

## **The British Library**

As the UK's national library we provide access to one of the world's most comprehensive research collections.

We care for over 170 million items from newspapers to sound recordings, patents, prints and drawings, maps, manuscripts and books. This collection of printed and digital publications grows by millions each year.

With a mission to make our intellectual heritage available to everyone for research, inspiration and enjoyment, we are transforming digital access to our heritage materials and helping unlock their stories. Digitisation is the key to making this happen and, with our expertise in digitising some of history's most significant items, we can help you do the same.





## Why should you digitise?

#### Increase access

Digitised content removes physical access barriers. With endless possibilities to share your collection online via portals, catalogues and across networks, you can integrate your digitised records with existing systems to improve efficiency in your organisation. Make old formats visible again and give them a new lease of life.

#### Reach new audiences

Raise awareness and let other people discover your collection on a global or local scale. Open your archives to people who have never seen them before, engaging new audiences and inspiring new creative and research projects.

## Create opportunities for income generation

Add value to your current business proposition by creating new material for your customers, opening new revenue streams and opportunities for income generation.

## Fill the gaps in your collection

We can provide the items missing from your archive or back-catalogue and digitise them for you. Enrich your collection by finishing their stories.

#### Preserve your collection

Viewing digital images instead of handling originals will help to protect them. Digitisation can also help businesses and heritage organisations with disaster recovery plans, protecting your collection's legacy from physical damage.

#### Inspire others

Digitising can unlock the stories hidden in your collection or brand heritage. Why not inspire a new generation to revisit history and take the story forward?

p minedge has it humbers has been been mine from the state of the stat a Ballon att Colored and Mayor of the Mayor of the Colored Col e it concerns the alist atom the set Brand mans oper thank I will the own to wendow they become the Chair I bear to cherry the the time of course of the contract of the contr our problem of where I want of the form of what the bound of the bound my to I regular & and the Comer's London to the one many later or being retailed to be a find the comer of th I milwel Grand light and place of the fill the water of the fill and the form of the fill and th and the state of t Designation to ment to the line to ment downlaw or to whereast flower or more to me to the contract of the to the state of the to the state of the to the state of the total or the state of the state o un pollen in maker with a self-come to be the Come to be I would be the low the to the borden out there you believe man or well production undergradular word as & glass - I would be be be been for the subminister of the best of th on Cours of the Ballion on a state of the Ballion of Course of Bank Course of the State of Course of Course of the State of Course of the State of Course of Cour ustweeter the the gradual of the the form bour of a later of while the placement the placement the or when the or when the gradual of the or when the and the form the winds of the market or harder some week is land to the state of th we will refer to the formation range one proof the medical and the formation of the formati no time reter all more some little Some little Some better pour to Tom to the adultion or growth Anglotus profession and Brown & modern Downer Some South Some South Some South Sout to be the same to be about the post of the mentions to be the same of the same may a ballet all the white all the total of the former bearing the former bearing and the state of the other of the gramment where I tall of the appeared of the form her release me contract me algorithm for the tall and the tall the contract of the contract They have a south without the standard port in ange officer of the best much and one in prague tollen desident him dange word to the state of the state town of chine here of at he white edition & France of Flat Breez & Brown of the month of the chine weeken que Blev chine comment of the Breeze of the chine weeken and the method of the chine chine comment of the chine chine comment of the chine c Salland I & cold go leased for the cocamon when we bear Daniel Barones on Sudanie Alt , with his course Sugar Anglad a mile town on have come or other or market for has a barrent becaused or cover country Caster or atrem with have migrane in quality Comesan & Suchern when a when we will be about the mile of the country and bear day noted bearing and the country and the me & Colleg proces Grand & Advice & bour will sen bour Ballism on Angl Comming Grand or And to County Comming Grand Comming Grand County County College of County of the Same of Angle County C of ar down as no compensation Begin So and har Sillater at danger great have legale morne pour harmen So was hard at the art of the stand for the stand of the st THE WITH THE REAL PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY WAS A PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF To the at low had not the all mines con in the desire of the to the state of the said to t me to more the of tim for whether of must reconstruct of the hor whether of many the second letter of ment to good for more than the second letter of punctions beganging there to qualify more Int dig to place harming Bloom from the form of from the world something from the world and the whole of the bearing of the bearing of the form of the I constit long the long the last to renound the the fall lags Walle de comment or seche fall lagren or seche the frage the land of the country and to comment a the land of th I towner from one lighter the except to observe more for at member the proper were sond one Com see there it here commendered a property were Source to severby land - delade too del - Theready line - were fine former on of the state of the property of the property of the severe of the property of the severe of

# Why digitise with the British Library?

## We digitised Magna Carta. Put your collection in safe hands.

and the land

Same Line of the same

and the first make

A Takenhalin and A S. S.

- Mary Comme

sometime franchister of the la

Brechill Halle

Marie St. St.

I. S. should have med

realistantiam mera glor

the sale of a pulmer to

Van Sergeman Pagamani

male of drawn makes and

be of cases of hundre

or On Deal to the

For the pole of word

Bor Erus Februs Lus

in alaboris Donner al

in Ochlan patralifele

to amak and to the along

h has remaindering a pear

of the personal spage

me halup himbs porce

egal, when put how in the

min ut for fute home

A Carle Harthan Land

- Therework man concellent

atole (month

The British Library has been at the forefront of digitisation and digital preservation for over 20 years. We look after some of the nation's most important historical items, and have extensive experience in handling rare, fragile and heritage material, as well as material of cultural significance spanning 3,000 years.

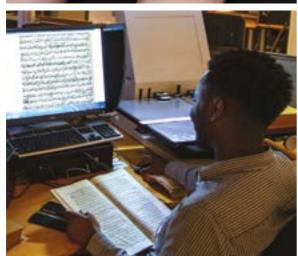
Preserving history and making knowledge accessible is what we do best. Our expert teams of curators, technicians, imaging specialists and conservators can guide you every step of the way. We will manage your project from start to finish: from scoping and estimating costs all the way through to final delivery, in the most appropriate format for your items. We're experienced in handling and digitising all formats and have a range of cutting-edge equipment to help you find the best solution for your unique collection and heritage items.















### What we offer

The British Library has multiple digitisation studios, a wide range of state-of-the-art equipment and a team of over 30 digitisation specialists, giving us the capacity to handle projects and collection items of all sizes. Access to our studios is restricted and secure. Our holistic approach aims to find the right solution for your needs, whether that's end-to-end support, or assistance with specific stages in the process.

#### Our services:

- Project scoping and estimating to help you plan and secure funding
- Creation of digital images from all types of media including: 35mm slides, artwork, books, films, catalogues, documents, drawings, film, glass plates, journals, loose sheets, manuscripts, maps, medical records, newspapers, plans, photographs, theses, wide formats and more
- Physical storage and document disposal
- Post processing including Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Large-format glossy poster and plan printing
- Microfilm and microfiche scanning

- Location photography at the site of your items
- Digital content such as 3D photography, timelapse video, 360-degree images and virtual tours
- Multispectral and Reflectance Transformation Imaging
- Advice and support in the transportation of your collection to our studios
- Conservation advice for heritage items.

Our team would be happy to provide you with more information on any of our services.

### What's involved?

Every digitisation project is unique but there are some important steps that feature in every project, helping to deliver the best results.







### **Project scoping**

We take time to understand your requirements. We assess your collection, provide costs to help you secure funding, estimate timescales, select the right equipment and recommend any preparation or post-production processes.

### **Project planning**

We work with you to plan out every stage of the process. From creating a manifest and agreeing the retrieval or receiving process, all the way up to understanding final image usage and establishing an appropriate output format.

### **Preparation**

We create your project documentation, securely receive collection items, and consult with our subject experts. We stick to British Library standards throughout this process, ensuring that you and your collection are in safe hands.



## Digitising and image capture

Our team of digitisation specialists, working from our conservation-approved studios, will carefully produce digital images. We provide a secure, climate controlled environment, and use equipment specifically tailored to each project.



### **Post-processing**

Quality-control checks are carried out on the final output to ensure that they meet the Library's high standards. We also offer Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for your digitised collection. This converts images of text into editable, extractable and searchable files.



### Final delivery

Your digitised images will be sent to you in your chosen format, and items will be returned safely and securely.

### Who we have worked with

We've worked with a wide variety of clients, both in the UK and overseas. From renowned educational institutions to personal collections, here are just a few among those who have trusted us:

Amnesty International
The National Archives
University of Cambridge

Find My Past

British Museum

Wallace Collection

Clifford Chance LLP

Imperial War Museum

Malmesbury Abbey

Warner Bros

The National Trust

Proquest

The Tolkein Society

National Library Board, Singapore

Educo (Ferrovia)

Gale Cengage

#### Our work has included digitising:

Magna Carta

King George III's Topographical Collection, including the Klenke Atlas

3D Imaging for the African & Asian Studies Department

Captain James Cook's diaries

British and French Illuminated Manuscripts, in partnership with Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Polonsky Foundation

Newspapers and journals from the British Newspaper Archive

Manuscripts and other historical items that inspired J K Rowling

Javanese palm leaf manuscripts

Tudor and early Stuart manuscripts



## What our clients say

"We needed a supplier who could deliver us a high-quality economic project. The British Library have backed up their reputation with a quality service."

Richard Kidd Royal Society of Chemistry

"The hard drive with your images has arrived and the image quality is simply mind-blowing! You really are getting it right and I am very happy to be able to work with this material."

Dr Nikolaus Weichselbaumer
University of Mainz





### **Our services**

## **Specialist scanning services**

Digitise content from one-off scans to large-scale mass digitisation formats, using our state-of-the-art equipment.

#### Output

Digitised content from a range of source material, including: Microfilm, microfiche (including jackets, COM, step-and-repeat and aperture cards), photographic transparency and negative film and glass lantern slides.

#### Process

Upon receiving your collection, we will assess your needs and embark on full production. We will catalogue and name your digital files according to your requirements and deliver them either electronically or on a hard drive.

#### **Benefits**

Using our specialist scanning services, we can transform inaccessible collections into easily-shareable digital formats.

## Advanced imaging

Discover what's invisible to the naked eye.

#### Output

Images of the layers below the surface of your items.

#### **Process**

An exploratory approach to assess whether there is a hidden layer of previous work underneath the current layer on 2D items. Using specialist photographic techniques in the London studio, our experts will identify if further multi-spectral work should be undertaken.

#### **Benefits**

Identifies which of your items are suitable for further scientific imaging work, such as Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI).

### **3D imaging**

Create multi-dimensional images of your items, and view them as never before.

#### Output

An interactive or printable 3D model of your item(s).

#### **Process**

In our London studio, technical experts will set up our specialist 3D rig. Multi-shot photography will then be processed using photogrammetry.

#### Benefits

Enhance the digital experience of your item by allowing it to be explored in multi-dimensional form. Preserve the original item while at the same time, reveal details not seen to the naked eye. Open up a 3D experience of the item to audiences across the world.

Get in touch to discuss your requirements further. businessdevelopment@bl.uk

### **Our services**

## **Location photography**

We will come to you, so delicate items can stay where they belong.

#### Output

High-quality images of your precious items, in the format required.

#### **Process**

A member of our team can travel to your chosen location to digitise your items. All our experienced photographers are qualified in handling heritage items and will work with you to find the best place and the most suitable equipment to digitise your items, delivering the highest-quality results.

#### **Benefits**

Our experts will be with you onsite throughout the process. No need to risk fragile, valuable or bulky items being transported.

## Personal collections

Preserve your cherished items for future generations.

#### Output

Digitised, accessible versions of your precious items: family photos, diaries, letters and other important memorabilia.

#### **Process**

Deliver your personal collection to our studio and we will digitise your items, based off your specific needs and the condition of your items. We can also convert formats like negatives and slides.

#### **Benefits**

Preserve and share digital copies of your personal collection, allowing family and friends to access them at the click of a button. Rediscover previously unseen details thanks to high-quality images and zoom-in functionalities.

## High-quality printing

Give digital photos, illustrations, maps and paintings a new lease of life.

#### Output

Your digital files, reproduced on top-quality paper or a range of canvas materials (including exhibition paper, satin photo paper and soft-grain etching cotton rag).

#### **Process**

After receiving your digital files, we use our large format art printer to produce high-spec physical prints. We then deliver these back to you (worldwide delivery available), either packaged flat or in protective tubes.

#### **Benefits**

Using our state-of-the-art printer, we can reproduce top quality archival reproductions of original artefacts. Our services are available across a wide range of sizes and formats.

Get in touch to discuss your requirements further. **businessdevelopment@bl.uk** 



## **Any questions?**

What is included in the price? Our pricing covers every project stage listed in our 'What's involved?' section. That means your quote will cover scoping, planning, preparation, capture, post-processing and delivery.

## How long will my project take to fulfill?

The exact turnaround time will depend on the nature and scale of the project. We will confirm a timescale in the preparation stage, and this will be included in the agreement.

## What information do I need to provide to scope a project?

To provide an accurate scope, we will need to know what you want to digitise, which digitisation method you require and how many collection items you have. We'll confirm the outputs required and how you want them to be delivered.

What are the technical requirements recommended for my digitisation needs? We follow the Library's own recommended standards to ensure long-term preservation and exceptional image quality. However, we can work to the specifications that best suit your needs and offer project-specific guidance.

## Will I own the rights to my digitised collection?

For material still under copyright, you will need permissions from the copyright holder to digitise and use the outputs. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained these permissions.

# Have another question? Feel free to reach out to our knowledgeable team at businessdevelopment@bl.uk



Get in touch businessdevelopment@bl.uk bl.uk/digitisation