

Endangered Archives Programme

BRITISH
LIBRARY

Annual Report

Phase 2, Year 4

1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022



The team of EAP 1320, 'Preservation and Digitisation of Manuscripts Belonging to 16th to 20th Century of Central Kerala', inspecting manuscripts.

Summary

Since the gradual easing of Covid regulations in the summer of 2021, the work of EAP, and that of the projects we fund, has begun to look more like it did before the pandemic. Of course, the situation has been different across the globe, and many EAP projects have had to continue to find innovative ways to achieve their goals. The effect of the pandemic is also apparent in our new round of applications, with more projects working close to home, and fewer involving international travel. Yet if anything, the quality of applications has been higher than ever across the board, and we have been receiving and putting online a series of varied and rich new digital collections of projects that have weathered the storm. Other exciting developments this year have included an expansion of the Regional Hubs project to new partners, and our first joint workshop with Jadavpur University in Kolkata. We have published updated equipment recommendations for new projects for our [Remote Capture](#) digitisation guide. Finally, with the generous support of the British Library Collections Trust, we created [a short film](#) showcasing the achievements and potential of the programme which was launched in September 2022, ending another eventful EAP year.

Programme Staff and Panel

This year the EAP panel meeting was held over three days from the 27th to the 29th of April. The general meeting on the afternoon of the 27th was held at the British Library, with representatives of EAP and Arcadia and London-based panel members present in person, and others joining virtually. After this the meeting switched to fully virtual to ensure equal participation from all panel members. Our plan next year is for an entirely in-person panel meeting, for the first time since 2019. We said goodbye to two long-serving members of the EAP Advisory Panel who came to the end of their terms this year: Nathan Mnjama and Oman Fathurahman. Both have provided invaluable advice and expertise over the years, including during the difficult times of the Covid pandemic. Our two new panel members are Buhle Mbambo-Thata and Mulaika Hijjas:

Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata is the University Librarian of the National University of Lesotho. She previously served as the Director- Resources Development of the African Library and Information Association and Institutions (AFLIA); Executive Director, Library Services, University of South Africa; University Librarian, University of Zimbabwe, and Senior Librarian, University of Botswana. She serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), and a member of the board of directors of African Journals Online (AJOL), and she has served two terms as Governing Board member of IFLA. Dr Mbambo-Thata's knowledge and expertise have been recognised through awards for service excellence and leadership.

Dr Mulaika Hijjas is Senior Lecturer in South East Asian Studies at SOAS University of London, where she specialises in the Malay manuscript tradition and also teaches the literature and cultural studies of the region. She has a BA in Literature from Harvard College; an MPhil in Islamic history from Oxford; and a PhD in Malay literature from SOAS. She held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship from 2009-14. She has published numerous articles and a monograph (*Victorious Wives: The Disguised Heroine in Nineteenth-Century Malay Syair*, NUS Press, 2010), and was co-managing editor of *Indonesia and the Malay World*. She is principal investigator on the Leverhulme Trust-funded project 'Mapping Sumatra's Manuscript Cultures', which draws extensively on EAP material.

The EAP team at the British Library currently comprises: **Sam van Schaik**, Head of EAP; **Jody Butterworth**, EAP Lead Curator; **Ruth Hansford**, EAP Programme Manager; **Robert Miles**, EAP Digital and Systems Lead; and **Graham Jevon**, EAP Cataloguer. The EAP Apprentice **Arianna Milighetti**, who had been assisting with the funding round and helping to improve the new online application portal, left at the end of September for a new role at the Library. We also said goodbye to the EAP liaison from the British Library's International Office, **Shezza Rashwan**, who has left the Library. Shezza recently worked closely with the EAP team on the Regional Hubs programme; a replacement for this role at the International Office will start in November 2022.

Funding Round

The call for EAP Round 17 applications went out in September 2021 and for the first time the process was wholly online, using our new application portal provided by WizeHive. We worked to ensure the platform was intuitive and robust enough to cope with potential interruptions to applicants' internet service, and we provided facsimiles of the application documentation so that they could be discussed or completed offline. We ran webinars for applicants at each stage of the application process, which were scheduled to encourage attendance from applicants from various time zones across the world. These were well attended and we believe resulted in better and more focused applications.

The number of preliminary application (74) was lower than the previous round. We feel that this was partly due to the continuing uncertainties around the pandemic in some parts of the world. Around 75% of all applicants were based in the country of the archive, which we see as a welcome development as it means travel costs and environmental impact are reduced. The lower number of preliminary applications was balanced by their higher overall quality. Relatively few applications (11) were declined at the preliminary stage, which suggests that a higher proportion of these were in scope. This may be due to our underlining the importance of ensuring all stakeholders were on board at the earliest possible stage in the application process, so that applicants did not rush into applying without all partners full agreement.

The final number of grants awarded was 31. Out of these, 24 were made to local applicants. India was once again the highest recipient of awards, followed by Latin America, which is showing an increase in awards, with the attendant issues of English-language competency of the applicants and project teams. There were nine pilot awards, 20 major projects and two area grants. This may go some way to explaining the increase in the average award size, which is the highest to date at £42,000 (compared to £29,000 in round 16). See the Appendix for a list of all Round 17 projects.



This graph shows the total number of applications in each EAP funding round. Round 16 includes two years of applications as the round was postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic.

New Collections Online

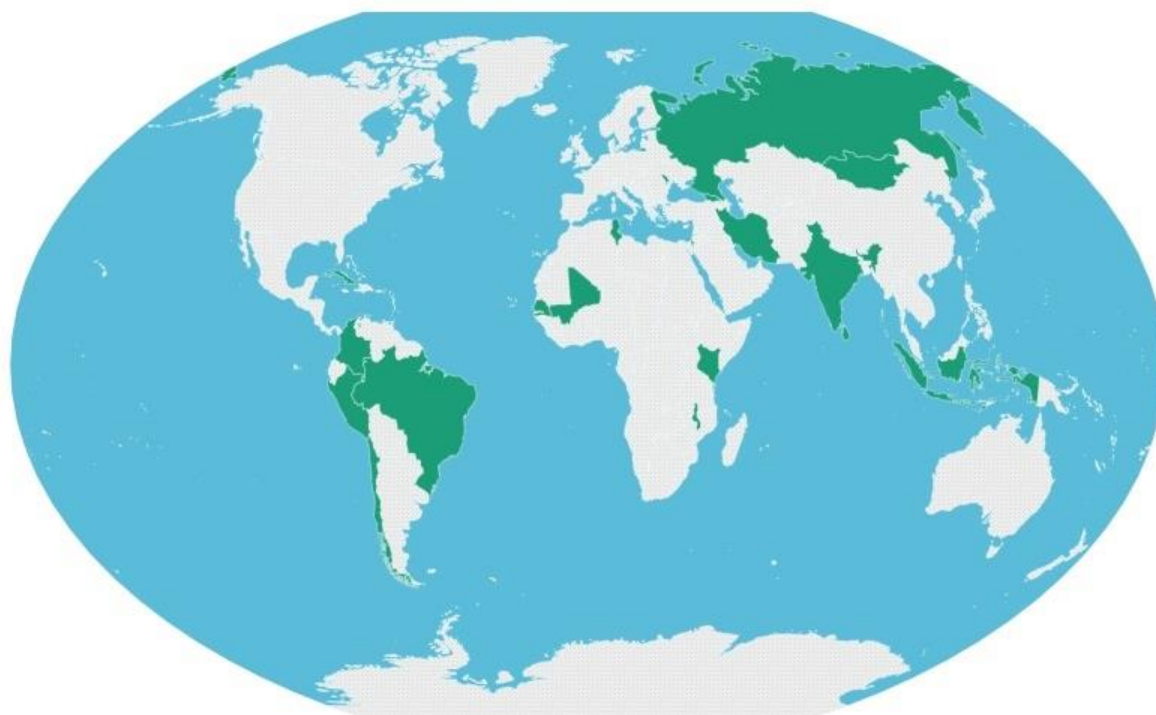


Detail from a leather book cover from Senegal (EAP1245/2/8)

This year we have put over a million (1,074,200) new images on the EAP website, from 32 previous projects. Newly available digital records of the heritage of marginalised cultures include documents and photographs of the Romani people of Moldova; Zoroastrian manuscripts from Iran; manuscripts and books of the heterodox Old Believers sect in Russia; and records of Protestant Christians in Sri Lanka. Also now available are endangered archival collections including criminal records from Brazil, the archives of an asylum in Peru and zoological documents from Kenya. New collections of rare manuscripts are also online, from countries including Senegal, Tunisia, India and Indonesia.

EAP no.	Project title	Country	No. of images
EAP699	Safeguarding of the intangible Romani heritage in the Republic of Moldova	Moldova	2,559
EAP848	Digitisation of Georgian national heritage materials at the National Scientific Library	Georgia	21,540
EAP853	Creating a digital archive of 18th and 19 th century criminal and notarial records in Mamanguape, São João do Cariri, and João Pessoa, Paraíba	Brazil	164,653
EAP921	Early-modern texts and modern legacies: Digitisation of Manuscripts, Books, Newspapers in southern West Bengal	India	240,060
EAP927	Digitisation and preservation of rare historical sources of Mongolia written in the 19th and early 20th centuries	Mongolia	109,999
EAP955	Creating a digital archive of ecclesiastical records in the original seven Villas of Cuba	Cuba	17,398
EAP971	Jaffna Protestant Digital Archive	Sri Lanka	33,851
EAP988	Documentation and Preservation of Bima Manuscript	Indonesia	9,281
EAP993	Conserving Endangered Family Manuscript Libraries on the island of Jerba	Tunisia	90,957
EAP1014	Preservation and digitisation of Zoroastrian historical documents and Avestan manuscripts	Iran	7,813
EAP1034	Preserving Traditional Buryat Book Culture	Russia	7,954
EAP1040	Safeguarding the Endangered Court Records of Malawi, 1891-1964	Malawi	1,105
EAP1056	Survey and digitisation of individual manuscript collections in Northern Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	29,149
EAP1085	Recovering the rich local history of Kita (Mali) through the salvaging of its archival heritage	Mali	12,259
EAP1104	Private records of the leading business families of Early Colonial Bengal	India	7,337

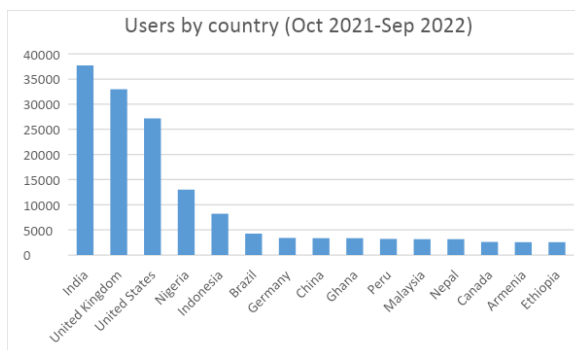
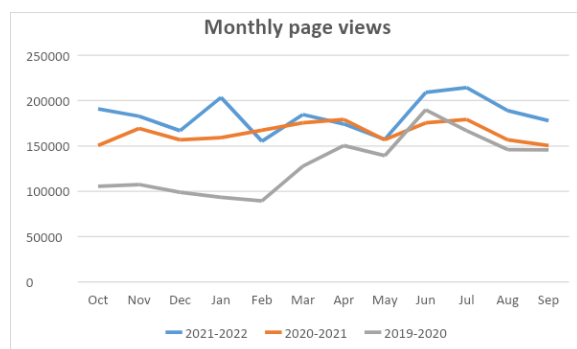
EAP1106	Preservation of the unique heritage: manuscripts and books in private collections of Old Believers of Transbaikalia	Russia	22,839
EAP1122	Preserving endangered zoological archival material in the National Museums of Kenya	Kenya	5,383
EAP1142	Digitisation of the manuscripts and documents at the Biblioteca Generale di Terra Santa: the second step	Israel	106,018
EAP1212	Digitisation of Documentary Heritage of the Colombian Caribbean in the Maritime Port of Cartagena de Indias	Colombia	75,259
EAP1245	Digitising Pulaar Islamic Texts: Six Archives of the Taal Families in Senegal and Mali	Senegal	6,306
EAP1274	Survey and Creation of the Digital Documentary Resources in Nilgiri and Coimbatore (1850-1970)	India	2,862
EAP1289	Digitisation and Diffusion of the Historical Archive of the Institute of Charity "Hermandad De Dolores," Santiago De Chile	Chile	31,615
EAP1294	Safeguarding for Posterity Two Private Collections of Palm-Leaf Manuscripts from the Tamil Country	India	21,168
EAP1306	The Caucasian Silk Circle: digitising the photograph collection of the State Silk Museum in Georgia	Georgia	447
EAP1320	Preservation and Digitisation of Manuscripts Belonging to 16th to 20th Century of Central Kerala	India	17,002
EAP1325	Ancash Community Archive Digitisation (ACAD) Project	Peru	1,944
EAP1357	Small-scale digitisation of endangered Nairobi City Council minutes and gazette archive collection at the McMillan Memorial Library, Nairobi	Kenya	11,532
EAP1390	Digitising Arabic manuscripts in Mattool, North Kerala	India	5,340
EAP1391	Preservation of 1930-1935 Ardiin-Erkh newspapers	Mongolia	3,056
EAP1402	19th-century documents from the Peruvian asylum el Manicomio del Cercado	Peru	4,449



Map showing locations of new collections online in 2020/2021

Digital Impact

This year the country with the most users of the EAP website has been India, a testament to the range and quality of EAP content from projects we have funded from the region. This is followed by the UK, USA, Nigeria and Indonesia. Other countries show the impact of EAP collections in the countries where the archives are located, including Brazil, Peru, Malaysia, Nepal, Armenia and Ethiopia. Overall, the number of views of the EAP website has continued to rise.



As well as looking at the big picture for the website, we keep track of which online collections and individual items are the most viewed. Over the year, some of the most popular items were:

[EAP675/8/1](#) – A photograph of musicians in the village of Oresh, Bulgaria

[EAP790/12/19](#) – A stitched book from Nepal containing rituals for the deity Durga

[EAP286/1/1/174](#) – A book of medicine in Amharic/Geez, from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church



Training and Outreach

The EAP Regional Hubs Project, funded by the British Library and jointly organised by EAP and the British Library's International Office, has progressed well this year despite delays caused by negotiations over the agreements to be jointly signed by the Library and Hub institutions. We have signed the agreement with Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India, and held the first Hub event, a full-day workshop covering best practice in preservation, digitisation and cataloguing. The workshop, with audience and participants in person at the university and joining remotely, also featured a series of short films on digital photography that the British Library has created as part of the Hubs project. These films will be used in other hubs events, as well as being made generally available.

EAP has revised and expanded its recommended equipment list, which now includes DSLRs and mirrorless cameras. The information is split between two documents, both available on the [EAP website](#). The first part compares these two types of camera so that you can judge which kind is best suited for your digitisation project. It also provides a comprehensive list of full-frame and APS-C cameras, suitable lenses, tripods, copy stands and lighting etc. Part two focuses on appropriate mirrorless cameras for an EAP project. These new documents, which were written by Patrick Sutherland, fulfil one of EAP's key aims of keeping the recommendations of our *Remote Capture* handbook up to date as technology for digital capture evolves.

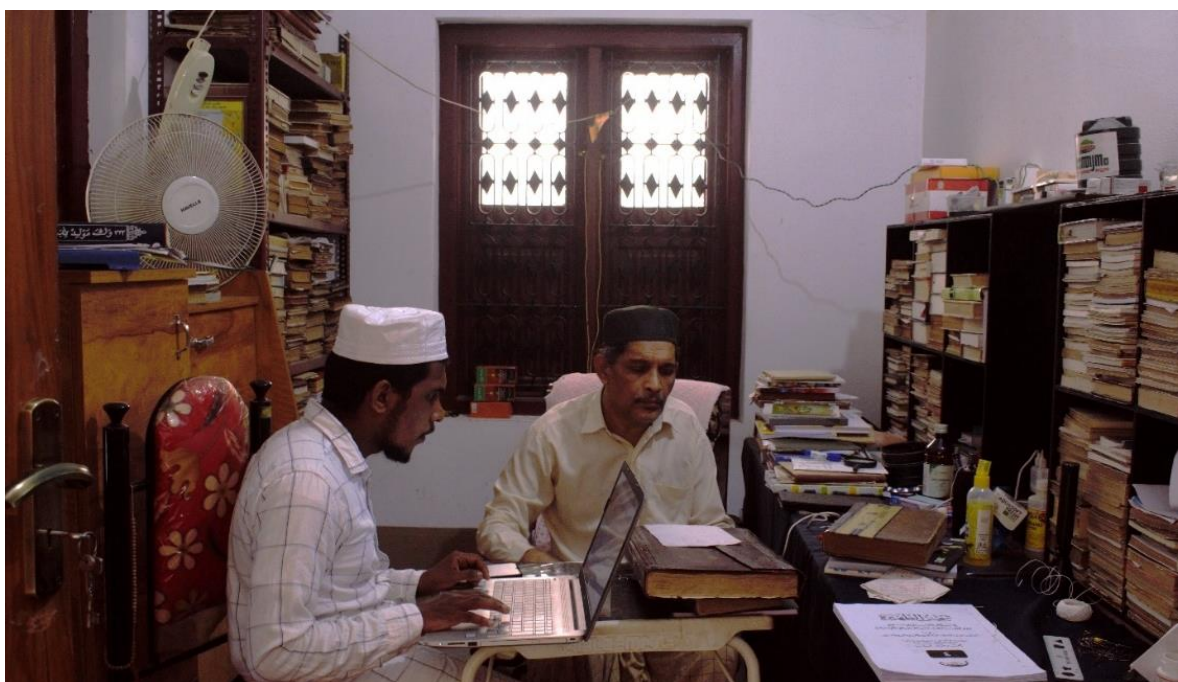
Exhibitions and Events



Thanks to a generous grant from the British Library Collections Trust, we were able to commission a promotional film to raise awareness of EAP. The film was created by EAP Lead Curator Jody Butterworth and Chouette Films, using footage from EAP projects and interviews with users of EAP content as well as project leads such as Kuukuwa Manful (pictured above). The video highlights the role of EAP in decolonising archival practice and challenging nationalist historical agendas. The film is hosted on the [British Library's YouTube channel](#), and a [trailer](#) is also available.

Research

We were very fortunate to have Nadiia Strishenets as the British Library Chevening Fellow for 2021/22. Nadia worked on collections related to the Ukrainian writer, poet and artist Taras Shevchenko ([EAP657](#)), updating the metadata in IAMS and also linking the EAP material to records for other relevant holdings at the British Library. Rory Hanna, a PhD Placement at the British Library working on German colonial history drew upon [a set of Swahili-language essays](#) from [EAP099](#), written in 1913 by young men at a German-led teacher training school for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. He has written about his findings in a post for the EAP blog entitled [East African Life-Writing and Colonial History: New Perspectives from EAP Tanzanian Church Records](#).



We have also featured accounts of EAP project leads and co-leads on the blog, giving an insight into their work on the ground. For example, Ophira Gamliel writes about the project [Digitising Arabic Manuscripts in Mattool, North Kerala \(EAP1390\)](#) featuring the training and digitisation work of project staff (pictured above). In another post on the blog, Samba Camara, co-lead of the project [Digitising Haalpulaar Islamic Manuscripts \(EAP1245\)](#), writes about the importance of the project to the cultural memory of the Haalpulaar people.

Lectures and Publications

In the last year, EAP staff have published Open Access academic works including:

Jody Butterworth, "Is the Endangered Archives Programme easily accessible to researchers in Africa? Steps toward a level playing field for digitised cultural heritage," in *Frontiers in African Digital Research*, edited by Anja R. Dreiser and Cyrus Samimi. Bayreuth, 2022, pp.201-211. [DOI: 10.15495/EPub_UBT_00005720](https://doi.org/10.15495/EPub_UBT_00005720)

Sam van Schaik, Daniela De Simone, Gergely Hidas and Michael Willis (eds.), *Precious Treasures from the Diamond Throne: Finds from the Site of the Buddha's Enlightenment*. London: British Museum Press, 2021. [DOI: 10.48582/diamondthrone](https://doi.org/10.48582/diamondthrone)

Sam van Schaik, "A Sanskrit-Khotanese Colloquy," in *Medieval Multilingual Manuscripts*, edited by Michael Clarke and Máire Ní Mhaonaigh. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022, pp.67-80. [DOI: 10.1515/9783110776492](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110776492)

Some notable academic publications on EAP collections and projects include:

David Zeitlin, Ernesto Coto and Andrew Zisserman, "Bounding an archiving: assessing the relative completeness of the Jacques Toussele archive using pattern-matching and face-recognition," *Visual Studies* (2021) [DOI: 10.1080/1472586X.2021.1991238](https://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2021.1991238)

Chantal Cramaussel (ed.), *Conquista y poblamiento. Los primeros registros parroquiales y demás fuentes tempranas para la historia demográfica del centro y norte de la Nueva España, siglos XVI – XVIII*. El Colegio De Michoacán (2022). [ISBN/ISSN: 978-607-544-144-3](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781017001443)

Claire Anton Payton, Anne Eller, and Lewis Ampidu Clorméus, "Many Lifetimes of Knowledge: The History of the Bibliothèque Haïtienne des Frères de l'Instruction Chrétienne's Newspaper Collection and Its Digital Future," in *Archipelagos* 6 (May 2022). [DOI: 10.7916/archipelagos-y9ev-cd60](https://doi.org/10.7916/archipelagos-y9ev-cd60)

We also regularly receive feedback from individuals and societies outside of academia; for example from the [Cuban Genealogy Club of Miami](#), who have been able to trace new genealogical routes through the baptism books from Santa Clara digitised as part of the [EAP955](#) project.

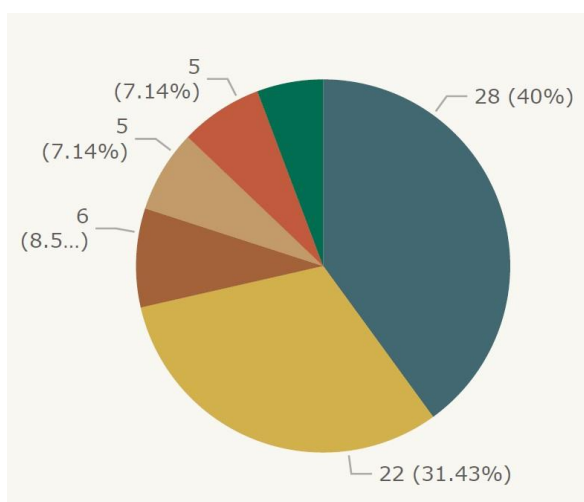
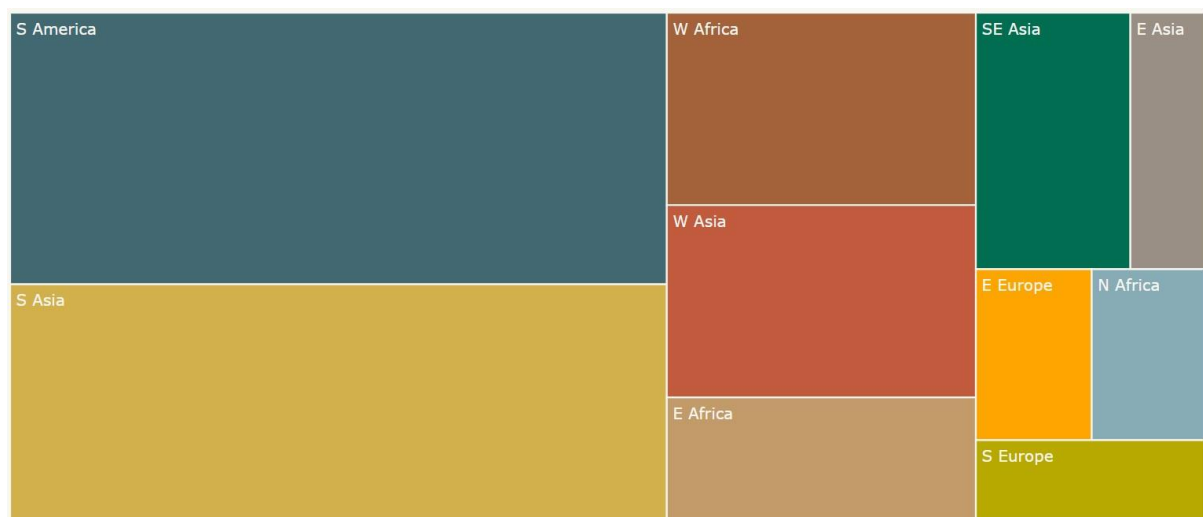


Digitization set up from Claire Anton Payton, Anne Eller, and Lewis Ampidu Clorméus (2022).
Photo by Marie-France Guillaume.

Appendix: Grants awarded in Round 17

EAP no.	Project title	Grant	Award
EAP1426	Cataloguing and digitising deed records of the Deeds Registry to aid management and administration of land in Ghana	Major	£59,100
EAP1430	Digital preservation of Fuuta Jalon Scholars' Arabic and Ajami Materials in Senegal and Guinea	Area	£107,920
EAP1432	Recalling a trans-local past: digitising Mon palm-leaf manuscripts of Thailand. Part 2	Major	£60,000
EAP1433	Digitisation of Justice court files during the 19th century in Brazilian Amazonia, 1800-1900	Major	£60,000
EAP1434	An ongoing identity crisis in Lebanon: Arab or What? Digitising early newspapers in the Middle East, 1895-1950	Major	£43,951
EAP1435	An obscure archive: Hindi-Urdu Periodicals from late colonial India, 1900-1950	Major	£39,200
EAP1436	Rescuing and organising church, merchant and burial records of Lokoja, northern Nigeria, 1841-1960	Major	£51,960
EAP1438	Digitisation of Nyasaland District administration reports	Major	£15,480
EAP1443	Initiating digital preservation of 18 th -century textual archives on expenditure and financial procedural history in Nepal	Pilot	£14,650
EAP1447	Digitising the history of a commercial and agrarian entrepôt in the Colombian Caribbean: the notary records of Ciénaga-Magdalena, 1825-1929	Major	£54,407
EAP1450	Caste, land, and labour in Jaffna: a survey and digitisation project in Sri Lankan agrarian history	Pilot	£14,800
EAP1451	Digitisation of the archive of the Society of Malawi	Pilot	£14,895
EAP1452	Ukrainian scientific, educational, socio-cultural institutions of the 19 th – first half of 20 th centuries: archival documents, publishing projects, museum collections	Major	£52,000
EAP1454	Preservation and digitisation of endangered manuscripts of Palembang collection, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia	Pilot	£15,000
EAP1457	Mathematical practices of the Indian Ocean world in coastal Islamic communities of the Coromandel and Malabar, South India	Pilot	£14,926
EAP1463	Small Indian-language newspapers and periodicals from the early 20 th century	Pilot	£15,000
EAP1465	Safeguarding the collection of processes and registry offices' documents from the Court of Justice of Pará, Brazil, 1818-1970	Major	£42,814
EAP1466	Anáforas: rescue of 19th-century English, French and Uruguayan risk newspapers published in Montevideo	Major	£60,000
EAP1470	Time stands still: preserving the Manaki brothers' photographic legacy	Major	£46,300
EAP1474	Stampa migrante: periodicals of the Italian community of Egypt, 1892-1940	Major	£26,095
EAP1475	Digitisation of archival material and rare books preserved at the Sadharan Brahma Samaj, Kolkata, 1878-1950	Major	£21,960
EAP1476	Inventory, digitisation and research of the Francisco Salinas postcard collection	Pilot	£14,648
EAP1477	Stabilising and digitising 19th- and 20th-century materials now in precarious condition at the Circuit Court of Istmina, Chocó	Pilot	£15,000
EAP1478	Organisation, description and digitalisation of the correspondence, photographs and political documents of José Ingenieros and his family collection	Major	£42,192
EAP1485	Preservation of historic documents from western Nepal	Major	£41,960
EAP1487	Digitisation of manuscript records of the first section of the documentary fund of the San Francisco de Lima archive	Major	£37,040
EAP1490	Digitisation and preservation of a historic collection of Mongolian authors at the National Library of Mongolia	Major	£35,082
EAP1494	Digitisation of 20 remote Bhutanese archives	Area	£141,402
EAP1495	Peruvian legacy: the manuscripts of the Denegri collection at the Historical Archive of the Instituto Riva-Agüero	Major	£43,340
EAP1497	Ankara State Conservatory historical photographs and documents archive project	Major	£59,998
EAP1499	Archives of 'Eyes on Heritage': rare books, records and manuscripts, Gaza	Major	£59,050

Visual representations of grants awarded in Round 17



The map and block chart above show the location of the projects funded in Round 17.

The pie chart to the left shows the categories of material that is the focus of these projects.





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