

# The Mechanical Curator Experiment

Nora McGregor, Curator  
Digital Research Team

 #bldigital

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/digital-scholarship>



The British Library is the national library of the UK.

We receive a copy of every publication produced in the UK and Ireland.



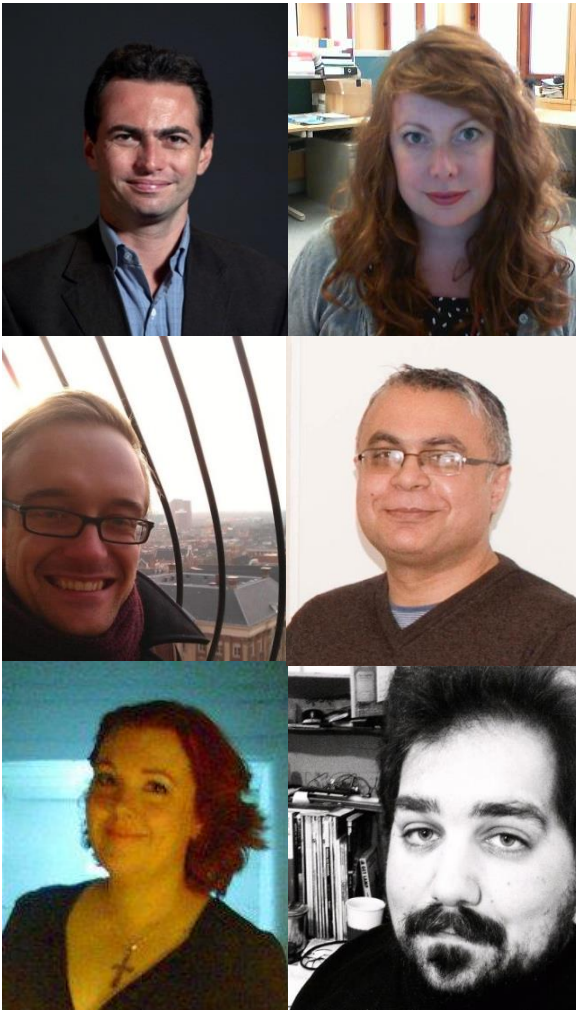


Well over 150 Million items are currently stored in London and in York.

If you saw 5 items a day it would take you 80,000 years to see the whole collection.

Digitisation is crucial for opening up access to this content and collections.

# Digital Research Team

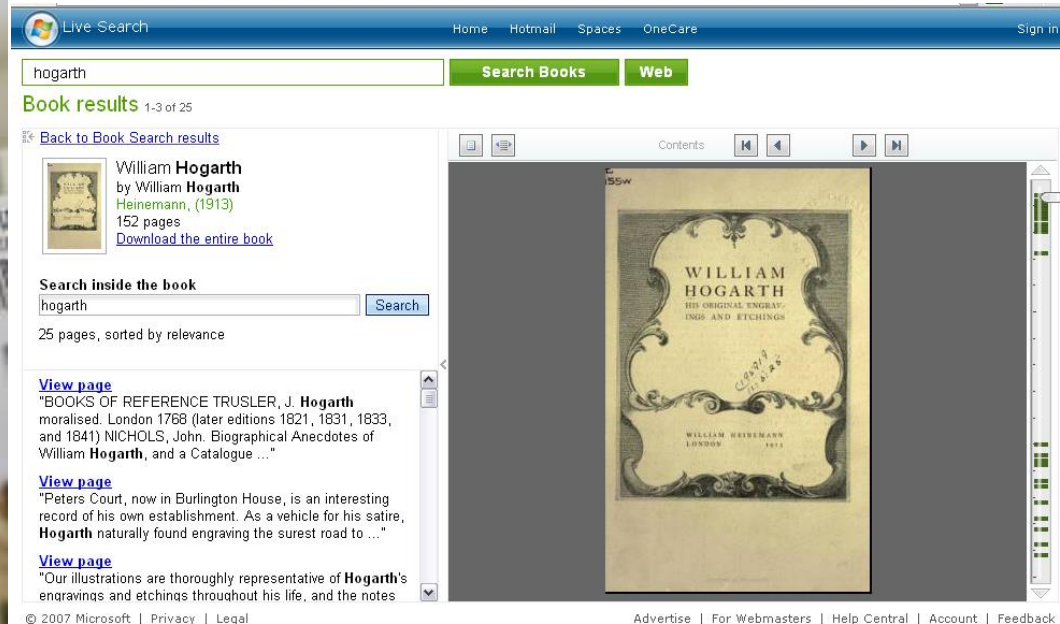


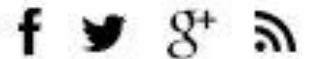
- The Library has spent the last two decades creating digital assets through digitisation and more recently mass digitisation.
- The Digital Research Team is a cross-disciplinary mix of curators, librarians and programmers supporting the innovative use of our digital collections.
- We experiment and explore new opportunities for making digital collections available and as useful as possible.



Microsoft Live Search  
early foray into mass  
digitisation for the Library.

Digitised 65,000 out of  
copyright books from the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century from 2006 until  
project abandoned in 2008.





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## Automated Program Culls Inexplicable Illustrations From Antique Books

Say hello to the British Library's Mechanical Curator.

By Francie Diep Posted 10.09.2013 at 2:30 pm



quarter, though Justice Goe and Miller were able to contribute one dollar, eighty-seven and one-half cents. For a hi-tory of the depreci-

"Tl  
Virgin



## The British Library

16  
SetsAugust 200  
Member Sir

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# *the* Appendix

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## The British Library Just Made One Million Images Public Domain, and It's a Big Deal

Posted by [Benjamin Breen](#) on December 15, 2013

The good people at the British Library have been killing it lately.

First, their Medieval Manuscripts blog brought us the phenomenon of [knights jousting with snails](#), which was deservedly picked up by [the Guardian](#), among

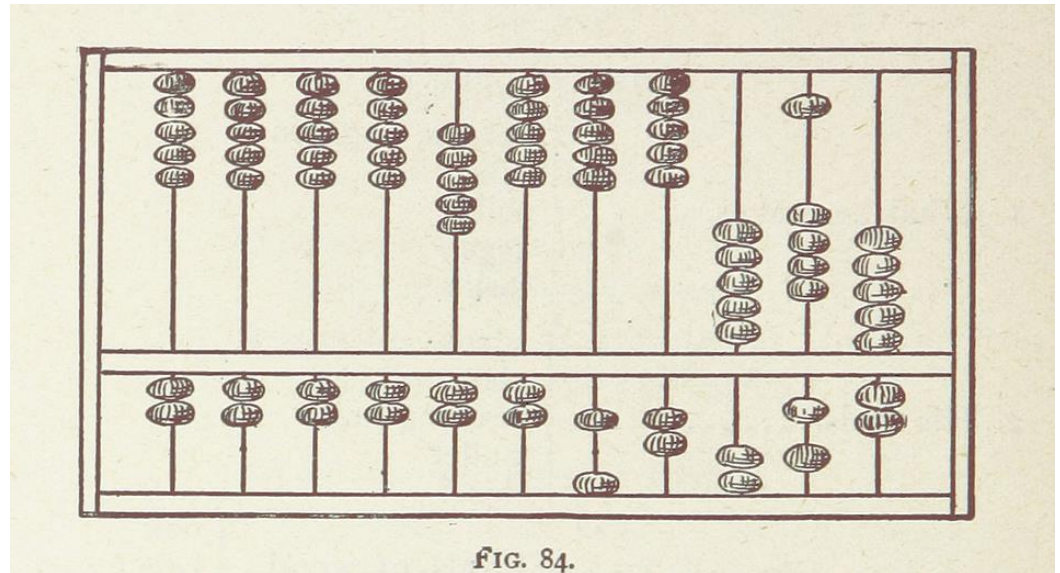
[Benjamin Breen](#) is the editor-in-chief of *The Appendix* and a PhD candidate in history at the University of Texas at Austin.



# In numbers

136 million image  
views since launch  
December 13th,  
82,000 unique tags  
added.

Top tagger a story of  
Machine (15K) vs. Man  
(30K)!



# Creative Uses





# Research and Technology



# Apps

**Google play** Search

**Apps**

My apps  
Shop  
Games  
Editors' Choice

**WorkMachine**  
Abhi Yerra - January 9, 2014  
Books & Reference

**Install** Add to Wishlist

⚠ You don't have any devices

★★★★★ (1)

g+ Recommend this on Google

**WorkMachine**

Put any caption that appears of the image here. Put one item per line if there are multiple.

Look at the image and fill out the appropriate facts. We want to be able to tag all the images correctly. Fill out any appropriate tag that you see. [View our further instructions and FAQ.](#)

Use this image to fill the information below.

WILLIAM HOWARD

YVES, EL

Submit

**WorkMachine**

Use this image to fill the information below.

If the image has people are they wearing traditional clothes?

Look at the image and fill out the appropriate facts. We want to be able to tag all the images correctly. Fill out any appropriate tag that you see. [View our further instructions and FAQ.](#)

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Yes

No

**WorkMachine**

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Yes

No

**WorkMachine**

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Look at the image and fill out the appropriate facts. We want to be able to tag all the images correctly. Fill out any appropriate tag that you see. [View our further instructions and FAQ.](#)

Yes

No

**Description**

Help the British Library tag images from 17th, 18th and 19th century books. These images contain maps, geological diagrams, beautiful illustrations, comical satire, illuminated and decorative letters, colorful illustrations, landscapes, wall-paintings and more. Look at a part of history and help in preserving it.

- For each image you can help by answering, e.g 'is it in the right orientation?' or 'is it a picture of a map?'
- Every input you make is stored and used to help preserve and categorize the collection for the future.

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/digital-scholarship/2013/12/a-million-first-steps.html>



# Instruction

**vimeo** [Join](#) [Log In](#) [Create](#) [Watch](#) [Upload](#)

**British Library image up-resing.**  
from **Christopher Stocker Design** 3 months ago / via QuickTime X NOT YET RATED

# Commerce





# Thank you

 #bldigital

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/digital-scholarship>