

Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

Wiley  
Digital  
Archives

A WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES COLLECTION



WILEY

# The Society that Brings Geographers the World

Geography has never been more important in helping us to understand our rapidly changing world.

The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) is the United Kingdom's learned society for geography and professional body for geographers, a registered charity and a membership organization.

The Society advances geography and supports geographers in the UK and across the world. With more than 16,500 members, and a body of work that reaches millions of people each year. It welcomes professional geographers, geography graduates and all those with an enthusiasm for geography, travel and exploration as members.

The Society was founded in 1830 to advance geographical science. Today, it achieves this by supporting geographical research, education, and fieldwork and expeditions, as well as by advocating on behalf of the discipline and promoting geography to public audiences. The Society holds over two million items, including maps, photographs, books, documents, paintings and artifacts, in its historical Collections.

The Society is internationally recognized for its values, independence and the breadth of its activities to promote and support the discovery and understanding of the world's people, places and environments

## 500 Years of Geographical Science, Discovery, Research and Thought

The Society's headquarters in South Kensington, London, is home to its extensive, two-million-piece collection that spans 500 years of travel and exploration. It houses the world's largest collection of maps and charts from all points of the world, as well as a variety of atlas, globes and gazetteers.

The books, diaries and photographs bring the work of some of the foremost geographers and explorers to life, from the Antarctic discoveries of Scott and Shackleton, to the pioneering work of Livingstone, Stanley, Hunt and Hillary, among others. The collection also includes materials from prominent European expeditions to Africa, the Middle East and Mount Everest.

In short, it's the most extensive collection dedicated to the study of geographical sciences in the world.

Today, the *Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)* is proud to continue its dedication to advancing research in their global community:

500 Years  
of Geographical  
Science, Discovery,  
Research and Thought

Over 16,000  
international members  
and fellows working to  
advance geography and  
support geographers

Holds one of the world's  
largest collection of maps  
and charts from their earliest  
geographical delineations

Publishes books and  
journals that circulate  
throughout the  
world

# Now, Researchers Can Explore This Expansive Collection—from Anywhere

Wiley Digital Archives has partnered with RGS-IBG to digitize and bring this world-class collection to a broader audience. Although the Society had digitized part of its collection in the past, a significant portion (90%) of the Wiley Digital Archive contains primary source materials from new scanning that have never been published before.

Wiley has added new platform features, like textual and visual analysis, geotagging on maps, charts and plans; as well as analytical tools related to concordance, collocation and frequency distribution to optimize the experience for your researchers.

To ensure that this expansive collection of maps and charts can be viewed with optimum clarity and detail, Wiley digitized these using advanced scanning technology with high-resolution lenses and ultra-low vibration shutters. These scanners preserve accurate color quality and pixel-level detail to ensure the visual quality of these materials is as close to the originals as possible.

## A range of unique materials include:

- Artifacts
- Charts and Plans
- Expedition Reports and Scrapbooks
- Fieldnotes,
- Correspondence and Diaries
- Grey Literature
- Illustrations
- Journal Manuscripts
- Maps and Atlases
- Monographs
- Photographs and Artwork
- Proceedings and Lectures
- **& Various Ephemera**

## Spanning a wide variety of multidisciplinary research:

- Anthropology
- Area Studies (African, Asian & Pacific, Middle Eastern, Latin American & Caribbean, North American)
- Cartography
- Colonial History
- Historical Geography
- Human Geography
- Gender & Ethnic Studies
- Geology
- International Relations
- Law Relating to Colonization
- Meteorology
- Physical Geography
- Social Sciences
- **& More!**

## Peek Inside the Collection

### Polar Exploration



Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914 attempted to set the record for crossing the continent via the South Pole. However, Shackleton's ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed by pack ice before landing, leaving expedition members no choice but to abandon the ship and continue the onward journey over the ice and

waters of the Weddell Sea. From Elephant Island, Shackleton and his team crossed the Southern Ocean in an open boat, and scaled the uncharted mountains of Southern Georgia to raise the alarm at the whaling station Grytviken. Incredibly, all expedition members from this ship made it back home, alive. The archive includes a wide

range of materials around this epic tale of survival and the 'Heroic Age of Exploration', and more broadly, a rich archive of material relating to early understanding and scientific exploration of the Polar Regions of interest to a variety of research themes.

### Women and Exploration



The late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries saw the expansion and growth in geographical research as women entered learned societies and professional occupations in Europe and North America. A wide range of women, including Isabella Bird, Mary Kingsley and Lady

Hester Stanhope, made invaluable contributions to the world of exploration and geographical studies. Writer, archaeologist and political administrator Gertrude Bell travelled throughout the Middle East, Asia and Europe, documenting the people and

landscapes she encountered in photographs and journals. The Society's archives contain a wealth of resources on the topic of women and geography, including scientific reports, correspondence, diaries, images, monographs and maps.

### Understanding our World



Since its founding, the RGS-IBG has served as an information exchange for geographers and geography. The Society's extensive map collection – the world's largest private – was developed from its foundation in 1830 and accessible to all users from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. Historically – as today – the Society sponsored and supported

expeditions and fieldwork; in the past it has loaned survey and photographic equipment to explorers and published early guidance on how to conduct expeditions and gather data. The geographical information compiled and gathered by Society-backed fieldwork and exploration covering over almost 200 years

has made a monumental impact. Today, Collections material from the nineteenth century enables contemporary researchers to critically re-assess and re-evaluate these contributions to our understanding of the world.



The Wiley Digital Archives platform is specially designed to meet modern archival research needs.

The resource is easy to use, search and navigate; with advanced map scanning technology that enables your researchers to view the maps and charts in this collection with clarity and detail.

Wiley Digital Archives	Features
✓	 Intuitive interface
✓	 Full-text searchability for printed documents and metadata
✓	 Visual search results and image galleries
✓	 Enhanced metadata (catalog information is supplemented with additional metadata derived from text)
✓	 Downloadable optical character recognition (OCR) text
✓	 Term clouds, term frequency, popularity and clustering tools
✓	 Exportable, fielded datasets for charts, tables, statistics from printed or handwritten sources
✓	 Geo-tagged maps and place of publication data, for visual searching and browsing
✓	 Textual analysis tools for concordance, collocation and frequency distribution of terms
✓	 Headers - names, places, and dates - and core metadata have been manually keyed-in
✓	 Collections are browsable at archive, collection, box and folder levels
✓	 Print, download, save and share documents

The collections, the quality, the usability. Wiley Digital Archives gives you the whole package.

Learn more at [wileydigitalarchives.com](http://wileydigitalarchives.com)