

Online

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British Library

At the end of November 2012 the British Library launched their [newspaper archive portal](#), developed in a ten-year partnership with [Brightsolid](#), to make four million pages of news available online today. Meanwhile the British Library's Integrated Catalogue has been re-launched as [Explore the British Library](#) (using the Ex Libris Primo discovery platform) and the long-term re-development of the British Library website has been put out to tender (see [this article](#) in the Guardian).

teenth Century Collections Online subscribers in Spring/Summer 2012, comprising substantial collections sourced at the British Library, Oxford University, the National Archives at Kew and the US, and Castle Corvey in North Rhine-Westphalia. Their [press release](#) describes four archives: *British Politics and Society*; *Asia and the West*; *British Theatre, Music, and Literature*; *The Corvey Collection of European Literature*; and collections include *Rare Radical and Labour Periodicals of Great Britain*, *dispatches from US consuls in the far east* and the *Barry Ono Collection of Bloods and Penny Dreadfuls*.

Gale

The "all new" Times Digital Archive is now available with coverage from 1785 to 2006. Existing customers will need to upgrade their subscription to access the post-1985 content. An archive of [the Sunday Times 1822-2006](#) will become available for subscription in Spring 2012, also via the Gale NewsVault platform.

Gale have also announced in detail the digitised content which will become available to Nine-

Hampshire County Council Records Office

Visitors to the Hampshire County Council Records Office in Winchester can now view digitised content from the Jane Austen family archives that has been deposited there by the trustees of Jane Austen's House Museum. The digitised content includes letters, diaries, drawings, photos and volumes of poetry.

Irish Military Archives

In partnership with the National Archives of Ireland, a new [Military Archives website](#) has been launched to make records and other archive material available online from the archives of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces. The Military Archives, located at Cathal Brugha Barracks in Dublin, have been the official deposit since 1990 for the records of the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces and the Army Pensions Board, including “personnel records of those who served in the military of the Irish Free State from 1922 to the late 1970s, as well as material pertaining to the Irish Volunteers and the Independence movement, 1913-1921”, and important collections such as the Collins Papers.

JISC

At the end of November 2011 JISC announced the release of the York [Cause Papers](#) online which record the proceedings of the ecclesiastical courts of York from 1300 to 1858. Records describe disputes over marriage, probate, reputation, church taxes, and “professional conduct of the clergy, schoolmasters, physicians and midwives”. The archives are located at the Borthwick Institute for Archives at the University of York; project partners include the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Sheffield. Previous work had begun in 2007, also with funding from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation. Further JISC announcements include

- [Locating London's Past](#): a collaboration between the universities of Sheffield, Hertfordshire and London

producing wonderful interactive historical maps of London with data overlays for tax, population and archaeology.

- [Living books about Life](#): humanities scholars worldwide have, “re-packaged and re-presented science-related research material to make it more accessible to a humanities audience”, and Coventry University with partners have pioneered a high-quality, low-cost publishing model for sharing content.
- [Newton's annotated works](#): 4000 pages of Isaac Newton's work with his own annotations and more to come; a collaboration between Cambridge and Sussex universities.

JSTOR

JSTOR is opening access to a portion of its journal archive through a service called [Register and Read](#). Readers can register via MyJSTOR and can view articles labelled “Read Online”. There are 70 journals from 30 publishers in the scheme. The content available via Register and Read is in addition to that available via [Early Journal Content](#) which can be recognised by “Free” labels on articles. JSTOR state that both projects are part of a larger strategy to find ways to extend access to JSTOR content to those not affiliated to subscribing institutions.

National Library of Wales

A book of “sestudes”, pieces of writing 62 words long, has become a crowd-funded publication

project via publisher [Unbound](#). This [press release](#) from the National Library of Wales (NLW) explains how 26 items each from the V&A, the Ulster Museum, the National Museum of Scotland and the NLW, including images, videos, sculptures and texts, were partnered with authors who were given six weeks to complete their sestude. Entries in the [NLW selections](#) include Hedd Wyn's poem (sestude written by Jerry Hunter and translated by Damian Walford Davies) and the Book of Aneirin (sestude by Gillian Clarke and translated by Twm Morys). The resulting anthology - 26 Treasures - becomes available to contributors via the Unbound website on receipt of sufficient funds. The minimum contribution is £10 which buys an ebook and the contributor's name in the book.

Research Works Act

The Guardian published [an article](#) on January 26th by Dr Mike Taylor, Department of Earth Sciences,

Bristol University, warning of the implications of the Research Works Act (RWA), which was introduced to the US Congress on December 16th 2011. The RWA "would prohibit the NIH's public access policy and anything similar enacted by other federal agencies, locking publicly funded research behind paywalls" (the NIH being the USA's main funding agency for health-related research, with a \$30bn annual budget). Dr Taylor cites the success of open-access publisher PLoS and calls for statements of protest against the RWA, calling it "an ethical disaster", out of which only big publishers like Elsevier would gain. Coming hot on the heels of the SOPA/PIPA protests, the unwieldy Digital Economy Act in the UK and disputes over the ownership of scanned orphan works, the RWA dispute is neither the first nor will it be the last of the battles over intellectual property being fought online.