



This project update provides an overview and highlights the progress achieved as the project passes its halfway mark

► **What's the project doing?**

Over the course of two years (March 2007–February 2009), more than twenty thousand 19th century pamphlets (approximately a million pages) are being scanned from seven significant UK research collections. The digital pamphlet collection will concentrate on the political, economic and social issues that fuelled the great debates and controversies of the 19th century, both in Parliament and across the country. It will provide a vast and valuable primary source for 19th century studies and will complement other collections now coming online, such as newspapers, periodicals, parliamentary papers, and the mass book-scanning projects being undertaken by Google, Microsoft and others.

The project benefits from the rich partnership it brings together. The project is made possible through substantial funding from the JISC, the coordination of Research Libraries UK (RLUK, previously CURL), and a strategic partnership with the US non-profit publisher JSTOR. It benefits from the expertise of the University of Southampton's BOPCRIS Digitisation Centre and the University of Manchester's MIMAS data service. It also relies on the significant contributions of the research libraries and collection owners who have made their pamphlets available for scanning.

The core output of the project will be a substantial online digital collection available free to UK users within universities, colleges, schools, and public libraries. The pamphlets will be made available online via JSTOR, but will also be found via library catalogues and through search engines like Google. Accompanying them will be rich information describing the collections and their history, along with guidance for teachers, researchers and other users of the collection.

► **Project Overview**

- ❑ **20,000+ digital pamphlets (1 million pages)**
- ❑ Resources to help people discover and use the pamphlets collection
- ❑ Resources to help those creating similar large digital collections

► **Project Partners**

- ❑ **JISC** – major funder
- ❑ **RLUK** (previously CURL) – sponsor
- ❑ **University of Southampton/BOPCRIS** – lead institution and digitisation services
- ❑ **JSTOR** – online delivery and archiving
- ❑ **MIMAS** – bibliographic services
- ❑ **University of Bristol** – pamphlets
- ❑ **Durham University** – pamphlets
- ❑ **University of Liverpool** – pamphlets
- ❑ **LSE** – pamphlets
- ❑ **University of Manchester** – pamphlets
- ❑ **University of Newcastle** – pamphlets
- ❑ **UCL** – pamphlets

*We also acknowledge the support of the **Lord Howick** and the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**, whose pamphlets are included within the collections of Durham University and the University of Manchester*

► **What's significant about the project?**

The new digital pamphlet collection will provide wide access to a substantial and important 19th century resource that has been under-utilised due to difficulties of access. Although some 19th century pamphlets are available through microfilm and a few have been digitised, most are locked away in stores or archives.

The project builds on a previous large, three-year pamphlet cataloguing project (1999-2002), without which this current project would not have been feasible. This current project extends the earlier one, enabling users to discover a pamphlet via a catalogue or search engine and then click through to see the full digital copy. It also enables many of the libraries that worked together on the previous project to undertake further collaboration.

The project builds on many years of experience of the University of Southampton's BOPCRIS Digitisation Centre (www.soton.ac.uk/library/bopcris/). BOPCRIS has most recently scanned and indexed a million pages of 18th century parliamentary papers – see www.parl18c.soton.ac.uk. The Centre uses the latest technologies and standards to create high quality digital collections that will last well into the future. As well as aiding this current project, the tools and methodologies BOPCRIS develops during the project will be made available to others undertaking similar work.

Another key aspect of the project is the involvement of JSTOR (www.jstor.org), a non-profit organisation dedicated to ensuring that scholarly materials are preserved and easily accessed by future researchers and teachers. In order to fund its activities and grow its collections, JSTOR normally imposes subscription fees. The project will give JSTOR a copy of the digital collection and allow it to sell subscriptions outside of the UK in exchange for free access to UK universities, colleges, schools and the public via libraries and archives. This enables the project to put the funding received from the JISC into digitising more pamphlets rather than expensive databases and websites. As part of JSTOR's collections, it also means that this collection will achieve a very high profile.

► **Project Significance**

- ❑ Enables access to important but under-utilised resources
- ❑ Extends a previous large cataloguing project
- ❑ Develops knowledge and expertise in digitisation techniques
- ❑ Ensures ongoing preservation and access to the collection through a strategic partnership with a scholarly non-profit publisher

► **What's happened over the past year?**

The project has just entered its second and final year. Much of the first year was spent in preparation, although a third of the pamphlets have already been digitised.

The libraries have been busy checking and preparing their pamphlets for scanning. This work includes considering the pamphlet's copyright status, seeing if it duplicates a pamphlet already sent by another library and ensuring that it is not too damaged or fragile to be scanned. Bristol and LSE have a further task of selecting which pamphlets to send from their very large collections of 19th century pamphlets (see page 4 for descriptions of the collections).



BOPCRIS began scanning in May 2007. The initial focus was on identifying potential issues and finding the best ways to address them. Towards the end of 2007 additional staff were brought in and new scanners were purchased, enabling the centre to move into full production. BOPCRIS is currently achieving as much as 20,000 pages a week, although this rate varies according to the complexity and fragility of the material. Some collections, for example, have tight or fragile bindings, requiring extra care. Others have foldouts or annotations that have to be carefully scanned and noted by staff. To date, the Knowsley collection from Liverpool and Cowen Tracts from Newcastle have been fully scanned and checked, along with substantial proportions of UCL and Bristol's collections.

JSTOR has been working with BOPCRIS to finalise the technical specifications, check the quality of the scanning (which has proved very high), prepare for the receipt of the very large datasets from Southampton and the generation of copies suitable for delivering on the Internet. JSTOR has also been consulting with user groups to understand how people might want to search and use the pamphlet collection.

► What's coming up over the next year?

Selection, preparation and scanning of pamphlets will all continue over the next year, with the project well on track to achieve its target of a million pages by early 2009.

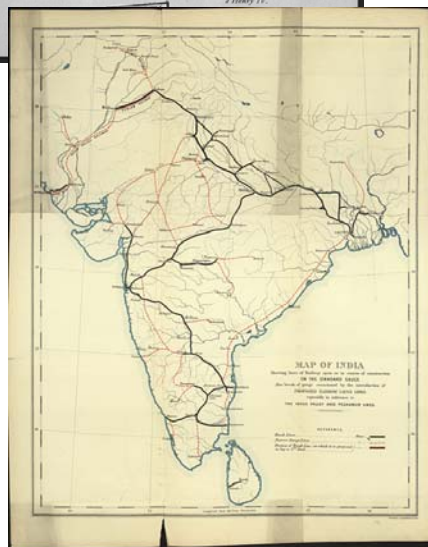
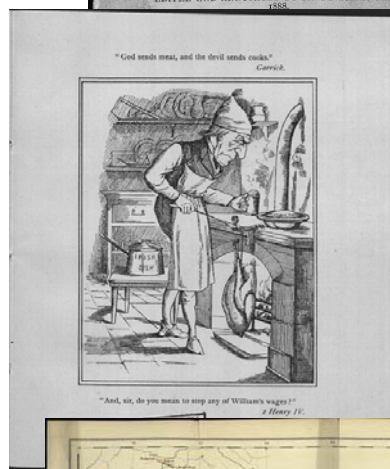
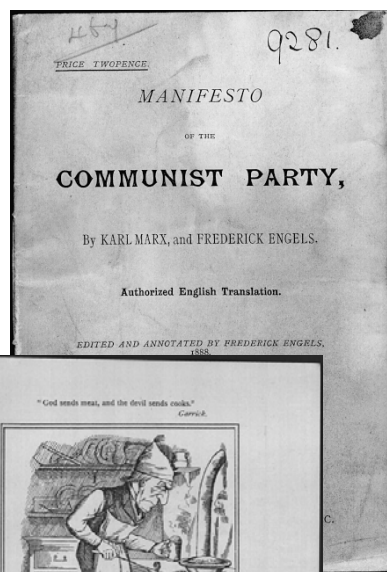
During its second year, the project is focusing particularly on the delivery and presentation of the pamphlet collection.

JSTOR is launching a completely redesigned and reconfigured website in mid 2008. The timing of this means that the new design can take into account the requirements of the pamphlet collection and provide it with some advanced functionality. We expect the first batches of pamphlets to be available well before the end of the project.

An educational consultant is being employed by the project to develop contextual and educational resources to help students, researchers and teachers make the best use of the collection. These will include guides to using the collection within GCSE or A level courses and in undergraduate and postgraduate research.

MIMAS, who provide cataloguing and other bibliographic services, will be working to incorporate links to the digital pamphlets into Copac, the UK academic library catalogue, and other services. MIMAS will also enable searching from the project's educational resources.

As the collection starts to become available online, the project team will seek to provide as much publicity and visibility for the collection as possible, including organising a special event to focus on 19th century pamphlets and their use. If readers of this update are aware of publications or events that could help with promoting the collection, please let us know (contact details on next page).



Collections being digitised

Personal collections

► **Hume Tracts from UCL.** Personal collection of Joseph Hume (1777-1855), Radical Member of Parliament. Hume's collection covers the major political, economic and social developments and reforms taking place in Britain in the early part of the 19th century along with the causes he particularly championed, such as universal suffrage, Catholic emancipation, a reduction in the power of the Anglican church and an end to imprisonment for debt.

► **Cowen Tracts from the University of Newcastle.** Personal collection of Joseph Cowen (1829-1900). A social reformer and Member of Parliament for Newcastle (1873-86), Cowen's pamphlet collection dates, mostly, from his active years from the late 1840s to early 1880s. The collection reflects his interests in social, educational and economic issues and includes much local material.

Family collections

► **Earl Grey Pamphlets Collection from Durham University.** Still owned by the family, this collection was largely accumulated by the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Earls Grey. Charles was Foreign Secretary (1806-07) and Prime Minister (1830-34). Henry George was Under Secretary for Home Affairs (1830) and the Colonies (1830-34), Secretary at War (1835-39), and Secretary of State for the Colonies (1846-52). Albert Henry George was Administrator of Rhodesia (1896-97) and Governor-General of Canada (1904-11). The Greys were particularly interested in parliamentary reform, colonial affairs and Catholic emancipation.

► **Knowsley Pamphlet Collection from the University of Liverpool.** The Knowsley collection reflects the political careers of the Earls of Derby. Edward George, the 14th Earl, was successively Irish Secretary (1830-33), Colonial Secretary (1833-34, 1841-44) and three times Prime Minister (1852, 1858-59 and 1866-68). His son, Edward Henry, 15th Earl, was Colonial Secretary and later Indian secretary in his father's administration of 1858-59.

Party and interest group collections

► **Selections from the LSE Pamphlet Collection.** LSE has a substantial number of 19th century pamphlets. Among its pamphlets are comprehensive collections of political party materials, including election manifestos and political cartoons. There are also collections from pressure groups such as the Fabian Society, Imperial Federation Defence Committee, Poor Law Reform Association, Workhouse Visiting Society, Liberal and Property Defence League, and from cooperative movements such as the Cooperative Women's Guild.

► **Selections from the University of Bristol Pamphlet Collection.** Like the LSE, Bristol has a substantial collection of 19th century pamphlets, including the National Liberal Club collection, with pamphlets from the libraries of Charles Bradlaugh, John Noble, the Liberation Society, the Land Nationalisation Society, the Cobden Club, and others. Bristol's collection is especially strong on 19th century commerce, economics, finance, politics, religion and sociology. In addition to publications by Liberal Party members, it includes many pamphlets from other political parties.

Official collections

► **Foreign and Commonwealth Office Collection from the University of Manchester.** On deposit from the FCO, this collection comprises the earlier collections of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office. Both include rare publications from overseas. The *Foreign Office Collection* consists largely of pamphlets sent back to London by British ambassadors to help with policy formation. It is particularly rich in material related to South America, the Near East, and to the various great European political "questions" of the 19th century. The *Colonial Office Collection* is chiefly comprised of pamphlets sent back from Britain's colonies, including some unique early material from Australasia.

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Web link: <http://purl.org/net/pamphlets/>