

The Authoritative Source in Geographical Science

Since its foundation in 1830, the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) (RGS-IBG) has served as a key information exchange for geographers and geography. The Collections represent that work, reflecting the history of geography's development over the last five hundred years, and the close links between geography and imperialism for much of this period. They provide a rich and unparalleled resource for tracing how people and places across the world have changed over time, and for those interested in colonial history, the history of exploration, and particular explorers and geographers.

Historically - as today - the Society collected maps and other geographical publications, and sponsored and supported expeditions and fieldwork; in the past it also loaned survey and photographic equipment to explorers and published early guidance on how to conduct expeditions and gather data.

Rethinking Representation

Be among the first to digitally explore the iconic expeditions of the 'Heroic Age of Exploration' that are well-represented within the Collections, from the nineteenth-century searches for the North West Passage and the source of the Nile, to the polar attempts of Amundsen, Shackleton and Scott. The Society's rich history of supporting exploration extends far beyond these well-known narratives, to encompass a range of 'hidden histories' and smaller stories. The Collections provide an invaluable resource for finding out more about the Western women - like Isabella Bird, Mary Kingsley and Gertrude Bell - who made increasing strides into geography and exploration from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, and about the local and indigenous people who also made important contributions to geography and exploration and to European expeditions throughout this period.

In 2004 the Unlocking the Archives program opened up the Collections to a world of new users, with a newly digitized catalog and purpose-built Foyle Reading Room to support researchers in exploring these treasures. This was followed closely by initiatives like 'Crossing Continents, Connected Communities', bringing new perspectives and visitors to the Collections, from diaspora community groups, to students and more. The Wiley Digital Archives digitization program is the next in the ongoing work to make the Collections widely accessible. The conservation, high-quality scanning and the innovative digital humanities tools provided by the platform offer exciting new opportunities to explore the Collections and discover the untold stories within - from the comfort of your own laptop!

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 16,500 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

Explore This Expansive Collection of Unique Primary Source Materials—Anytime, Anywhere

Wiley Digital Archives has partnered with the RGS-IBG to digitize and bring this world-class collection to researchers around the world. Although the Society had digitized portions of its collection in the past, the vast majority (90%) of the Wiley Digital Archive contains primary source materials from new scanning that have never been digitized before.

Access archival materials by searching on a state-of-the-art platform with features like textual and visual analysis, geo-tagging on maps, charts, and plans; as well as analytical tools related to concordance, collocation, and frequency distribution to optimize the research experience.

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.

Access and research thousands of rare materials including:

- 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 interdisciplinary research areas and serving educational needs in:

- Anthropology
- Area Studies (African, Asian & Pacific, Middle Eastern, Latin American and Caribbean, North American)
- Cartography and Visualizations
- Climate Change
- Colonial, Post-Colonial and Decolonial Studies
- Development Studies
- Environmental Degradation
- Historical and Cultural Geography
- Historical Sociology
- Human Geography
- GeoHumanities and Spatial Humanities
- 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 19th and early 20th 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



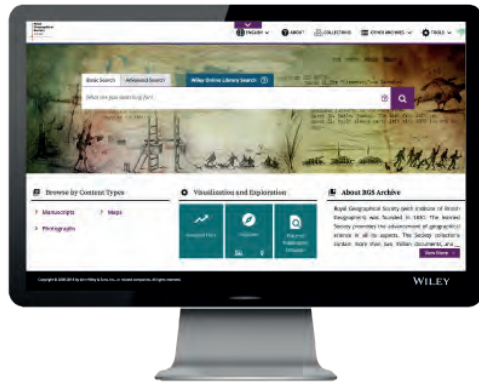
people and landscapes she encountered in photographs and journals. The Society's archives contain a wealth of resources on the topic of women and geography, including scientific reports, correspondence, diaries, images, monographs and maps.

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 specifically designed to meet modern archival research needs.

The *Wiley Digital Archives* platform is intuitive, and the rich metadata makes the content easy to search, browse, and navigate. Wiley's advanced scanning technology enables researchers to view and manipulate the images in this collection with clarity and detail, and the platform's tools enable seamless integration into LMS, syllabi and courseware. The resource is also compatible with Zotero and other common citation tools and styles, making the resource a perfect complement for research and for classroom needs.

Wiley Digital Archives	Features	Wiley Digital Archives	Features	Wiley Digital Archives	Features
✓	Intuitive interface, available in 35 languages including Chinese and Arabic	✓	Term clouds, term frequency, popularity and clustering tools	✓	Headers - names, places, and dates - and core metadata have been manually keyed-in
✓	Full-text searchability for printed documents and metadata	✓	Permalinks for consistent access to content	✓	Collections are browsable at archive, collection, box and folder levels
✓	Visual search results and image galleries	✓	Exportable, fielded datasets for charts, tables, statistics from printed or handwritten sources	✓	Print, download, translate, save and share documents - text and data are available to reference outside of the platform
✓	Enhanced metadata (catalog information is supplemented with additional metadata derived from text)	✓	Geo-tagged maps and place of publication data, for visual searching and browsing		
✓	Downloadable optical character recognition (OCR) text, translatable into multiple languages	✓	Textual analysis tools for concordance, collocation and frequency distribution of terms		

Learn more at wileydigitalarchives.com/rgs