## DIGITAL PROJECTS – LIST 37 (BRICMICS, 17 November 2020, during Covid-19 Lockdown 2)

At the Spring 2002 BRICMICS meeting it was suggested that BRICMICS should maintain a list of British and Irish digital projects to include announcements of upcoming projects, details of those in progress or completed, and information about new maps on the Internet.

The intention of the list is to alert colleagues to projects which might be of interest. It is also hoped that it will help to prevent duplication of effort. It is not meant, however, to replicate information already available on the History of Cartography website at: <http://www.maphistory.info/projects.html> and <http://www.maphistory.info/webimages.html>

All lists compiled so far are available at: [www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/digital-maps/digital-projects-list](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/digital-maps/digital-projects-list)

**BRITISH LIBRARY** *(Gethin Rees)*

* Computer vision techniques were used to extract text from 2,000 images of colonial-era maps and documents from the ‘War Office Archive’, relating to East Africa. A spreadsheet of results, over 310,000 pieces of searchable text, is available from the [Shared Research Repository](https://bl.iro.bl.uk/work/ns/117ed6c1-d9ba-481a-bae6-74d389f6a441).
* In March 2020 ten [3D interactive models of early globes](https://www.bl.uk/maps/articles/european-globes-of-the-17th-and-18th-centuries) were released on the Sketchfab platform. The project to digitise and create 3D renders of 28 of the Library’s early globes was the Library’s first end-to-end in-house 3D project. A further three launches will follow. Complete surface imaging (up to 400 individual shots) of each globe will be ingested into the Library’s digital preservation system. Press coverage included BBC Click and [The Guardian newspaper](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/18/around-the-world-from-your-sofa-british-library-to-put-rare-globes-online).
* 18,000 digital images of early maps and views from the [Topographical Collection of George III](https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/albums/72157716220271206) (K.Top) were released on the image sharing site Flickr. The launch is the first of two launches following a seven-year philanthropically funded project to conserve, catalogue and image the collection. Images can be viewed, downloaded and reused, and can also be accessed via the relevant catalogue records on the Library’s Explore catalogue. In the three weeks following the launch there were over 4 million individual image views. The release was covered in [The Times.](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/british-library-makes-george-iiis-map-collection-available-online-9rnz20dw0)
* 7996 images of early maps from the K.Top were added to the Library’s [Georeferencer tool.](http://britishlibrary.georeferencer.com/start) To date 29% have been georeferenced.
* The Locating a National Collection project, a foundational collaborative project in UKRI's Towards a National Collection programme has got underway in earnest with the appointment of Valeria Vitale as Research Curator. Valeria has conducted a series of interviews with people in technical and engagement roles at cultural heritage organisations to understand more about how they store and use location data. In the upcoming months we will be working with a market research company to examine how to engage the general public with heritage and place and hosting a hack event on linking location data as part of the Linked Pasts conference.
* Gethin Rees is a Co-Investigator on two applications to the second-round Discovery call, 'Exploring Atlantic Slavery’s Legacy in Bricks, Mortar, Stone and Soil' and 'Northern LITEs: Locating Collections in Space and Time'.

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY** *(Anne Taylor)*

I am delighted that a second tranche of manuscript maps have been released to Cambridge Digital Library (CUDL) bringing the total to over 300. See <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/maps/1> . Links to some highlights can be found towards the bottom of the introductory text. My current favourites include a 1650 map of [Uggeshall](https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-MAPS-MS-PLANS-00904/1), Suffolk, a 1753 [Dunkirk](https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-MAPS-MS-PLANS-00989/1) and several mid-19th century maps of [parts of Australia](https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/search?author=&excludeText=&facetCollection=Maps&fileID=&fullText=&keyword=australia&location=&page=1&recallScale=0.0&shelfLocator=&subject=&tagging=1&textJoin=and&title=).

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND** *(Chris Fleet)*

**Recent website additions:**

* **Early maps of Scotland, 16th-19th centuries**. 1,350 maps, including 450 new printed [maps of Scotland](https://maps.nls.uk/scotland/), 300 printed [county maps of Scotland](https://maps.nls.uk/counties/), 450 new [estate maps](https://maps.nls.uk/estates/), and 180 new printed [town plans of Scotland](https://maps.nls.uk/towns/), covering 22 towns. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#84>
* **Signet Library map collection**. 400 flat-sheet maps of Scotland, dating from the late 16th century through to the mid 20th century, which has been held on deposit in NLS since 1981. <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/signet.html>
* **Military maps of Scotland, 1656-1923.** 82 maps which add to the main existing Board of Ordnance and Wade collection military maps from the 18th century, and are drawn from other manuscript and early printed map collections. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#88>
* **Charles Goad Fire Insurance Plans of Scottish Towns, 1880s-1940s**. 230 very detailed maps covering the main industrial areas of seven towns and cities in Scotland, particularly useful for showing the function of each building, as well as often the names of particular companies or institutions there. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#89>
* **Transport plans of Scotland, 18th-20th centuries**. 102 specialised early maps, plans and profiles relating to relating to bridges, canals and railways. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#90>
* **Coastal charts of Scotland, 1592-1947**. 100 more charts of Scottish coasts and waters, doubling the number of sea charts NLS has online. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#91>
* **Sutherland estate mapping, 1770s-1920s**. 524 estate maps, 40 county maps, and 22 coastal charts reflecting all aspects of estate management over a century and a half, centred on the county of Sutherland. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#95>
* ***Dumfries Archival Mapping Project* estate maps of south-west Scotland, 1770s-1940**. 120 estate plans, held in private hands and archives and recently scanned. These include three volumes of estate plans, relating to Caerlaverock in Dumfries-shire (1775-76), Earlstoun in Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfries-shire (1800-1815), and Dunskey in Wigtownshire (1804). <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#94>
* **German naval charts of British waters, 1938-1945.** 21 German naval charts of Scottish and British waters, produced by the Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine in Berlin. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#96>
* **One-inch and Half-inch to the mile maps of southern India, 1916 - 1945**. A small set of 140 topographic maps covering part of southern India, published by the Survey of India, in connection with an AHRC-funded collaborative project. <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#93>

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES** *(Huw Thomas)*

We are currently digitising some 1st edition 25-inch sheets of Denbighshire and Flintshire as part of a project relating to estates in Northeast Wales.

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER** *(Donna Sherman)*

Transferral of digitised items from the Library’s Image Library to [Manchester Digital Collections](https://www.digitalcollections.manchester.ac.uk/) platform is ongoing. The Mapping Manchester content is being added to gradually. MDC is curated content organised by research theme and allows enhanced viewing and manipulation of images, and rich descriptive content.

Maps photographed for teaching are also added on an ad hoc basis to the map collection in the [Library Digital Collections](https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/allCollections) image viewer.

There has been no further development on the North West Digital Mapping Project.

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