

The Place of Special Collections in a Research Library

Erin Mollenhauer

THE PLACE OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN A RESEARCH LIBRARY

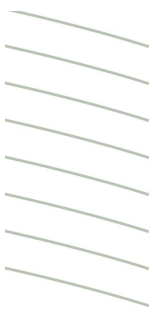
Erin Mollenhauer

Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

Moore Theological College, Sydney



Donald Robinson
Library

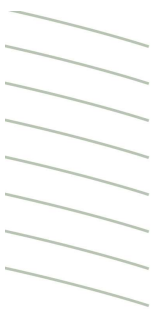


The glamr sector

- Galleries
- Libraries
- Archives
- Museums
- Records management



'Crossroads' by [Ice MaN](#) via Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

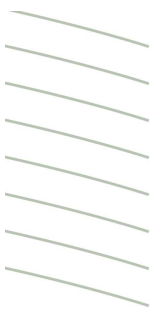


Definitions

- Research library = a library which collects and maintains in-depth material to support research in one or more subject areas
- Special collections = “collections of books and archives considered important enough to be preserved...they are rare, unique or fragile, they have research or cultural value, or significant provenance”
- University of Glasgow <https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/specialcollections/whatarespecialcollections/>

Special collections

- Manuscripts and personal archives
- Rare books
- Ephemera
- Original audio/visual material
- Realia
- Photographs
- Artworks



Significance

“Significance’ refers to the values and meanings that items and collections have for people and communities. Significance helps unlock the potential of collections, creating opportunities for communities to access and enjoy collections, and to understand the history, cultures and environments of Australia”

Kylie Winkworth and Roslyn Russell. Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections. Collections Council of Australia, 2009. p.1.

Types of significance

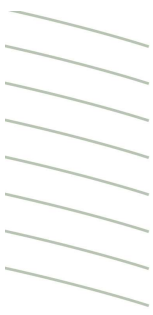
- Primary criteria:
 1. Historic
 2. Artistic or aesthetic
 3. Scientific or research potential
 4. Social or spiritual

Kylie Winkworth and Roslyn Russell. Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections. Collections Council of Australia, 2009.

Types of significance

- Secondary criteria
 1. Provenance
 2. Rarity or representativeness
 3. Condition or completeness
 4. Interpretive capacity

Kylie Winkworth and Roslyn Russell. Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing the significance of collections. Collections Council of Australia, 2009.



But I don't have any special collections...

- Does your organisation produce anything: newsletters, audio recordings, ephemera...
- Do you have anything that belonged to someone important? Did they make annotations?
- Is the institutional memory of your organisation being recorded?
- Do you have stuff you don't know what to do with?
- Build your own

Why special collections are important

- Enhance research – primary sources are ‘the raw material of history’
- Attract scholars
- Preserve unique history and memory
- Community engagement
- Promotional value

A. Flickr. New York Times 5th March 1925



Access v. preservation

- “He... at least as I (surely unfairly) remember him, he might as well have worn a sign about his neck reading *Noli me tangere* (or my books, either)” Traister (2000), p. 58.
- “On the one hand, readers need access; on the other, our materials need protection... We can ignore neither side of these pairs, yet both have the constant potential to conflict” Traister (2000), p. 60.

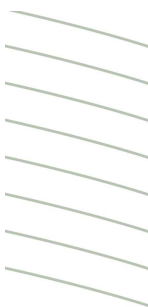
Excursus: gloves

- Are you: a) Mickey Mouse, b) a band leader, or c) handling rare books? If c) – leave the white cotton gloves at home
- Cotton gloves are slippery and break off the edges of pages
- Clean dry hands are fine for books and paper
- Nitrile gloves are necessary for handling photographs, glass or metal objects



Metadata for special collections

- Published material – provenance, annotations & features recorded in the 590 and 700 fields
- Archives management system – records, manuscripts, ephemera
- Finding aid
- Any metadata is better than none



Uniform title: Bible. N.T. English. Tyndale. 1550.

Title:

The New Testament in Englyshe : after the greeke translation annexed wyth the translation of Erasmus in Latin. Wherunto is added a Kalendar, and an exhortation to the readyng of the holy scriptures made by the same Erasmus wyth the Epistles taken out of the olde testam^{nt} both in Latin and Englyshe, wher^{unto} is added a table necessary to finde the Epistles and Gospels for euery sonday & holyday throughout the yere after the vse of the churche of England nowe.

Publication info: Excusum Londini : in officina Thom^{ae} Gaultier. pro I. C., 1550.

Physical description: [264] leaves ; 18 & 19 cm. (8vo)

General Note:

The fourth edition of Tyndale's English version with the translation of Erasmus in Latin.

General Note:

Description Fourteen preliminary leaves: title (in black and red, within woodcut border), on verso "An almanacke for .xxii. yeares" (1550-71), "J. C. vnto the Christen reders" - 1 p., 1 p. blank. Kalendar - 6 ff.; "An exhortacion ... by Erasmus Roterodamus" - 9 pp., "The summe and content ..." - 2 pp., 1 p. blank. The text, A i to Hh 5 b; "The Epistles of the old testament ..." - 5 pp., 1 p. blank, table of Epistles and Gospels "accordynge vnto the booke of Common prayer" - 3 pp., ending on li 2 a, verso blank.

General Note:

The initials I.C. (i.e. J.C.) stand for the name of the publisher, who, according to his preface, was also editor. They may indicate John Cawood, the London printer. There appears to be no adequate reason for connecting this edition with the name of Sir John Cheke.

General Note: Signatures: *â, [Maltese cross]â, A-Zâ, Aa-Hhâ, liâ.

Local note:

"Black letter text. Pages not numbered. (528pp-text). Of the preliminary leaves present, only the title page and Epistle to the Reader are present here, in skillful facsimile in red and black. First leaf in Matthew in similar good facsimile. Possibly the final two table leaves at close also. One leaf in Mark repaired and remargined outer edge. Minor marks. Some outer marginal notes shaved or very slightly trimmed in places. A very good copy. 19th century red grained morocco. Blind line borders. Ownership bookplate and signatures from 1917, Scarborough, UK. DMH 88. The Fourth Edition of Tyndale's English New Testament, with Erasmus's Latin Translation added for good measure, in parallel columns. Quite scarce nowadays, and always sought after. NB. This could have come from Francis Fry's collection, though nothing positively identifies it. The excellent facsimiles in red and black are very reminiscent of his productions on old paper. Also the 19th century bindings are similar to what he had done. Finally, the book has come from a source where other of Francis Fry's books" -- Booksellers notes, Humber Books.

Added Entry-Personal Name: Tyndale, William, d. 1536.

Added Entry-Personal Name: Erasmus, Desiderius, d. 1536.

Name:

Reflections for every day in the year : on the works of God : and his providence throughout all nature

Sturm, Christoph Christian, 1740-1786,

key: ocn523076243

Local system #: (OCoLC)523076243

Personal Author: Sturm, Christoph Christian, 1740-1786,

Uniform title: [Betrachtungen ^Åber die Werke Gottes. Selections. English]

Title:

Reflections for every day in the year : on the works of God : and his providence throughout all nature / translated by John Hemet.

Publication Info: London : Rivington, 1823.

Physical description: xvi, 403 pages : illustrations ; 17 cm

Local note:

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge stamp on front cover. Inscription on fly-leaf: A small token of remembrance to Master W. Blaxland from M. Marsden June 24 1829.

Subject term: Devotional literature, German--Translations into English.

Subject term: Nature--Religious aspects--Christianity.

Subject term: Natural theology--Early works to 1800.

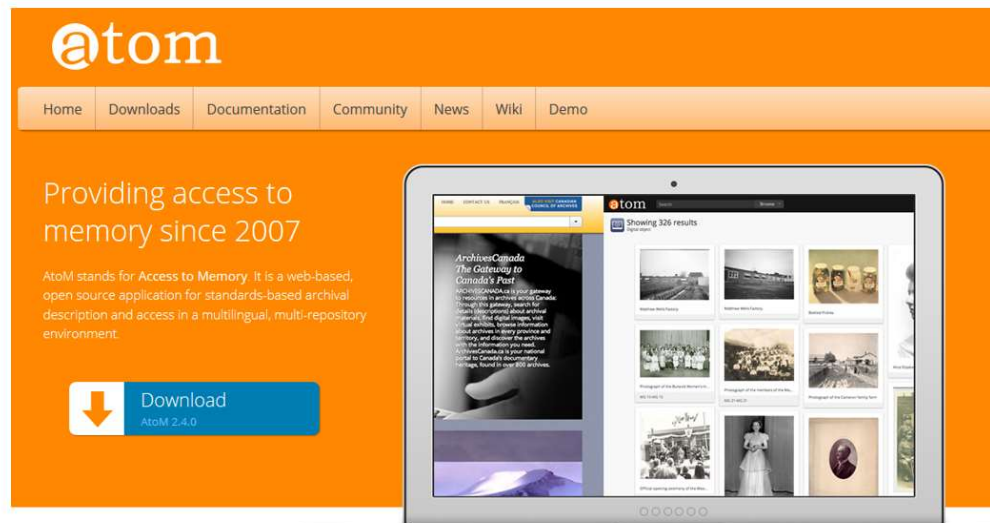
Subject term: Meditations--Early works to 1800.

Subject term: Devotional calendars.

Added Entry-Personal Name: Blaxland, William,

Name:

www.accesstomemory.org



Digitisation

- Digitisation is not digital preservation
- A website is not a digital asset management system
- Metadata first, conservation second, digitisation third

Digital preservation

- “The coordinated and ongoing set of processes and activities that ensure long-term, error-free storage of digital information, with means for retrieval and interpretation, for the entire time span the information is required...”

• State Library of New South Wales (2015) Digital Preservation. Retrieved from: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/public-library-services/digital-practice-guidelines-public-libraries/digital-preservation>

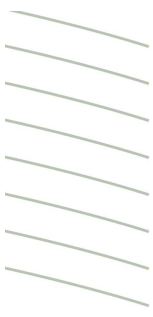


Digital preservation

- **Use sustainable file formats**
- **Use detailed and standardised metadata**
- **Replication** - creation of multiple copies of data at one or more locations
- **Refreshing** - the transfer of data between two types of the same storage medium
- **Migration** - the transferring of data to a newer hardware and/or software environment



Lingel, Jessa (2013) 'This is not an archive' Retrieved from: <http://jessalingel.tumblr.com/post/66108958850/this-is-not-an-archive>



Digital asset management systems

- Ex [Libris Rosetta](#)
- D-Space
- Fedora
- [Archivematica](#)
- [ContentDM](#) from OCLC

Christian voices in the public square

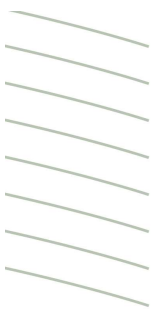
dc.contributor.author	Jensen, Peter F.	
dc.date.accessioned	2016-10-11T07:23:05Z	
dc.date.available	2016-10-11T07:23:05Z	
dc.date.issued	2013-06-26	
dc.identifier.uri	https://myrrh.library.moore.edu.au:443/handle/10248/8957	
dc.format.extent	01:07:51	en_AU
dc.title	Christian voices in the public square	en_AU

Files in this item



Name: Christian-Voices-in-the-Public-Square-PFJ.mp3
Size: 93.04Mb
Format: mp3 audio





www.digitalcollections.org.au



Toolkit



Framework



Workshops




GLAM Peak

Collaborative digitisation

- Australia – become a digitisation partner with Trove
- New Zealand – National Library’s Papers Past project
- The resulting files will be made available on a secure platform and will be actively preserved

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA



Trove help centre

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For digitisation partners

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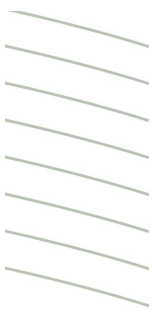
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Collaborative digitisation

Every year we invite community groups to collaborate with us in adding more newspapers to [Papers Past](#). You can apply to be part of this programme if you have a newspaper title you want to digitise and add to Papers Past. We'll get it online and split the costs with you, 50/50.

The 2018/2019 programme
Applications for the 2018/19 programme have now closed.

Te Puna >

National Library Services >

> **Collaborative digitisation**

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Publications New Zealand

Cataloguing

Levels of cataloguing

Directory of New Zealand Libraries >

Ngā Upoko Tukutuku / Māori >

“special”?

- Special collections are an asset to an institution and its researchers
- Managing them requires creativity and branching out into other GLAM domains
- Explore available programs and resources
- **[DIGITISATION IS NOT DIGITAL PRESERVATION](#)**

Questions?