
Regarding sound digitisation, the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage (UOSH) project has progressed well during the reporting period. The project team have been able to catalogue over 1,350 sound items since the start of March, including complex recordings from collections of poetry and traditional music. Since their return to the studios in mid-April the team have also digitised 145 sound carriers.

The Library's overall digitisation figures for Financial Year 2020/21 are 11,567 intellectual items digitised. This represents an active capture period of 5 months, while the Library was in lockdown during the remaining 7 months of this FY. The percentage of items digitised through in-house capacities (as opposed to contractors) is 100%.

## collections breakdown for FY 2020/21

- single sheet maps (Scotland and other) [6,210/53.69%]
- chapbooks (1,719/14.86%)
- monographs (ABS and other) [1,125/9.73%]
- MacKinnon photographs (NLS and NGS combined) [1,102/9.53%]
- Sound (UOSH and other) [987/8.53%]
- moving image (film, video) [285/2.46%]
- single sheet items (fold-outs, posters) [84/0.73%]
- medieval manuscripts (Alex Graham) [55/0.48%]

Pie chart values: 6,210 / 1,719 / 1,125 / 1,102 / 987 / 285 / 84 / 55

## Aye Write – Library-sponsored event

On the evening of the 23 May an event hosted by Aye Write Book Festival in Glasgow and sponsored by the National Library was broadcast online. Rescheduled from a similar time last year it looked at the enduring appeal of Alasdair Gray's *Lanark* in its 40th anniversary year.

As a member of a panel of four Alasdair Gray experts and enthusiasts, Colin McIlroy, Manuscripts Curator, presented some images of the 'Lanark' artworks held by the Library — sellotape, Tipp-Ex and all. He also spoke about some of the other illustrations, literary manuscripts, and journals in the Alasdair Gray Archive, which clearly demonstrated 'Alasdair's wonderful inability to leave surfaces blank'. Library Patrons and supporters were invited to join the event, which followed on from some social media activity to mark 'Gray Day' (the exact anniversary of the day of publication of Lanark) in February.



**National Library of Scotland** ✔ @natlibscot · Feb 25

Happy #GrayDay! Published 40 years ago today, Alasdair Gray's Lanark has been called "one of the landmarks of 20th-century fiction". Pictured is the title page of Book Four, one of the four books that make up the novel.

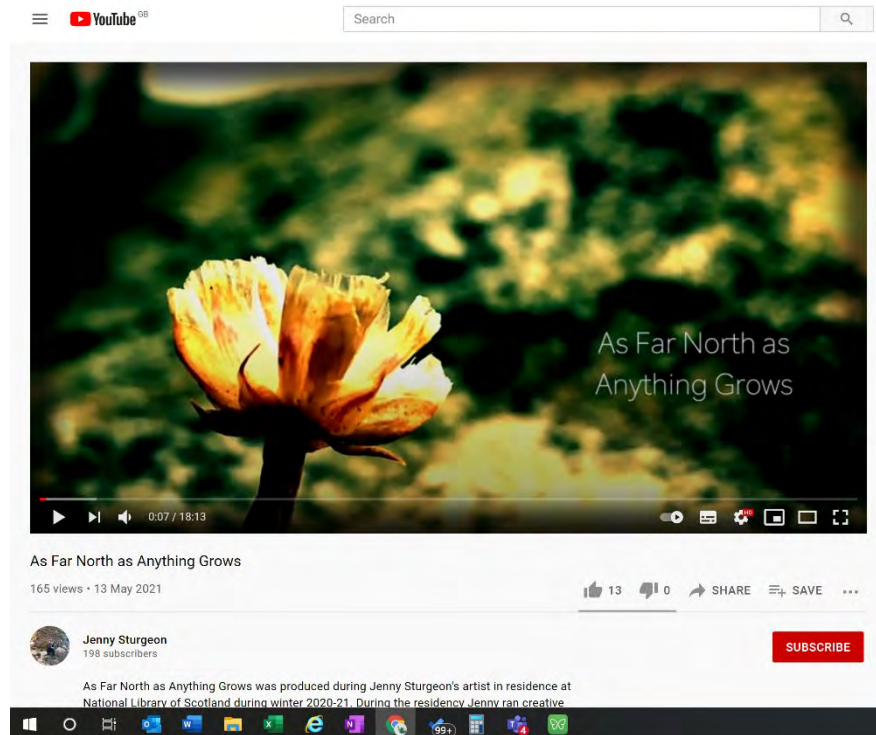Images © Estate of Alasdair Gray, used by kind permission

## Moving Image and Sound Collections
### UOSH Artist in Residence Jenny Sturgeon



As artist in residence at the Library for the Unlocking our Sound Heritage (UOSH) project, Jenny Sturgeon ran four creative writing and music workshops. Taking place between November 2020 and March 2021 the workshops were based around archive material from the ecology lectures by Professor James Holms Dickson from the University of Glasgow, one of the UOSH project's collection partners.  Working with 30 people from across Scotland Jenny created two collaborative pieces of sound art. Workshop participants delved into, and drew inspiration from, archive material. They collected field recordings, created new music and spoken word. What has been created are two truly collaborative celebrations of plants and of home. Watch on YouTube:

As Far North as Anything Grows

Pushing, Reaching, Falling, Replacing

## Paisley: crowd sourcing information about a film



One of the recently added records which does have a remotely accessible viewing copy is a 1965 film with the title 'Anchor Pensioners'. This is a black and white silent film with not much to go on as to what is happening in it. It is fairly long and seemingly rather uneventful with the ladies taking their coats and rainmacs on and off and sitting down for an afternoon spread in a very large hall of some sort in Paisley. Ann Cameron, Curator, called in the help of a few Paisley Facebook groups and the feedback was excellent. In a matter of days many people had engaged with the film online and provided information which will now be used to add to the catalogue record and 'bring the film to life' including:

- Confirmation from several people that the location is the Anchor Mills canteen off Seedhill Road. 'It's the extension to Kilnside House which was the canteen for the mill workers. Kilnside House itself housed two separate canteens, one for managers and one for under managers and office staff. Same menu for all. Lots of segregation back in the day.'

- The event in the film was the annual Christmas Party for pensioners, many of whom may have worked as 'mill lassies'. The women were issued with a ticket as they came in and the meal was a Christmas 'thank you' from the firm.

- At the beginning of the film, the gentleman in the uniform was Mr Arthur Baird who was a Fireman at Anchor Mills and stayed in Anchor Buildings. The Anchor Guides and Scouts are taking the pensioners' coats.

- 'I worked in the canteen as a baker in 1965. We would be baking for days getting ready for the Christmas party. It was a very long day for us behind the scenes.

Each person got a bag of cakes and mince pies when they were leaving. They definitely enjoyed their Christmas party.'

**'Living Proof' trailer**



For Earth Day 2021 the Library released to Facebook and Twitter the trailer for Living Proof - a film exploring our complex relationship to the climate crisis using archive footage and music:

https://twitter.com/natlibscot/status/1384825270734032900?s=20

https://www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryOfScotland/posts/10165176976040381

Archive footage from the Library's collections has been carefully selected by Dr Emily Munro, Learning and Outreach Officer, for its relevance to the current debate. Living Proof will invite viewers to reflect on industrialisation, energy production, consumerism and the environment from a historical perspective. This forthcoming feature-length documentary knits together standalone film extracts with montage sequences set to contemporary music by Scottish artists. We are delighted to announce the artists participating in the project are Louise Connell, Brownbear, and Post Coal Prom Queen.

The trailer launch had two functions. Firstly, to alert the general public that the film is in the pipeline and, secondly to get exhibitors excited so they can start scheduling it for their autumn release programmes, restrictions allowing. Living Proof is a partnership project between the National Library of Scotland and Film Hub Scotland.

## International training: FIAF Newsreels Cataloguing



[The International Federation of Film Archives](#) offered a comprehensive and free online training course focusing on newsreels cataloguing at the end of April. Twelve delegates attended from film archives as far away as Mongolia and Los Angeles and, nearer to home, the National Library of Scotland was offered a place. The expert trainers (from MOMA, The British Film Institute, and the Bundesarchiv) organised a programme of work on the learning platform Moodle that featuring reading lists, cataloguing rules and guidance that will prove a useful reference source in day-to-day work at the Moving Image and Sound Collections.

Attendees were asked to perform a practical cataloguing exercise on the newsreel [World Pictorial News No. 277](#) and to bring an example of newsreel or cinemagazines from their own archive for discussion. The Library's collection includes nearly 300 [newsreels](#) and the training in how to identify and describe these complex works better will help us to identify duplicates and cross reference other archives' holdings in the future, as well as showcasing the uniquely Scottish newsreel footage we preserve.

# Digital Resources and web statistics Quarter 4: January – March 2021

## External Resources

### Wikipedia

We are seeing a sustained increase in usage of our material across Wikimedia projects. This growth has been steady throughout the financial year with this quarter being a highlight with views on English Wikipedia pages up by 25% reaching over 8 million users for the first time since we have been recording these figures. This increase in views is also supported by an increase in the number of pages across Wikimedia projects, this is up 23% this quarter and up almost 675% compared to last year. That is an increase of over 36,000 pages. With more of our material being available it shows in more views but also makes this information accessible to different audiences, who may not come directly to the Library but are still being fed our content.

### Internet Archive and Flickr

These sites are similar in that our content on them is not updated. After a dip in views on both platforms in the previous quarter there are signs that these are coming back to their usual figures. Downloads from the Internet Archive have doubled on last quarter. A similar, if slightly smaller, increase was also seen on Flickr with views up 57%. Although this is improved upon last quarter these are still down on average, so it is still an area to monitor to see if the levels of usage continue to increase to typical levels.

### YouTube

This quarter has been exceptional for the Library's YouTube presence. This is mainly due to a single archive clip that has been up on the platform since 2007. The clip 'The Singing Street: children playing in Edinburgh (1950s)' has been associated with a similar song in a recent video game and this link has brought large numbers of viewers to this clip. This video went from daily viewing figures in the low double figures to between 2,000-4,000 daily views for just over a month. This has had a knock-on effect over and above viewing figures. YouTube's video analytics suggest that this video has resulted in 286 new subscribers this quarter. This has meant that our quarterly subscriber growth has more than doubled. This means that our videos will reach more people going forward.

Looking forward to next quarter figures will appear to be down on this quarter as this is a short-lived moment. It does show however that when our content is easily accessible to people on familiar platforms it can be picked up easily and can spread to new audiences.

| WIKIMEDIA | YouTube |
|---|---|
| **43045 Wikimedia pages** | 18 new videos |
| 8,369,157 English language Wikipedia views | **160,455 views** |
| **13,481,410 total views** | 2262 hours watched |
| | **586 new subcribers** |

| Internet Archive | Flickr |
|---|---|
| 4,850 items in | 2,500 images |
| 13 collections | **187,357 views** |
| **157,797 views** | |

# nls.uk domain use

Domain use has seen an increase this quarter. As seen below, we normally see an increase towards Quarter 4 and then see a dip. Last year was obviously an outlier to this but we are seeing the expected rise. The annual session numbers are up 25% on last year at 6,978,577 and is a great success.



2017/18 - 2020/21 sessions per quarter
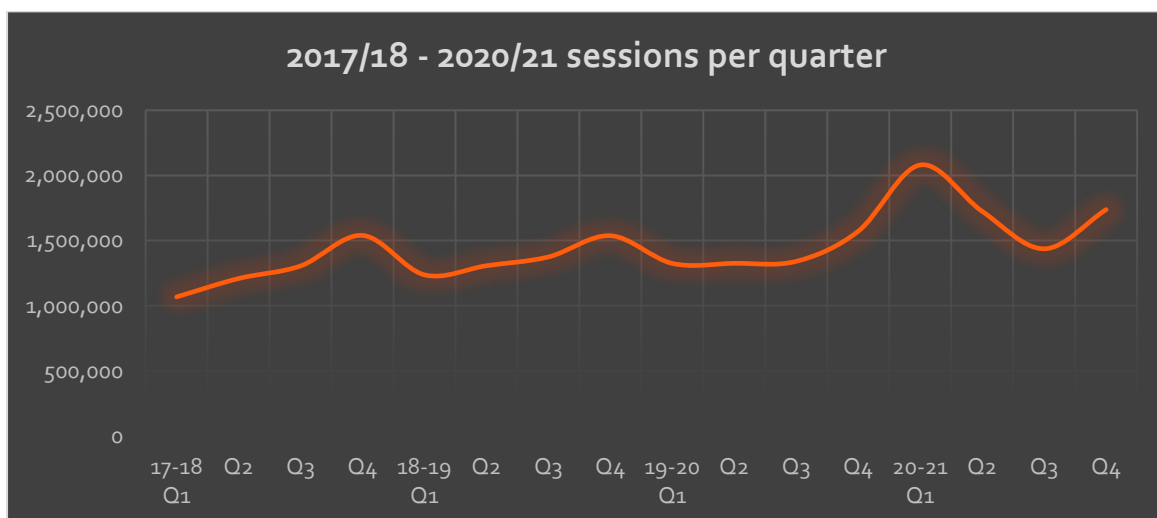
130,823 users with 189,463 view sessions
8.09 pages per session
4.20 minutes average duration on site

## Top Channels
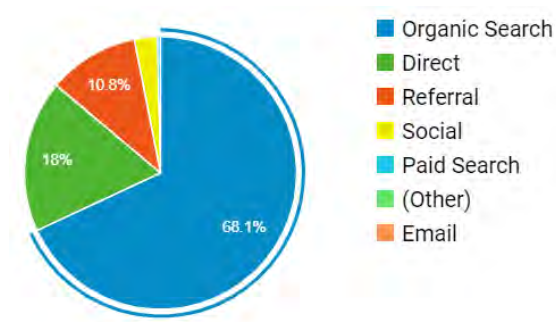


### Top referrals (non-Library)

| classroom.google.com | 1,381 users |
| --- | --- |
| en.wikipedia.org | 1,094 users |
| assignments.onenote.com | 321 users |

### Location of users

| 64% | UK (51% Sco, 45% Eng, 2% Wal, 1% NI) |
| --- | --- |
| 14% | USA |
| 5% | Canada |
| 4% | Australia |
| 1% | Ireland |

### Top Landing pages

/gallery/: (4%)
/oor-wullie/ (3%)
/directories/(1%)
/oor-wullie/activities/quiz/(1%)
/scientists/biographies/james-watt/index.html(1%)

605,063 users with 1,220,393 view sessions
4.17 pages per session
4.27 minutes average duration on site

## Top Channels
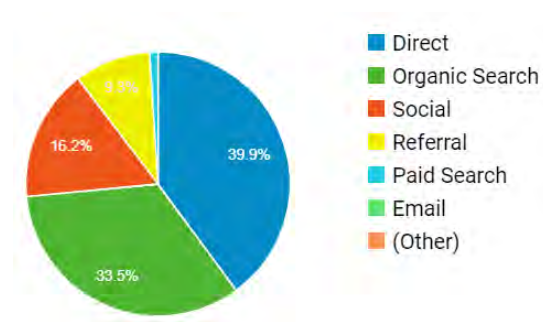


### Top referrals (non-Library)

| oldmapsonline.org | 5,937 users |
| --- | --- |
| weboftheweek.com | 2,372 users |
| uk.search.yahoo.com | 1,476 users |

### Location of users

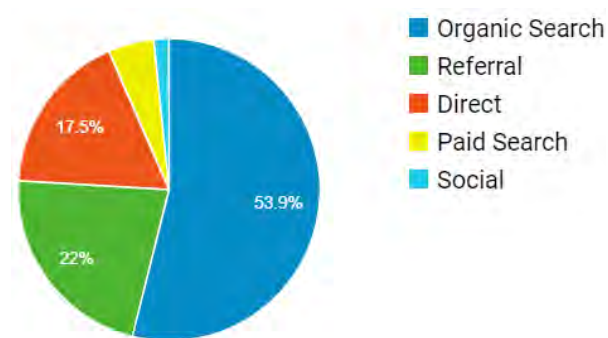| 93% | UK (76% Eng, 18% Sco, 5% Wal, 0.3% NI) |
| --- | --- |
| 2% | USA |
| 1% | Australia |
| 1% | Canada |
| 0.4% | Ireland |

### Top Landing Pages

/geo/explore/side-by-side (16%)
/geo/explore/ (15%)

/(10%)
/geo/find (8%)
/os/6inch-england-and-wales/ (4%)

## MAIN WEBSITE WWW.NLS.UK

111,582 users with 168,613 view sessions
2.16 pages per session
1.28 minutes average duration on site

**Top Channels**



- Organic Search
- Referral
- Direct
- Paid Search
- Social

53.9%
22%
17.5%

**Top referrals (non-Library)**

| | |
|---|---|
| uk.search.yahoo.com | 392 users |
| ordnancesurvey.co.uk | 302 users |
| family-tree.co.uk | 171 users |

**Location of users**

| | |
|---|---|
| 73% | UK (49% Sco, 48% Eng, 2% Wal, 1% NI) |
| 10% | USA |
| 3% | Canada |
| 3% | Australia |
| 1% | Ireland |

**Top Landing Pages**

/ (39%)

/digital-resources (5%)

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

/family-history/emigration (2%)

/collections/topics/slavery (2%)

## MOVING IMAGE MOVINGIMAGE.NLS.UK

53,796 users with 70,273 view sessions
2.79 pages per session
3.11 minutes average duration on site

**Top Channels**



- Social
- Organic Search
- Direct
- Referral
- Paid Search
- (Other)
- Email

34.7%
30.2%
25.9%
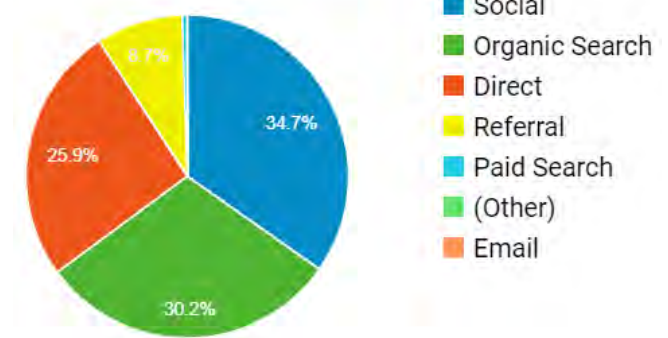
**Top referrals (non-Library)**

| | |
|---|---|
| en.wikipedia.org | 470 users |
| walkhighlands.co.uk | 91 users |
| fiafnet.org | 87 users |

**Location of users**

| | |
|---|---|
| 84% | UK (71% Sco, 28% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI) |
| 3% | US |
| 2% | Canada |
| 2% | Australia |
| 1% | Spain |

**Top Landing Pages**

/  (8%)

/bot-traffic.icu  (3%)
 /search?videoAccess=r&video=yes (2%)
 /film/5973 - ('The Ninian Central Platform) (2%)
/film/9309 - ('Robin's Saturday') (2%)

## DATA FOUNDRY  DATA.NLS.UK

5,125 users with 8,288 view sessions
2.72 pages per session
2.38 minutes average duration on site

### Top Channels



Legend:
- Organic Search
- Direct
- Referral
- Social

57.5%  10.2%  28.8%
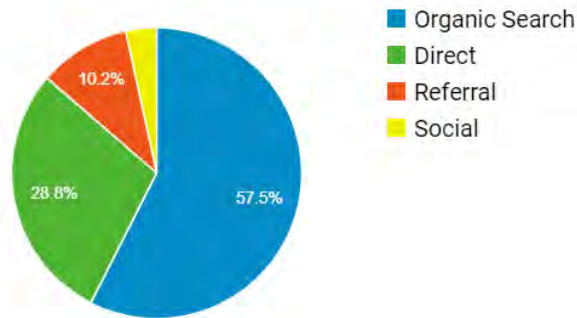
### Top referrals (non-Library)

| | |
|---|---|
| learn.ed.ac.uk | 41 users |
| dhawards.org | 27 users |
| scotsman.com | 14 users |

### Location of users

54%    UK (62% Eng, 35% Sco, 3% Wal, 0.3% NI)
8%     USA
7%     China
2%     Germany
2%     India

### Top Landing Pages

/bottraffic.live (24%)

/projects/finding-lost-footpaths-using-gb1900/ (17%)

/ (16%)

/projects/the-national-librarians-research-fellowship-in-digital-scholarship-2021-22/ (3%)

/data/digitised-collections/marjory-fleming/ (2%)

## SCOTLANDS-SOUNDS.NLS.UK

1,105 users with 1,314 view sessions
1.71 pages per session
1.20 minutes average duration on site

### Top Channels



Legend:
- Organic Search
- Direct
- Social
- Referral

50.8%  11.7%  33.5%
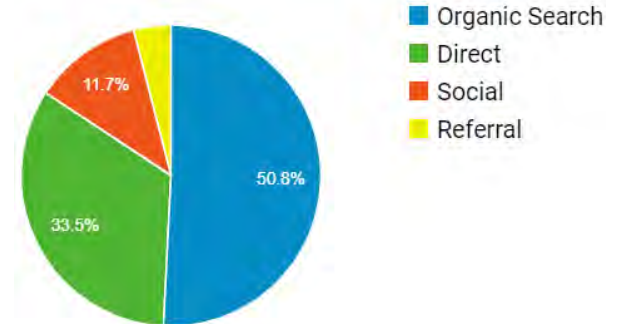
### Top referrals (non-Library)

| | |
|---|---|
| ilxor.com | 7 users |
| glasgowschoolofart.padlet.org | 6 users |
| baidu.com | 5 users |

### Location of users

61%    UK (68% Sco, 30% Eng, 1%Wales, 1% NI)
13%    US
5%     Canada
4%     Argentina
2%     France

### Top Landing Pages

/ (27%)

/index.php/online-sound-collections/collections-with-online-recordings/ (7%)
/index.php/unlocking-our-sound-heritage-uosh/ (7%)
/index.php/safe-sound/ (6%)
/index.php/online-sound-collections/ (4%)

# Digital Scholarship update

In March, the Library recruited the 2021 National Librarian's Fellowship in Digital Scholarship. Following on from the successful 2020 post-holder Dr Giles Bergel of Oxford University, Dr Rosa Filgueira, Assistant Professor in Computer Science at Heriot Watt University has been selected for 2021. Her proposal is to develop 'Frances': An AI-toolbox to automatically discover insights from Data Foundry collections. The intention is to build on earlier work led by Professor Melissa Terras and others (including Rosa) on the 'defoe' system. This project will aim to take the powerful text analysis tools from defoe and make them easier to use through a web-based interface. The tools will be published open source, allowing them to be used on collections in other organisations.

The series of digital scholarship staff seminars continued, with a presentation from the collaborative PhD student Joe Nockels. Joe is studying with ourselves, the University of Edinburgh (Professor Melissa Terras) and the University of Glasgow (Dr Paul Gooding) on the use of the Transkribus HCR 'Handwriting Character Recognition' tool.  As part of his studies Joe has run the tool over the Marjorie Fleming papers.

In April the Library, together with Edinburgh University (Professor Melissa Terras and Professor Diane Paton), have been awarded funds for an AHRC SGSAH Collaborative Doctoral Award Studentship on the topic of Slavery and Race in the Encyclopaedia Britannica (1768-1860): A Text Mining Approach. The studentship will commence in September 2021, working with the Library's Encyclopaedia Britannica dataset, supervised by Digital Scholarship Librarian Sarah Ames and Rare Books Curator Robert Betteridge.

The Digital Scholarship Librarian provided a presentation for the 2021 RLUK conference, giving a comprehensive review of the Library's Digital Scholarship service over the past two years. The presentation was well received and can be viewed online at: https://youtu.be/8AAxvvuJxBE?t=1209.

A paper titled 'Transparency, provenance and collections as data: the National Library of Scotland's Data Foundry' has been published in the LIBER Quarterly journal. In this paper Sarah Ames explores the digital scholarship service at the Library – in particular the Data Foundry, the need for transparency, and what this means for the responsibilities of libraries. Transparency, provenance and collections as data: the National Library of Scotland's Data Foundry (liberquarterly.eu)

# Rare Books Acquisitions

William Manderston, *Bipartitum in morali philosophiia opusculum*, Paris 1526 (bound with) Jacques Alain, *Moralia … & libellus de auctoritate ecclesie*, Paris, 1526.

The authors of these two works were both educated in the Parisian circle around the Scottish philosopher John Mair or Major (1467-1550). William Manderston studied in Glasgow and Paris, became rector at Paris in 1517 and had the first edition of his *Bipartitum*, a compendium on moral philosophy focusing on virtue, published in 1518. Jacques Alain, one of Mair's star students who died prematurely in 1515. His *Moralia*, first published in 1510, became a standard textbook on moral philosophy. Copies of these two Paris editions in octavo format are scarce: produced in particular for students, they were heavily used and thus did not survive in large numbers. No other copies are recorded in the UK or the US.

Sokol Books Ltd. £2,750

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS
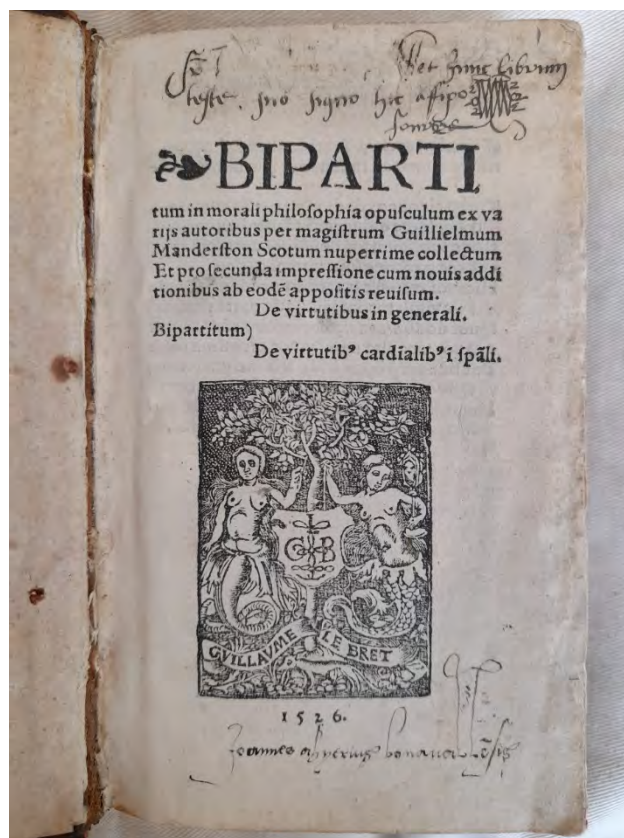
*The life and eminent services of the gallant Lord Cochrane*, London, [1815?] (bound with) *The case of Thomas Lord Cochrane*, Edinburgh, 1814.

Only two other copies are recorded of the London pamphlet in the UK and Ireland. Both relate to a sensational trial which led to the imprisonment of a Scottish naval hero, Thomas Cochrane, Lord Cochrane (1775-1860). After a very successful naval career as a captain during the Napoleonic Wars, which caused Napoleon to nickname him, *Le Loup des Mers*, 'The Sea Wolf', Cochrane found himself embroiled in the Great Stock Exchange Fraud of 1814. The Fraud was the result of attempts to rig the stock market through false reports of the death of Napoleon, driving up the price of government stock. Cochrane was arrested and found guilty, fined, and imprisoned for a year. The London pamphlet appears to have been written while Cochrane was still in prison and is a passionate defence of his conduct and his innocence. He was eventually pardoned in 1832 after serving with the Chilean and Brazilian and Greek navies in their wars for independence.

Bernard Quaritch £450

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS
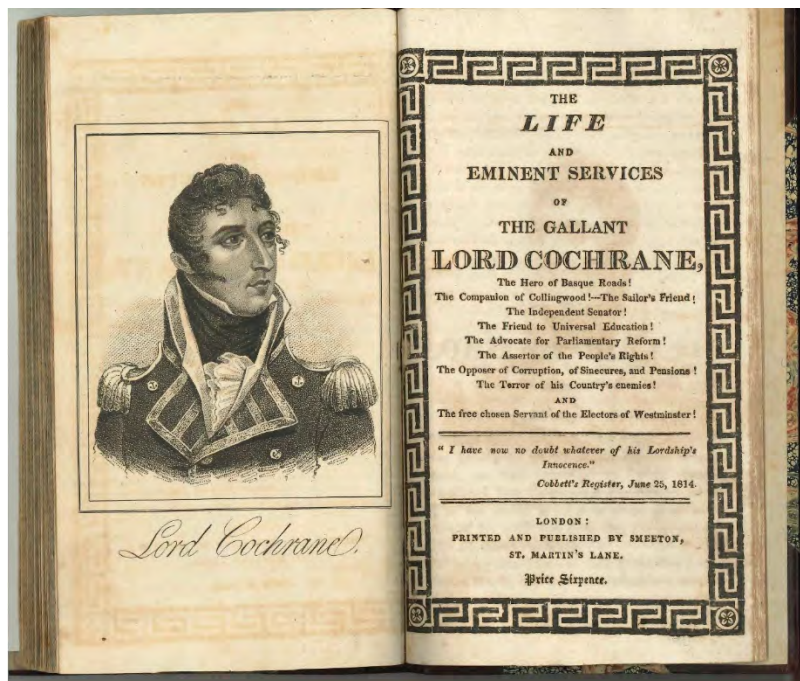
*Public Health Act. Small pox. Notice is hereby given, that in consequence of the prevalance [sic] of small pox in the adjoining counties all persons in Berwickshire …,* [Duns, 1871]

As the result of an outbreak of smallpox in neighbouring counties and in response to rising rates of infection in Berwickshire, the Chief Constable, George Henry List, issued this notification under the Public Health Act (Scotland), 1867.  Five provisions are listed, including: preventing persons with infectious disorders from using public transport without notifying the owner of the transport; preventing wilful exposure of said persons and their infected belongings; preventing the letting of property without adequate disinfection and empowering the local authority to issue proceedings for owners to carry out appropriate disinfection where necessary. Failure to comply with quarantine regulations would result in fines being levied and imprisonment for non-payment of fines.
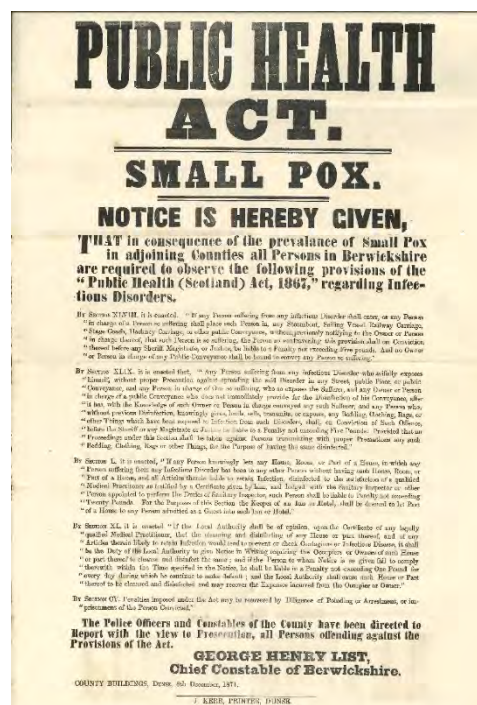
Alastor Rare Books £120

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

Desiderius Erasmus, *Typographus lectori, Adagiorum Chiliades,* Basel, 1539.

This is a copy of an edition of Erasmus' *Adagia*, a collection of Greek and Latin moral sayings which was first published in 1500. Revised continuously, it was popular in humanist schools well into the 17th century. Erasmus' pupil Alexander Stewart, illegitimate son of James IV and later Archbishop of St Andrews, appears in it along with his father. We bought this particular copy because of the rich Scottish provenance. Numerous 16th-century inscriptions point to the former owners: Patrick Cockburn, a graduate of St Andrews who taught oriental languages at the Sorbonne and later became the first Protestant minister of Haddington; William Lambe, parson of Conreth; and John Cranston, who would be charged with treason in 1592.

Bernard Quaritch £1,850
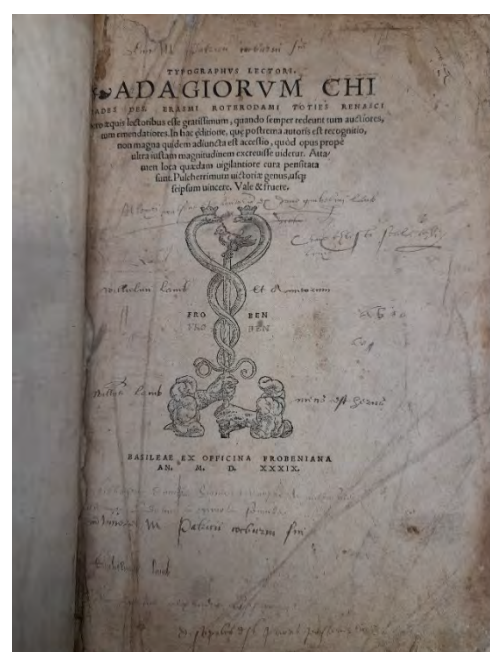
Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

*[A collection of five photograph albums compiled by Arthur Sankey Reid in the 1890s and early 1900s]*

These albums were produced by Arthur Sankey Reid (1858-1930), a Scottish geologist and science master at Glenalmond College, a private school in Perthshire. They were given as presents to his wife Alice M. Reid, with special hand-written and coloured title pages. In addition to images of family and friends taken in and around Glenalmond, there are also fascinating photographs taken during trips to the north of Scotland, the Isle of Eigg, and the south of England. The photographs have been made using the matte collodion-on-paper process, where the photographs are printed directly onto the collodion paper by placing the paper under a negative and then developing them by light exposure. As a science teacher, Sankey Reid presumably had the technical know-how to use the process.

Lyon & Turnbull auction (two separate sales) £1,105 & £468

Shelfmark: Phot.sm.169-173



Above: title page from photograph album compiled by Arthur Sankey Reid for his wife.

Below: a photograph from one of five photograph albums compiled by Arthur Sankey Reid



The Knitters, Crovie.    May 31 1900

*Arrest du Conseil d'Estat Du Roy, portant qu'il ne sera plus reçeû aucuns Billets de Banque dans les Bureaux de Recettes, soit generals, soit particulieres, tant des Pays d'Estats, que du Clergé,* Paris, 1720.

A royal decree putting an end to the acceptance of paper money following the Mississippi bubble. Scottish economist John Law (1671-1729) established himself in France as Controller General of Finances under the Duke of Orleans where he promoted the use of paper money to alleviate France's crippled finances. By 1719 he had issued approximately 625,000 stock shares in the Compagnie des Indes. Law hoped to retire the vast public debt accumulated during the later years of Louis XIV's reign by selling his company's shares to the public in exchange for state-issued public securities, or billets d'état, which consequently rose sharply in value. A frenzy of wild speculation ensued that led to a general stock-market boom across Europe. The French government took advantage
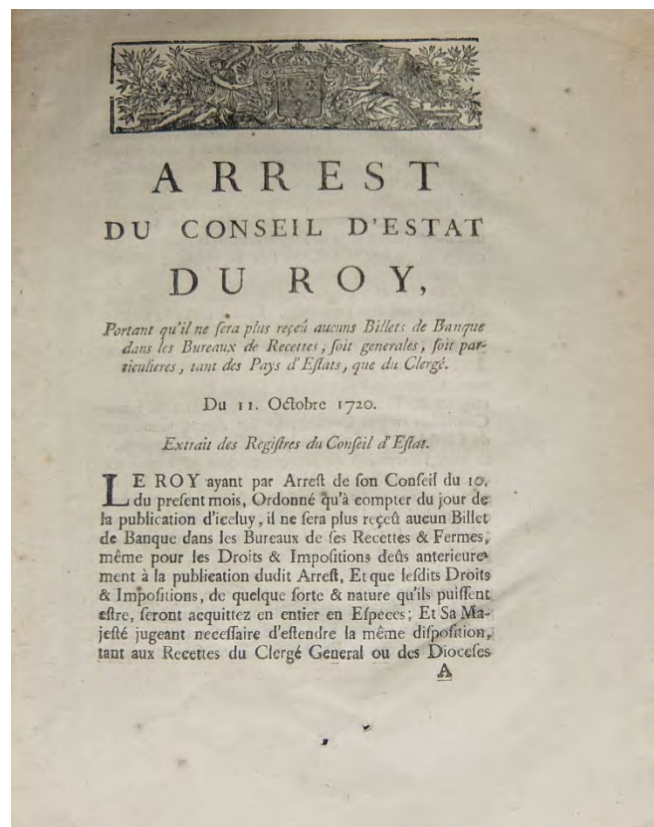
of this situation by printing increased amounts of paper money, which was readily accepted by the state's creditors because it could be used to buy more shares of the Compagnie. Law's adversaries pushed speculation with the aim of causing the system to collapse. Share values rose from 500 to 20,000 livres: beyond the value that the Banque Royale could guarantee. Eventually a number of the most prominent shareholders sought to liquidate their holdings in exchange for gold or silver coinage causing an immediate collapse and bankrupting Law's system.
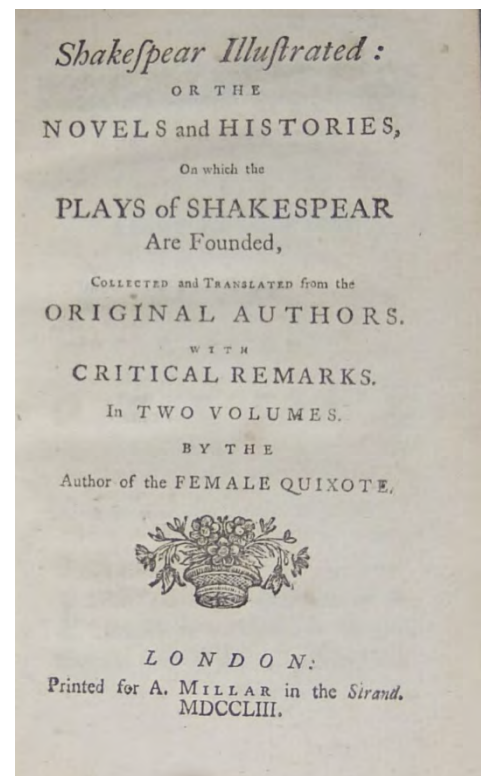
Detlev Auvermann Rare Books £3,250

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

### Charlotte Lennox, *Shakespear illustrated: or the novels and histories, on which the plays of Shakespear are founded*, London, 1753-4.

Novelist and writer Charlotte Lennox's investigation into the sources of Shakespeare's plays is seen by many scholars as the first feminist work of literary criticism. Though her neo-classical bias tended to overstate the critical importance of the original plots and understate the value of their poetic, psychological, and dramatic elaboration, Lennox's work is recognised as a milestone in the historical interpretation of vernacular literature. Her main criticism is that his plays strip female characters of their original authority.

Whitmore Rare Books $4,500

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS



Shakespear Illustrated:
OR THE
NOVELS and HISTORIES,
On which the
PLAYS of SHAKESPEAR
Are Founded,
COLLECTED and TRANSLATED from the
ORIGINAL AUTHORS.
WITH
CRITICAL REMARKS.
In TWO VOLUMES.
BY THE
Author of the FEMALE QUIXOTE.

LONDON:
Printed for A. MILLAR in the *Sirand*.
MDCCLIII.

### James Bisset, *Bisset's Grand national directory or literary commercial iconography* [bound with] *Bisset's Magnificent guide, or grand copper plate directory, for the town of Birmingham,* Birmingham, 1800 [and] 1808.

A fascinating collection of Perth born Bisset's first illustrated directory bound together with his final one. In his original proposal Bisset set out to produce a 'national directory' of commercial iconography, which includes lists of commercial names engraved against pictorial backgrounds, or engraved trade cards for businesses to cover the whole country. This project proved too ambitious, and he then concentrated on Birmingham and surrounding areas. The *Grand national directory*

covers some thirty towns in England and Scotland, with plates appearing irregularly and later being merged with the *Magnificent guide*. Plates included here cover Leeds, Warwick, Dundee, Glasgow, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Manchester, Coventry, but also merchants of Arbroath, or city and cathedral of Lichfield.

Suzanne Schulz-Falster £3,400

Shelfmark: IN PROCESS

# Manuscripts Acquisitions

## Acc.14227 One Month's Tour thro Parts of The North of Ireland and Among the Scotch lakes, 1836

The latest addition to our collection of manuscript tours of Scotland is a lively description of a holiday in Ireland and Scotland from the 1830s. According to its anonymous author, the tour party consisted of: 'a man and his wife who deserted their children; a man in love; a married woman who absconded from her husband, and a young lady in search of one'. In Scotland they spend time in the lowlands including Glasgow, Edinburgh, the Trossachs, Stirling, Dalkeith and Roslin. The tourists are interested both in Scotland's scenery and its industry, particularly its textile manufacture. They are intrigued by the tenements in Glasgow with which they were unfamiliar:

'In looking for lodgings the houses of Glasgow presented a novel character to us – Wherever we saw them advertised, we made for the nearest hall door, but generally found them communicating with the ground floor only – and when at last we discovered the way of access, it was generally a considerable distance off and then by a doorless passage called a close, conducting to a stone stairs which led us up to different flats or stories…'

At Loch Lomond the author comments on the other tourists they encounter including some French gentlemen and a German prince. The journal is of interest not only for its descriptions of Victorian Scotland, but for researchers studying tourism, and particularly the impact of steamboats.
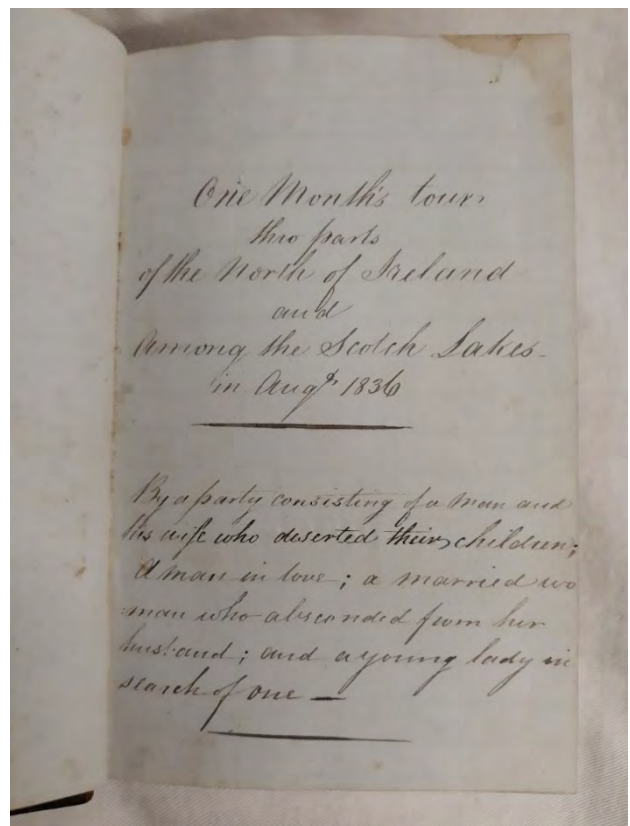


## Acc.14226 Illustrated manuscript of a coastal survey of the North Coast of Scotland

The Manuscripts and Archive Division were successful in their recent bid to acquire an illustrated manuscript of a coastal survey of the North Coast of Scotland. This survey was undertaken by Captain Henry Charles Otter, R.N. in 1844 and describes in detail the coastline from Thurso to Cape Wrath. In addition to advising on safe anchorages and prevailing winds, Otter also notes the local land, economy, and

wildlife – 'wild fowl in great numbers…it abounds in Trout and Pike'.  This detail allows for an insight into the communities in the north of Scotland during the 19th century. The volume also includes four beautiful pencil and watercolour illustrations of the coastline and surrounding area.

## Acc. 14215 Allan Ramsay's *The Gentle Shepherd* with annotations by the poet Thomas Campbell

During the recent lockdown the Library was able to purchase a volume of Allan Ramsay's pastoral play, The Gentle Shepherd, from a bookseller in the United States, which has been annotated by the poet Thomas Campbell (1777-1884). Campbell was a great admirer of Ramsay's work and he produced a biography of him for a work on the British poets. The extensive annotations relate to the translations of Scottish words, phrases and proverbs, and contain occasional comments on his verse. The purchase will complement our existing holdings of Ramsay's manuscript material at the Library, and will further increase research potential on Ramsay's literary works. The Library is currently in a partnership with the University of Glasgow whose AHRC funded project on the edited works of Allan Ramsay is currently underway.
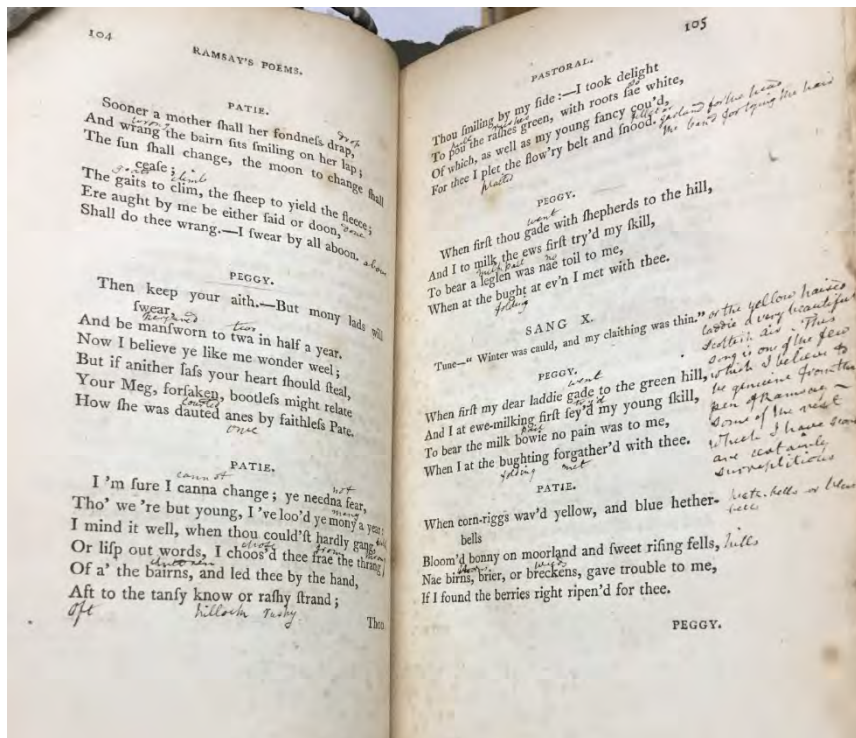
## Recent additions to the General Collection

### Treasure Killer in the crowd / Josephine Tey. New York : Joseph W. Ferman, Mercury Publications, 1929.

We recently added to the General Collection the first book to be published under the name Josephine Tey. Tey was a pen name used by Inverness born Elizabeth MacKintosh to publish a series of acclaimed and influential crime novels including 'The Daughter of Time' (1951) which was named as the greatest crime novel of all time by the Crime Writers' Association. Her first crime novel was published in the UK in 1929 as 'The man in the queue' under another of MacKintosh's pen names Gordon Daviot. It was published in an abridged version in New York in the same year under a different title 'Killer in the crowd' as vol.200 of the Mercury Mysteries under the name Josephine Tey, the first time that name appeared on a book. We were delighted to be able to add this bibliographically important and now rare work to the collections

## General Collections news

### Scottish sportswriter returns for a second innings

Hugh Dan MacLennan, Sports Writer in Residence at the Library in 2017, has re-joined the team at the Library working on Europeana Sport. This is a project which will digitise some of our published and moving image collections relating to sport so that they can be published on the Europeana platform. We are working with ten other partners across Europe to celebrate the joy and power of sport in all of its various forms. An important aspect of Europeana projects is user engagement and the incorporation of user-generated content, and it is this aspect that Hugh Dan will be working with us on. He will be working with LEAP Sports Scotland, Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Ethnic Minority Sports Association, and Street Soccer Scotland to bring in stories about the positive impact that sport has had on the lives of people their organisations support. For more information please contact Graeme Hawley.

# Ask a question

The centralised enquiry handling service, Ask a question, has been in place for almost a year. It launched on 22 June 2020. An underline enquiry and chat form is available for the public to place their questions, which are then assigned to one of the nine teams who handle enquiries, across the Library. Up to 12 May 2021, a total of 9,410 email enquiries have been received, plus 1,077 chats. From 27 November we included phone and in-person enquiries received onsite, which further increased efficiency and did away with separate statistical records.

The bar chart below illustrates the monthly breakdown by enquiry handling areas showing the many teams across the Library involved in this service. The system provides us with detailed statistics: 91.23% of enquiries were dealt with in less than 5 days and 97.42% in less than 10, with the average response time of 1 day, 14 hours, 48 min.



Monthly Breakdown
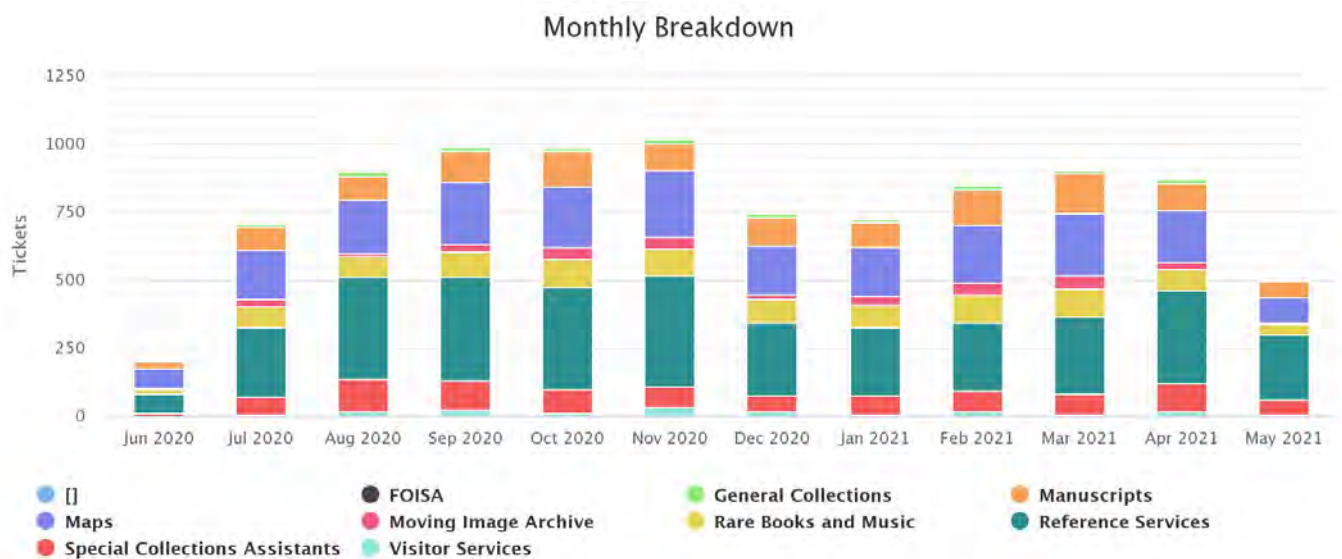
The hours which online chat is available has increased by a third since March 2020. Patrons are invited to provide feedback and of those who did 90% rated the service as 'excellent' and 99% as 'excellent or good'. Below is a selection of comments:

'What a fantastic service, very impressed.'

'The librarian was very helpful and this is a very good system. Great job!'

'A really prompt and comprehensive reply.'

We recently added another option to enable service users to screen share with us on chat and vice versa, if they are having problems with the website, eResources, Library Search etc. This enhances the experience for the public and helps us resolve their access issues more quickly.

The centralisation of the enquiry service has been a great success, as we can now track and monitor all enquiries in one place and ensure our service standards are met. It was extremely beneficial during lockdown to continue providing an enquiry service, making particular use of the Digital resources when we had no access to printed material.

## Filming of Sir Walter Scott manuscripts for a new documentary celebrating 250 years since his birth

On 14 May filming took place at the Library for a new BBC documentary on Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) to air in the autumn as part of the Scott 250 celebrations for one of Scotland's most important writers. Presenter Damian Barr spoke to Dr Ralph McLean about the Library's manuscript holdings of Scott, including the original manuscript of "The Heart of Mid-Lothian" and the "Magnum Opus" edition, the novels which Scott edited shortly before his death. The filming, organised and facilitated by Barbara Burke, presented a great opportunity to showcase the Library's extensive Scott collections which are among the most comprehensive in the world.
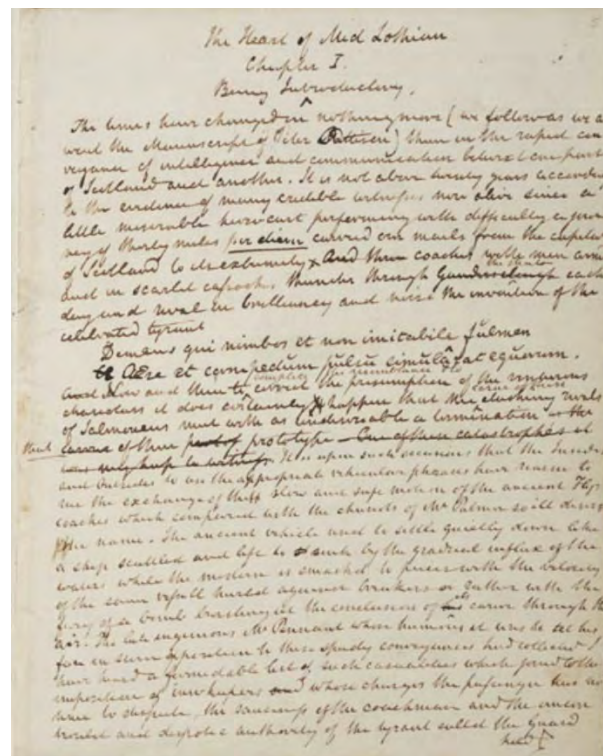
# UKRI Policy Intern

Hannah Lindsay started a three-month full-time internship in April through UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) policy internship scheme. The scheme is open to PhD students with a UKRI studentship, and Hannah joined the Library halfway through the final year of her doctorate in Linguistics at Newcastle University, which is funded by Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The scheme exists to give PhD students experience of using research to inform policy in one of several partner institutions. Hannah's main role during her internship is project lead on digital safeguarding. Following sign-off of the general Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy in 2020, the Library Leadership Team (LLT) observed that safeguarding considerations when engaging with people online needed more attention, considering online engagement was the primary and often the only way of engaging with our audiences across 2020/21, and which will continue post-pandemic. To develop this policy work, Hannah carried out external research among charities, government policies and guidance, universities, public libraries, other national libraries and museums, and umbrella organisations in the cultural sector, to establish best practice in this area. She also consulted staff across the Library regarding their needs and recommendations for the content of the policy. The result of this work is a revised safeguarding policy, which was taken to LLT in May. Hannah has also produced a safeguarding procedures document, which details the practical guidance for enacting the policy. This will be published as an internal staff guide following review by various stakeholders across the Library.

Hannah has also been leading a review of the equality impact assessment process and assisting with some other deliverables identified in the Equalities and Inclusion Action Plan, including the development of a partnerships strategy, and researching and benchmarking other cultural institutions' equality, diversity, and equality policies. She is with the Library until mid-July.

## eResources Agile team

Recently a small team of staff from across the Library were set a task that had two components:

1. Improve the eResources service. eResources is one of the Library's main services, providing Scottish residents with free access to a huge array of trusted information sources including serials, newspapers, and ebooks.



2. Carry out the improvements to the service by using agile. Agile is a project management methodology that helps build better services by taking a user-centred, incremental, and open approach to service development. It was developed by the software industry however it is applicable to non-software functions and activities.
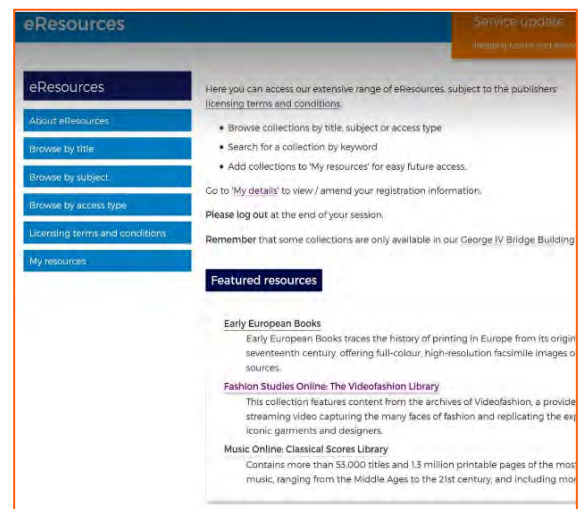
The eResources cross-functional team of ten had all the skills necessary to carry out the project including service support and promotion, knowledge of user research, software and content development, eResources administration and management, and graphic design. The team was supported by a trainer from the Scottish Digital Academy who provided training and coaching in Agile and Scrum (Scrum is a framework for implementing Agile).



From the outset, and throughout the project, the team engaged with users getting feedback on their use and understanding of the service. User stories (a short, simple description of a feature that a user needs) were created which helped the team focus on what people really required in the service. From these, user stories prototypes were developed (using the MarvelApp tool), and users were asked again for their feedback. Only when a feature was fully tested in the prototype and proven to satisfy a user story/need was it considered for development.

As the improved eResources service began to develop it featured a more visually appealing design, had a new and improved 'Getting started' section, a help and chat feature was added, categorisation and description of the eResources was improved, and popular, new, and featured resources
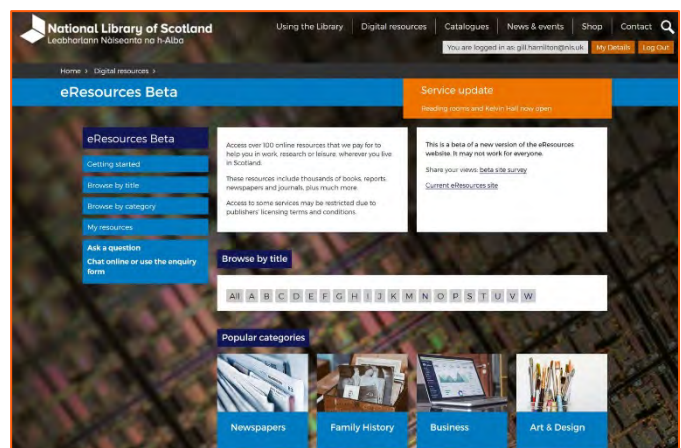
were highlighted. After gaining some further user feedback, the team released the new, improved [eResources service as a beta version](), and invited people to complete a survey.
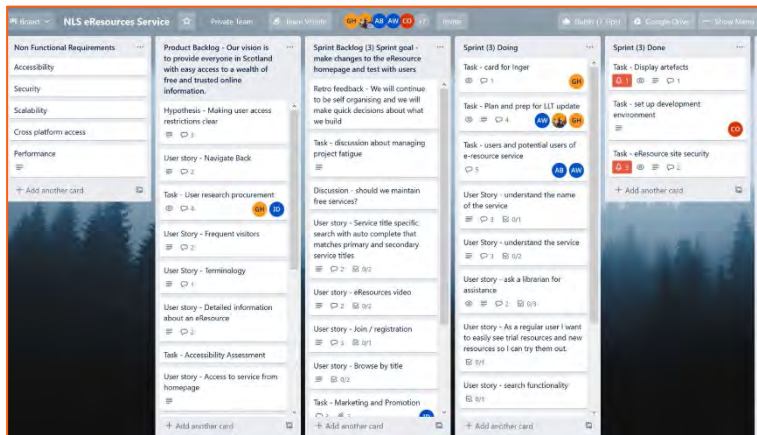


Throughout the project, which ran from February to the middle of April 2021, the team learned and practised Agile principles and Scrum activities (called ceremonies). This involved creating a list of work to do (product backlog), which was regularly reviewed and reprioritised (priority is determined by what brings highest value to the user with minimum effort). Every two weeks the team would discuss and agree what were the highest priority tasks on the product backlog (sprint planning) and moving these to a shorter list (sprint backlog), then for two weeks (the sprint) the team worked on these tasks. At the end of the sprint the team shared their progress with stakeholders (sprint review) followed by a reflection on how the team had performed during the sprint (sprint retro). Then the process repeated, starting again with sprint planning.

Using Agile and Scrum the team not only improved the eResources service but also learned new tools and techniques for managing and delivering work. Working in this way the team developed a common understanding of the issues users faced when using the eResources services, and collectively designed, tested, and implemented, in small iterative steps, improvements to address user needs.

Next steps

After the success of the eResources project further Agile-related activities are planned or are being considered.

- development of the Media Centre on the Library's website and the DAMS project will use Agile.

- an Agile approach is being considered to deliver the Outstanding Digital Engagement objective from the Library's strategy, Reaching People.

- a proposal is being considered for a team that will operate in an Agile way to manage and develop the Alma and Library Search systems.

- user testing is currently underway for the developing Gaelic version of Library Search.

# Collections Care Highlights

## Second resumption survey following lockdown

For the second time the Collections Care team was tasked, by the Business Continuity Team, to complete a check of all our collections in storage. This was to ensure that no issues, relating to mould or pest infestations, had occurred during lockdown. This survey was based on the original design by Simona Cenci and allowed for a comprehensive check of all stack areas. A boxing survey, devised to provide some data about the percentage of our collection which is boxed, was designed by Mel Houston, and completed alongside the resumption survey.

This time nine members of the team completed the survey including Simona Cenci, Mel Houston, David Kerr, Paul Hambelton, Gemma Kelly, Mary Garner, Shona Hunter, Yolanda Bustamante Sampedro, Claire Hutchison, and Ryan Gibson. Collections Care staff were spilt into five teams to cover the different stack floors in George IV Bridge and Causewayside. Ryan Gibson also completed the Kelvin Hall survey.

Thankfully, no problems associated with lockdown were uncovered during the survey.



Example of a floor plan divided into zones used during the GB resumption survey

## Loan checks following lockdown

On 11 May Shona Hunter, Conservator, travelled to V&A Dundee to carry out a condition check of four items on loan from the Library. These items include John Byrne's original stage-set for "The Cheviot…", a plate from Theatrum Scotiae by John Slezer depicting the Palace of Falkland, a plan of Edinburgh by James Craig (1768), and the illustrated volume "Poesie di Ossian, figlio di Fingal, antico poeta Celtico". The items were assessed and found to be in a stable condition.

As the Cheviot stage-set is on open display, a fine layer of dust had accumulated. This was removed using a conservation vacuum with variable suction and a soft brush attachment. The level of dust was low because of the gallery being closed during lockdown. The last time that the stage set had been cleaned was in October 2019.

Shona wore a face covering during her visit, observed social distancing rules, and attended on a day when the gallery was closed to the public. After completing the condition checks and maintenance tasks, she was given a tour of the museum's latest temporary exhibition "Night Fever". This was a poignant reminder of our need to socialise, and of the way that exhibitions can say something important about the times we live in.

On 13 May, Shona travelled to Abbotsford House to condition check two items on loan from the Library. Installed in 2012, these items include a deed box and an escritoire belonging to Walter Scott. An extension to the loan has been requested, in advance of a potential renovation project designed to coincide with Scott's 250th anniversary. Both boxes were found to be in a stable condition. A spot check of the environmental conditions and the light levels within the gallery space confirmed that an extension to this loan is unlikely to cause mechanical damage or further fading.


Library loan items on display at Abbotsford and the V&A Dundee

Both maintenance visits were arranged by Library registrar Sally Todd, Registrar, and without her exceptional organisational skills, these visits would not have been the success that they were.

## Audit review

A review of the function of audit at the Library has been undertaken over the last year. The outcome of this review was a report including six key recommendations for improving how we undertake this important task across our different collections. Now that the Audit Review recommendations have been approved by the Security Steering Group (SSG), a Collections Audit Plan is in place and work has begun to implement its scheduled objectives. Discussions with collections managers so far have stressed the need for good communication between the SSG, its Audit sub-group, and all staff concerned in collection audit/security activities, especially escalation where problems may need to be reported and followed up in an efficient and appropriately confidential manner.

Work with the Security Working Group of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) towards benchmarking our practice continues, and we have begun contributing to the Quick Audit Tool supporting documents which will assist us in developing best practice. We finished the first stage of this by completing a thorough questionnaire and have begun examining what our responses show by comparison with partner institutions.

## Emergency salvage survey

Arielle Juler, the Library's online Icon Intern, has been focussing on emergency response and salvage since joining the Library in March. Part of this process has been to do some research into current best practice, so that the Library can benefit from recommendations which will be produced to help improve the Library's own emergency response and salvage plan.

Arielle constructed a questionnaire which was shared across the conservation sector. She got some very useful quantitative data from the questionnaire, which she was able to follow up with qualitative data via 1-2-1 interviews with selected survey respondents. We look forward to seeing the results of this research before Arielle's internship finishes in mid-June.

## Iron gall ink survey

As part of her Fragile Formats Internship here at the Library, Yolanda Bustamante Sampedro has devised an iron gall ink survey which she has circulated to conservators across the UK. This survey has been designed to gather evidence about current treatment options for iron gall ink. This grew out of some research that Yolanda undertook during lockdown, to inform the treatment of a Robert Burns letter that she is working on in the studio. Yolanda's research led her to wonder how often the perceived 'best practice treatment' for iron gall inks is actually carried out by practising conservators. The survey has given Yolanda a lot of useful evidence which she is collating into an iron gall inks treatment database. This will be a tool to aid

decision-making for treatment of this challenging conservation problem and will help Yolanda to make decisions about the treatment of the Robert Burns letter.



Acc.14171 Robert Burns letter before treatment

The Collections Care team is delighted that Yolanda's Fragile Formats Internship is being extended by four months, in order to cover lost practical time during lockdown. We look forward to seeing the results of the Robert Burns letter treatment, and the completion of other projects that Yolanda has been involved in.

## Fragile Formats survey

During lockdown Claire Hutchison, JMA Project Conservator, reviewed our existing guidelines on the issuing of fragile items within the collection. A survey was sent out in early April to allow staff to voice their opinions on the efficacy of the current procedure. Results from that survey have shown a need for clearer guidance from collections care, and a desire for training across several departments. Claire is now writing a report based on those results and is creating training material for identifying fragile formats within the collection. Initial conversations with other departments have welcomed the changes proposed, and the hope is that this training will help to streamline our reader requests. It should also help to enhance accessibility to fragile items, as our efforts will be focused on the items that are most in need of conservation.

## 5 minute presentations

The Library was strongly represented at the recent 'Paper Conservators in Scotland: 5 minute presentations webinar'. This is an annual event, which the Library has hosted in the past when an in-person event was possible. This was the first time that the event has been held online and it was a great success, which reached well beyond Scotland's borders. The only thing missing was the traditional catering which participants bring along – there was a definite lack of cake.

Library staff from the Collections Care team that presented talks were:

Yolanda Bustamante Sampedro: 'The snowball iron gall ink project'

Yolanda talked about her lockdown research project concerning the creation of an iron gall ink treatment decision matrix and database

Mel Houston: 'Prioritising boxing'

Mel spoke about the Boxing Clever survey that the Library devised during lockdown to quantify what percentage of our collections are boxed and how we should prioritise this important work in the future

Shona Hunter: 'Losing my marbles: conservation outreach from the garden shed'

Shona described the work that she did during lockdown to share her approach to making marbled paper by filming and sharing instructional videos

Julie Bon: 'Maslow's 'needs must' management during lockdown'

Julie outlined a paper that she is working on which explores Abraham Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs' and how this was demonstrated and tested during lockdown.

## New ARA Board member elected

Julie Bon, Head of Collections Care, was approached by members of The Archives and Records Association's (ARA) Preservation & Conservation Group to stand for election for the ARA Board. There was a strong feeling amongst that group that it would be beneficial to have someone with a conservation background on the Board. Thankfully, this election process was successful, and Julie will be announced as a Board member at the ARA AGM in June.

## Successful application for SLIC innovation funding to explore offering personalisation in local libraries

The Library submitted a successful application to SLIC's Innovation and Development Fund to run a project that will explore how we can offer location-based personalisation of our collections through local libraries. The application was made in partnership with Aberdeen City Libraries, Culture Perth and Kinross, and the Western Isles Libraries. With an initial internal project team of Jennifer Stewart, Fred Saunderson, Graeme Hawley, and Stuart Lewis. Our funding success has enabled the Library to extend the contract of Jennifer Stewart, Rights and Personalisation Intern, by several months so that she can lead the project as an extension of her recent work on personalisation. The project will run between June and December 2021.

## Increased representation for the Library and Scotland in Europe

The Library's Rights and Information Manager, Fred Saunderson, has begun his term as a Councillor on the Europeana Network Association Members Council, having been elected at the end of 2020. The 36 Councillors from across Europe decide the Network Association's priorities, steer the Association's activities, and ensure progress against the Europeana Strategy. Europeana is a web portal created by the European Union '*working with archives, libraries and museums to share cultural heritage for enjoyment, education and research'* https://www.europeana.eu/en/. At a time when the Library remains engaged with Europeana, for example through our current contribution to the Europeana Sport programme, this link to the Association will further support our role as an active leader in the European cultural sector.



Explore Europeana

Discover diverse cultural heritage and stories from across Europe

EXPLORE
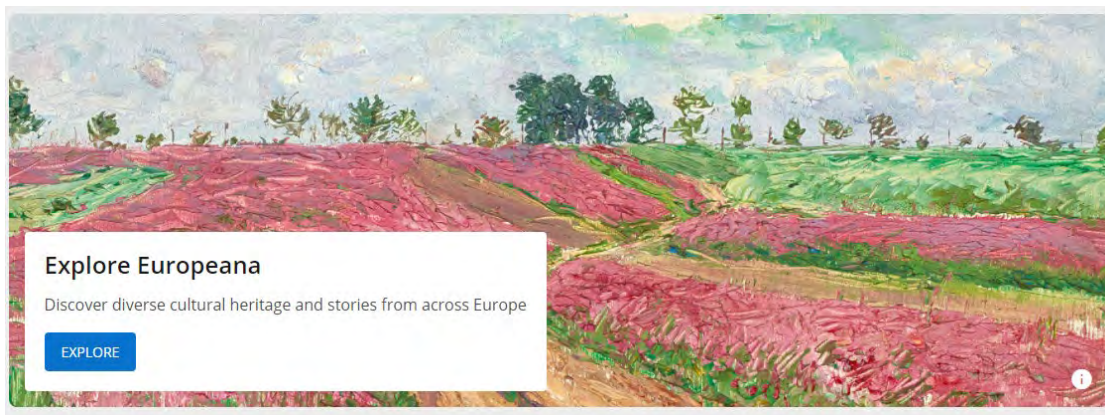
# Maps

## New map acquisition

Wright, Benjamin

*Alata castra Scotiae Regia urbs et Metrolis Vulgi Edimburgum*

Amsterdam: Claes Visscher, 1649.

This small map of the south-eastern coastline of Scotland was originally engraved in 1599 by Benjamin Wright for inclusion in a proposed atlas to be published by Cornelis Claesz. Aimed at Dutch merchants, the atlas would depict the coastlines, firths and trading settlements. This atlas was never published, but Claesz's apprentice Claes Visscher resurrected the idea 50 years later, using the original engraved plates, including this one, and adding more of his own. The resulting pocket atlas *Tabularum Geographicarum Contractarum* was published in 1649. There are three known examples of the atlas, with only that at the British Library being complete.
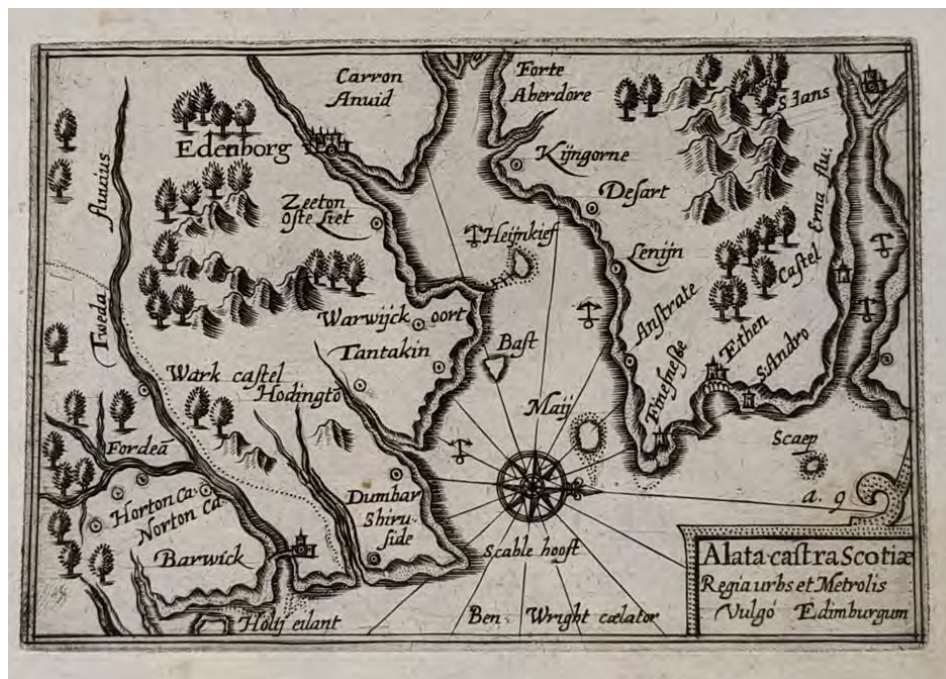
## New e-legal deposit map datasets

Thirty-six new environmental and heritage datasets (published as open data) and 523 charts were added to the e-legal deposit Modern Map viewer in March 2021. These have included British Geological Survey open datasets, and heritage environment datasets from Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Northern Ireland Department for Communities, and the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, as well as Antares charts of the Western Isles of Scotland. The Antares charts cover Scottish anchorages and harbours in much greater detail than the Admiralty Hydrographic Office charts.

## Library maps website update

In March, the Library's maps home page, viewers and footers were updated in response to user feedback, especially from mystery visitors last year. The main aim of this was to improve search and navigation, especially for first-time visitors. The home page is now shorter and simpler, with the main map search options presented more clearly. The previous 'Find by Place' viewers have been renamed 'Map Finder', to make their purpose clearer, and the 'Map Finder - with Marker Pin' has been updated with better filtering options. Help and guidance has also been improved.
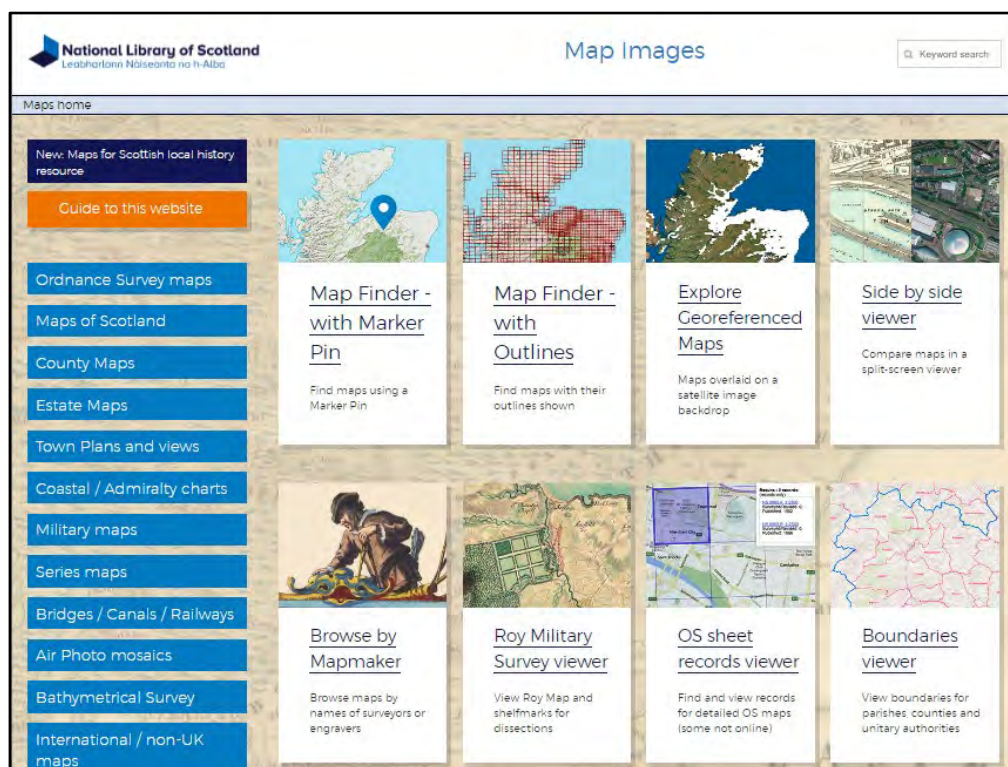
## New maps website additions over the last few months include

## OS Quarter-inch to the Mile, maps of Scotland, 1901-1960

This addition in March was of all Ordnance Survey Quarter-Inch to the mile maps of Scotland, numbering 182 maps across 16 series. The quarter-inch to the mile series is useful in providing an overview of significant landscape features, including larger settlements, reservoirs, railways, and roads. It was also particularly valuable for aviation, with various Civil Air and Royal Air Force editions, as well as a set captured and reissued for the German Luftwaffe, showing new aerodromes, landing strips and conspicuous features (including golf courses) from the air.
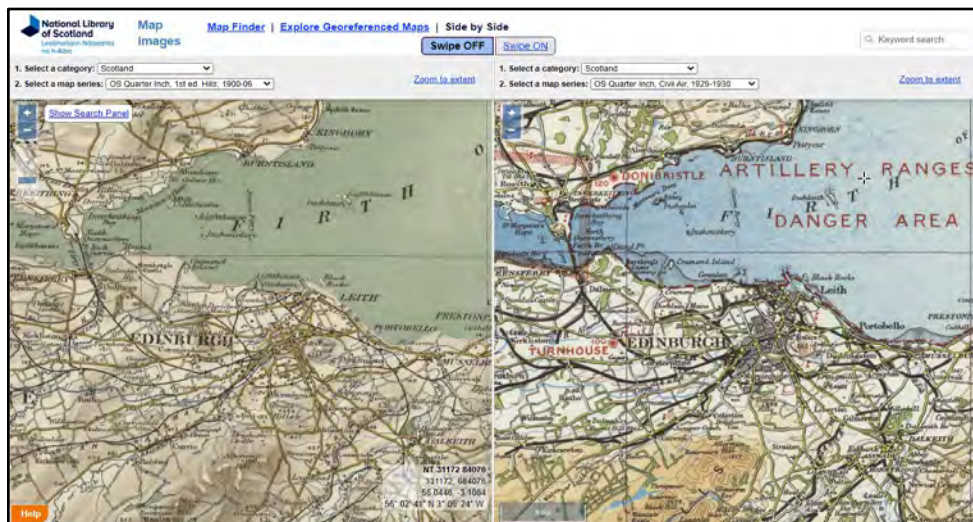


Comparing *OS Quarter-Inch 1st edition mapping* (1900-6) on the left with the *OS Quarter-Inch 3rd Civil Air Edition* (1929-30) on the right, with the latter showing new airports at Donibristle and Turnhouse, artillery ranges in the Forth, as well as new golf-courses and roads.

## OS One-Inch Seventh Series, Great Britain, 1952-1970

This addition includes all of our Ordnance Survey <u>One-Inch Seventh Series</u> maps (896 sheets), covering all of Great Britain, 1952-1970. Our previous coverage of this series just included one edition for each sheet map, but we have now put online all our out-of-copyright editions.
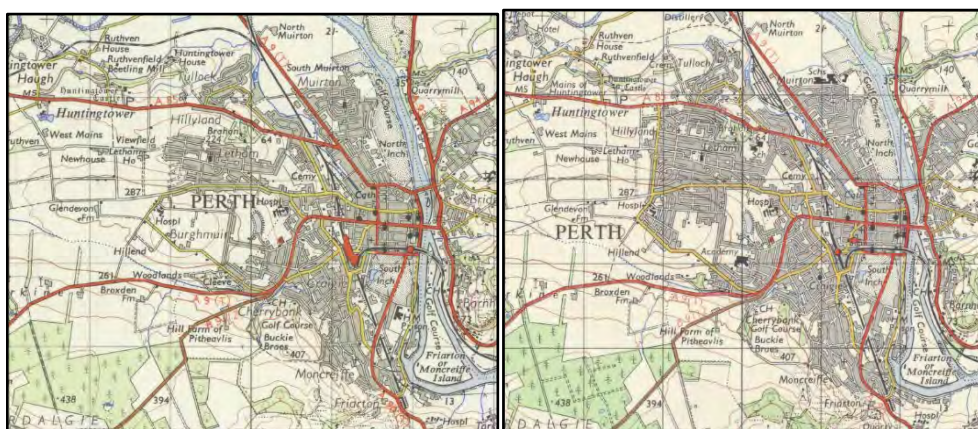


Comparing suburban expansion at Perth on the *OS One-Inch Seventh Series* <u>Sheet 55</u> (revised 1954, published 1957) on the left, with OS *One-Inch Seventh Series* <u>Sheet 55</u> (revised 1964-7, published ca. 1969) on the right.

## New *Maps for Scottish Local History* page

This new web resource, released in May, highlights some of the most useful maps for local history research, with summary information about their content, and links to further information. Maps can reveal detailed information about local areas over time, including buildings, gardens, industries, railways, roads, woodland, and agricultural land. Depending on the place, subject and time period, different maps may be more useful, and these are explained. The resource is part of a growing series we are developing, focusing on maps for particular subjects or user communities. Maps for Scottish Local History



Maps for Scottish local history                                          May 2021

Detail from Thomas Winter's Plan of the estates of Kethick and Benochie (1751)

This resource explains some of the key kinds of maps that are useful for local history research. Maps can reveal detailed information about the local area over time, including buildings, gardens, industries, railways, roads, woodland and agricultural land. The topics below are divided by the **subject** and **purpose** of maps, including a breakdown of Ordnance Survey maps by scale (level of detail).

- County Maps
- Estate Maps
- Miltary Maps
- Town plans
- Transport

- Ordnance Survey : a brief history
- OS large-scale town plans
- OS 25 inch to the mile
- OS Six-inch to the mile

- OS One-inch and smaller scales
- Thematic maps
- Further reading

If you would like to use our map collections to **research your own local history**, you can search for digitised maps on our website, watch help videos, contact us or ask a question. You can also visit us by making an appointment to visit our Maps Reading Room in Edinburgh.

## New tools for Drawing / Tracing Features

In March we added new tools to allow easy drawing / tracing of features on our maps. Users can choose a feature type for drawing, choose a colour, and just click/tap on the map to draw. The resulting drawn features can be saved locally as an image or JSON file of coordinates (which can be easily edited with a text editor).
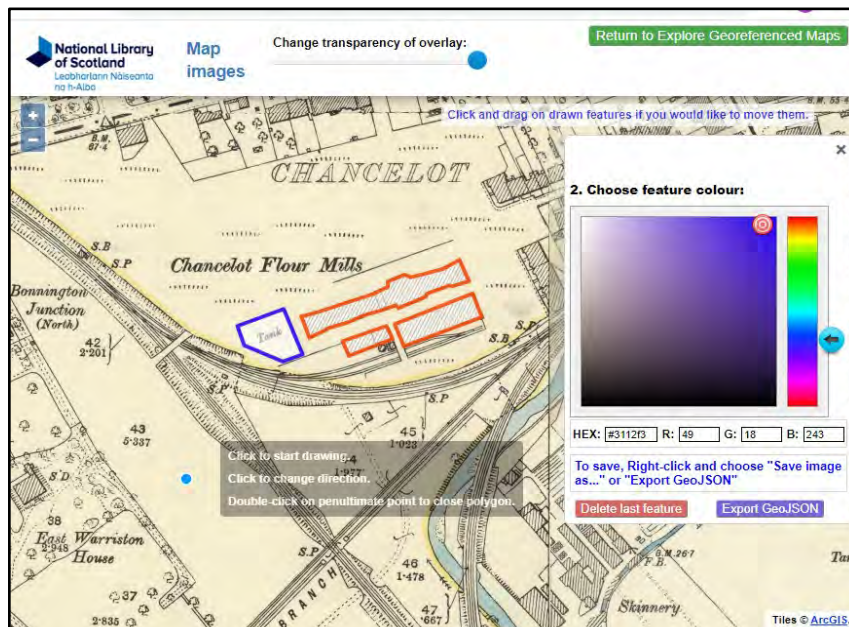


## Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities student placement

In a new student-led research project, 'Aiming High: Aiming for today', Miriam Matthews, University of Glasgow, will find and profile contemporary women explorers and mountaineers as counterparts to the historical women featured on our Learning Zone 'Aiming High' resource. The contemporary women's profiles and oral interviews will be featured on the website alongside their historical counterparts. The interviews will also be ingested into the Sound Archive.

Mentored by Paula Williams, Curator (Map, Mountaineering and Polar Collections), Miriam's project runs from March to October 2021. The project was inspired by our forthcoming exhibition 'Petticoats and Pinnacles' about women who overcame social convention to pursue their dreams of travel, exploration, and adventure in the mountains. The contemporary women interviewed will be similarly ground-breaking but also represent more diverse and inclusive communities.

# Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) update

In summer 2020 the Library approved investigative work to research the need to replace our Digital Asset Management System. A project was initiated, and a Discovery Phase was undertaken between September 2020 and March 2021. This involved 14 virtual international visits to learn from other libraries across the world, work locally to explore and better understand the cost of running the existing DAMS, and exercises to start collecting requirements for a replacement system.

The purpose of a Discovery Phase could be summarised as 'to validate the need for a system.' This has been clearly evidenced throughout the Phase, with a new appreciation for the strategic importance of the DAMS as a core Library system, and the coordination and resource this deserves to deliver a high-quality solution.

Key lessons learned during the Discovery Phase include:

1. There appears to be no single product that meets all the needs of a comprehensive DAMS environment. Neither is there, in common use, a standard blueprint of a mix of systems that we could copy.

2. We should look to implement a more modular DAMS solution, that separates out components such as storage and preservation, metadata, and rights. Relationships between these components will require the use of persistent identifiers (PIDs).

3. Some libraries are hosting their DAMS in the cloud, and there are benefits to this including scalability, cost, and flexibility. Whilst we have some experience in working with the cloud, we need to gain more experience in using multiple cloud vendors for resilience.

4. There is a need to change the way in which we manage all types of metadata relating to digital objects, considering their full lifecycle from creation to access.

To progress the Library will take the following next steps:

1. Implement an Agile team to work on the replacement of the existing DAMS through the development of new, modern code. The team's work will be iterative and user-centric, supported by externally provided training to help us learn how to firmly apply the Scrum methodology.

2. Work with external institutions (Cambridge University Library and the Wellcome Trust) to collaboratively develop a shared open-source DAMS solution. This work is scheduled to start in July 2021.

3. Experiment with standards and approaches that should be adopted with a new DAMS, to ensure that we are building on firm, proven, and supported foundations.

4. Perform further experiments with the cloud, particularly around copying data from one cloud vendor to another. This is often not a cheap exercise but could be seen as essential to remove the reliance on a single supplier.

5. Interrogate the metadata ecosystem in the Library, in particular the spread of systems and databases where metadata is created and managed. Where some descriptive metadata relating to digital assets has been traditionally created in the DAMS, options to instead include this in the original upstream collecting databases will be tested.

6. Work iteratively, starting with an end-to-end solution that can accommodate the Google Books collection of printed, published monographs. From there we will gradually increase the complexity of material formats so that the new DAMS can handle digitised and born-digital serial works, maps, manuscripts, moving image files, sound files, and other format types.

## SpringWalk Challenge – May 2021

The Library's Health at Work Group organised another step challenge, SpringWalk, for the month of May. Eleven teams (49 staff in total) from across the Library competed to be crowned the top team and top walker for the month. Legs Eleven (made up of staff from the Collections Management team) retained the title they had won in October and their team member, Gordon Barraclough also cemented his position as the Library's top walker. Helen Abel, Visitors Service Manager, achieved the highest amount of steps in one day with an impressive daily total of 40,101.

By the end of the challenge, staff had walked 17,669,508 steps in total which equates to 8366 miles or 13,464 kilometres. Staff enjoyed the challenge and opportunity to spend more time in nature.



Helen Abel's photograph taken on Beinn Eighe in Torridon