What is British Library Labs?

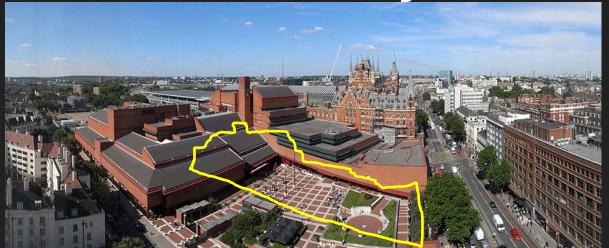
How have we engaged researchers, artists, entrepreneurs and educators in using our digital collections? What are the issues?

Ben O'Steen @benosteen

Technical Lead, British Library Labs



The British Library



St Pancras, London, UK Many books are stored 4 stories below the building Legal Deposit Library – Reference only





Stockton-on-Tees Author right to payment each time their books are borrowed from public libraries.



Inside the British Library Space for 1200 readers, around 400,000 visitors per year Document Supply and Storage at Boston Spa Uses low oxygen and robots Reading room and delivery to London

Roly Keating (Chief Executive Officer of the British Library)



Custodianship We build, curate and preserve the UK's national collection of published, written and digital content



Research We support and stimulate research of all kinds

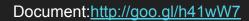


Business We help businesses to innovate and grow

To make our **intellectual heritage** accessible to **everyone**, for **research, inspiration** and **enjoyment** and be the most **open**, **creative** and **innovative** institution of its kind by 2023.



Culture We engage everyone with memorable cultural experiences





Learning We inspire young people and learners of all ages



International We work with partners around the world to advance knowledge and mutual understanding

Speech: https://goo.gl/Py9uHK

LIBRARY HSILIN

British Library Labs Experiment with our digital collections

http://labs.bl.uk

Make things more accessible!

Help people:

Deal with the sheer scale of it

Avoid learning unfamiliar formats and methodologies

Explore the feel of collections, their 'shape'

Navigate through the data in new meaningful ways

Discover old culture and make fun, new culture

Getting to the heart of it

British Library Labs works with researchers on their **specific** problems, trying to assess how **widely** this problem is felt.

With their help, we talk to communities of researchers and try to pinpoint what they **need** as opposed to what they think they **need to ask us**.

Collections – not just books!



King's Library

 $> 180^*$ million items

- $> 14^*$ mbooks
- $> 60^{*}$ m patents
- $> 8^*$ m stamps
- > **4*** m maps
- $>3^*$ m sound recordings
- > 1.6* m musical scores
- $> 0.3^*$ m manuscripts
- > 0.8* m serial titles

*Estimates

Researchers often ask for all the content we have.

What does that mean in practice?

Taking a peek at our Open Data A digitised book...

Explore the British Library

Explore Home	Feedback	Tags	Basket	Request Other Items	s My Reading Room Req	uests	He
Main cata	logue Our	website	Explore F	urther			
002819694	1			E	verything in this catalogue	•	Q

Back to results list

Metallurgy. The art of extracting metals from their ores, and adapting them to various purposes of manufacture, etc.

John PERCY, M.D. London, 1861-80.

Details I want this Notes & Tags

Title: Metallurgy. The art of extracting metals from their ores, and adapting them to various purposes of manufacture, etc.

Author: John PERCY, M.D.

Publication Details: London, 1861-80.

Identifier: System number 002819694

Notes: Vol. 4 did not appear.

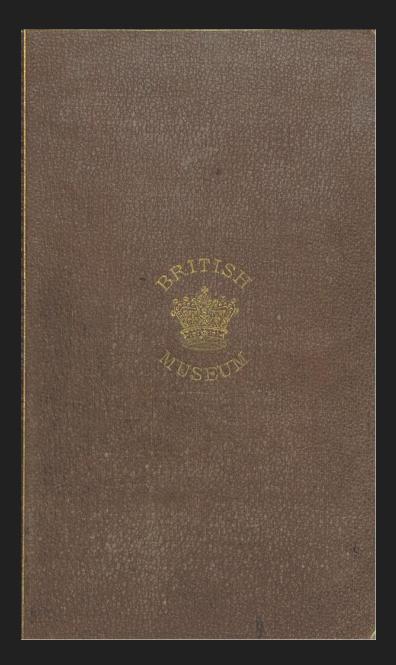
Physical Description: Vol. 1-3, 5.; 8º.

Holdings Notes: General Reference Collection 1600/863. [Another copy of vol. 3.] Metallurgy, etc. 1870.

Shelfmark(s): General Reference Collection 07107.h.35. General Reference Collection 1600/863.

UIN: BLL01002819694

002819694



Li

07107 h 35-2022.0

METALLURGY OF LEAD,

THE

INCLUDING

DESILVERIZATION AND CUPELLATION,

R Br JOHN PERCY, M.D., F.R.S.,

LECTURER ON METALLURGY AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES, AND TO THE ADVANCED CLASS OF ARTILLERY OFFICERS AT THE ROYAL ARTILLERY INSTITUTION, WOOLWICH.

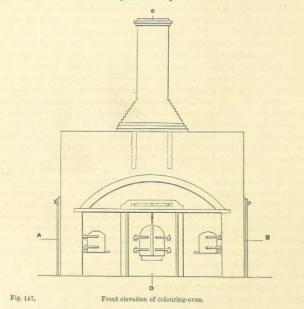
ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS ORIGINAL AND OTHER WOODCUTS TO ACCURATE SCALE.

LONDON: JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1870.

The right of Translation is reserved.

and the adjacent sides of the oven respectively constitute two fireplaces, without any grate. The length of the bed from back to front in the clear is 11', and the width between the bridges, where they are parallel, is 8' 4". Immediately underneath the middle door is a space, of which the sides are formed of two vertical plates of castiron, the back by the lower part of a large cast-iron plate supporting the front of the oven and containing the central doorway, and the bottom by the floor here covered with a plate of cast-iron, the front and top being left open. This space receives the oxidized lead as it is drawn out at the end of the first or drossing stage. In front of the oven above is an arched space or hood of brickwork, prolonged upwards into a short vertical chimney; and the products of the combustion of the



fuel or other vaporous matters, which may escape from the oven, ascend through this hood. In front of the central door a chain is suspended having a hook at the bottom, which serves as a fulcrum for the rabble. The oven is firmly braced by means of cast-iron standards and wroughtiron tie-rods, as shown in the woodcuts. The fuel in such an oven is always coal in lumps of considerable size; but in many ovens the fireplaces are provided with grates and ashpits extending backwards for about one-third of the length of the oven, and in that case coal in small pieces or even slack may be employed. The oven, it will be observed, resembles a baker's oven, and has no inlet or outlet except in front. Fire-brick should be used as the internal lining, as well as for the bottom. The top of the oven is covered with a layer of badly conducting material, such as sand.

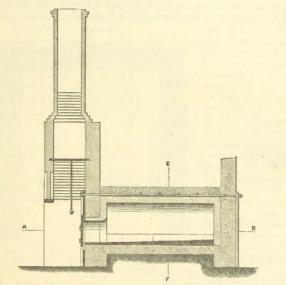


Fig. 148. Vertical longitudinal section of colouring-oven on the line C D, fig. 150,

Colouring-oven.—The construction of this oven is shown in the woodcuts 147, 150 inclusive. The bottom is flat, and slopes down 4 inches from back to front. There is no cast-iron bed-plate. In other respects it resembles the drossing oven, except in a few particulars which will be perceived in the woodcuts.

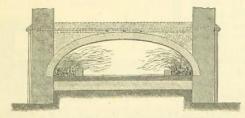
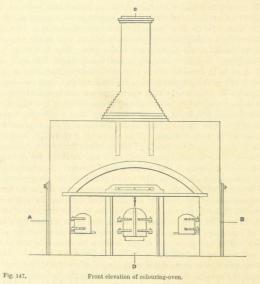


Fig. 149. Vertical cross-section of colouring-oven on the line E F, fig. 150.

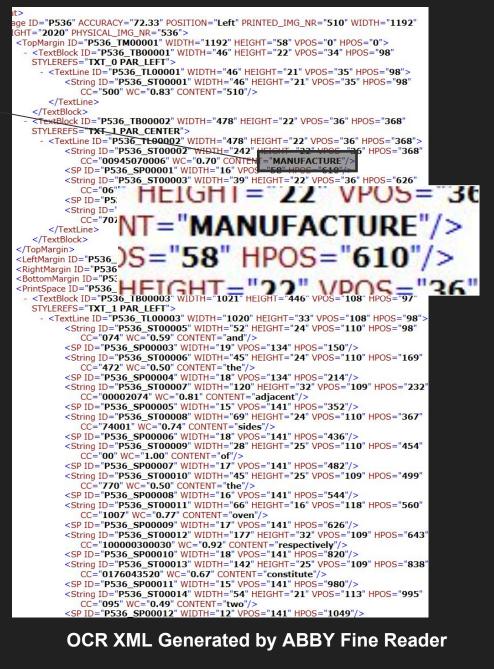
A modification in the form of red-lead ovens, which is adopted in several red-lead works, is shown in figs. 151, 152. This oven, it will be observed, is provided with fire-grates. 510

MANUFACTURE OF RED-LEAD.

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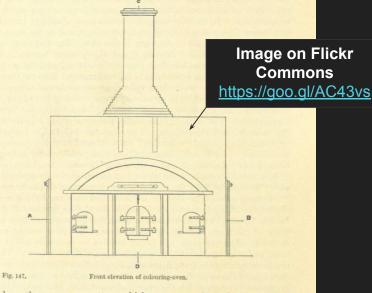


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Scanned Page

Optically Character Recognised (OCR)

510 MANUFACTURE OF RED-LEAD.

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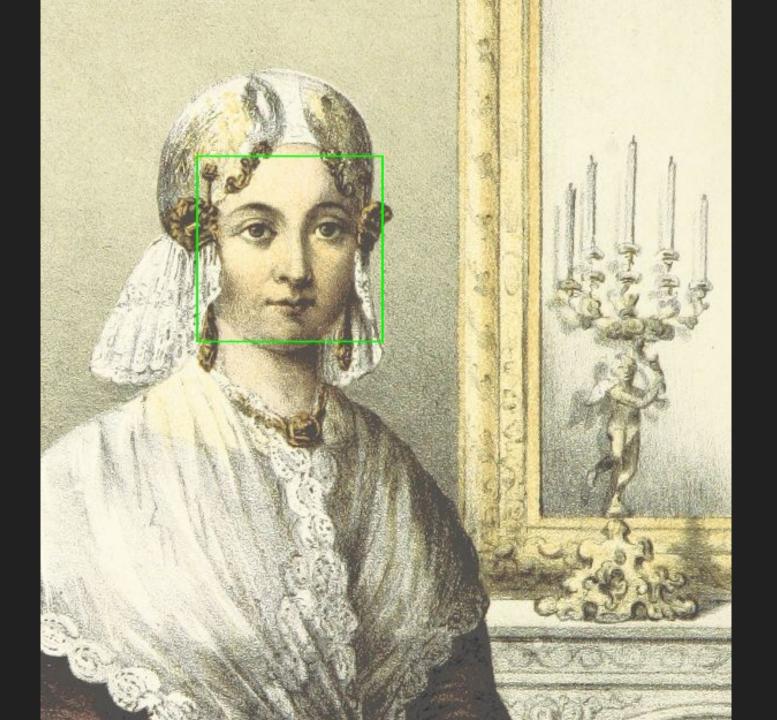
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Fig.H' Frontelevationol colouring-oven.

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510



The Mechanical Curator

Randomly selected small illustrations and ornamentations, posted on the hour.

Rediscovered artwork from the pages of 17th, 18th and 19th Century books.

@MechCuratorBot - British Library Digital Scholarship Blog

Archive About Links



Image from '[As in a Looking Glass. [A novel.]]', 002901097

- Author: Philips, F. C. (Francis Charles)
- Page: 286
- Year: 1889
- Place: London
- · Publisher: Ward & Downey

View all the images from this book

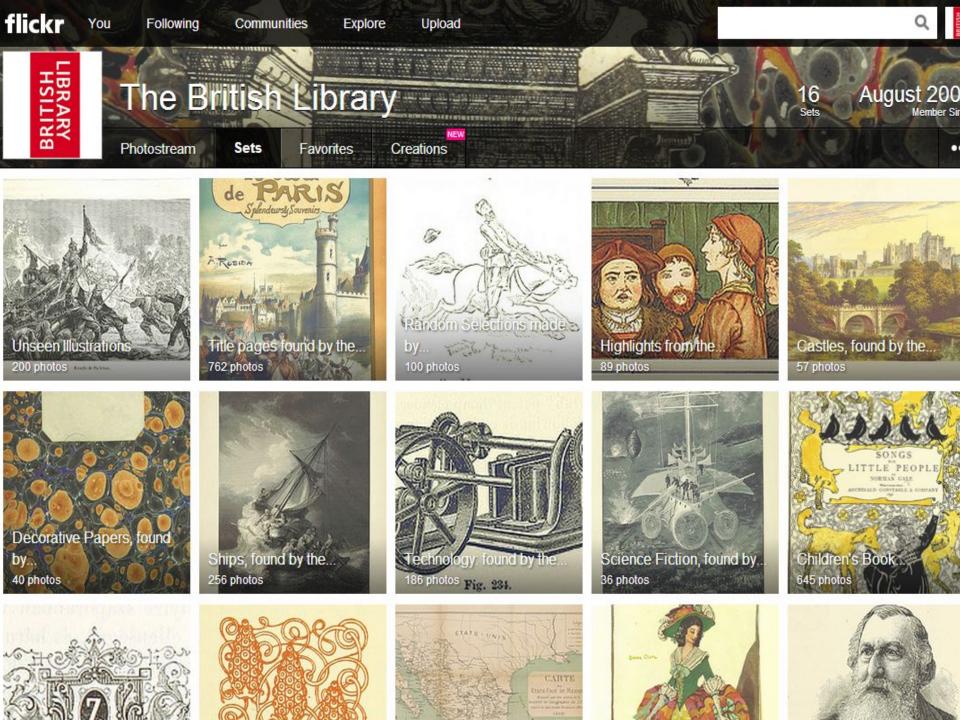
Following the link above will take you to the British Library's integrated catalogue. You will be able to download a PDF of the book this image is taken from, as well as view the pages up close with the 'itemViewer'. Click on the 'related items' to search for the electronic version of this work.





NOTLEY, Frances Eliza Millett.... tmblr.co/ZUxJLq183kyP6

Expand



Tagathon found nearly 30,000 maps!

Digita	I maps Halloween tagathon, October 2014					
	A digital maps Halloween tagathon, at the British Library					
The Bri	sh Library and Wikimedia UK invite you to a day-long Digital maps Halloween tagathon event on Friday 31 October. The event will kick off a weekend-long online campaign we hope to conclude by Monday 3 November.					
	s to use an an online index we have created to systematically go through the one million public-domain images the British Library has uploaded to Flickr @ and add the Flickr tag map to every image that represents a map or a plan. This means we will be able to run them through the British Library's crowd-sourced georeferencer project @, and upload the identified and geolocated maps to Wikimedia Commons.					
	3,000 maps have already been found and georeferenced, including the map on the right of Cerro de Pasco in Peru from a 1868 book. But an estimated 10,000 more maps in Flickr are still undiscovered. Starting at the Library on Friday, and continuing online over the weekend, we want to find and tag them all.					
	ided through the day will be short talks about various digital mapping activities, a special tour of the BL's maps area, and free Halloween entry to the Library's atmospheric current major exhibition, Terror and Wonder: The Gothic on @ (normally £9). The adventurous may also wish to stay on for the Library's special gothic Halloween night event, The Sorting @ (19:30–22:30; Cost: £15; separate registration).					
	Friday 31 October 2014, 10:00am-4.30pm (Maps area tour 09:30; continued tagging or exhibition visit possible until 6pm)					
	e: Foyle Suite, Centre of Conservation, British Library. (plan). :ipants: All welcome! Space is limited to about 30 people, so please do let us know					
	stration: Please sign up via Eventbrite @.					
	rogramme: here					
	acts: Any questions? Please contact Jheald nformation: commons:Commons:British Library/Mechanical Curator collection/map tag campaign					

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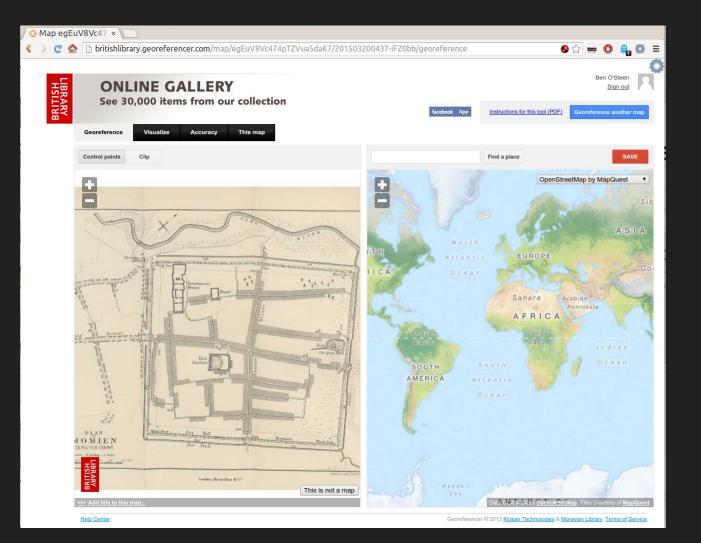
Registered Company No. 6741827. Registered Charity No.1144513. Registered Office: 4th Floor, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT

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V



Georeferencing - http://bl.uk/maps



BLdigital

British Library Digital Scholarship

Learn more about us at www.bl.uk/digital

digitalresearch@bl.uk

CROWDSDUBGE ARCADE

Hey There Young Sailor (Official Video) - The Impatient Sisters



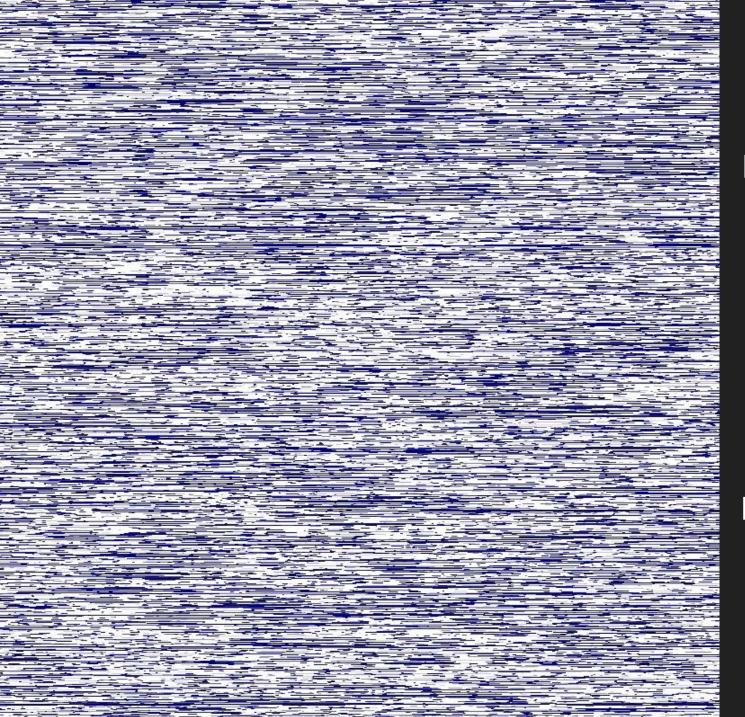
Off the Map competition!





Let's talk about those easy but hard questions...

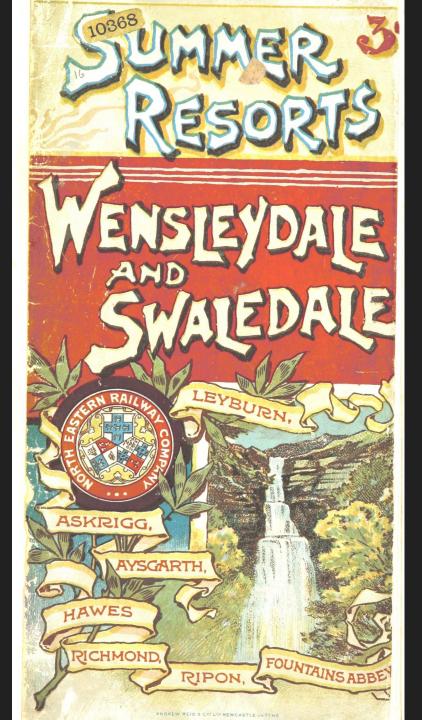
John Cooper, https://www.flickr.com/photos/atomicshed/2436324958 CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0



Metadata for all 19th Century books 1 pixel 1 character in the bibliographic metadata

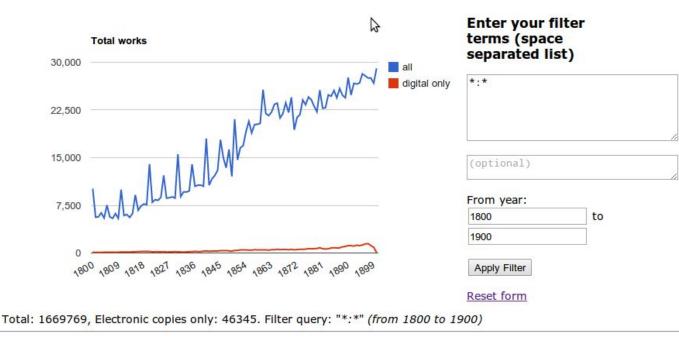
records

"I am interested in travel accounts in Europe during the 19th Century"



2013 Competition winners http://labs.bl.uk/ldeas+for+Labs

Pieter Francois



The Sample Generator

Generate a sample from this filter

Filter: "*:*"

From 1800 to 1900

Include only records with electronic copies: If

Sample Size: 10%
Type of sample: Draw sample at random from all of the hits

Generate Sample

The tool was made to give a statistically valid sample.

Due to the paltry amount digitised, it showed how **skewed** the digital corpus is, compared to the overall holdings.

Allen B. Riddell in "Where are the novels?"* estimates that using HathiTrust's corpus:

"... about **58**%—somewhere between 47% and 68%—of the 2,903 novels [all publications in English between 1800 and 1836] have publicly accessible scans."

Digitisation 🏷

http://goo.gl/bR9l

items 200

digital only

Bias in digitisation

#bldigital ~ 3 %* digitised

Often through Partnerships with Commercial & Other Organisations

* estimate

Open Licensed Digital Content?

15%* Openly Licensed 85%* Available onsite

Working through

Breakdown by collection*

Manuscripts 59% Books 9% Maps and Views 7% Newspapers 3% Archives and Records 3% Paintings, Prints and Drawings 2%

*Based on digitisation projects

15% Openly Licensed Around 10%* available online

Largest proportion of funding Public / Private Partnership

*Estimates

Typical pattern of research for Labs

- Finding "invisible things in 'messy historical data"
- Unearthing / unlocking hidden histories and data to stimulate new research
- •Celebrating histories / data creatively through events, art and performance

People have a Hierarchy of Needs

Most of these depend on their predecessors:

- **Navigating**: I would like to find a thing, see a thing.
- Exploring: What sort of things do you have? What's missing?
- Filtering (common): I want all of your blue/19thC/London things.
- Reusing: I want to create new data using this as my base.
- Labelling: Add more metadata about a thing
- **Combining**: Link to other relevant data; build corpora
- Training: Correlations

Finding things in messy OCR text Informati

Managing it effects

er-Abundant

ht

ference between a immble of data



Trends · change

Katrina Navickas (2015) Political Meetings Mapper

NO. 2007-

London Chartist venues on Booth's map

Shepherdess Walk

Artist Steeting

"I was able to do in minutes with a python code what I'd spent the last ten years trying to do by hand!"

 Dr. Katrina Navickas, BL Labs Winner 2015 LEEDS GENERAL ADVERTISER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER

Queen's Head

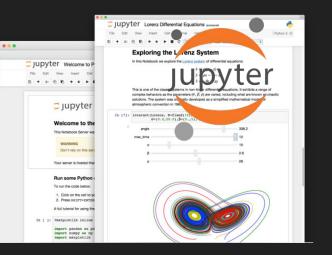
Colden Arms, Colden-place, Old Bethnal-green-roa

Chartists Walking Tour and Re-enactment London

Virtual Infrastructure for OCR text

.e-Mrs. Talbot: ".1I see by the paper, May, thatal ;r r.Folly is still dangerously ill, but insist~s no my upon having two wings added to her house before' Fr she dies." let ard May Talbov: "Good idea, ma, judging from, hal ilug all reports, they are the only pair sile will ever pu uns, have."

OCR text scraped from digitised newspapers and in cloud

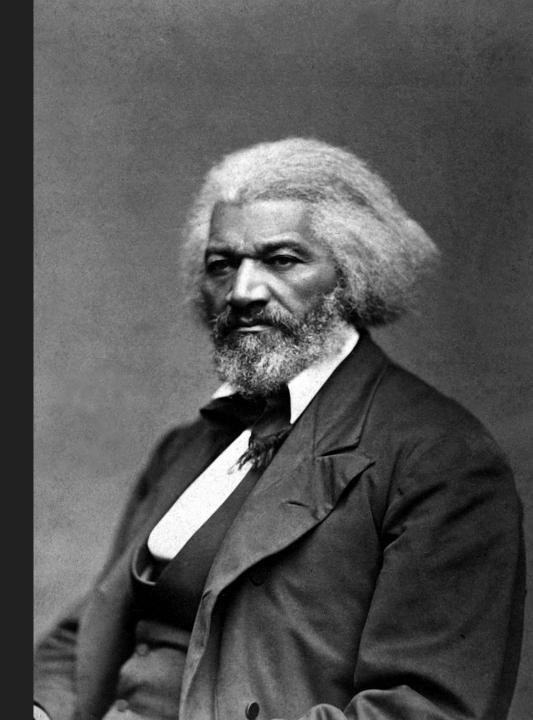


Jupyter notebook Write python code and results in browser <u>http://jupyter.org</u>

Access available for researchers 'in residence'

Black Abolitionists In the UK

Researcher: Hannah Rose Murray



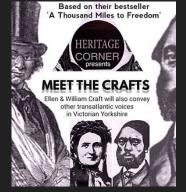
Black Abolitionist Performances & their Presence in Britain (2016) – Hannah-Rose Murray





Frederick Douglass Josiah

Josiah Henson lda B Wells



http://frederickdouglassinbritain.com/

Ellen

Craft

- HL. nister to the United. States with the largest. jail ever des- patched. The -total mujber, of letters, and enespapers is about 10, about containedinish bays, and 31 on boxes. 1.- iuv80001. Tuesday. The scree steam ship Sarah Sands; capitain Thompson, a salledtetay for New York with 178 pass senger, a full cargo, and £20,000 in specie. The manner in which this moble shin steamed out-of the Mer eyexcited ge noral admiration. We understand that some ministly offl-care accompanie here for a short distance for the payoes of in specting her machinery. :FREE ERIK. BOUGLASS, THME EMMAKIPATED SLAVE, AND THE "CUMARD'S Li" COMPANY.-On the 4th tit, Mr Frederick D publass, whose natural cloquence, modest bear-ingh high character, and mainble 'disposition' have I your about the time of the and the sense in the sense of the payoes of the sense of the sense of the payoes and the sense interval to boot the sense of the payoes of the sense of the s

Frederick Douglass, The Emancipated Slave'

ed on, the 12th, Auroliti foiAl''e Head-21d5-Spitember-'Cape; of Good Hope 4: ovenihr; and' for "Phynoth'Ilbrh January. She 'ui tsoffhis-ort on Friday week, 'Adh nt, but fionch-- queen of - its mont cheed' advisable to m ate teng'take. 'h hrbou Catandhow eall thiserfore hore 'cu w or he Mow Frih, util t e rigiof the, spring lifes, 'c and, n-arroign Friay, t s foud she handhun. a TU GOM AV Sax. 'He Have Hong', uit muchv pleasaure, that the three fugitive slawes.William "Hells Brown, Hin. 'Grafs, and-hil's Handhun. a TU odg AV av Sax.', where Hang', uit muchv pleasaure, that the three fugitive slawes.William "Hells Brown, Hin. 'Grafs, and-hil's Wife, who, with their panaonaic illustifications" off Amiericaslawer/havekeen so favourably notice-d by this pers inthe outands wet05 footh are toobh hor niext. cipil M'icideutsoff his life 3.as a slawe, dest-ling the circum- stances of hipreinsete effrt toet'cape! 'om slaw'ery, and' of 1 his ultimate success in, re-achinfg Canidad.' Of "this very in terestingnit'eukl howsdand of 'copies 'hive been sold in Ammesicade this country, why which means, are well ashibis words-i 16 ape arannes, "helhas become'.well known in beth c

Aberdeen Journal, 5 February 1851 "Fugitive Slaves"

Joe Williams & Martelle Edinborough



AMERICAN SLAVERY.

On Tuesday next, February 23rd, TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS

Will be held, when Addresses will be delivered by MR. FREDERICK DOUGLASS

(A FUGITIVE SLAVE.)

AND

GEORGE THOMPSON, Esq., of London.

The MORNING MEETING at the MUSIC HALL, BATH STREET, st 2 o'Clock, when the Rev. DR. MARSH is expected to preside.

The EVENING MEETING at SPENCER-ST. CHAPEL, at 7 o'Clock; T. H. THORNE, Esq., in the Chair.

Data-mining verse in 18th Century newspapers **BL Labs Project 16-17, Jennifer Batt**

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

ndance is given i of the faid Goods.

To be percomptorily . a Decree of the High-C Inofinate to a Decret of the High-rower y Constraints, before William Spicer, Eff. (y, one of the Maffers of the faid Court, at bit Charlows in Clifford's-bun, on sandong the 1/d Ighan, Sevenan in Henore of Ton-mal Twitte o' Clock in the Powenan, THE Freehold Hance of the Inte Sir Francia Bridgman, decardy, lying in Tasklington in the energy of Mcdifert.



The following Poems in English and Latin, are faid to be written by the Rev. Dr. Swift, D. S.P. D. which are twocured from fome of his Friends.

On his own DEAFNESS. TErtiginofus, imops, furdus, male gratus amicis; V Non campana fonans, tonitru non ab fove milfum; Quod mage mirandum, faltem fi credere fas eft, Vix clamofa meas mulier jam percutit Aures.

In English. DEAF, giddy, helplefs, left alone, To all my Friends a Burthen grown: No more I hear my Church's Bell Than if it rang out for my Knell: At Thunder now no more I flart, Than at the Rumbling of a Cart : Nay, what's incredible, alack! I hardly hear a Woman's Clack.

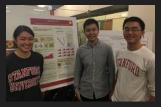
https://goo.gl/5Akthd

Slides courtesy Jennifer Batt

Jennifer Batt @ the BL on World Poetry Day

British Library Digital Scholar

SherlockNet: Competition Winner 2016 Karen Wang, Luda Zhao and Brian Do



bit.ly/sherlocknet

>20 million tags added >100,000 captions



12 categories

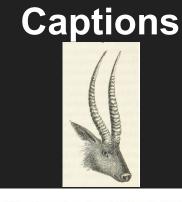


imagesfrombook002099152 imagesfromvolume00209915201 sherlocknet:tag=bird sherlocknet:tagefeather sherlocknet:tag=tall sherlocknet:tag=plate sherlocknet:tag=birown sherlocknet:tag=outer sherlocknet:tag=length sherlocknet:tag=kind sherlocknet:tag=black sherlocknet:tag=country sherlocknet:tag=band sherlocknet:tag=number sherlocknet:tag=lin sherlocknet:tag=fine sherlocknet:category=organism

Pooled surrounding OCR text on page from similar images



"a man standing in a field with a cow" (SherlockNet Caption (beta)



"a close up of a bird on a tree branch" (SherlockNet Caption (beta)

Used Microsoft COCO (photographs) & British Museum Prints and Drawings collections as training sets.

Using Convolutional Neural Networks to Automatically Tag and Caption the British Library Flickr Commons 1 million Image Collection

A pattern has formed:



This is not a surprise.

It is important to be explicit about this pattern, as there has been an false assumption (on data provider's part) that data-based work must start at the **Investigation** phase.

In other words, the conversation started with: *"tell us specifically what you want to do and will discover and we'll let you try."*

Rough timescales and themes

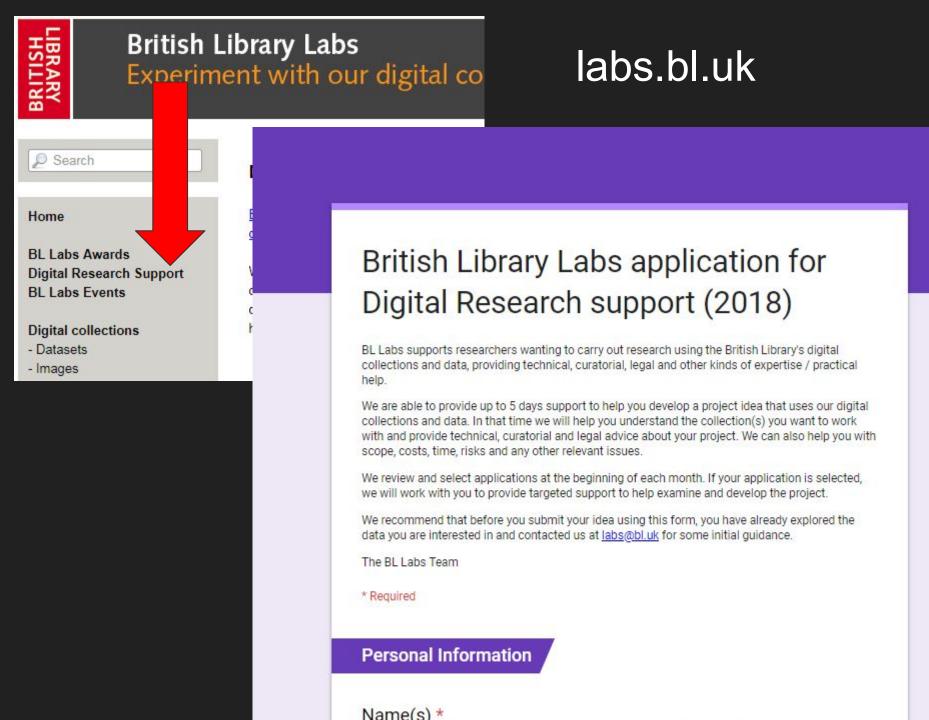
Phase name	Typical Duration	Characteristics
Initial	Hours to a few weeks	Conversation and initial scoping and feasibility
Exploration	2 weeks set period	Commodity environment, broad exploration
Transition (Investigation)	Months (funding bid schedule dependent)	Funding, milestones, scoping, capability
Investigation	Months to year (2 wk milestones recommended)	Specialised environment, narrower data focus
Completion	2 months set period	Save or delete; Publish, "archive" or perish

Exploration:

Exploration phase allows a researcher to:

- understand the data in an open-ended fashion,
- **discover** potential tools to work with the data,
- gain awareness of their capabilities and limitations,
- develop a firmer research query and gauge the costs and time needed and the risks it entails.

Outputs of the exploration are not intended to be shareable, beyond personal experience and key features (data size, formats, tool successes, etc).



Artistic / Creative Works

Mario Klingeman (2015)



http://goo.gl/dM8ie

<u>A</u>



44 Men who Look 44 (Notice the direction faces)



A Hat on the Ground Spells trouble



Tragic Looking Women

Jiayi Chong 2016



Kris Hoffman (2016)









Paul Rand Pierce 2016 https://www.facebook.com/RealmlandStory/

Ling Low 2016

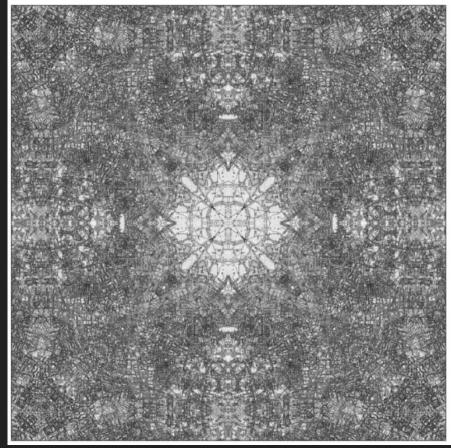


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcOP1E5bRE0

Ι

Imaginary Cities – BL Labs Project 16-17 Michael Takeo Magruder





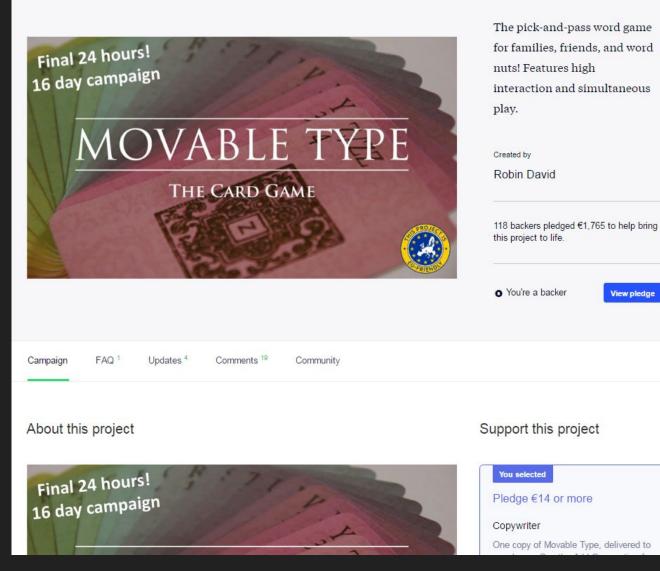
https://goo.gl/4ARwTy



An artistic exploration seeking to create provocative fictional cityscapes for the Information Age from the British Library's digital collection of historic urban maps

KICKSTARTER

Movable Type: The Card Game



GRAPHIC DESIGN & ARTWORK

Movable Type is illustrated with some amazing examples of 18th and 19th century typography some of them are woodcuts, and some are what you would find in metal movable type sets. All of them look brilliant!



David Normal http://www.davidnormal.com/

ross_roads_of_curiosity_david_normal-final

British Library Labs Experiment with our digital collections

http://labs.bl.uk





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The next day we camped in the grounds of Palaballa, belonging to the Livingstone Island Mission, and were must horpitality reacted by He-



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"Crossroads of Curiosity"

(20th June -> November, 2015)



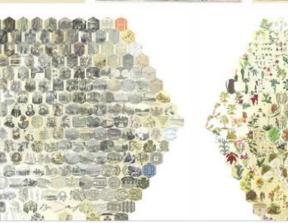
CROSSROADS OF CURIOSITY

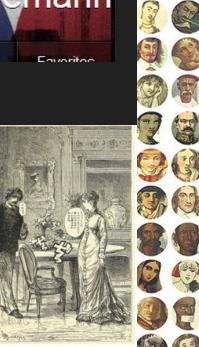




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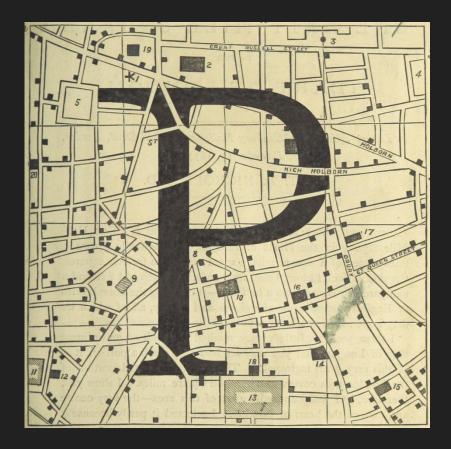








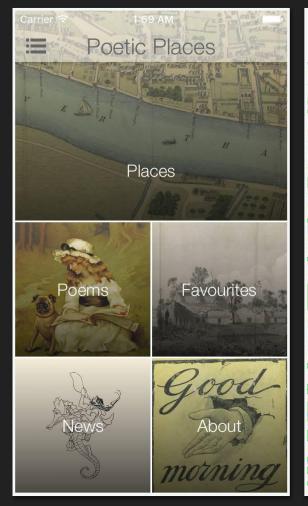


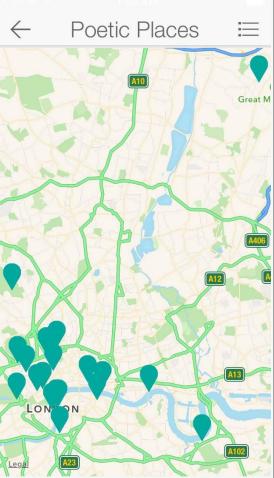


Sarah Cole, Poetic Places Creative-Entrepreneur-In-Residence <u>http://www.poeticplaces.uk/</u>

What is Poetic Places?

- A free, native app for Android and iOS devices.
- Bring poetic depictions of places into the physical world, helping people to encounter literature and heritage in relevant locations, accompanied by materials drawn from cultural heritage collections.
- Brings literature and heritage into everyday life in unexpected moments. Serendipitous discovery; not tours.
- Browse the poems and places without being in situ.







In the British Museum

Thomas Hardy

"What do you see in that time-touched stone, When nothing is there But ashen blankness, although you give it A rigid stare? "You look not quite as if you saw, But as if you heard, Parting your lips, and treading softly

As mouse or brd

Summary

- Services that allow for useful exploration are sadly rare.
- The services that are used shape people's expectation of the data. A "Search" service is built from many compromises and configuration choices, often hidden.
- Exploring data is difficult to do on large datasets and often requires specific skills and capabilities.
- The British Library is looking for the best way to support the normal pattern of data-led research, and how to grow it.

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Links:

<u>labs@bl.uk</u> \leftarrow for all Labs-related contact.

http://labs.bl.uk

http://mechanicalcurator.tumblr.com

https://flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary

https://github.com/bl-labs

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