

## Online Resources

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Please send your submissions for the next issue to [jrc@aber.ac.uk](mailto:jrc@aber.ac.uk)

### BBC

The BBC has made over sixteen thousand sound effects freely available online for personal, educational or research use. [BBC Sound Effects](#) (currently in beta) is a great resource with everything from the sound of a V2 rocket launch to a cat's miaow available for download in .wav format. The service is delivered via the [Research and Education Space](#) (RES) which (from their [FAQ](#)), “began as a partnership project between the BBC, Jisc and [BUFVC] Learning on Screen ... [which] has now come to an end, however the BBC will continue to work with public partners to develop RES as an open platform for publishing linked open data.”

### Clarivate Analytics/Kopernio

After receiving [development support and funding](#) from the UK government support, as recently as February 2018 (via Innovate UK), the AI-technology start-up Kopernio has now been [bought out by Clarivate Analytics](#) (CA). CA say this is, “to create the definitive publisher-neutral platform for research workflow and analysis for scientific researchers, publishers and institutions worldwide”. Using AI, Kopernio intend that their product delivers a legal one-click service to articles and research papers regardless of their location e.g. subscribed to journal, pre-print server, repository, blog etc., or your location i.e. on or off-site/off-campus, integrates with GoogleScholar and PubMed, and stores what you have found for later. The app is available now as a [free download](#). CA intend to integrate it with their other services and say, “Kopernio intends to quickly build a valuable commercial offering for publishers and academic institutions”.

### Dublin City University (DCU)

In a partnership with DCU's Office of the Vice President of Research & Innovation and DCU Libraries, Dublin City University has announced the launch of DCU Press which is the first open access university press in Ireland. The [press release](#) also explains how the DCU Press, “is a leading innovation in line with the ambitions of Horizon Europe”, the European Commission's newly-adopted €100 billion research and innovation framework programme.

### Elsevier

Florida State University Libraries (FSU) are to drop their Elsevier “big deal” from January 2019. In an [announcement](#) by Julia Zimmerman (Dean of University Libraries) FSU are

paying two million dollars per annum with a 4% annual rise, which is more than neighbouring universities due to, “a poorly thought-out twenty-year-old contract between Elsevier and the State University System”. FSU have been unable to extricate themselves from the contract so will instead subscribe to a subset of titles, use interlibrary loans and, “expedited delivery within minutes (\$30, subsidized by the library)”. Julia also states that they will be able to buy other materials previously requested but refused, “because so much of our budget has been consumed by Elsevier”. Florida State is not the first to take the plunge; this useful [article](#) in *Inside Higher Ed* by Lindsay McKenzie provides a timely recap of “big deal” cancellations and diverse views on these actions. In July many researchers in Sweden and Germany [lost access to newly-published](#) articles in Elsevier journals after negotiations over subscription contracts broke down.

## Gale

Gale have launched a [new online archive](#) of primary source material: *Political Extremism & Radicalism in the Twentieth Century: Far-right and Left Political Groups in the U.S., Europe and Australia* comprises, “a diverse range of content, including campaign materials, propaganda, government records and various ephemera”. Content from the UK is drawn from the National Archives and Searchlight archive (based at the University of Northampton), “an information service that aims to expose racist and fascist groups”. Subscribers will have access to, “more than six hundred thousand pages of content and more than 42 audio histories with full transcripts.”

## Google

Google has developed a new freely available semantic search tool called [Talk to Books](#), which uses AI to return answers from over one hundred thousand books to natural language enquiries. The “learn more” page explains that, “The input data is a billion pairs of statements, where the second statement is a response to the first one”, and, “Once the AI has learned from that data, it is then able to predict how likely one statement would follow another as a response”. I gave it a try and it felt powerful if a bit gimmicky but at first the results appeared to be all from non-fiction source books. So I tried searching for ‘*should Elizabeth Bennet marry Mr Darcy*’ and found an answer from *Pride and Prejudice* in the top three results, with extracts from academic works including *Kantian Ethics* and *Jane Austen, Game Theorist* in the top ten results.

## IFLA

IFLA have launched a new feature called [Country Pages](#) to their [Library Map of the World](#). Once completed, users of the map will be able to select any country and gain an overview of their library provision including governance, funding modules, policies and their national library. It’s early days with just a few pages ready so far. However, I clicked on the Countries tab and found a detailed page on Libraries in Latvia. I discovered that all Latvian libraries undergo accreditation every five years (under their Library Act) and that the National Library of Latvia won, “Library of the Year Award in the International Excellence Awards at the London Book Fair in 2018”.

## Irish Film Institute

The Irish Film Institute has released [The Irish Independence Film Collection](#), a set of freely available newsreel material filmed between 1900 and 1930; a period including such major events as the Easter Rising, the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. Footage includes Michael Collins speaking to huge crowds in Dublin in 1922 following the independence treaty of 1921, a reel on the trial of Roger Casement for treason in 1916, and the re-opening of the Dublin GPO in 1929, which had been the headquarters for the leaders of the Easter Rising and was all but destroyed. The [press release](#) explains how the collection was digitised from a selection of British Pathé and British Film Institute archives' original nitrate films, which had been repatriated to Ireland for the first time as part of a Centenary of Commemoration project with funding from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

## Library of Congress

April 2018 was a busy month for eye-catching announcements from the Library of Congress. First a personal favourite, the release of additional content online from the [Leonard Bernstein archives](#) including *West Side Story* scene and musical sequence outlines, draft scripts, song lists, lyrics, audition notes etc., and later materials related to his involvement with the civil rights movement.

Next a proposal for a new mandate to deposit a copy of every ebook published in the US, regardless of whether or not it is also available in print, if requested by the Library. If approved this would also cover self-published ebooks. Thanks to [Infodocket](#) for the story at FCW.

Finally, [Benjamin Franklin's papers](#) have been digitised and made available online. As might be expected there are papers and letters of great historical importance here, relating to his roles as diplomat and statesmen, but also his scientific observations and correspondence. These include, "Franklin's scientific speculation on the speed of ships in 1775 while on board a vessel returning from England to America just before the Revolutionary War", his, "drawing of bifocal glasses, which he is credited with inventing", and his, "letter explaining the effects of lightning on a church steeple".

## Nature

A new Nature Publishing Group journal about machine learning due for publication in January 2019 has been hit by a boycott of more than 2,500 machine learning researchers. It appears that research published in this strand of science is traditionally open access but *Nature Machine Intelligence* content will only be available by subscription. The signatories of the boycott will refuse to submit to, review or edit for the journal. A post on the [Retraction Watch blog](#) points to a significant footnote in recent history included in the petition: " ... in 2001, the editorial board resigned from a subscription-based journal, *Machine Learning*, now published by Springer (which has merged with the publisher that

includes Nature Publishing Group), and formed the open-access journal *the Journal of Machine Learning Research* (JMLR).”

### University of Glasgow

A set of forty two audio recordings in Gaelic and English of crofters, farm workers and fishermen made in the 1970s have been added to the online [Audio Archive](#) at the [Digital Archive of Scottish Gaelic \(DASG\)](#) by the University of Glasgow. The recordings have been digitised from reel-to-reel tapes and audiocassettes, and they, “will be fully transcribed and searchable with detailed contents”. The Audio Archive *Cluas ri Claisneachd* comprises recordings made during the collection process for the Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic and additional donations, and the Mòthan Archive of recordings made on Scottish islands in the 1990s. This announcement has come as DASG enjoys its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.