

Dr. Mia Ridge @mia_out digitalresearch@bl.uk SWIB, Bonn, November 2018

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:State_Library_of_Victoria_-_right_side.jpg by Diliff



Libraries and
their
communities:
from town halls
to mobile phones

Outline

- Crowdsourcing: public engagement and productivity built on networked digital platforms
- Evolution or revolution? Let's look to the past
- Challenges for libraries in the age of digitality



"Hi, my name is Dora, and I'm a junior curator. It's my first day and I've made a big mistake - I accidentally deleted all the information we were going to add to our collections online. I need to re-label them, and quickly..."

Can you help? Add words about the thing in the picture that would help someone find it on Google - how it looks, what does, who might have used it - anything you can think of."

The 'about me' slide

Scale model (1:10) of Sv

Object from: Science Museum.

Date: c. 2000 Place: University of Leicester

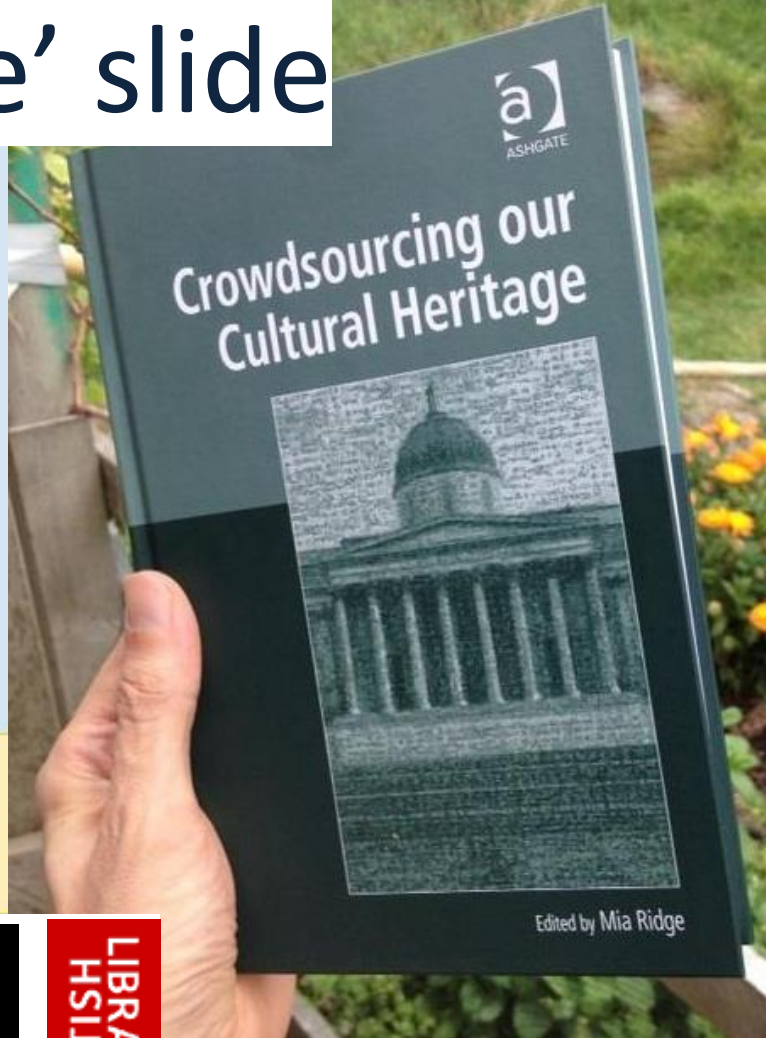


Add words ('tags') to describe this object

Tags

Tip: separate each tag with a comma, like this: tag, label, a phrase, name, names.

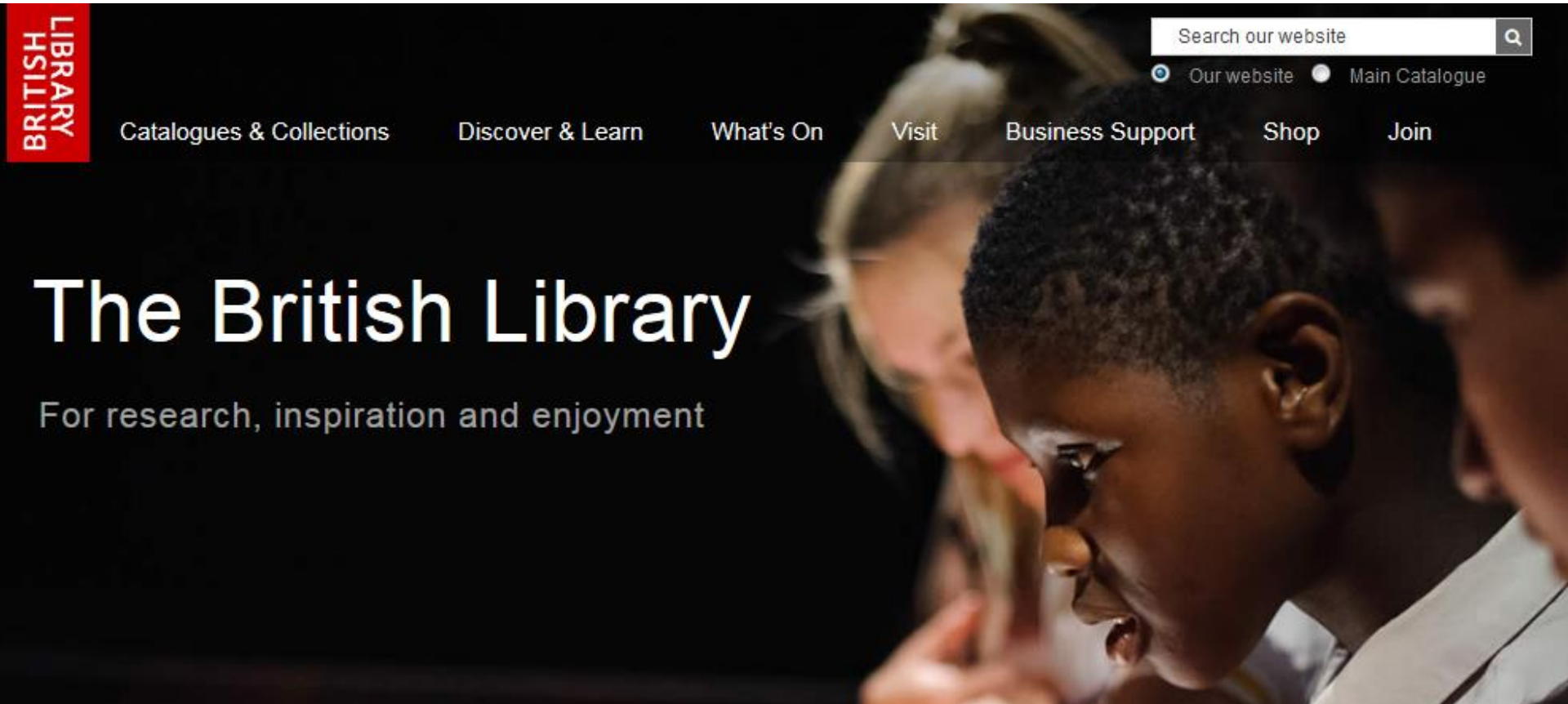
Tag!



Digital curatorship: from pages to datasets



The British Library's mission



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The British Library

For research, inspiration and enjoyment

Crowdsourcing our cultural heritage

Crowdsourcing our cultural heritage

- Defining crowdsourcing
- Why is it needed?
- What does 'success' look like?
- Case study: *In the Spotlight*

Crowdsourcing in cultural heritage



Asking the public to help with tasks that contribute to a **shared, significant goal** or **research interest** related to cultural heritage collections or knowledge.

The activities and/or goals should be **inherently rewarding**.

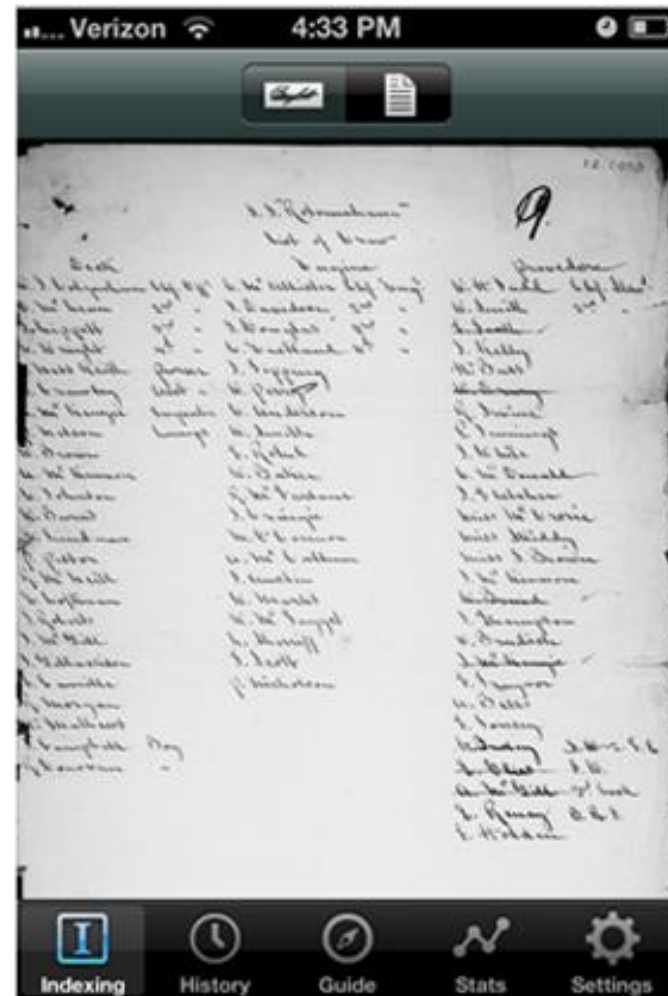
Heritage crowdsourcing as volunteering



...but convenient



...often 'microtasks' like transcribing or
categorising



Why crowdsourcing in GLAMs?

Deal with the giant backlog



Fix the 'semantic gap', enhance discoverability



Cherubim, putti, angels, or babies with wings?

Access external specialist expertise



Create meaningful experiences with collections



Provide opportunities for learning



Defining success: productivity

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Trove

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[Newspapers:](#) / [Browse](#) / [The Northern Miner \(Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954\)](#) / [Thu 30 Sep 1954](#) / [Page 2](#) / [UNITY IN GERMANY](#)

[Why are there text errors?](#)

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GERMANY I
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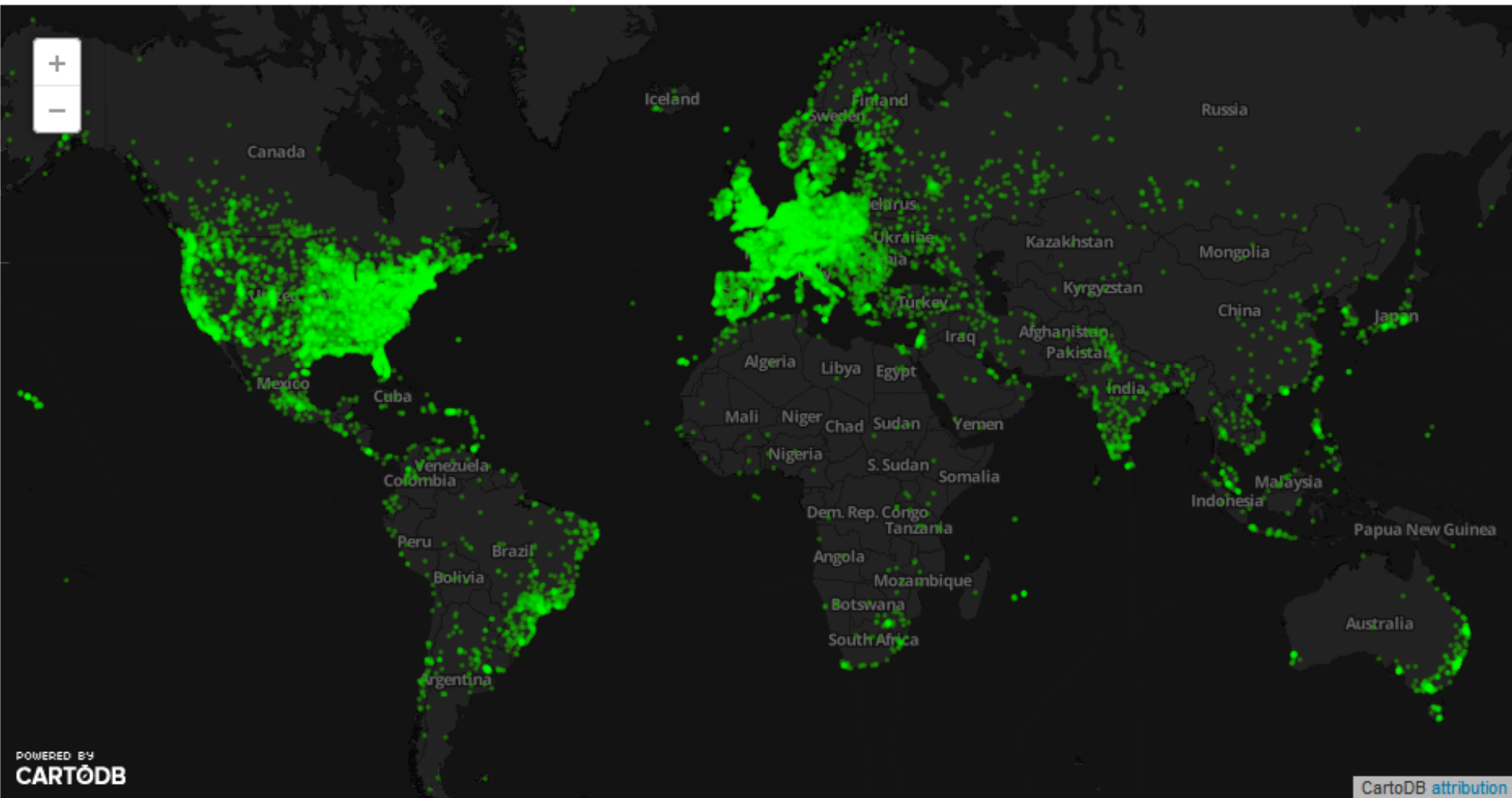
UNITY IN GERMANY


BONN, Wednesday
Reuter's correspondent
says detailed foreign political
discussions by members of
the German Federal Cabinet
showed complete unity re-
garding Dr Adenauer's atti-
tude towards pending Euro-
pean and German problems.
Basically the government's
attitude is that the idea of
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should be done which would

New Lines

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Defining success: reach



Map created by  [simpson](#)

<http://community.zooniverse.org/>

Defining success: engagement



University of Birmingham Herbarium
BIRM 001641

Adiantum capillus-veneris L.
Determinavit J.W. Cosson Feb. 1957

In Cornwall this is "becoming very rare" (Davy's Flora, p. 532) 1909

Adiantum Capillus-Veneris L.
Rocks at Blackhead,
Co. Clare. June 23 1891
Legit H.C. Levinge

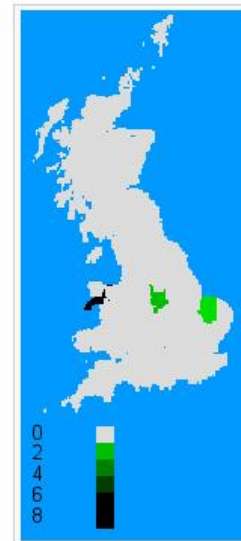
Harry Corbyn Levinge

Mr Harry Corbyn Levinge (1831-11/1896) of Knock Drin Castle, Mullingar, J.P., D.L. Spent many years in the Indian Civil Service [Bengal], where he collected ferns; particularly in Sikkim and Kashmir. Unfortunately much of his collection was destroyed in a fire. On his return, he interested himself in the Irish flora and contributed a number of important papers on this topic to the Irish Naturalist and the J of Botany (1892). Published "The plants of Westmeath" in 1894. The fern *Adiantum levinge* was dedicated to him by J G Baker. His herbarium is now housed in the National Museum in Dublin.

WESTMEATH PLANTS.

BY E. F. AND W. R. LINTON.

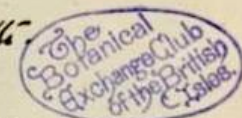
THE plants here enumerated are most of them records for District VII. of the *Cybele Hibernica* (these have an asterisk prefixed), and were observed by us while enjoying the hospitality of Mr. H. C. Levinge at Knock Drin Castle last July. Some of them were detected by the Rev. E. S. Marshall, our fellow-guest for part of the time, and some were pointed out to us by Mr. Levinge himself, whose investigations have done so much to throw light on the Flora of Westmeath. A rainy season had set in, and hindered work during part of our visit; but, thanks to the long preceding drought, many wet localities were unusually accessible, and all the loughs had sunk below their normal level.



1364

Ex herb. H.C. Levinge

Habenaria intacta, Beutl.



near Ballyvaughan - Co. Clare.

Legit H.C. Levinge May 18. 1892

Further info : see


A condition for success

Understand motivations and barriers

'What could I write that others would want to see?'


'Could someone else delete my tags?'

'What if I do the wrong thing?'

 **Crowdsourcing our Cultural Heritage / Mia Ridge.**
Mia Ridge, author.
Routledge, 2016.
Book


[Details](#) [I want this](#) **Notes & Tags**

Notes here allow you and other users to comment and make notes on items, viewable by the whole community.
NB: Please use the [Report Catalogue Error form](#) to advise us of catalogue inaccuracies.

 [Add a note](#)

Actions ▾

Tags allow you and others to define and search on related groups of items.

 [Add / remove tags](#)

- **All tags** [Cloud](#)

- **My tags** [Edit](#)

Why do people volunteer?

Altruistic motivations

- helping to provide an accurate record of local history

Intrinsic motivations

- reading 18thC handwriting is an enjoyable puzzle

Extrinsic motivations

- an academic transcribing a quote from a primary source

Case study: *In the Spotlight*

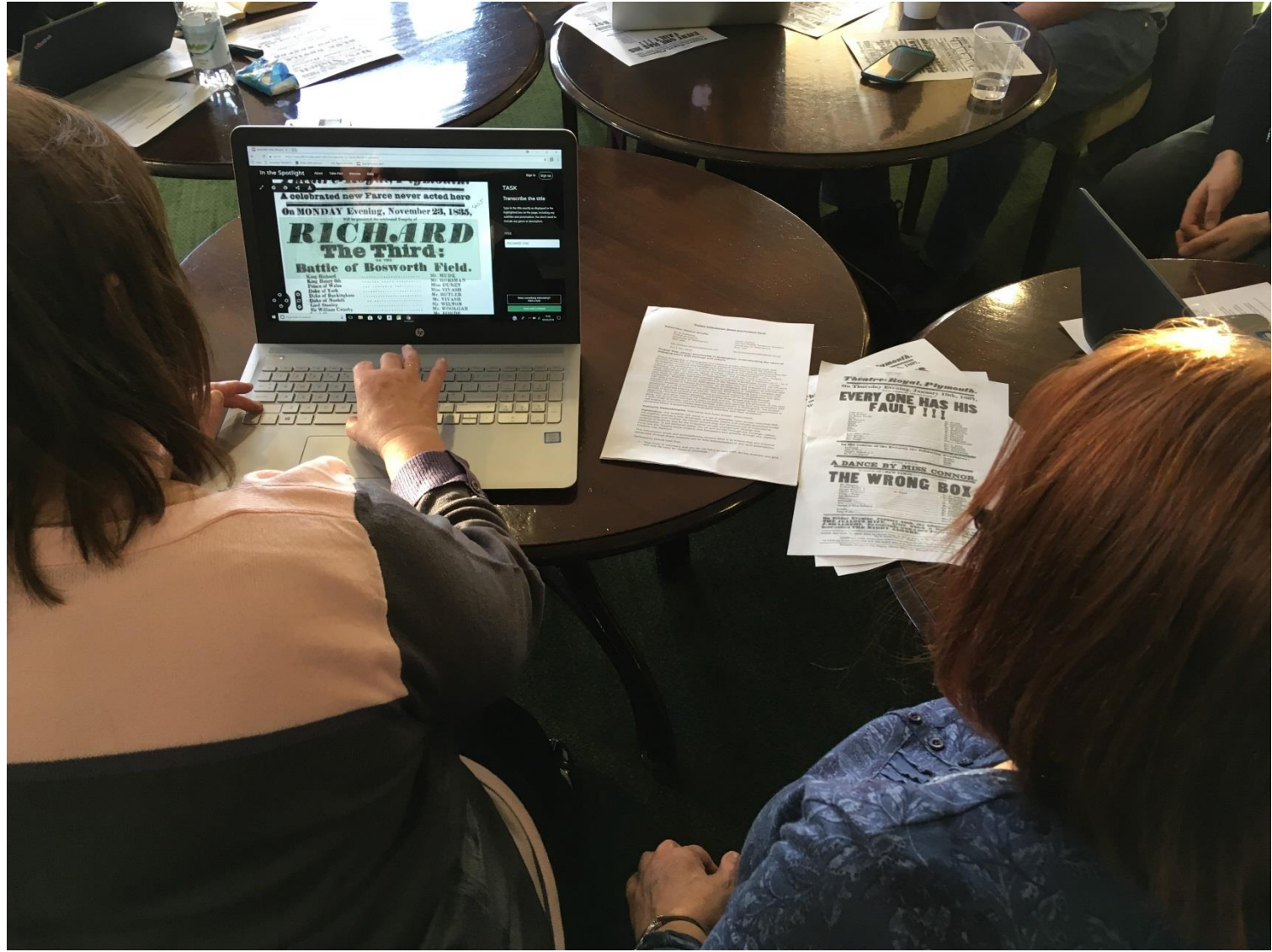
Designing for productivity and engagement

<http://playbills.libcrowds.com/>

@LibCrowds Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/btvBKT>

The screenshot displays the LibCrowds website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes a 'MENU' icon, 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT', and links for 'Home', 'About', 'Take Part', 'Data', 'Browse Tags', and 'Discuss'. The 'Data' and 'Discuss' links are circled in orange. Below the navigation bar, a playbill page is shown with a highlighted section of text: 'PART II. Force of Hercules, With GROUND and LOFTY TUMBLING, By Master GARBUT, the first Performer in this Kingdom.' Below this, another section is visible: 'PART III. THAUMATACTICS; OR, THE WONDERFUL CONJURER!'. On the left side of the playbill, a red circle highlights a set of navigation icons: a back arrow, a question mark, an information icon, a download icon, and a right-pointing arrow. On the right side, a blue circle highlights a 'Transcribe the title' form with a text input field. At the bottom right, two buttons are circled: 'Tag this sheet' (orange) and 'Seen something interesting? Add a note' (red). A green 'Save and Continue' button is located at the very bottom.

On not doing everything



Learning from comments

- At the head of page is the title of the main work performed - "The Haunted Tower." The boxed title is for the ballet "Don Juan" which follows "The Haunted Tower."
- "Merchant of Venice" followed by "Lovers' Quarrels."
- This feels as though it should be 'The POOR SOLDIER' rather than just 'POOR SOLDIER'
- 'The' should also be highlighted as part of this title
- Title of musical farce not outlined, so cannot transcribe it.
- This play is not the same date as the main plays of the bill.
- This play is also not the same date as the main plays of the bill.
- The Death of Gen. Wolfe is a ballet, not a play.
- Is this a reference to the 'Flitch of Bacon custom' in Essex?
- forthcoming, not main item on playbill
- not sure if 'The Tragedy of' is the genre or part of the title

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30 DECEMBER 2017

The Flich of Bacon: An Unexpected Journey Through the Collections of the British Library

Amplifying voices

Many readers of [Edward's](#) blog will doubtless be familiar with the work being done by the Digital Scholarship team, of which one particularly remarkable example is the 'In the Spotlight' project. The idea behind the project, for anyone who may have missed it, is absolutely fascinating: to create crowd-sourced transcriptions of part of the Library's enormous collection of playbills. The part of the project that I've been most involved with so far is concerned with titles, and it's a two-part process; first, the title is identified out of the (numerous) lines of text on the page, and once this has been verified by multiple volunteers, it is then fed back into the database as an item for transcription.





Outreach

**Participant
stories**

From town halls to mobile phones?

1849: Joseph Henry's Meteorological Project



"Secretary Henry Posts Daily Weather Map in Smithsonian Building, 1858," by Louise Rochon Hoover, 1933. Smithsonian Institution Archives
<https://siarchives.si.edu/blog/smithsonian-crowdsourcing-1849>

1879: 'A thousand readers are wanted,
and confidently asked for'

~~1879~~
Paddock^{s/2} 1. 1828
O.E.D. UNUSED
1856 [H.H. Dixon] The Post & the Paddock,
Ch. II. p. 43.
if you go into a paddock, and
see a lengthy plain-headed foal with top
ears gazing at you,
(This is rather a good quot. as
it shows that you may expect to see
foals in paddocks.
ET)

Edith Thompson slip, <https://public.oed.com>

2018: #WordsWhereYouAre



The OED 
@OED

Following 

In the latest update to the OED we published several new words from Philippine English, many of which were brought to our attention by Filipino speakers of English answering an online call for local word suggestions [#WordsWhereYouAre](#)



Philippine English in the October 2018 update | Oxford English Dictionary

In its latest update, the Oxford English Dictionary published several new words from Philippine English. These new additions are notable for having been brought to th...

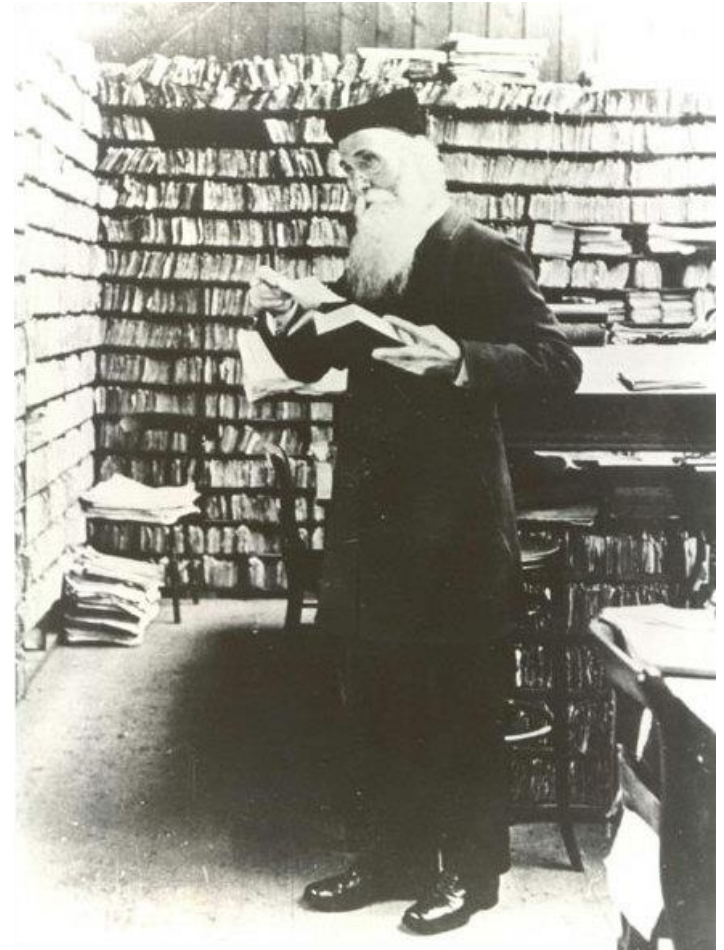
public.oed.com

Technology helps, but ultimately crowdsourcing is all about people



image courtesy of OUP Archives

<http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2013/02/james-murray/>



James Murray, editor, OED, with contributor slips

Libraries have (nearly) always been
by and for 'the people'

Circulating and subscription libraries: 'created by and for communities'



Challenges for libraries in the age of digitality



What support do staff need?

Will Your Job Be Done By A Machine?

MAY 21, 2015 4:08 PM ET

QUOCTRUNG BUI



Machines can do some [surprising things](#). But what you really want to know is this: Will your job be around in the future?

We have the "definitive" guide.

Researchers took a shot at estimating how technology will affect the job market in 20 years. Find your job below to see what the data say about your future.

Life, Physical, and Social Science

Historians



Historians have a

43.9%

chance of being automated.

How do we know this? Some aspects of a job are easier to automate than others. It all depends on the tasks. Look at the orange bars to see how Historians compare with other professions...

Catalogue description

Name Minall, Alfred Frederick Service Number: 1/304 RNVR Division: Sussex ...

Other possible matches

The following records may contain information about the person described above. As the links are found by computer analysis, we cannot guarantee they are the same individual or that every record in which the person appears will be listed.

● = Held by The National Archives ■ = Held by other organisations

Minall, A F

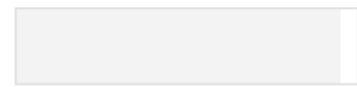
Date of birth: 10 April 1894

Service number(s): 1/304

ADM 339/1/24889

● Naval service record

Strong match



Minall, Alfred Frederick

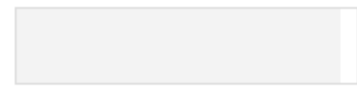
Date of birth: 10 April 1894

Service number(s): M27938

ADM 188/1073/27938

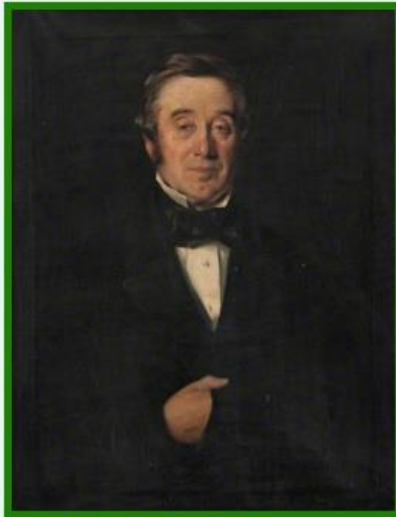
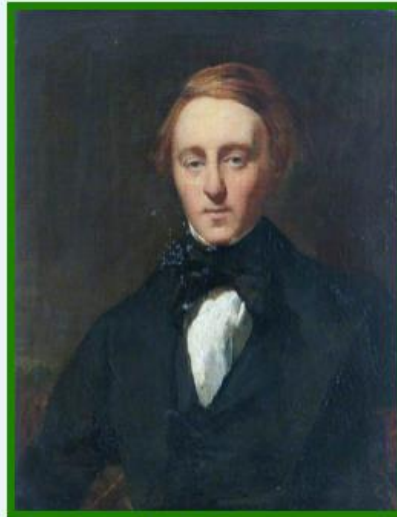
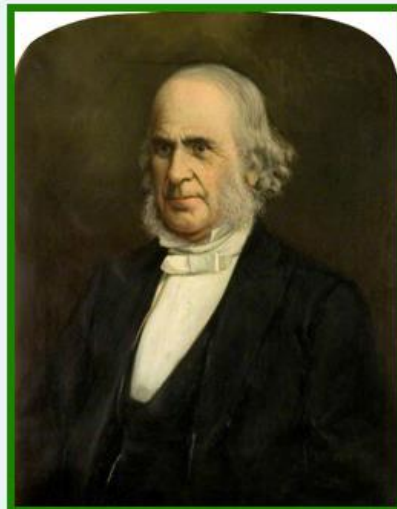
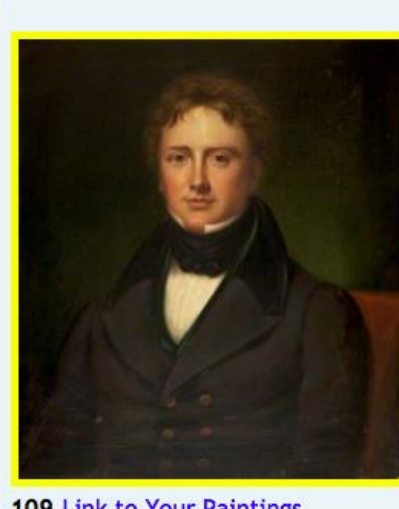
● Naval service record

Strong match



subject: sideburn

3

[Go to page](#)[Previous Page](#)[Make Page Green](#)[Make Page Red](#)[Next Page](#)[Save Page](#)101.[Link to Your Paintings](#)102.[Link to Your Paintings](#)103.[Link to Your Paintings](#)104.[Link to Your Paintings](#)105.[Link to Your](#)106.[Link to Your Paintings](#)107.[Link to Your Paintings](#)108.[Link to Your Paintings](#)109.[Link to Your Paintings](#)110.[Link to Your](#)

'Open data' needs people



Thank you for listening. Questions?

Dr. Mia Ridge @mia_out
digitalresearch@bl.uk
SWIB, Bonn, November 2018