



# Content Evaluation

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# Overview

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- The Vesalius Conundrum
- Content selection criteria
  - Content typology
  - Collection building
- Content maintenance
  - Accessibility, usability, support and training
- Content use evaluation

# DLF Collection typology

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- ❑ local digitization projects that produce surrogates for analogue information objects;
- ❑ data creation projects that produce information resources that have no analogue equivalent and are in this respect "born digital";
- ❑ the selection of existing third-party data resources for inclusion in a collection either through their outright acquisition or by acquiring access under some licensing arrangement; and
- ❑ the development of Internet gateways comprising locally maintained pages or databases of web-links to third-party networked information

*(Greenstein)*

# Collection types expanded by motivation

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- Surrogates of rare items
  - The British Library
- Surrogates for whole or part collections
  - The Springburn Virtual Library
- Digitised surrogate collections assembled from multiple repositories
  - The Valley of the Shadow, Red Clydeside
- Collections assembled specifically to be digitised
  - ASPECT; CAIN
- Involuntary miscellanea (Never mind the quality...)
  - Brewster Kahle's Universal Internet Library
- Born Digital Resources
  - Institutional or Disciplinary Repositories
  - Data Repositories – biological, chemical etc

# Display of Treasures: the British Library

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# Springburn Public Library

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THE EVE OF WAR  
VALLEY  
OF THE  
SHADOW

TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE  
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

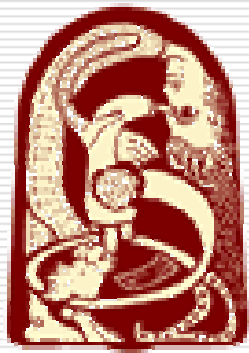
EDWARD L. AYERS

ANNE S. RUBIN

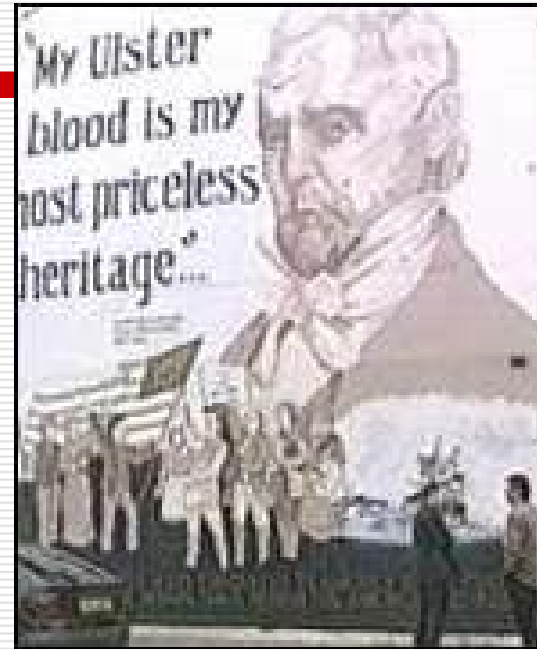


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# CAIN: Conflict Archive on the Internet





# Red Clydeside: belatedly creating a collection



Glasgow Digital Library

ASPECT

PARTIES

CONSTITUENCIES

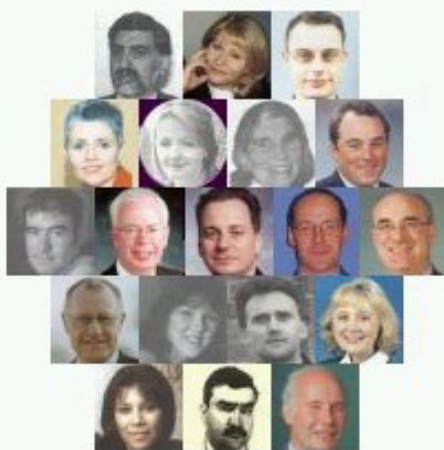
REGIONS

CANDIDATES

## ASPECT: Access to Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999

A digital archive of leaflets and newsletters produced by candidates and political parties for the first Scottish parliamentary election in May 1999.

[Background](#) | [Bibliography](#)  
[Devolution Campaigns](#)  
[Election Statistics](#) | [Links](#)



Constituency Candidates



Electoral Regions



Political Parties

Glasgow Digital Library

ASPECT

PARTIES

CONSTITUENCIES

REGIONS

CANDIDATES



# Institutional repositories

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- Theses
- Internal documents
- Institutional records
- Archives
- Publications and ISBN assignation
- Academic articles
- Curricular materials and lectures
- Oral history

# Third Party Data and Information Arbitrage

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- Identifying products
- Identifying value for money: arbitrage
- Is it all or nothing
  - The best is the enemy of the good?
    - Weighing availability against comprehensiveness
- Mirroring heavily used content
  - The Virtual Human
- Caching: network costs v storage costs
- Independent, authoritative and right

# Content Building

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- The Dead Professor's Study
- Standing on the shoulders of pygmies
- Building research collections for the future
  - Present users a poor guide
  - The 32 long-lived European Institutions
  - Exercising professional judgement
- EVERY Library has something to contribute
  - Development of a free trade economy
- Library e-Collection Development Plans at best rudimentary

# The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902





# Data preservation and trusted repositories



- Digital Asset Management and Curation
  - More than rights management
  - More than user control
  - Dislike of usage monitoring
- E-endangered content
  - Mail
  - Laboratory results
  - Documents on hard drives
  - Changing formats and media
  - E-science
- Absence of Trusted Repository standards

# Trusted Repositories: the five Maori tests

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- Receive the information with accuracy
- Store the information with integrity beyond doubt
- Retrieve the information without amendment
- Apply appropriate judgement in the use of the information
- Pass the information on appropriately

# Glasgow Digital Library

Organised digital collections to support teaching, learning and research



## Aspect

Access to Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999



## Red Clydeside

Political History of the Scottish Left 1910-1922



## Springburn Virtual Museum

Photographs from Springburn Community Museum 1880-1987



## Voyage of the Scotia

Scottish National Antarctic Expedition 1902-04



## GlasgowInfo

Directory information for and about Glasgow 2002



## 100 Glasgow Men

Memoirs and Portraits of 100 Glasgow Men 1855-1885



## Virtual Mitchell

Images of Glasgow by area, street or subject 1860-1980



## Victorian Times

Social, political, and economic conditions 1837-1901

[Overview](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Reports](#) | [Policies](#)

The Glasgow Digital Library is based at the [Centre for Digital Library Research](#) in the [University of Strathclyde](#). It was set up as part of the [Research Support Libraries Programme](#), supplemented by funding from [SCRAN](#) for specific digitisation projects.

# Glasgow Digital Library

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- ❑ Identifying Resources for Digitisation
- ❑ Encouraging Electronic Content Creation
- ❑ Cost-cutting by City-wide Licences
- ❑ Setting and Implementing Standards
- ❑ Linking a distributed regional resource -  
ScoDiDiLi

# Law's Laws

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1. Good Information systems will drive out bad

# Law's Laws

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1. Good Information systems will drive out bad
2. User Friendly systems aren't



# Accessibility

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- Integration with other university systems
  - The Miss Havisham effect
  - Computer Centres as a barrier to progress
- Technology footprint
  - Social make-up of student body: is the technology widely available?
  - French laptops at 1 Euro a week
- 24 hour library access
- Worldwide access

# Usability

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- Interface design and content presentation
  - Google is the benchmark
  - Users want enough not everything
  - Naive and experienced users
- Metadata
- Object formats
- Collection description as a route to interlinking

# Support and training

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- User friendly systems aren't
- Library web pages
  - Strathclyde maintains 1400
  - Mainly user guides to tools and collections
- 24x7 Helpdesk with University of technology, Sydney
- Compulsory skills training for students AND Staff

# Content Use Evaluation Tools

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- ❑ Statistical data on use
- ❑ Statistical data on plagiarism
- ❑ On-line questionnaires
- ❑ Interface design and usability
  - Watching users
- ❑ Conflict between building for the future and present usage – i.e. potential versus actual
- ❑ We know the cost of everything and the value of nothing

# Conclusion

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- ❑ Content evaluation is about more than content
- ❑ Content evaluation requires an understanding of the physical and operational environment
- ❑ Content evaluation requires an understanding of the user
- ❑ These are complex systems