

Endangered Archives Programme Annual Report

Phase 2, Year 2

1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020



Summary of the Year October 2019 to September 2020

As elsewhere, the previous year falls into the period before COVID-19 and the period since, starting for us in March 2020. In the unprecedented events of the pandemic and global lockdowns, EAP continued to function with all staff working from home. The following steps were taken:

Applicants to EAP

The current EAP funding round (Round 16) was postponed for a year, with the opportunity for all applicants to have their applications considered one year later. On 23 March we wrote to all applicants, now at the stage of detailed application, to inform them of this. On 11 September we wrote again to all current applicants to anticipate whether they still wanted their applications considered in the postponed round, with a survey to assess the amount of changes in project plans and budgets. On October 1 we came back to all applicants who had responded positively with a link to a Google form to ask whether changes were needed, what they were, and for a risk assessment taking into account factors such as travel restrictions and quarantines.

Current projects

On 20 April we contacted all 73 currently active EAP projects, assuring them of continued support, and offering no-cost extensions of three months, to be renewed as necessary. Following on from this in the next months we were able to successfully close eight of these projects. On 8 September we sent a survey to the 65 current projects to assess the impact of the pandemic on their work and budgets. Many projects are far enough advanced in their work that they have been able to progress towards completion; others have had issues with travel, equipment and payments to staff, and we are continuing to monitor the situation.

Staff

The EAP team transitioned to working fully from home. It has been possible for the team to continue uploading new digital materials and catalogue data from projects, and thanks to the solving of issues with the data migrator for the British Library's catalogue over a million new images have now been put online. The uptake of EAP digital collections increased significantly after March, and we have taken the opportunity of this period to trial new methods of online engagement, including a successful crowdsourcing project.

EAP Staff and Panel

This year there were two changes in the membership of the EAP International Advisory Panel, with the departure of Simon Franklin in September 2019 and Laila Hussein Moustafa in September 2020. Sergei Bogatyrev and Hana Sleiman were proposed as candidates for these two positions, and both have since accepted a place on the Panel.

Sergei Bogatyrev is an Associate Professor at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL. He holds degrees in History and Archival Studies, and has worked for the Central Archive of Ancient Records and the Central Archive of the National Economy, both in Moscow, Russia, and for the National Library in Helsinki, Finland. His research interests lie in the history of Muscovite Russia (15th-17th centuries), book culture, and technology transfer. He is the author of *The Sovereign and His Counsellors* (2000), editor of *Russia Takes Shape: Patterns of Integration from the Middle Ages to the Present* (2004); *Ivan Vasil'evich Receives a Profession: Studies of Ivan the Terrible in Post-Soviet Russia* (2014); and co-editor of *History and Literature in Eighteenth-Century Russia* (2013).

Hana Sleiman is an archivist and a graduate student in history. Her work on archive creation and appropriation in modern Palestinian history has been published in the *Arab Studies Journal*, and exhibited in the context of Qalandia International, Beirut. After receiving her MA in Middle Eastern Studies from Columbia University, she worked as a Special Collections Librarian at the American University of Beirut Archives, focusing on Palestinian oral history and contemporary Arab visual culture. She is currently completing a PhD dissertation in History at Cambridge University, working on curricula and student formation in early 20th century colleges in Beirut and Damascus. Following this she will take up a research fellowship in Cambridge in early 2021.

The EAP team at the British Library saw the departure of the Research Software Engineer Harry Moss, who had completed work on software designed to detect misaligned images on the EAP website. The EAP Apprentice, Alyssa Ali, who had been assisting with grants administration, passed her Apprenticeship with a distinction and has now moved on to a role elsewhere in the British Library. The Head of Programme Sam van Schaik, Grants Manager Ruth Hansford, Curator Jody Butterworth, Cataloguing and Systems Lead Robert Miles and Cataloguer Graham Jevon continue in post.

EAP continues to receive support from various British Library departments, including significant contributions to the application assessment process from Curatorial sections, advice on preservation and training from Conservation, the development of networks for training with International, and advice on agreements and documentation from the Legal and Copyright teams.

Applications and Grants Management

In the light of the developing Covid-19 situation in early 2020 EAP in discussion with Arcadia decided to postpone the current round (Round 16) by a year, and instead of a new call for applications in September, to consider all of the current detailed applications, with any necessary revisions, in the panel meeting in April 2021. We also have a limited call for applications in October/November.

This year we undertook a review of the EAP Grant Agreement and Permissions documents, working with the British Library's Legal and Contracts and Copyright teams. A revised version of the Grant Agreement has now been produced. The Grant of Permission form has been replaced with a Permission and Copyright agreement; this has been done to clearly separate the issue of copyright, which generally only applies to materials from the late 19th century onwards, from the issue of permission, which applies to all material. For material that is in copyright we will continue to ask for a Creative Commons non-commercial license (CC BY-NC).

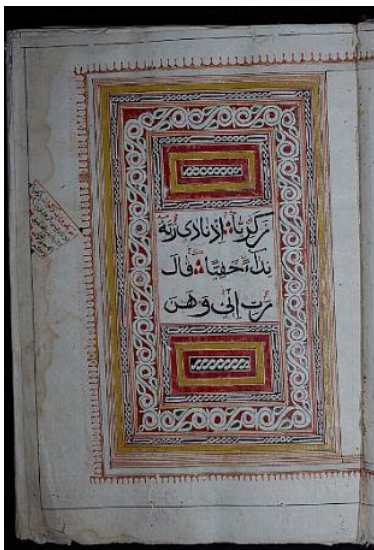
A new application form and guidance were developed for the Rapid Response grant scheme. This will be limited to a maximum of £10,000 per project. It is envisaged that Rapid Response projects will mainly comprise preservation activities such as reboxing, movement to safe storage, and a survey of the extent of the material. The additional criteria will be that the material is in imminent danger of being lost or destroyed, and action should be taken as soon as possible. The British Library conservation department will be available for advice on preservation. Due to Covid-19 and the postponement of Round 16, it was decided to delay the launch of this scheme until the after the limited call for applications.

With a view to better understanding trends in EAP applications over time, the EAP Curator started work on data visualisation for Phase 1 of EAP, the first 14 years of the Programme, during the lockdown period. The data covered both successful and unsuccessful applications. To be able to create visualisations, information was extracted from spreadsheets, application forms, panel minutes and final reports. The main areas of interest were: geographical location and type of institution, budget, type of material, the decision for each application, and whether the project finished within the original time period. It is hoped that this will help EAP to develop strategies for encouraging applications from geographical regions, institutions and applicants that have historically received fewer offers and less funding.

Projects

In total, 26 EAP-funded projects have fully completed their outputs this year. In April 2020 we contacted all live EAP projects and have since been carrying out major review of all projects, and discussing with some the issues that have kept them from completion. As a result, we have a better understanding of the status of our projects and the issues that they are facing in the current pandemic. There are several projects currently near to closure that have been delayed due to the current events, which we are supporting to bring to completion.

- **EAP472** A survey of the libraries of Abéché, former capital of the Sultanate of Waday, Eastern Chad
- **EAP602** Preservation of the audio recording collection in the Sherif Harar City Museum, Ethiopia
- **EAP617** Preservation of rare medical records at Sir Albert Cook Library, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University
- **EAP847** Protecting the archive of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa
- **EAP863** Preserving a unique archive of diaspora and disease in the Indian Ocean from 1868 to 1930: a test case from Mauritius
- **EAP872** Bulang Sutra preservation project
- **EAP938** The diplomatic connections of Madagascar between 1861 and 1897
- **EAP942** Preserving Nyasaland African Congress historical records
- **EAP1013** Digitisation of Wills, Deed Books and Powers of Attorney for St Vincent, 1785-1880
- **EAP1034** Preserving Traditional Buryat Book Culture
- **EAP1047** Preserving Early Ecclesiastical Sources from the State of Rio de Janeiro
- **EAP1055** Slow Death for Slavery in the National Archives of Benin
- **EAP1017** Manuscripts and Archival Documents of Russian Old Believers Escapists (Skrytniks) in the Russian Academy of Sciences Library
- **EAP1039** Sanskrit and Malayalam manuscripts from the Thrissur monastic complex
- **EAP1104** Private records of the leading business families of Early Colonial Bengal
- **EAP1106** Manuscripts and books in private collections of Old Believers of Transbaikalia
- **EAP1114** Digitising early Islamic print in the Maalim Muhammad Iris Collection, Zanzibar
- **EAP1123** Recalling a Translocal Past: Digitising Thai-Mon Palm leaf Manuscripts
- **EAP1143** Preserving records on the Kenya-Uganda railway line
- **EAP1149** Preservation of the archives of Śaiva Monastic Lineages
- **EAP1150** Fragile palm leaves digitisation initiative
- **EAP1160** Documenting royalty through the changing political culture in Kongu Nadu
- **EAP1167** Safeguarding Colonial Plantation Records of Malawi
- **EAP1228** Locating and Sampling Arabic and Arabic-Malayalam Manuscripts in Kerala
- **EAP1231** Digitisation of Nyasaland District Administration Reports
- **EAP1251** Digitisation of the Historic Newspaper, The Barbadian



Illustrated opening pages of a Quran from Zanzibar. An image from EAP1114, 'Digitising early Islamic print in the Maalim Muhammad Iris Collection, Zanzibar' (EAP1114/1/123).

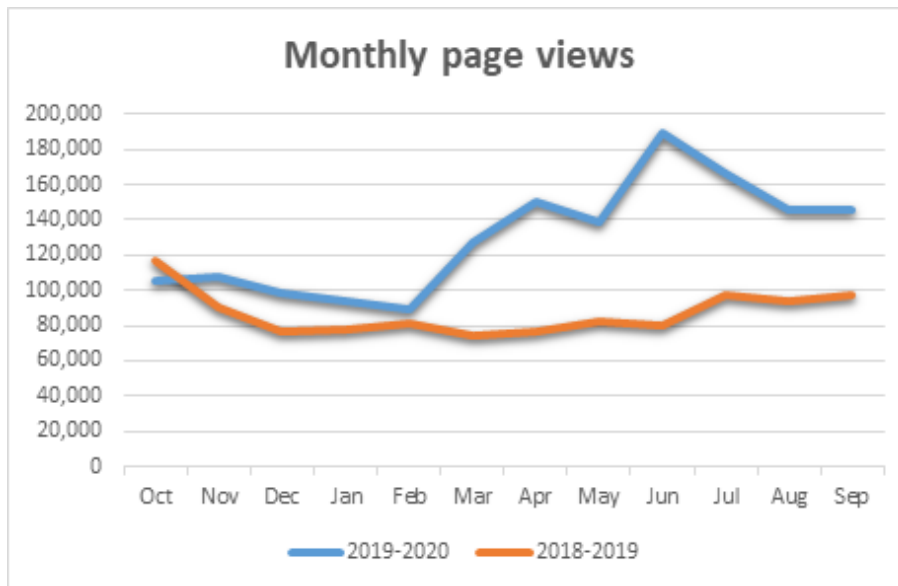
Digital Collections

In addition to digital materials from the recently completed projects listed above, a significant number of earlier projects that we had not been able to put online are now available. This has been due to work done by the team on improving metadata and resolving other issues that had kept these materials offline. As a result of this work, over a million new images are now available on the EAP website, with a total of over nine million images online.

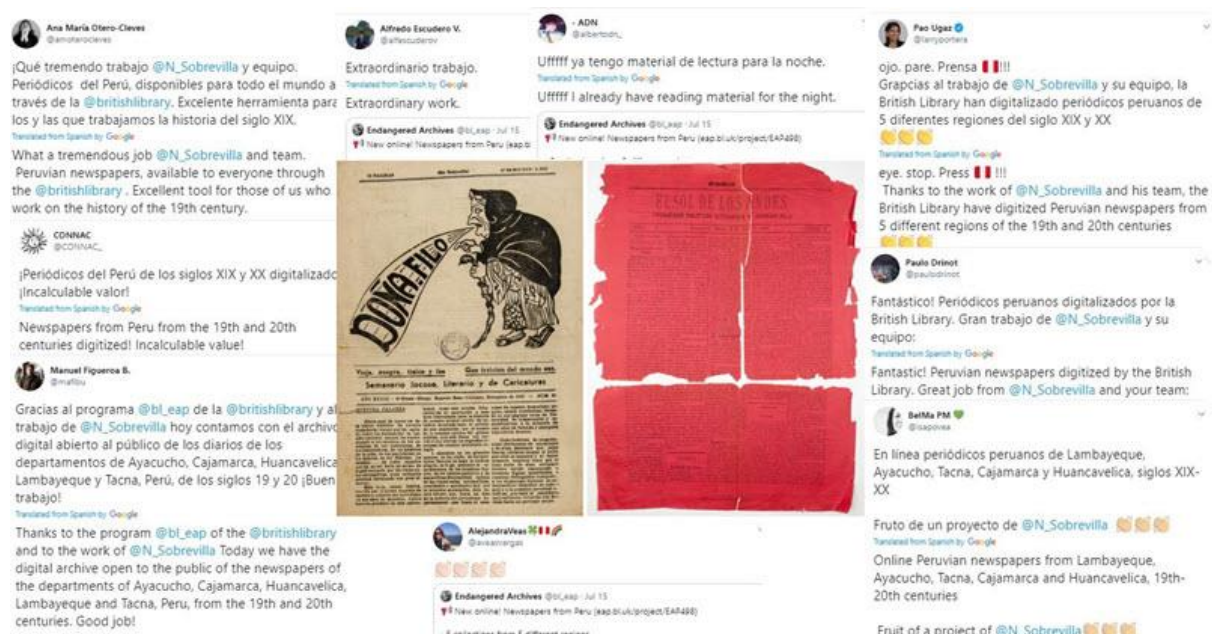
- **EAP104** A pilot project aimed at the preservation of Pa'O religious and literary manuscripts
- **EAP352** Endangered manuscripts of Western Sumatra and the province of Jambi. Collections of Sufi brotherhoods - major project
- **EAP498** Recovering provincial newspapers in Peru: Lambayeque, Ayacucho, Tacna, Cajamarca and Huancavelica
- **EAP703** Digitising endangered manuscript sources: the notary books of Bahia, Brazil, 1664-1889
- **EAP766** Retrieval, cataloguing and photographic imaging of rare manuscripts, Balochistan-Pakistan
- **EAP794** Digitising the endangered historic records of Nevis in the Leeward Islands
- **EAP810** Conservation, documentation and preservation of the knowledge of siddha medicine
- **EAP813** Preservation of the disappearing book heritage of Siberian Buddhists
- **EAP816** Selective digitisation and preservation of the photographic archive of the 'Vasile Parvan' Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania
- **EAP820** Documenting Slavery and Emancipation in Kita, Western Mali
- **EAP835** Jaffna Protestant digital archive project
- **EAP844** Recovering the Middle Congo archives at Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo: new steps towards the social history of the Congo
- **EAP880** Fragments of Sikkim: Preserving and presenting the palace archives of a Himalayan Kingdom, 1875-1975
- **EAP886** Digitisation of Sanskrit Manuscripts and Books in the State of Jammu and Kashmir
- **EAP890** Preservation of unique and historic newspapers printed in traditional Mongolian script between 1936-1945
- **EAP896** Documentation of Endangered Temple Art of Tamil Nadu

Digital Outreach

The EAP website has seen a large increase in the number of users and page views compared to the same period last year. Through October 2019 to September 2020 the website had 152,000 users, an increase of around 50,000 users over last year. Similarly, the number of page views increased from 1.0 million in the 2018/2019 period, to just under 1.8 million for this current year. Like many digital repositories, EAP saw an increase in web traffic when much of the world had restrictions to movement. We saw an increase in users and page views from March onwards, with this being sustained even as some restrictions were eased.



While EAP has been putting new collections online we have seen corresponding increases in visitors from the countries in which the archives are located. One example that illustrates this is the large increase in users from Peru after a collection of Peruvian newspapers was put online ([EAP498 - Recovering provincial newspapers in Peru](#)). The months following saw a 230% increase in users visiting the archive in comparison to the preceding months. This was helped by many Peruvian and other Spanish speaking users of social media enthusiastically posting about the new collection being made available (see image below).



This is a clear demonstration of the impact of these digitisation projects around the world. One user from Peru also got in touch to tell us that he had found his great-great-grandfather Don Toribio Arbaiza's doctoral thesis on EAP, and we were able to provide him with a PDF

copy of the whole document. The level of local impact is also reflected in the list of top ten countries, ranked by number of users of the EAP website:

1. India (24,219)
2. United States (24,007)
3. United Kingdom (15,534)
4. Nigeria (10,062)
5. Indonesia (6,637)
6. Peru (4,554)
7. Armenia (3,919)
8. Malaysia (3,601)
9. Mongolia (3,495)
10. Brazil (3,354)

The most popular digital files accessed on the EAP website represent a wide geographical and linguistic range:

- [EAP153/6/11](#): Inilah Hikayat Nur Muhammad dan Nabi Bercukur dan Nabi Wafat Adanya – A collection of four stories about the life of the Prophet. [Indonesia]
- [EAP532/1/22/44](#): Bauchi Province Report No 199 Tilde Expedition – From a collection of annual reports on Benue, Plateau, and Muri Provinces. [Nigeria]
- [EAP794/1/5/1](#): Wills 1763-1787 – Eastern Caribbean Court House records. [Saint Kitts and Nevis]
- [EAP180/1/2/272](#): Նարեկ: Գիրք աղօթից [Narek.Girq aghotits], 1832 – Armenian Book of Prayers. [Armenia]
- [EAP262/1/2/863](#): Jugantar. Vol: 04; Issue: 214, April 1941 – An issue of the Jugantar Patrika newspaper, a Bengali daily paper. [India]

Engagement with EAP's Twitter presence (@bl_eap) continues to expand, with over 2,000 new followers in the past year. We now have almost 7,900 followers, and use Twitter as our main platform for sharing news about the Programme and the collections we make available. Our tweets have gathered over 1.7 million views this year and a large number of the users of the EAP website are referred through the links we post on Twitter, especially when announcing new collections online. This was also the case when publicising the Siberian photographs crowdsourcing tasks; in total all related tweets received over 145,000 views, with each new tweet providing a large upswing in the number of tasks being completed

We continue to use the EAP blog to provide [monthly updates](#) on which new collections we make available through our website. This allows us to give context and write about them in more depth than is possible on Twitter. We also use it as a space for articles and research from [EAP staff](#), [those involved](#) in [individual projects](#), and [researchers/users](#), all of which usually receive a few hundred shares either directly through the blog or other social media channels.



An example of a tweet in the language of the material (Mongolian, in Cyrillic script, that received significant attention and retweets in the country. The project is EAP010.

Cataloguing and Metadata

Cataloguing

This year we addressed an issue with colonial-era place names that could appear as search facets on the EAP website. The British Library's cataloguing guidelines, which state that place names should be based on the date of the material catalogued, meant that historical names such as Rhodesia and Dutch East Indies would appear as index terms on the EAP website, without comment or context. After discussions, a decision was made to use only modern place names in the field that is shown as index terms in the website, and keep historical place names in free text fields where they can be properly contextualised.

During a course in Computing for Information Professionals (Cultural Heritage) at Birkbeck, cataloguer Graham Jevon developed software that is now in regular use by the EAP team. The primary function of this program is to generate structured catalogue reference numbers. For complex collections, this task could take several days if performed manually; with this software, the task can now be completed in seconds. While it was designed to solve a problem within EAP, the software is also flexible so that any institution that uses the same reference format can benefit from it. The software is freely available to download via GitHub.

Metadata: Issues and Resolutions

This year several issues with the metadata for EAP projects and its presentation on the website were resolved. Due to new fields created in the Library's catalogue database, the IAMS data migrator tool, which allows for the metadata to be imported into the catalogue and the OAI-PMH feed that pushes the content to the website needed updating to reflect these changes. This also required work on the EAP website to be carried out by the developers, Cogapp. As a result of this fix, our backlog of digital collections to be uploaded to the website, mentioned in last year's annual report, has been cleared.

An ongoing issue is that the EAP website is unable to display correctly item level metadata that relates to more than one image. The website assumes that an item can only ever consist of a single image, which results in a loss of synchronisation with further images. To resolve this, item level metadata is included as a list of bullet points within the file level description. The EAP cataloguer uses a computational method to convert item level rows of metadata into this new format. A subsidiary bonus of solving this problem is that we now use this method for most projects and include lists within top-level descriptions to give an overview of what each collection, series and file contains.

We have also worked to improve the discoverability of content on the EAP website. All project pages on the EAP website now link to the Hierarchical Viewer page for the relevant catalogue entries. This helps researchers see the entirety of material digitised within a collection and the overall archival structure of the content. An [example](#) for EAP880, the project that digitised the Sikkim Palace Archive, shows the six series. Each series is then expandable to reveal all files. Each file has a button that will take the researcher directly to the corresponding file on the EAP website.

Other initiatives: Crowdsourcing and Wikidata

The first months of lockdown proved to be a good opportunity to trial a crowdsourcing project. The EAP team chose EAP016, a collection of Siberian photographs and used the free platform Zooniverse. The British Library's Russian language curators were keen to be involved as they were unable to work on collections while at home; they matched the images to the original metadata and also translated core Zooniverse site terms into Russian for possible future crowdsourcing projects. The initial task was to provide keywords to enhance the findability of the images and for possible future use with image recognition software.

The project attracted interest from the Steppe Sisters Network, a group of more than 100 female archaeologists who study and/or live in the region and are in a position to provide more specialist metadata. In addition to the obvious output, this project has created a new level of engagement with EAP collections. In the six months before this project began, the collection was accessed 23 times. While traffic on the EAP website has not increased significantly since then, the crowdsourcing project has currently experienced more than 19,000 classifications, which equates to the same number of image views in six months. The discussion board has also been active with novices and experts asking and answering queries,

or simply sharing highlights from the collection. The crowdsourcing project produced 92 registered contributors, and more than 200 non-registered contributors.

During the course of 2019, the EAP team has been discussing how we can use Wikidata to connect EAP collections to other sources, to make EAP material more findable, and to provide a platform for greater interrogation of EAP metadata. In preparation for this, we asked the British Library to add a new option in the IAMS catalogue for Wikidata IDs and the EAP cataloguer has been matching EAP authority records to Wikidata items. At the moment, Wikidata does not recognise EAP records, but it is hoped that will be the next step of the process if time can be devoted to it.

Training and Outreach

We ran two webinar training sessions for applicants to the current round of EAP funding on 23 January 2020. This was for applicants who had passed to the detailed application stage, and involved the EAP Head, Curator and Grants Manager working through the application form, followed by a question and answer session. In order to allow applicants from across the world to attend, two webinars were held, in the morning and the afternoon. Around 80% of current applicants attended one or both sessions. Follow up questions were dealt with in the days following the webinars. Feedback indicated that these sessions were welcomed by applicants and helped improve their applications.

Though the working language for EAP is English, we try to extend our reach to applicants whose first language is not English. It would be impossible to provide publicity material in all the languages we would like, so we made the decision to translate the basic introductory leaflet into some of the languages where we know that stakeholders do not have easy access to English speakers. We have been able to draw on the goodwill of translators and linguists around the British Library who can translate into Arabic, French, Spanish, Russian. In due course we hope to be able to add other languages to this list. The translation exercise was paused in March 2020 when it was decided to suspend the round.

In addition, a successful grant application to the Barakat Trust resulted in EAP receiving £3,500 to have EAP's handbook for digitisation, *Remote Capture*, translated into Arabic. The plan is to have each chapter available as a downloadable PDF on the website. The purpose of translating the book is to help potential candidates from the MENA region apply to the Programme.

Over the past year there have been a series of online workshops on the two EAP projects that have digitised historical newspapers (EAP1086 and EAP1251) and in particular focussed on the 'runaway slave ads'. The workshops were organised by the Co-investigator Amalia Levy, and the EAP Chevening Fellow Chantelle Richardson, and included discussions of genealogy, creative writing and relevant holdings within the British Library.

A detail from The Barbadian newspaper, showing a typical advertisement offering a reward for the capture of a person who had escaped enslavement.

R U N A W A Y

from the Subscriber, a Female SLAVE named *MARY JANE*, formerly the property of John C. Thorne.— This girl is between twelve and thirteen years old, tawney complexion; and on her left cheek is a dark circular mark, so perceptible as to be discovered at first sight. Her mother belongs to Wm. J. Franklin, Esq.; and her grandmother (by name Prudence) lives in a house on the beach, adjoining the gate door of Captain Merchant's house;—at which places it is most likely she is harboured. She also has family in Polgreen's Bottom, and aback of Pinfold-street, above the Place lately the property of Mr. Isaac Agard.

A Reward of Six Dollars will be given for apprehending and delivering her to the Subscriber; and all persons are strictly forbid harbouring, or in any way concealing this Slave; and Captains are cautioned not to take her from the Island, as the Law will be rigidly enforced against any person offending in either case.

Jan. 4—a tf. JOHN WRONG.

We have produced guidance to aid with the secure transfer of digital material from project teams. We recommend using the U.S. Library of Congress [Bagger](#) tool, an open source application for storage and transfer of digital content. Bagger is a graphical user interface of the BagIt specification and aids with digital preservation. The software allows creators and recipients to 'package' files which can then be sent and verified as complete and valid upon receipt. To aid with this we have produced a [guidance document and short tutorial video](#) on the EAP website. We are in the process of refining this guidance and adding further options for the secure transfer of digital content.

We showcased the funding opportunities and digital collections of EAP at three international events held at the British Library: the International Library Leaders programme in November 2019, World Digital Preservation Day (7 Nov 2019) and the Doctoral Open Day for Asian and African Studies (20 January 2020).

Exhibitions, Events and Lectures

This year the British Library held another photography exhibition based on EAP collections. *Sacred Laos in Photographs: The Monks' Gaze* was a selection of images from the three EAP projects based at the Buddhist Archive of Photography in Luang Prabang. The display of 18 photographs took place on the Second Floor Gallery from 1 November 2019 to 9 February 2020 and coincided with the Library's main exhibition on Buddhism. On 28 January 2020, the grant holder Hans Georg Berger gave a public talk entitled 'Monks and the Camera', held in the main auditorium of the British Library's Knowledge Centre, and preceded by a private view. Guests included the Lao Ambassador and colleagues of Hans who had travelled from Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

The major exhibition at the British Library on Buddhism (October 2019 to February 2020) included digital material from EAP in the exhibition space. At an academic conference

coinciding with the exhibition (7-8 February) Sam van Schaik presented a paper on Buddhist magic using EAP collection items. He also contributed to the public programme of the exhibition, giving a talk at the British Library on 30 January on the material culture of Buddhism, based on EAP collection items.

On 17 October, EAP hosted Father Columba Stewart and the board of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library. A public talk and roundtable discussion featuring Sam van Schaik and Father Columba Stewart on the cooperation between EAP and HMML was followed by a reception for members of the HMML board, which was also attended by members of Arcadia.



Father Columba Stewart speaking at the British Library about the digitisation of Timbuktu manuscripts and collaboration between EAP and HMML.

A seminar at the British Library for the Arcadia-funded DREAMSEA programme was held on 29 November 2019, with EAP involvement. The workshop included presentations by Jan van Putten from the DREAMSEA board, and Oman Fathurahman, who sits on both the EAP panel and the DREAMSEA board. SOAS scholars Mulaika Hijjas, Farouk Yahya and Jenny Norton-Wright presented their research based on EAP digital collections, showcasing the contribution these collections are making to Islamic Studies and Southeast Asian Studies. Dr Hijjas in particular argued that EAP collections have substantially changed the field by presenting a different view of Islamic manuscript collections in Southeast Asia, which has previously been dominated by colonial-period collections represented in European libraries and museums. In the afternoon a roundtable session was held for the EAP and DREAMSEA teams to discuss shared issues and opportunities (see below).

Jody Butterworth was invited to speak at the international conference “Frontiers in African Digital Research”, organised by the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, University of Bayreuth (January/February 2020). Her talk covered EAP applications related to Africa and included the data visualisations created by the PhD placement Sarah FitzGerald in 2017. EAP Cataloguer Graham Jevon gave a presentation at the SAALG (South Asia Archive and Library Group) annual meeting on 31 Jan 2020, updating on EAP activities and showcasing three new projects relating to South Asia.

Collaboration and Research

Fellows and Student Placements

Chantelle Richardson (Special Collections, National Library of Jamaica) was a 2019/20 Chevening Fellow, whose time at the British Library was split between the Eccles Centre of American Studies and EAP. For EAP she focussed on the applications and projects from Latin America and the Caribbean with the plan that Eccles will fund a conference in the Caribbean in future and this will include presentations, workshops etc. relevant to EAP. Chantelle also took part in a series of online workshops organised by the National Archives of Barbados. For the coming year, EAP has been successful with its application to Chevening for one of two fellows to be based at the British Library during 2021/22. The fellowship will complete the metadata for Harari sound recordings that were digitised as part of EAP602, as well as a small research project on the performers in relation to copyright.

EAP's PhD placement, Tsering Samdrup continued to work on enhancing the Tibetan metadata for EAP031, which was a project in the first year of EAP focussing on Tibetan and Mongolian manuscripts. The amount of cataloguing needed for this project exceeded the three-month PhD placement and the EAP team will need to find an additional solution before this material can go online.

Collaborative partnerships

A roundtable discussion between EAP and DREAMSEA teams was held at the British Library on 29 November 2019, after a seminar in the morning (see *Events, Exhibitions and Lectures*). The agenda of the roundtable included overlaps and opportunities with EAP projects and DREAMSEA; issues in cataloguing; workflows and recommendations for digitisation; training materials in Southeast Asian languages, and local contacts for EAP projects in Southeast Asia; ethical and copyright issues; and activities of researchers and students relevant to both programmes

On 1 October 2019, Jody Butterworth attended the workshop "Consultation on Manuscripts as Cultural Heritage: First Aid and Training for Preserving Written Artefacts" at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Hamburg. Other organisations represented included: HMML, Prince Claus Fund, Gerda Henkel Foundation, Islamic Manuscript Association, ICCROM, and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Discussions covered first aid kits, types of funding, resources and academic programmes for preservation and conservation.

EAP hosted a meeting of the heads of the four major Arcadia programmes at the British Library on 13 November 2019. The headline topics for discussion were: shared issues in administration of programmes and pastoral care for applicants and projects; digital challenges and opportunities for sharing resources; increasing access through multilingual data and interfaces; joint endeavours in promotion and training.

Publications

Academic papers based on EAP materials published this year included a reflection on digitisation in Africa by Graeme Counsel based on his experience with EAP funded projects. Graeme Counsel was the project lead on EAP187, 327 and 608, all concerning the Syliphone record label recordings.

- Graeme Counsel, '[Digital archives in Africa and the Endangered Archives Programme](#)', in *The Routledge International Handbook of New Digital Practices in Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Heritage Sites*, ed. Hannah Lewi, et al. London: Routledge, 2019, 169-177.

The most famous artist on the Syliphone label, Mory Kanté, who had a global hit with Yéké Yéké, passed away in May 2020, and [an article in the NME](#) (22 May) celebrating his life included EAP and a link to the Syliphone recordings on the British Library Sounds website.

Sam van Schaik published an article on EAP in the newsletter of the International Institute for Asian Studies, which is widely circulated in print as well as online, with a worldwide readership of over 50,000. The article introduced the principles of EAP and current funding opportunities, and explored the potential of EAP digital collections to change our understanding of communities in Asia, by challenging the logic of the colonial collections that have shaped the study of these cultures.

- Sam van Schaik, '[The Endangered Archives Programme: Towards a Different Kind of Collection](#),' The Newsletter of the IIAS, no.85 (Spring 2020).

In addition, Sam van Schaik's review of *The Monumental Challenge of Digitisation* by Michèle Valerie Cloonan was published in *The American Archivist* (83.1, pp.178–181) and his book *Buddhist Magic: Divination, Healing and Enchantment Through the Ages*, came out in July.

The work of another EAP project lead, Anne Bang, was featured in an article on the newly-available EAP collections of digitised Islamic manuscripts (EAP1114) resulting from her work in the Norwegian magazine *Forskning* (June 2020). The article, entitled [Verdifulle islamske tekster er nå tilgjengelig på nett](#) ('Valuable Islamic texts are now available online') gave details of several manuscripts made available through EAP and emphasized the importance of preserving documentary heritage. Newly available EAP digital collections were featured in a [Japanese article](#) on the Current Awareness Portal, a web portal on developments in Information Science at the National Diet Library, and the project EAP498 was mentioned in a [Peruvian newspaper](#).

In the area of education, several EAP digital collections are now featured on Columbia University's [online reading list](#) for Tibetan Studies. Mulaika Hijjas, Lecturer in South East Asian Studies at SOAS, contributed to the education platform FutureLearn with a module based on EAP sources, [Learning from the Past: A Guide for the Curious Researcher](#).



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