

# Endangered Archives Programme Annual Report

Phase 2, Year 3

1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021



*The project team of EAP1319: Survey of Lao Manuscripts*

## **Summary**

*After the postponement of the sixteenth round of EAP funding last year, we were pleased to receive a strong group of applications to the limited call announced in September. These applications, supplemented with the ones carried forward from the postponed round, resulted in 33 awards to projects this year, for a total of £983,234. Two-thirds of these projects were from the country in which the archive is located, including our first project to receive an Area Grant, 'Hidden and endangered manuscript collections connected to the Supreme Patriarch and the Royal Family of Laos'. As new projects continue to go online, nearly a million new images, and accompanying metadata, have been made available via the EAP website, bringing the total to over 10 million images. Other highlights this year include the new Arabic translation of Remote Capture, the EAP guide for digitisation projects, which is available for free on the EAP website; the launch of the new Regional Network Hubs project; and the successful migration of the EAP website to the newest version of Drupal, ensuring its security and stability for the coming years.*

## **Programme Staff and Panel**

There have been no staff changes in the EAP team this year, but we have been joined by a new EAP Apprentice, funded through the British Library's Apprenticeship scheme: Arianna Milighetti joined in September and will be with us for a year and a half, assisting with the grants management process and project documentation. In addition, EAP continues to receive substantial support and advice from British Library staff, including the Curatorial and Conservation teams and the International Office. In April, the EAP panel meeting was held online for the first time, owing to ongoing travel restrictions. Three sessions lasting three hours each were held on the afternoons of 21, 22 and 23 April, with a final meeting in the following week, 28 April, to confirm decisions and the content of the feedback to applicants. The meetings were timed to allow attendance by all of the EAP panel members, who are located at the furthest west in Chicago, and at the furthest east in Jakarta. It was felt that this method was successful, though some changes would be made if online meetings continue in future rounds.

## **New Projects**

This year EAP held a supplementary call for applications to join those carried over from the postponed Round 16. Initially 92 applications were submitted between late 2019 (preliminary stage) and early 2020 (detailed stage). In September 2020 we asked all those who had submitted detailed applications if they would like to be considered by the Panel in April 2021. There had already been a number of withdrawals and non-responses, mostly for reasons related to the pandemic, and as the number of applications carried forward was lower than usual, we decided to call an additional round at short notice. In the supplementary call, 45 applications came in at the preliminary stage, and we selected 20 to submit detailed applications.

In all, we received 137 preliminary applications in our sixteenth round of funding, and at the 2021 Panel meeting 65 detailed applications were considered. This resulted in 38 offers being made, of which 14 had other conditions attached, and for the first time we made all offers conditional on a satisfactory risk assessment. This has now resulted in 33 new EAP projects, which is roughly in line with past figures, where about a quarter of applications are successful. We are pleased to see that an increasing proportion of awarded projects are based in the country where the material is located. This year 22 out of the 33 projects are from local applicants and host institutions. This is a strong indication that our outreach and close engagement with applicants is having a positive impact on the number and quality of local project applications.

## New Collections Online



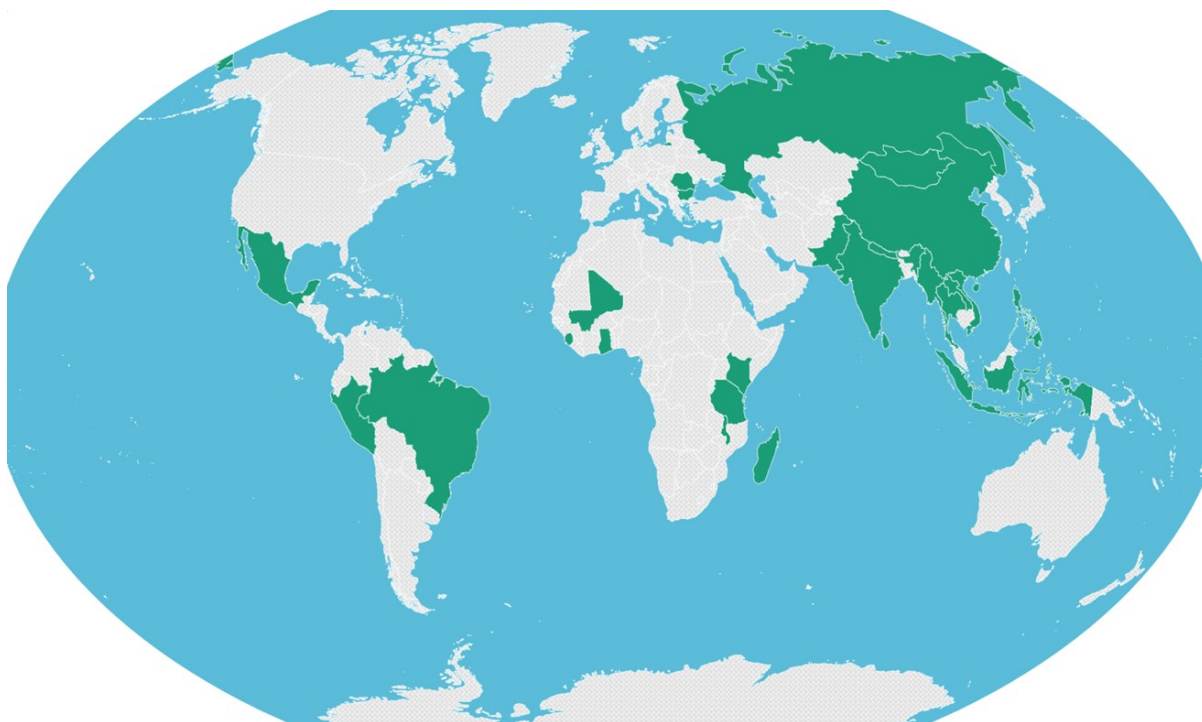
Cover of the manuscript EAP1126/32/32/1, a magical altar ritual

A total of 28 new digital collections from completed EAP projects were put online this year, with nearly a million (988,249) new digital images now available on the EAP website. These include more than 300,000 manuscripts, dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards, in languages including Arabic, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese, as well as the rare Mon language. A number of these manuscript collections document ritual and medical practices of everyday life, which have not yet been widely studied. Among the documentary archives, notable new collections include the major grassroots project 'Public High Schools Archives of Chile' ([EAP1065](#)) which has resulted in an extensive new collection of 253,789 images.

EAP projects also continue to provide invaluable material for the history of colonialism, anti-colonial movements and post-colonial governance across the world. Digital collections on these themes were put online from projects that worked in Ghana, Tajikistan and the Philippines. This year also sees EAP's first project from the island of Tristan da Cunha, which is part of the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world, its archives endangered by volcanic activity, as well as weather events caused by climate change.

Project number	Project title	Number of images
EAP760	Preservation of historic manuscripts and documents from the Tirthalal Naghabhani Collection, Nepal	10,934
EAP791	Digital library of the Lanten textual heritage (Laos)	34,245
EAP833	Safeguarding the fragile collection of the private archive of the Lazic family (Serbia)	50,055
EAP838	Digitisation of the photographic collection from DirghaMan and GaneshMan Chitrakar Art Foundation (Nepal)	5,066
EAP855	Anti-colonialism and religious independence in the Philippines around 1900: Preserving the archival records of the early history of the Iglesia Filipina Independente (Philippines)	10,008
EAP863	Preserving a unique archive of diaspora and disease in the Indian Ocean from 1867 to 1930: a test case from Mauritius	9,013
EAP886	Digitisation of Sanskrit Manuscripts and Books in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (India)	18,940
EAP900	Ukrainian scientific heritage of the late 19th and early 20th century preservation: digitisation of archival materials and scientific publications Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv (Ukraine)	40,274
EAP910	(Re)Collecting the Heritage of the Silk Road: Tajikistan's pre-Russian Past in Documents	19,466
EAP913	Documenting the Arabic manuscript collection of the Yattara Family Library, Timbuktu, Mali	1,338

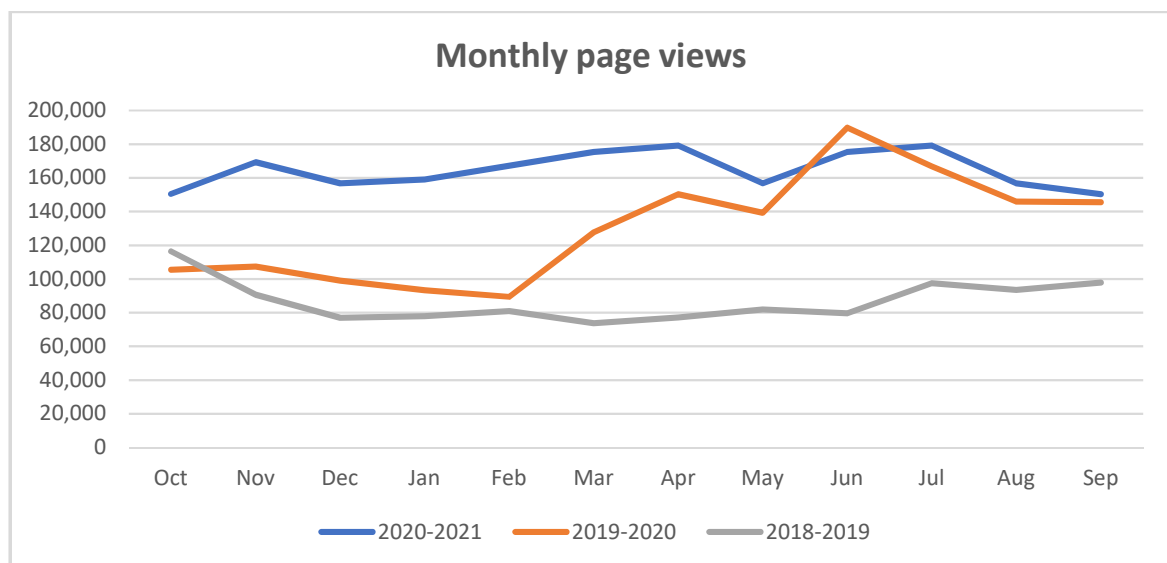
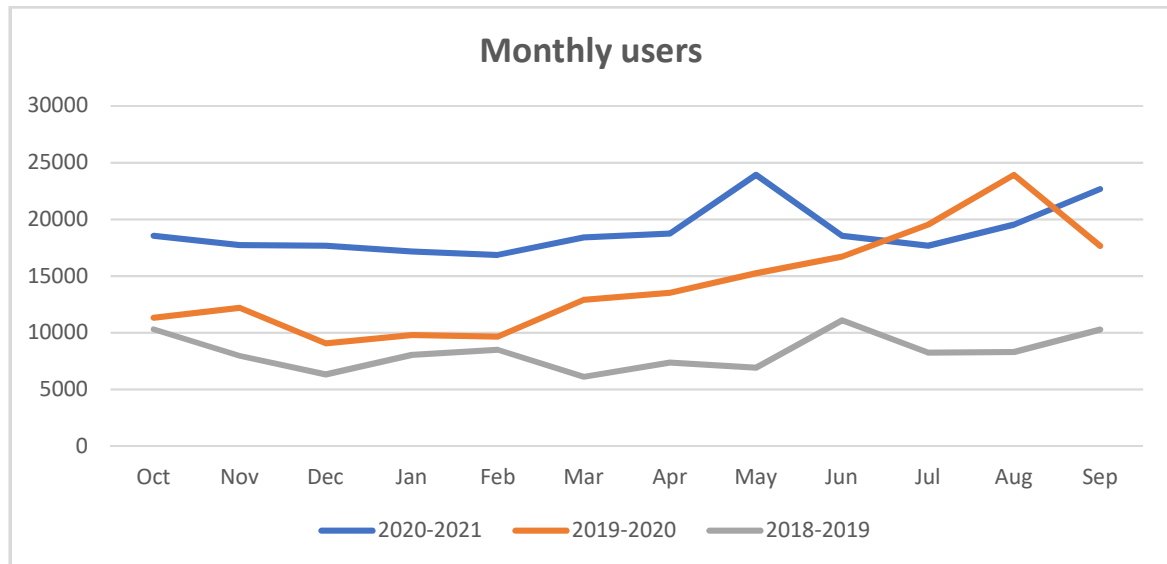
EAP935	Safeguarding the British Colonial and Regional Administrative Archive in Northern Ghana	206,284
EAP951	All hands' things: the endangered archives of Tristan da Cunha	333
EAP981	Preservation of the manuscripts of the Jaffna Bishop's house (Sri Lanka)	111,196
EAP989	Three Precious Cultural Manuscript Collections from the 19th century facing disappearance (Bulgaria)	1,416
EAP1016	Lama Mani: the texts and narrative thangkas of India's exiled Tibetan storytellers (India)	5,102
EAP1029	Preservation and Digitisation of Endangered Sundanese Manuscripts of Paseban Tri Panca Tunggal Collections, Kuningan Regency, West Java Province, Indonesia	30,196
EAP1055	Slow Death for Slavery in the National Archives of Benin	71,218
EAP1063	Vernacular Mathematics in Pre-Modern India	3,052
EAP1065	Public High Schools Archives of Chile, Digitisation for their rescue, preservation and dissemination (Chile)	253,789
EAP1077	Preservation of Tibetan Bonpo Manuscripts in Amdo (Qinghai and Gansu Provinces, China)	10,274
EAP1119	Salvaging the Historical Heritage of Land Registration Documents of the Archives of Land Registration Division and Lands Commission of Ghana	11,249
EAP1123	Recalling a Translocal Past: Digitising Thai-Mon palm-leaf manuscripts (Thailand)	1,871
EAP1126	A Digital Library of the Lanten Textual Heritage - Phase II (Laos)	53,813
EAP1144	Takoradi Railway Workers' Archives Digitisation Project (Ghana)	18,940
EAP1145	Documentary heritage of the traditional Protestant communities in Bulgaria	1,170
EAP1160	Documenting royalty through the changing political culture in Kongu Nadu, South India, 1400-1950	7,006
EAP1262	Preserving the History of Indian Cinema through Digitising Early Urdu Film Magazines (India)	2,001



*Map showing locations of new collections online in 2020/2021*

## Digital Impact

There has been a further increase in the number of users and page views on the EAP website over the year, as more and more content is made available. The increase in usage we saw at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic has continued and we now receive over 150,000 page views per month. From October 2020 to September 2021 the website had 230,000 users, an increase of around 100,000 users over the same period in the pre-pandemic year.



We also continue to see the impact of EAP digital collections worldwide with the majority of our users visiting from countries in which the original archives are located. One country that stands out in the statistics is Armenia; with a population of just 2.9 million people, it consistently appears in the list of countries with most users, far higher than countries with much larger populations. An Armenian book of prayers is regularly the most viewed item on our website ([Լաբոյկ: Գիրք անօրօգ \[Narek.Girq aghotits\], 1832](#)). Some of our other most viewed items include manuscripts in [Malay](#), [Ethiopic](#), and [Mizo \(Lushai\)](#) languages, showing the global reach and impact of the programme.

### *Users by country: October 2020 – September 2021*

1. United States (20,206)
2. India (19,923)
3. United Kingdom (12,904)
4. Nigeria (11,716)
5. Indonesia (6,282)
6. Malaysia (4,245)
7. Armenia (4,075)
8. Ethiopia (3,509)
9. Brazil (3,000)
10. Peru (2,547)

### *EAP website upgrade*

The EAP website was developed in 2016 using the Drupal 7 content management system (CMS). As support for Drupal 7 is ending in 2022, the website needed upgrading to remain secure and cost-efficient. Drupal 9 is the latest stable version and offers ongoing long-term support as well as improvements to the CMS. The upgrade to Drupal 9 also gave us an opportunity to make a number of accessibility improvements to the website and ensure compliance with public sector regulations. The Drupal migration was funded by the British Library, which contributed £50,000 for the completion of this work.

### **Cataloguing and Metadata**

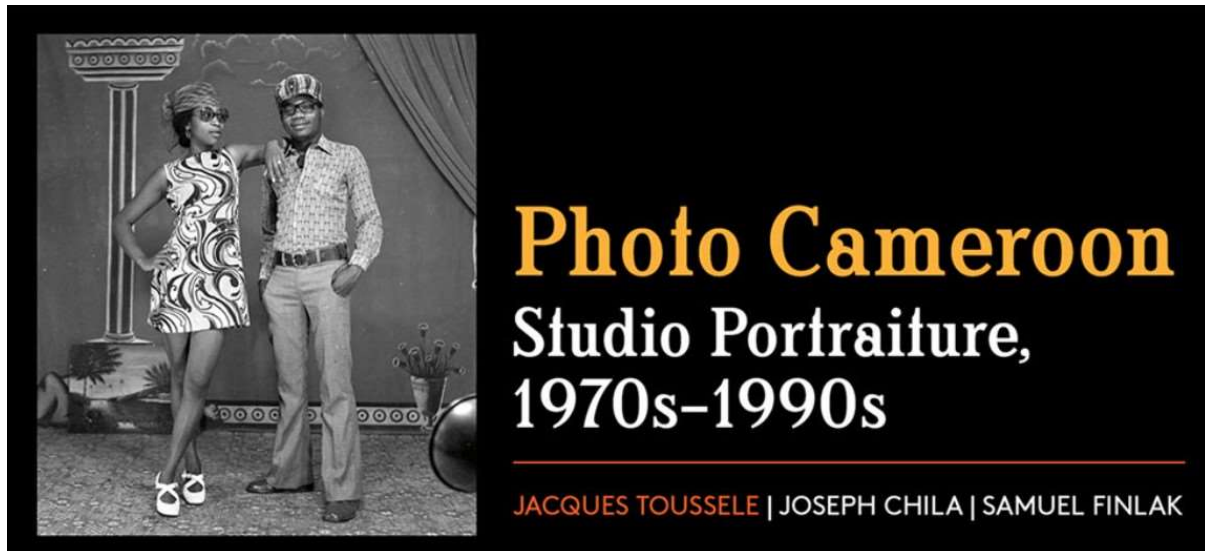
Graham Jevon, EAP Cataloguer, was awarded the British Library's 2021 Coleridge Fellowship to conduct a research project using two collections of 19<sup>th</sup> century Barbadian newspapers digitised by EAP projects ([EAP1086](#) and [EAP1251](#)). The aim of the *Agents of Enslavement* project is to examine the ways in which colonial newspapers facilitated and/or challenged the practice of slavery and to create a database of enslaved people hidden within these newspapers. This project uses crowdsourcing methods to extract data from these newspapers, and attracted popular attention with an article in the *Observer*. Nearly 2,000 registered contributors to the crowdsourcing site have completed almost 100,000 classifications and identified more than 25,000 advertisements relating to slavery. Key information such as the names of enslaved individuals is now being transcribed from these adverts, ready for ingest into the database. As part of this work, transcriptions of the newspapers created through OCR were made freely available on the British Newspaper Archive alongside other British Library newspapers, where they can now be searched by keywords.

### **Training and Outreach**

In 2021, the British Library launched a new EAP Regional Hubs project to establish a network of institutional hubs as a framework for local training and outreach work. We plan to establish partnerships with institutions in various geographic regions and work with them to deliver a series of training sessions and workshops for the region. The project will run from 2021 to 2023, and the British Library will partner with an institution in each of the regions, which will act as the host organisation for events and collaboration on local outreach. The events will initially be webinars drawing on the expertise of previous EAP project leads. We hope through these events to foster local networks of expertise. We are currently in the process of setting up our first hub partnerships in India and Jamaica.

Thanks to funding from the Barakat Trust, Nouran Ibrahim Abdelraouf completed the Arabic translation of Remote Capture. Nouran was interviewed for the EAP blog to help promote this new resource in [a bilingual English-Arabic article](#). EAP has also received a grant of £13,500 from the British Library's Collection Trust to help fund a series of digital talks and to create a promotional film that will be produced by Chouette films.

### Exhibitions, Events and Lectures



An exhibition at the Fowler Museum, UCLA, entitled 'Photo Cameroon: Studio Portraiture, 1970s-1990s', opened in July 1, 2021. The exhibition is based on the photographs of Cameroonian portrait photographers, especially Jacques Toussele, which were digitised in an EAP project run by David Zeitlyn ([EAP054](#)). The opening of the exhibition included an online public programme, which included an interview with David Zeitlyn and Sam van Schaik.

Sam van Schaik was also a keynote 'intervention' speaker at the National Libraries Now 2021 conference (16-17 September), where he spoke on the research value of EAP collections as an international library model. Jody Butterworth gave several lectures, including a guest lecture at the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi to the students of the BA programme in Records Management & Archival Science. EAP project holders have been present in several other online events during the pandemic. For example, Suzanne Schwarz ([EAP284](#), [EAP443](#) and [EAP782](#)) was invited to take part in this year's online Hay Festival of Literature and Arts; her talk 'Reconstructing the life histories of Enslaved Africans' attracted 1,200 people to attend from around the world.

### Research and Publications

EAP was also the focus for one of the British Library's three-month PhD placements in 2020. Second year SOAS student, Seda Izmirli-Karamanli, catalogued the EAP project Minority Press in Ottoman Turkish from within Bulgaria ([EAP696](#)), which needed improvements to Turkish-language metadata before we could make it available online. The placement was jointly supervised with the Curator of Turkish and Turkic Collections, Michael Erdman.

The Proceedings from the Frontiers in African Digital Research conference held at Bayreuth University in 2020 are about to be published. Jody Butterworth's contribution is titled: "Is the Endangered Archives Programme easily accessible to researchers in Africa? Steps toward a level playing field for digitised cultural heritage," *Frontiers in African Digital Research*, edited by Lena Kroeker (Bayreuth, 2021).

A new Open Access volume on Tibetan manuscript traditions contains an article by Sam van Schaik: "Reflections on the Original Form and Function of the Testimony of Ba From Dunhuang" in *Bringing Buddhism to Tibet: History and Narrative in the DBA' BZHED Manuscript*, edited by Lewis Doney (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020). DOI: 10.1515/9783110715309-003.

And EAP Panel member Nathan Mnjama has published a book chapter on the work of EAP in Africa, "Preserving Endangered Archives Through Open Access: The Role of the Endangered Archive Programme in Africa." The book is *Open Access Implications for Sustainable Social, Political and Economic Development*, edited by Priti Jain, Nathan Mnjama and O. Oladokun (IGI Global, 2021). DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-5018-2.

As well as using the EAP blog to announce new collections available online, we have published several substantial articles on this forum. For example, in November, Graham Jevon wrote about the changes in Mongolian newspapers in the Soviet and post-Soviet eras: [What's in a name? The Sovietisation of the Mongolian language and the Challenges of Reversal](#).

We published an interview in English and Arabic with Nouran Ibrahim Abdelraouf, the translator responsible for the Arabic translation of *Remote Capture* in March: [EAP Publication translated into Arabic - كتبه أهم أحد يطلق بالاندثار المهددة الأرشيفات برنامج: العربية إلى مُترجمًا](#).

To mark the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August 2021, we published an article by Dr Lissa Paul, of Brock University, on two EAP-funded projects based on Barbados: [The Backstory to Digitising the Barbados Gazette](#).

In addition, a number of articles based on EAP content were published on the British Library's Asian and African blog, which has a wide reach. Annabel Gallop, Lead Curator for Southeast Asia published two articles on Qur'an manuscripts in early 2021: [A beautiful Qur'an manuscript from Kampar, Riau, digitised through EAP](#) and [Qur'an manuscripts from Southeast Asia digitised by the Endangered Archives Programme](#).

Also published on the Asian and African blog, EAP's PhD placement, Seda Izmirli-Karamanli, wrote a thoughtful and inspiring article on the fight for women's rights in Bulgaria in August: [Motherhood: A Form of Emancipation in the Turkish Minority Press in Bulgaria \(1878-1944\)](#).



## Appendix: Grants awarded in Round 16

EAP no.	Project title	Grant	Award
EAP1293	Documenting and copying (estampage) sluice Inscriptions: a case study of Pudukottai district (India)	Pilot	£14,992
EAP1294	Safeguarding for posterity two private collections of palm-leaf manuscripts from the Tamil country (India)	Pilot	£9,381
EAP1296	Digital documentation of rare Buddhist manuscripts in the possession of Vihāras and Guṭhīs in selected Newār communities in Nepal	Major	£24,840
EAP1299	Exploring the archives of cloistered nuns in colonial Lima (Peru)	Pilot	£15,403
EAP1300	Locating and digitising early Santali periodicals published between 1890 and 1975 (India)	Pilot	£13,777
EAP1304	Thrissur, Kerala (South India) and immediate surroundings (India)	Major	£45,000
EAP1306	The Caucasian Silk Circle: digitising photo collection of the State Silk Museum in Georgia	Pilot	£14,825
EAP1308	Taiga Old Believer Skit as a keeper, restorer and reader of the Old Cyrillic Book (Russia)	Major	£19,710
EAP1309	Numbers in Business: documenting Chettiar mercantile account-keeping practices in 19th-20th century South India	Major	£59,942
EAP1319	Survey of Lao manuscripts in Vientiane and two neighbouring provinces (Laos)	Major	£55,070
EAP1320	Preservation and digitisation of manuscripts from 16th to 20th century Central Kerala (India)	Pilot	£15,000
EAP1325	Ancash Community Archive Digitisation (ACAD) Project (Peru)	Pilot	£13,225
EAP1326	Manuscripts of Ferghana Valley as a source for the study of the history of Kokand Khanate, 1710-1876 (Uzbekistan)	Major	£15,626
EAP1334	Identifying and digitising Eastern Salient Manuscripts of Java	Pilot	£12,795
EAP1355	Preparing "The Messenger" to go online: digitally preserving Avedaper and other rare publications of an Istanbul missionary press (Turkey)	Major	£44,000
EAP1357	Digitisation of endangered Nairobi City Council minutes and gazette archive collection from 1920-1950 at the McMillan Memorial Library, Nairobi (Kenya)	Pilot	£14,962
EAP1364	Digitisation of the East India Company records of St Helena, South Atlantic	Major	£56,244
EAP1366	Preserving records of social and political life in nineteenth-century Sierra Leone	Major	£32,355
EAP1367	Digital 'rasanblaj' of Haitian archives	Pilot	£15,000
EAP1369	The digitisation of private provincial archives of the Old Believers of Central Russia	Major	£25,000
EAP1371	Digital preservation of early 20th-century endangered newspapers from the Caribbean coast and major cities of Nicaragua	Major	£26,875
EAP1390	Digitising Arabic manuscripts in Mattool, North Kerala (India)	Major	£23,148
EAP1391	Preservation of 1930-1935 Ardiin-Erk newspaper (Mongolia)	Major	£24,708
EAP1392	Rediscovering the cultural heritage of the Muslims in Bulgaria, 1920-1950	Pilot	£15,000
EAP1396	Voices of indigenous peoples of Karelia (Russia)	Major	£60,000
EAP1398	Hidden and endangered manuscript collections connected to the Supreme Patriarch and the Royal Family of Laos	Area	£82,840
EAP1402	19th-century documents from the Peruvian asylum el Manicomio del Cercado	Major	£20,447
EAP1412	Preservation of communication material of an early cinema distribution company in South India	Major	£29,046
EAP1415	Recovering Peru's agrarian archive for the bicentennial	Major	£54,886
EAP1416	Documents in the Sufi shrine at Dhar (India)	Pilot	£14,528
EAP1418	Nigerian railway archives at Ebute-Metta: Joint Committee Collaboration	Pilot	£14,809
EAP1423	Safeguarding the Issa Iskandar al Maa'luf Manuscript collection (Lebanon)	Major	£49,823
EAP1425	Digitisation of pre-Independence herbarium in Ghana	Major	£49,977

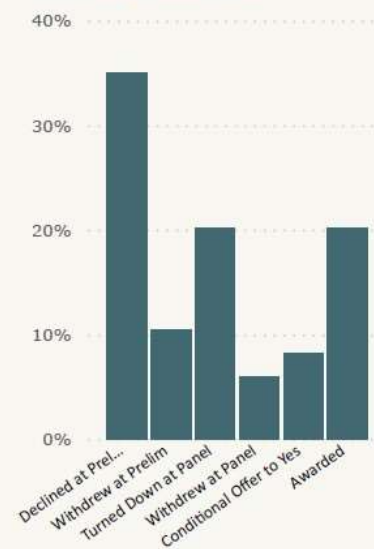
# Visualisation: all grants – summary

Infographic created in PowerBI by Arianna Milighetti

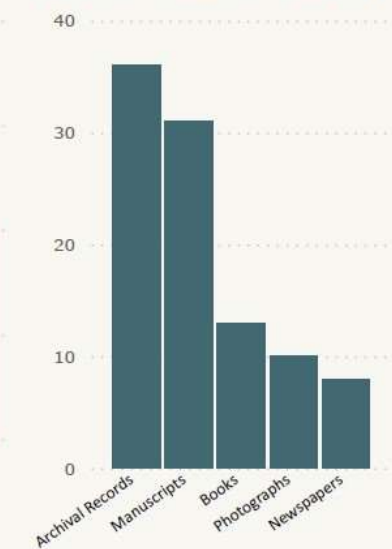
Country of project



Award Decisions



Type of Material (Top 5)

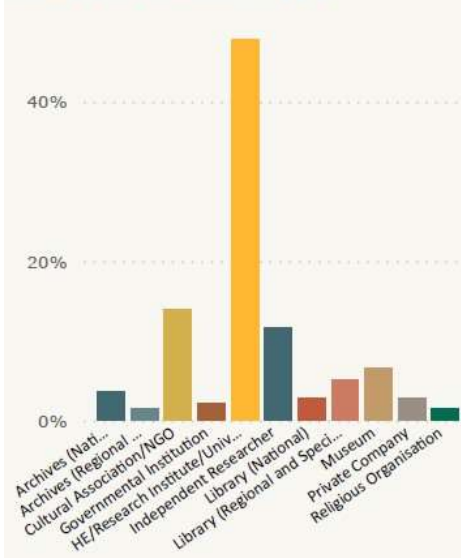


£4,920,649  
Amount Requested  
£983,234  
Amount Awarded

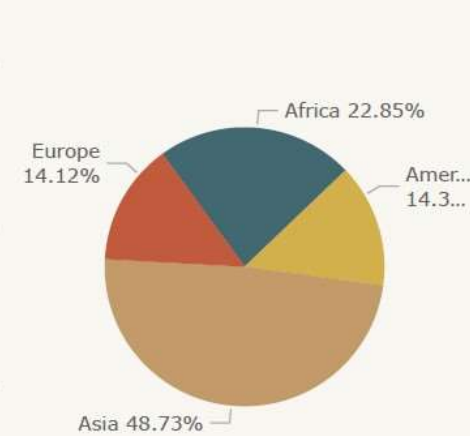
Applications

136  
Major 75  
Local Applicants  
No 24.26%  
Pilot 59  
Yes 75.74%  
Area 2

Host Institution Type

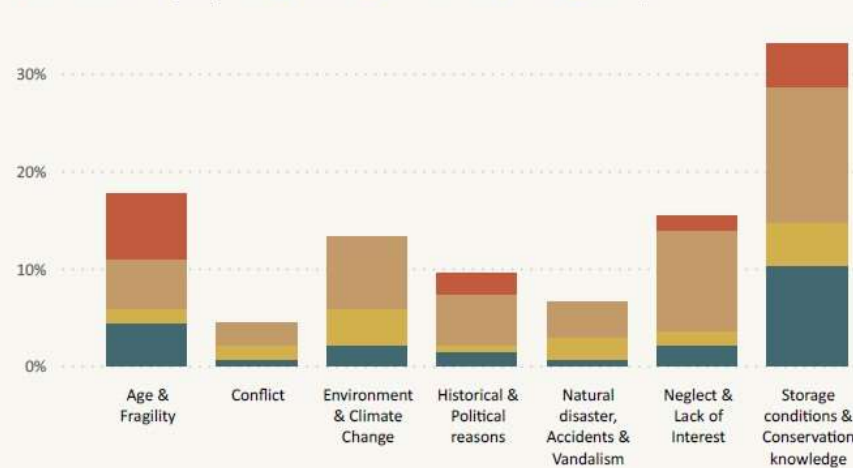


Amount requested by Continent



Endangerment

Continent of project ● Africa ● Americas ● Asia ● Europe



Time requested (months)

Major 18.66  
Pilot 10.36

Funding

Funded 33  
Not Funded 103



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