“I suppose we had better”—the value of archival content in research and education, and the role of society libraries and archives in digitization and access

Raymond Abruzzi
Program Director
Wiley Digital Archives
“I suppose we had better”–

Understanding Research Pathways

Primary Sources

*Sex and Culture*—A Case Study

Challenges--Within and Without

Obligations—Historical and Contemporary

Digitisation and Access Models

The View from Wiley

Your view?
“If it’s not online it doesn’t exist”

--Every student... in the minds of faculty circa 2000
“Might there be a way you can get that digitised and sent to me, please?”

--Faculty and Researchers
2018 and beyond

University of Houston Libraries

Digital Imaging

- Special Collections delivers digital images for up to 30 items at no charge, as long as the physical condition of the items and library agreements with donors allow for digitization of the materials.
- Once you have identified the materials you would like digitized, please fill out our Patron Registration Form, a Digital Reproduction Form, and e-mail the completed forms to Bethany Scott at bscott3@uh.edu.
- You will receive your high-resolution digital images via an automated download service in 2-3 weeks.
Primary sources in (analog) archives can be:

Expensive for researchers to visit

Difficult to uncover relevant content

Challenging for students to access

Not available online

Typically requiring a grant proposal and weeks or months of time to visit the archives.

Due to the physical nature, storage, and age of the archives, items maybe difficult to uncover even while visiting the society library.

Need credentials or otherwise a blessing from faculty, advisors, and archivists.
These challenges were anticipated
So was the solution

"Machinery has done wonders, and when we think of what literature is becoming it is certainly to be wished that we could read it by machinery, and by machinery digest it."

"THE BOOKS OF THE FUTURE."
Glasgow Herald, 17 Sept. 1869
Making digital archives accessible to researchers:

- Offers a more holistic scholarly record enabling researchers and students to gain a closer understanding of journal articles or scientific conclusions.
- Adds historical context containing the primary research and data which shaped the evolution of disciplines and related research.
- Offers a chance for reinterpretation or repurposing Data or information collected can be revisited with a new lens or question, and can be interpolated with more recent information to form new conclusions.
- Unlocks a wealth of “new” material for faculty, researchers, and students alike, democratizing access and altering the competitive research landscape.
Solves problems and meets needs

Access

Discovery

Wiley Research Seminar Japan 2018
But where did this material come from?

Images: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland
Let’s think about the sources

Sex and culture, by Unwin, J. D. (Joseph Daniel).
Oxford University Press, 1934.

Image: Internet Archive:
https://archive.org/details/b20442580
A seminal work...

...and an untimely death

There is no doubt, however, that his most lasting contribution is on anthropological subjects. He had in recent years been prominent in anthropological discussions as a result of his book on "Sex and Culture." In this work, entailing considerable research in the customs of primitive peoples, he attempted to relate the degree of culture to the intensity of sexual prohibitions. From an analysis of 80 widely separated tribes, classified as those who were deistic, monistic, and zoistic, in other words with different degrees of religious cultural development, temple builders, those who propitiated the dead and those who have no religious practices, he found that in the highest group sexual prohibition, such as the prohibition of pre-nuptial relations, was an important tribal custom, whereas in the lowest grades a sexual licence seemed to be general. If this correlation proves to be true by further research, then an important discovery has been made in the relationship of sexual restraint to culture. Indirectly the work of Freud will thereby be established, showing the importance of sex in the growth of human civilization, and Unwin will take his place among the discoverers in social anthropology.
Dear Sir,

Having been resident abroad for some years, I do not know if my brother, Dr. J. D. Unwin, M.C., Ph.D., was a member of your Institute, but no doubt, his book, 'Sex and Culture' published in 1904 by the Oxford University Press is known to you. It was the result of extensive anthropological research, and I believe it was his treatise on this subject that won for him the Ph.D. He died in 1906.

My mother has in her possession the MS notes made apparently during his years of research work, and whilst I know that he used a great deal of the material in his book, there may be much else of value on the subject among these papers. Before destroying them, I am writing on behalf of my mother to offer them to the Anthropological Institute. If you think they would be of interest to any of your members or to any student you might care to nominate, they would be gladly donated and delivered to the Institute. It would seem a pity to destroy them if there is anything that might be of value or help to others in them, and I shall await your reply before doing so.

Yours truly,

R. H. Unwin

Mr W. B. Pegg,
Hon Sec Royal Anthropological Institute,
Lambeth N.W.1.

9 coppers we had better have done.

Yes, pl. accept very sincerely, I have showed encourage this part of them.

2.

Dear Sir,

Having been resident abroad for some years, I do not know if my brother, Dr. J.D. Unwin, M.C., Ph.D., was a member of your Institute, but no doubt, his book, 'Sex and Culture' published in 1934 by the Oxford University Press is known to you. It was the result of extensive anthropological research, and I believe it was his treatise on this same subject that won for him his Ph.D. He died in 1956.

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Yours truly,

R. H. Unwin

Mr W. B. Fagg,
Hon. Sec. Royal Anthropological Institute,
London W.C.I.

9 cuppers we had better late in

Yes, pl. accept very graciously; we should encourage this sort of thing.”—WB Fagg.
Who is taking care of it?
At what cost?

Images: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland
Condition, storage, temperature, humidity—all pose challenges and incur costs.

Wiley Conservators working at the Royal Anthropological Institute
Many societies do not have FTE—or P/T archivists

Horror!
Successive Librarians of the Society, and Fellows knowledgeable about the Society’s history, have long known – or at least guessed at – the wealth of historically important material in the Society’s archives. The value of it was early recognized by the two devoted Assistant Secretaries John Williams and William H. Wesley who between them served the Society for 76 years (1846–1922) and to whom the preservation of the material is largely due. Although successive Librarians – and particularly in recent years Dr R. E. W. Maddison – had made a start in ordering the general correspondence and the more important items, the duties that press daily upon the librarian have prevented any major attempt to order the bulk of the material. It has long been a matter of regret that the archives and manuscripts have been inadequately catalogued, and stored in a way that has made it impossible for historians of science to gain ready access to them.

Foreword to the Original Memoir (1978).

Societies have long been aware of the value of their archives—and the challenges of increasing access.
## Is there an institutional obligation to provide digital access?

Mission Statements and Annual Reviews

1. **Improving the Library experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use the Library space more effectively</td>
<td>We will review the use, content, layout and signage of Library space to adapt to changing users' needs and expectations.</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will complete the Library inventory and identify suitable material for off-site storage and disposal to increase the accessibility of the Library’s collections and create room for growth.</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve remote access to Library resources</td>
<td>We will keep up-to-date with the latest technology and empower our users by developing further our online user functionalities and information literacy support and training.</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will acquire printed and electronic academic resources most appropriate to our users’ needs and make sure these are visible and easily accessible.</td>
<td>2017-2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop, maintain and promote the Library’s collections</td>
<td>We will participate in union catalogues e.g. COPAC, SUNCAT and WorldCat.</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will address the cataloguing backlog by carefully evaluating donations and adding to stock items of lasting value.</td>
<td>2017-2026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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We will carefully select and digitise material from our archive and special collections to widen the range of images and prints available for purchase.

2017-2026
Is there an institutional obligation to provide digital access?
Mission Statements and Annual Reviews

The Library is Responsible for:
- Development of preservation strategies, including consideration of:
  - Degree of integration with storage, backup, and preservation for non-digital library resources.
  - Development and use of decision-making tools (e.g., risk analysis, usage monitoring, probability of loss calculations, cost models, etc.).
  - Maintenance strategies (backups - online and/or offline, monitoring, refreshing, redundancy through mirror sites or caching, etc.).
  - Survival strategies (migration, emulation, archeology, etc.).
  - Reliance on outside consulting and archiving services, if any, contract negotiation, etc.
- Selection for long-term retention at time of digitization, acquisition, or licensing; and later re-selection for retention if this decision was not made initially:
  - Primary criteria: based on institutional mission, needs, priorities, and reasons for creating or acquiring the resources (related to long-term institutional mission and linked to conversion guidelines).
Challenges around Digitisation and Preservation

- Funding
- Editorial plan
- Rights management
- Conservators
- Platform and technology infrastructure
- Cataloguers, metadata experts
- Scanning equipment/operators
- Developers, programmers, and QA staff
- Marketing and discoverability
- Hosting and sustainability plan
Funding models

- Institutional
- Departmental
- Project-based
- Government/Public
- Granting bodies
- Philanthropic
- Commercial
- Publisher partnerships
Wiley Digital Archives is a long-term program of new, digital content sets comprised of unique or rare historical primary sources, digitized from leading societies, libraries, and archives around the world.
Q: What are the benefits of Wiley Digital Archives?

A: Wiley funds the digitisation programme

- Our partners get a free copy of the digital archives.
- Receive all of their items back in improved condition: repaired, in new archival housing storage (boxes, folders) if needed.
- Partners get full copies of all of the images, OCR, and associated metadata. Ability to store content off-site.
- Institutional access models are available (one-time purchase, no ongoing fees)
- Anyone with onsite access to the archive can gain access to the digital archive created with Wiley.
What are the pathways to a successful digital archive?

Build
Buy
Partner
How is your institution meeting the need for preservation, discovery, and access?

Do you agree that there is an obligation to provide digital access to your archives?

Where do digitization and access fall against other goals?

What level of funding is your institution allocating for these projects?

Is your staff suited to this work?

Do you have the infrastructure to support a digitisation project?

Who is archiving your own research?

Slavery among the ancients
Joseph Daniel Unwin, Culture, classical studies, economics, family welfare and sexual matters in various societies: notes, drafts and papers, n.d.
Source: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.
Any Questions?

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