What’s new in archives?

Accessions to Repositories 2017
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Cover images:

Image of Roger Lloyd Pack in his role as 'Sarah the Cook' in Dick Whittington at the Barbican Centre, 29 Nov 2006 - 20 Jan 2007
V&A Department of Theatre and Performance, Ref: THM/493/1/4/4
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Image of extract from journal kept by Sir Richard Haddock
National Maritime Museum: The Caird Library and Archive, Ref: JOD/305
I am delighted to introduce the second annual report *What’s new in archives? Accessions to Repositories 2017*, which is the product of our survey of accessions.

Archives enrich our society intellectually, culturally and economically. *Our Vision: Archives Unlocked*, says that our collections will reflect all of society so that, whether an individual, community or organisation, archives can tell us who we are and how we got here. Through dynamic collections development and good accessioning practice, a core task for archives is to ensure that collections find the right home and become accessible for research.

Archives across the British Isles represent a diverse and vibrant sector, comprising over 2,000 public and private institutions. The National Archives annually surveys a proportion of these archives that are known to be major collecting hubs, inviting them to record and share their most recent accessions information. In 2017, 286 archives in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland responded to our Accessions to Repositories Survey.

The creation of an accessions record is an archivist’s first step to establishing intellectual control of a single document, digital file or collection of records. Gathering this data nationally enables us to scrutinise collecting over time, crucial in an ever-changing climate where archives must balance this task with challenges around resourcing and sustainability, workforce development and the evolving digital landscape. From a single accessions return showing a service’s collecting capacity to the combined dataset which can be used to measure trends or to spark a discussion around accessioning theory and practice - the value is immense.
Introduction

The Accessions to Repositories survey provides a unique insight into archival collecting. Discovery users can view summaries of these new collections and other record creator based descriptions alongside full catalogues, giving them an unrivalled overview of collections relating to British history.

During Accessions 2017, Discovery has been enriched with over 2700\(^1\) new descriptions of accessions from 268\(^2\) archives collecting beyond their own institutional records. Though they provide rich sources of information about British history and are important constituents of the archives sector, the survey does not currently gather this information from self-curating record-creating institutions including private estates and businesses that care for their own collections.

This survey has historically invited submissions from archives across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and a small number of Irish repositories. Participation varies from year to year and this is why in part this survey does not report on the activity of all collecting archives in these geographical areas.

The published survey gives a snapshot of 2017 collecting by repository and 34 themes. The recently refreshed themes reflect broad areas of historical research including politics and legal history but also explore cultural and social history through subjects including charities and philanthropy, the environment, black and ethnic minority history and women’s history, reflecting our diverse society and the people and organisations creating records.

Accessions can be accruals to an existing collection or they can be entirely new acquisitions. It is standard for an accession to become available for research only once it has been reviewed for sensitive information, has a detailed accessions record or summary, or has been fully catalogued. So it is advisable to check with an archive before seeking to access to any of the records highlighted in this report. Although access may not always be possible immediately, making this descriptive information available celebrates archives’ collecting activity and can stimulate research interest, helping archives to gauge the demand for their latest collections.

Since Accessions 2016, we have been publishing the full accessions dataset on data.gov.uk. Our 2017 analysis is based on 15,929 records, not all of which make it into our edited survey or on to Discovery. As well as the analysis, which shows

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\(^1\)This figure differs from the total number of accessions reported to us, as it does not necessarily include all accruals, single items or material which falls out of the criteria used for records and record creators on Discovery,

\(^2\)This number does not include the 18 nil returns we received from archives that had informed us they had not taken in any accessions during 2017.
evolving trends, the highlights section of this report focuses on collecting across the eras, also touching on emergent themes.

New to this year’s report is the addition of a section focused on areas of The National Archives’ work which intersects with or relies on accessions survey information. This includes the manuscripts we notify archives of through our sales monitoring work and the collections being reported by places of deposit eligible for new burdens funding. The report also features a spread of images from collections we have showcased during this survey on Twitter using #NewInArchives (page 29).

As always, we are grateful to all of the archives services that contribute to this survey and allow us to make their collections information available on a national platform and to a wide range of audiences.
Executive summary

The National Archives and its predecessor bodies first published *Lists of Accessions to Repositories* for 1954, to benefit researchers and to understand collecting patterns across the archival landscape.

We publish these descriptions on our website and they are searchable via the Discovery service. For the second consecutive year we have conducted statistical analysis of the full set of data we received. The full data set can be accessed on data.gov.uk.

As with last year’s report, the diversity in format, theme and coverage of the collections accessioned during 2017, show, as Archives Unlocked states, that archives sit at the heart of our collective understanding: who we are, where we came from, and, indeed, where we are going.

- In 2017, 20 repositories in England and Wales acquired manorial records and overall, ten of the ninety purchases recorded in the 2017-18 sales year were manorial documents.
- Of the archives reporting their public records, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service received £153,000 of New Burdens funding for reporting the accessioning 188 linear metres of public records in 2017.
- Overwhelmingly the majority of 2017 accessions date from the twentieth century with 20% of *all* reported collections including twenty first century material.
- Regionally, as in 2016, London, the South West and Yorkshire appear to have accessioned the biggest volume of material.
- Local archives collected the largest proportion of paper and digital material, not surprising when compared with the more focused collecting remit of some national and specialist institutions.
- Digital collections made up 1.7% of total collections counted during analysis. Whilst the greater proportion of digital vs paper records were taken in by national and university archives, local services took in more in terms of quantity.
What’s new in archives? Accessions to repositories report shows dynamic collecting which is reflective of contemporary areas of interest and activity; together with established and enduring record keeping which safeguards public records, alongside documents including medieval deeds and charters and manorial records. This annual analysis gives insight showing where collecting is evolving, whether it be in response to changing technologies, shifts in the manuscripts market or even to changes in legislation.
Highlights from 2017

Twenty-first century

Community projects, including oral histories, encouraging residents to share past and current memories of the local area, are fairly prominent among the twenty-first century records accessioned in 2017. These records reflect the diversity of these communities. In contrast to 2016 accessions, there are less records relating directly to war, although a number of community projects dwell on the subject, suggesting its prominence in what communities are choosing to remember. A number of archives also collected records related to LGBT and feminism, showing the continued activism in these areas. The acquisition of these records is reflective of the aim to make diversity and inclusivity a greater priority in collecting practice. There were also a number of accessions relating to culture in contemporary collections, especially theatre and performing arts, including the papers of actor Roger Lloyd Pack (1944-2014), accessioned by V&A Department of Theatre and Performance.

Among the community projects relating to war accessioned in 2017 were the "Gloucestershire Remembers World War I" project, led by the Everyman Theatre, in partnership with Gloucestershire Archives. The project included oral interviews based on family memories, digital stories, presentations and KS2 learning resources created for schools. Knowsley Archives, for its Archive Resource for Knowsley, collected material from a Heritage Lottery Fund supported community engagement project concerning the WWII camps in Huyton. Other ventures focused on different aspects of importance to the local community. Sonia Audhali’s, Little Yemen project focused on members of the West Midlands Yemeni community. Accessioned by Birmingham Archives & Collections, the collection of 34 photographs, taken by Warwick-based British Yemeni photographer Sonia Audhali, show life in the home, at work, during prayer and at leisure, food, religion and social gatherings. The project aimed to create a legacy and help future generations remember their roots while celebrating their dual heritage.

Turning to the natural world, Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle, took in material from the Cumbria’s Top 50 Trees Project, a Heritage Lottery funded project where members of the public voted for their favourite trees and the stories behind them. Looking at community more generally, the outcomes of a visual sociology installation by Riccarda Cappeller, Site of Memory, in which passers-by were invited to contribute memories and testimonies about Dalston.
and the changes taking place in the area, were accessioned by Hackney Archives. While Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives collected oral histories of the Community Memories Project undertaken by St Hilda’s East Community Centre following its 120th anniversary celebrations.

Records related to LGBT activism and feminism also feature prominently among twenty-first century accessions, with some reflecting the response to changes in the political climate. Bishopsgate Institute collected placards and digital photographs from the Women’s March on London. Undertaken in response to the inauguration of Donald Trump as president of the United States, and in solidarity with the Women’s March on Washington, the event aimed to champion women’s rights and freedoms and counter Islamophobia, racial abuse, rape culture, and LGBTQ abuse.

Sheffield City Archives has been working with Sheffield Feminist Network and Sheffield Feminist Network Archive project to preserve material relating to Sheffield’s feminist past. The archive accessioned documents related to the project as well as oral history interviews with female activists in Sheffield. Records of another activist group, Women & the church in Herefordshire, campaigning for the role of women in the Church of England, were collected by Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre. Highlighting the continuation of campaigning for gay rights since the 1970s,
the London School of Economics Library, Archives and Special Collections accessioned diaries of gay activist Michael James, who had worked for HIV/Aids counselling organisation Body Positive and was involved in the Gay Liberation Front. The records of an advocacy group, which aimed to relieve emotional distress suffered by lesbian, gay and bi-sexual people and their families and friends, Support for Parents of Lesbians and Gay Men Wales, were collected by Glamorgan Archives. The group also worked towards the goal of eliminating homophobia. While in a slightly different vein, Kingston History Centre took in oral histories created as part of the Fighting for Our Rights Project, recording Kingston Centre for Independent Living’s campaign for equal rights for disabled people.

Near contemporary accessions also include material related to theatre and performance. The Library of Trinity College Dublin, strengthening their theatrical collections, collected literary papers of celebrated Irish playwright Tom Murphy. Records of amateur drama group St Austell Players were taken in by Archives and Cornish Studies Service: Cornwall Record Office, and papers relating to New Perspectives Theatre productions, including scripts, marketing material, contracts, and performance reports were accessioned by University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections.

Twentieth century

The great majority of accessions for 2017 are twentieth century records. These touch on a wide range of subjects and events. Crime and policing emerged as a relatively prominent theme and there were also a number of accessions relating to LGBTQ issues, feminism and disability support groups, as well as records created by those from a BAME background. It is a significant challenge for archive acquisitions to mirror the increasing diversity of society and the communities they serve; the themes highlighted in twentieth and twenty-first century records accessioned in 2017 show the efforts made to move towards greater reflection of this in archival collections. A significant number of twentieth century collections also relate to war, but can be seen in a medical context.

The destruction of war could lead to more positive results, such as advancements in medicine and pioneering surgery. West Sussex Record Office accessioned correspondence relating to the Guinea Pig Club following their discharge from Queen Victoria Hospital as well as videos dating from the 1960s-1990s. This is part of the main hospital archive, which includes the administrative records of the hospital, over 15,000 patient case files. The Queen Victoria Hospital (now Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) became known as the centre of treatment for the Guinea Pig Club – RAF and Allied Air personnel who suffered severe burns – during the Second World War. Here they underwent experimental reconstructive surgery under the care of pioneering surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe. The club, which
continued for more than sixty years after the war, originally aimed to make hospital life easier, but also to provide support and aid reintegration into normal life. Reflecting the role of nurses in medical care, Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse Ethel M. Aikman’s letters, and accounts of VAD service during the First World War, were accessioned by Glasgow City Archives. The collection includes a photograph album and a copy typescript account of the sinking of the ship Transylvania, which was torpedoed and sunk on May 4, 1917 by a German U-boat. And London University: London School of Economics Library, The Women’s Library collection accessioned letters and photographs of Nina Courage, nurse at Endell Street Military Hospital, 1916-1919.

War also led to a darker, criminal side to medical experimentation. The Royal College of Physicians acquired correspondence and reports produced by the British component of the International Scientific Commission (War Crimes), which was created to investigate medical experimentation on humans conducted in Nazi internment camps and other sites.

Crime more generally, and particularly policing, also emerge as a significant theme in twentieth century records accessioned in 2017. Records of Gloucestershire Constabulary, including offence books, stolen and found property books, offenders’ record cards and publications, were collected by Gloucestershire Archives as part of the larger archives of Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions. Search Engine (National Railway Museum) accessioned Midland Railway Police Officer James Gates’ papers and notebooks dating from 1903-1931. These include lists of offenders’ names, crimes, locations and fines, as well as details of the sentencing police officer and photographs of offenders. Highlighting that policing is not just a local affair, but can also include a more international dimension, is the Bodleian Libraries, Special Collections’ accession of the journal of Val Warren (c.1890-1970), a Metropolitan Police Officer, written while on secondment to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to inspect and instruct in policing there.

Papers and photographs relating to John Hocking’s (1920-2014) service in the Palestine Mobile Force and Palestine Police between 1944 and 1946 were accessioned by Middle East Centre Archive, St Antony’s College, Oxford. The collection includes an account of a journey through Egypt, Libya and Tunisia as well as places visited in Palestine, his contract and certificate of discharge. Turning to immigration, Hampshire Record Office collected records of HM Prison Haslar/Haslar Immigration Removal Centre, Gosport. The institution started life as a young offender's detention centre in 1962, but changed to holding immigration detainees in 1989. It was later re-designated as a Removal Centre, and closed in 2015.

Certain groups in society are traditionally less well represented in archival collections, including those with disabilities. But as the fight for equality and greater inclusion continues and archives engage with these communities, these groups are
gaining more representation and action is being taken to preserve their documentary heritage. For example, records concerning The Friends of Highfields Centre for the Disabled, Cardiff, were collected by **Glamorgan Archives**.

The collection includes material related to the establishment of the centre and fundraising campaigns and events. The primary aim of the Friends was “the relief of physically handicapped persons resident in Cardiff”, focusing on those attending Highfields. The Friends, registered as a Charity on 22 August 1973, began to raise funds in preparation for the opening of Centre in January of the following year. Membership was open to those with a permanent or substantial disability as well as those with an interest in disability.

Between 1974 and 2006 the Friends raised money to help the Centre expand and develop its services to disabled members. The goal of supporting and aiding disabled people is also echoed in the records of St Loye's School of Occupational Therapy, Exeter, (also known as St Loye's College) accessioned by **Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (South West Heritage Trust)**. Dame Georgiana Buller first founded the college in 1937 with the idea that disabled people should have access to training and employment support. The records of Gloucester City (Voluntary) Blind Association, founded in 1911, were taken in by **Gloucestershire Archives**. The Association initially provided home visits for the blind, providing tuition in reading braille. And **Ceredigion Archives** accessioned records of Cardiganshire Association for the Blind. Established in 1920, the society works to promote the welfare of the blind and partially sighted, and prevent blindness.

Going further than providing aid and support, other organisations and individuals campaigned for greater rights and equality. Papers and campaign material of disability campaigner Keith Armstrong (1950-2017) were accessioned by the **Bishopsgate Institute**. Armstrong, a wheelchair user, was involved in campaigning for accessible public transport for people with disabilities. Campaigning more locally, the organisation Disability Equality North West aims to further the rights of disabled people in the North West of the country, and provides services which help disabled people live independently. The records of this organisation, set up in 1996, were
collected by Lancashire Archives. With a more medical focus, The York and District Autistic Society was initially established to bring together medical professionals and parents of autistic children, in order to review provision for families. The records of the society, which lasted from 1987-1992 before being subsumed into the National Autistic Society, were accessioned by Explore York Libraries and Archives.

Continuing the theme of campaigning, as with records accessioned since 2000, there were a number of twentieth century collections on feminism and LGBT issues. Labour History Archive and Study Centre, for example, collected material related to Feminist Webs. This organisation was set up as a resource for practitioners, volunteers and others involved in youth and community work with young women. It also aims to record local, regional and national activism covering material relating to women’s liberation campaigns, anti-racist work, work with young lesbians and related movements such as Reclaim the Night and campaigns against domestic violence. With a slightly more specialist focus on women’s creativity are the records of Women's Revolutions Per Minute (WRPM), accessioned by Goldsmiths, University of London - Special Collections & Archives. Operating from 1977-2005, the women's music distributor promoted festivals of music by women as part of the Women’s Liberation Movement, and distributed feminist titles into independent and mainstream music stores.

Looking at the world of work, Sheffield City Archives collected material related to Sheffield Women’s Employment Forum dating from 1983-1986. The organisation aimed to facilitate information exchange and co-ordinated campaigns concerning issues relevant to women in Sheffield. In a slightly different vein, considering women’s sexuality, is Hackney Archives’ accession of Hackney Women's Group and the North London Lesbian Mothers Group’s papers relating to awareness and study of lesbian sexuality. The Pink Paper, a free tabloid paper founded in 1987, campaigned on both lesbian and gay issues, though often had a lesbian bias. Liverpool Record Office accessioned copies of the paper from 1993-2000. Focusing primarily on gay issues, records and photographs of the Guildford Area Gay Society (GAGS) were collected by Surrey History Centre. And Royal Holloway College, University of London accessioned Brian Roberts’ Gay Theatre papers.

2017 collecting reflects the growing representation of Black, Asian and ethnic minority history in archives. London Metropolitan Archives accessioned papers and correspondence of educational psychologist Mollie Angela Hunte (1932-2015). The collection comprises papers relating to her work as an educational psychologist, including black supplementary education, with casework on Black children, as well as records related to organisations founded by Hunte, such as PEV Consultancy, Caribbean Parents Group, Caribbean Parents Group Credit Union Limited, and Westphi Academy. There was also an accession of educationist Jagdish Gundara’s (1938-2016) papers regarding multicultural education in UK and overseas, and
linguistics and twentieth century African history. These are now held by University College London: Institute of Education.

Other accessions regarding ethnic minorities focus more on specific events or communities. Correspondence relating to repatriation and the race riots of 1919-1920 was accessioned by Liverpool Record Office. The material relates particularly to the position of black ex-service men, and factory workers facing racism and loss of jobs, following demobilization after the First World War. The surplus of labour led to dissatisfaction and boycott by white workers, often supported by the trades unions, and the resulting tensions led to riots. This material is unique in containing the written word of those ex-servicemen being confronted with racial abuse on the streets of Liverpool, abuse that was compounded by institutional indifference or bigotry. Liverpool Record Office also accessioned deeds and documents relating to Chinese Community internments in Anfield Cemetery. And the papers, case files and notebooks of Jenny Smith, British councillor Southmead Ward Bristol, and gypsy and traveller rights campaigner, were accessioned by the University of Leeds. Smith campaigned actively in the Bristol area on behalf of New (Age) Travellers that lived and travelled within the region, but also campaigned for Gypsy and Traveller rights more broadly and across the UK.

Other accessions of interest include the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford's accession of an early twentieth century board-game: ‘Tutoom - Journey to the treasures of the Pharaoh’. The game was produced in 1923 following the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb the previous year, and can be seen as a clear example of the resulting ‘Tutmania’. The board was displayed in the ‘Discovering Tutankhamun’ exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum in 2014, which was part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Griffith Institute. It is now part of the Institute’s Tutankhamun collection.
Nineteenth Century

Accessions of nineteenth century records are relatively diverse and demonstrate aspects of the entire spectrum of society, with records relating to art and travel and overseas expeditions, the work of missionaries, to the centralisation and administration of the Poor Law system and health and hospitals.
The artistic culture of the period can be seen in the University of Glasgow Special Collections’ accession of a letter from painter James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) to Claude Monet (1840-1926) requesting paintings for inclusion in the Royal Society of British Artists exhibition, in the winter of 1887-8. University of Reading Special Collections collected artist and designer Albert Warren’s (1830-1911) watercolours, drawings, and tracings, including many which relate to Warren’s work for architect Owen Jones’s seminal work The Grammar of Ornament, which had significant impact on the art and design of the period and left a lasting legacy. There was also an accession of a volume of caricatures comprising Alfred Henry Forrester’s (1804-1872), cartoons of nineteenth century literary figures, under the pseudonym of Alfred Crowquill. The volume includes drawings of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth, and is held by the University of Birmingham, Cadbury Research Library. And a National Gallery card game, including instructions and box, from 1895, was accessioned by the National Gallery Research Centre.

Overseas travel and expedition also emerges as a significant theme of accessions of nineteenth century records. The National Maritime Museum: The Caird Library and Archive, for example, accessioned a letter from John and Phoebe Diggle to their son, John Diggle (c1809-1847), ship’s cook on board HMS Terror, one of the ships of Sir John Franklin’s lost Arctic expedition of 1845. The journal of a voyage 1819 from Liverpool to Mobile, Alabama, USA on the ship Columbia, by a passenger William Crompton, was accessioned by the National Museums Liverpool: Maritime Archives and Library. The vessel was wrecked off the coast of Louisiana. The University of Aberdeen: Special Collections collected Professor of Botany James William Helenus Trail’s (1851-1919), field notebook of an Amazonian trip, which include a list of botanical specimens sent back to Kew. And the National Library of Scotland, Archives & Manuscript Collections accessioned correspondence from George Francis Stewart Elliot, (1822-1901), barrister and historian, relating to David Livingstone’s Zambesi expedition, c.1858-1864, reflecting the interest in such expeditions during this period.

Travel with a slightly different purpose was also undertaken by various missionaries hoping to spread the word of God. University of Birmingham, Cadbury Research Library, for instance, collected clergyman and missionary Arthur Blockey Hutchinson’s, (1841-1919), personal diary of CMS missionary to China and Japan. The diary, written in the four years leading up to his first departure overseas includes his three years as a student at Church Missionary College, Islington, 1866-1869, and the first months after his ordination when he was working in England whilst waiting to go out to the CMS mission in Hong Kong. The correspondence, notes, commission and photographs of James Stewart, (1831-1905), missionary and college principal at Lovedale, Africa, were collected by the National Library of Scotland, Archives & Manuscript Collections. While the Archives of the Algiers Mission Band, were taken in by SOAS, University of London.
Perhaps a defining feature of the nineteenth century was changing attitudes towards the treatment of the poor. A number of archives accessioned material related to the Poor Law. The New Poor Law, or Poor Law Amendment Act 1834, was among the most significant pieces of legislation of the nineteenth century, completely overhauling the existing system and moving from local parish level administration to a centralised nationally operated system that included the formation of Poor Law Unions and the construction of workhouses.

The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland collected minutes of the Hinckley Poor Law Union from 1836-1842, Barnsley Archives & Local Studies accessioned the poor rate records of Barnsley Poor Law Union, from the 1840s-1890s, and the Peterborough Workhouse Punishment Book of 1849-1914 was taken in by Peterborough Archives Service. Powys Archives accessioned a notebook, belonging to overseer Richard Brown, dating from 1835-1843, containing poor relief assessments, poor relief dispensed and accounts for the parish of Llangurig, Montgomeryshire. A volume produced by West Ham Poor Law Union providing the specification for the infirmary at Forest House, Leyton (the antecedent of Whipps Cross Hospital) was collected by Royal London Hospital Archives. The volume, from 1900, includes technical specifications, details of proposed finishes and illustrations.

Hospitals and medicine of a different kind also feature in accessions from the nineteenth century. The Ancient and New Covenants, a manuscript volume created by a resident of Claybury Asylum, was accessioned by the Wellcome Collection. This resident identified himself in the text only as 'Freeman'. The text draws heavily from the Old Testament, but creates its own original religious narrative.
The work, written in rhyming verse, tells the story of two brothers who inherit the respective kingdoms of Waterland and Ashland. One of the kingdoms is beset by plagues, and “the Master Workman” presents the kings with a mystical Covenant that will deliver them from evil. In the manuscript, biblical stories are entwined with the increasingly fantastical narrative of the New Covenants. The writing shows a deep familiarity with Christian scripture, as well as incorporating Masonic imagery, and includes an unfortunately consistent anti-Semitic theme. There are also meticulous and detailed watercolour illustrations interspersing the text.

**Gloucestershire Archives** and the **Isle of Man Public Record Office** also accessioned records related to asylums; a plan of the Barnwood Mill estate and site of the Barnwood Asylum, and a case book and visitor register of Ballamona Hospital (formerly 'Isle of Man Lunatic Asylum') respectively. On a lightly different vein, **Liverpool Record Office** collected the records, dating from 1892-1997 of Maghull Homes, the first Epileptic Home in England. And an undated typescript booklet titled ‘Earnest Appeal’ for a sign language alphabet guide, with adverts, from the late nineteenth century was accessioned by the **University of Birmingham, Cadbury Research Library**.

A couple of records acquired in 2017 also relate to politics and reform in the nineteenth century. A scrapbook of the Reform Act of 1832 cartoons by John Doyle (1797-1868) was collected by the **Working Class Movement Library**. And the **Labour History Archive and Study Centre** accessioned the pamphlet **The Peterloo Massacre: The Bloody Tragedy of 1819 and The Struggle of the Early Reformers**.
The pamphlet describes the early struggles for parliamentary reform and universal suffrage, including an account of the Peterloo Massacre of 16th August 1819, during which a number were killed, with many hundreds injured, when they were cut down by yeomanry soldiers during a peaceful protest. The legacy of Peterloo can be seen as a turning point in attitudes toward change and reform potentially opening the way for the democracy we enjoy today.

Eighteenth Century

Themes that emerge from eighteenth century records accessioned in 2017 include law in the British Isles and exploration and trade in the wider world. Edinburgh University Library Special Collections, for example, accessioned two manuscript volumes on Scottish law, 1740-1810 by John Mein, fl. 1723-1740 (writer to the Signet). Legal notebooks covering the period 1772-1797, belonging to the controversial John Scott, (1739-1798), first Earl of Clonmell, Irish barrister and judge, were collected by The Library of Trinity College Dublin. Scott’s aggressive demeanour and bronzed skin tone earned him the sobriquet ‘Copper-faced Jack’.
And the National Library of Scotland, Archives & Manuscript Collections obtained a compendium of Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh's 'Lawes and Customes of Scotland in Matters Criminall...', (1678) written and abridged by M. Wardrobe of Bathgate c.1706. The work was the first textbook of Scottish criminal law, in which Mackenzie defended the use of judicial torture in Scotland.

With the expanding trade routes and the beginnings of colonialism in the eighteenth century a number of records also relate to the wider world. The letters of Sir Thomas Rumbold (1736-1791) were accessioned by the British Library: Asian and African Studies. Conspicuously wealthy, Rumbold, who was Governor of Madras from 1778-1780, and also acted as director of East India Company, obtained most of his fortune in India and later became infamous for his corruption.
Slaves became an important commodity during this period. **Bristol Archives** collected the log book of a merchant, Lavers Alleyn (1759-1837), relating to a trading voyage aboard the Levant to and from the Caribbean 1798-1799, with contemporary and later copy letters to business partners, including the Bristol slave trader Walter Jacks (d. 1812). And a diary of Thomas Staniforth (1735-1803) of Liverpool and Darnall, was accessioned by **Sheffield City Archives**. Much of Staniforth’s wealth came from engagement in the slave trade, though the diary relates primarily to his interests in coal mining and agriculture.

Trading in the Caribbean, especially sugar, was severely affected by the American War of Independence, but the British did not give up easily. **Stoke-on-Trent City Archives** accessioned an American Revolutionary War Nominal Roll detailing the return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners of the British Army under the command of Lieutenant General Burgoyne in July 1777.

![American Revolutionary War Nominal Roll 'Return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners of the British Army under the command of Lieutenant General Burgoyne in the Campaign 1777' (SD 1734/109), Image Credit: Stoke-on-Trent City Archives](Stoke-on-Trent City Archives)

John Burgoyne had raised the 16th Light Dragoons in 1759 and they were subsequently nicknamed Burgoyne’s Light Horse. They fought during the Saratoga campaign, attempting to gain control of the Hudson River valley, which ultimately led to the surrender of the British army. The roll also gives a chronological log of the action that took place that month, including the battles of Ticonderoga, Skenesborough, Hubbardton and Fort Ann, and records that only one officer from the 16th Light Dragoons was taken prisoner during that time.
A negative response to the ideas inspiring the independence of America can further be seen in minister of Abdie Robert Thomas’ (fl.1794), letter to the Earl of Kinnoul, accessioned by the National Library of Scotland, Archives & Manuscript Collections. Relating to Thomas Paine's 'Rights of Man', the letter discusses the minister’s ideas of equality and his support for the nobility.

On an entirely different theme, and turning to local parish life, Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (South West Heritage Trust) accessioned an original music manuscript attributed to Samuel Chapple (1775–1833), composer and blind organist at Ashburton parish church.

Seventeenth Century

Prominent among the seventeenth century records accessioned in 2017 are those relating to political and religious upheaval during the reigns of the Stuart monarchs. While most of these documents cover the civil wars and reigns of Charles II and James II, the National Library of Wales acquired a document dated 1610, outlining a set of grievances between the Welsh Marches and the king, presented by members of the House of Commons to James I in July 1610.

The divisions caused by the civil wars are echoed in a 1647 Order from the Committee of Wiltshire, accessioned by Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, acknowledging that Richard Mors of Badbury, Chiseldon, had been accused of having spoken 'grosse words against the Parliament', but that this was 'through rashness rather than out of dissa faction'. A fine of £100 was nevertheless imposed. The civil wars came to an end with the Parliamentarian victory at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651. Following this battle Charles II, while attempting to evade capture, was given a small sheet of music that when folded revealed the
warning ‘Conceal yourself your foes look for you’. This cypher manuscript was accessioned by the British Library: Western Manuscripts.

Following the reestablishment of the monarchy in 1660, there was hope of challenging Dutch domination of trade. However, with the Anglo-Dutch wars having severely depleted the navy, in 1677 Samuel Pepys, later Chief Secretary to the Admiralty, proposed before the House of Commons the building of thirty new ships. To facilitate this enterprise, Sir Richard Haddock and naval architect Sir Antony Deane travelled across the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk in order to purchase quantities of timber or plank. National Maritime Museum: The Caird Library and Archive accessioned Sir Richard Haddock’s journal detailing their journey.

Unrest was also precipitated by James II’s accession to the throne in 1685. The British Library: Western Manuscripts acquired an autograph letter by Sir John Perceval, 1st Earl of Egmont (1683-1748), to John Pigott of Brockley (c1647-1727) commenting on the state of Ireland following the accession of James II and the Monmouth Rebellion.
Unrest during this period was not just political; John Flavell (1630-1691), a Presbyterian minister who opposed the hierarchical structure of the Church of England, went to considerable lengths to preach his more radical message in spite of the prohibitions imposed by the 'Uniformity Act' of 1662, and the 'Five Mile Act' of 1665. The British Library: Western Manuscripts accessioned his manuscript notebook of 'An Exposition of the Assemblies Catechism with practical inferences from each Question, as it was carried on in the Lords days Exercises in Dartmouth, in the first year of liberty 1688'. The work was later published in print and became popular with puritan ministers.

Another, but very different, spiritual text was accessioned by Lambeth Palace Library. Possibly the work of Christiana (Bruce) Cavendish, Dowager Countess of Devonshire (1595-1675), an ardent royalist, the unpublished treatise on the Doctrine of the Two Covenants (Election & Reprobation) and Original Sin, which is prefaced by a spiritual autobiography, questioned fundamental tenets of her faith.

Other accessions of seventeenth century documents by and related to women include a medicinal recipe book from 1692, by a Jane Hussey (c 1657-1735), for a wide range of curative and restorative waters, syrups, electuaries, plaisters, poultices, ointments and lozenges, accessioned by the University of Birmingham, Cadbury Research Library. And the National Portrait Gallery collected Charles Beale’s (c.1631-1705) diary recording details of his wife Mary Beale’s portrait business.

Sixteenth Century

Relatively few sixteenth century records were accessioned in 2017; among the records collected are those relating to Tudor Queens, and how they worked to exert their power and influence. The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies acquired a copy of letters patent of Mary I (1516-1558), dated 1554, granting, among others, the former Snelshall Priory and land in Whaddon to Sir Edmund Ashfield (1506-1578), who, successfully navigating the change of regime, and was among those who first rallied behind Mary during the succession crisis in 1553.
The question of succession during the reign of Elizabeth I, as well as the challenges she faced for her throne, are also raised in the **British Library: Western Manuscripts**' accession of letters and papers relating to Mary, Queen of Scots, dating from 1586-87, and primarily dealing with her trial and execution. And reflecting some of the later challenges in Elizabeth’s reign, **The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust**, accessioned a letter by the Queen's Privy Council, dated 1598/99, signed by the Earl of Essex, Sir Robert Cecil, Lord Hunsden, Lord Howard of Effingham the Earl Nottingham and Archbishop of Canterbury among others, concerning the cost of equipping soldiers levied to fight in Ireland.
The majority of medieval documents accessioned in 2017 remain deeds and charters, but there were a few representing other aspects of life and literature in the period. Some of these texts had significant influence and impressive longevity.

The University of Bristol Special Collections, for example, accessioned fragments of Gratian’s *Decretum*. Gratian, a jurist from Bologna, wrote and compiled a collection of Canon law as a legal text book in the mid twelfth century in an effort to simplify the study of Canon law. Although the text was never formally recognised by the papacy it remained in use until 1917 when a revised code of Canon law superseded it.

Religion and worship were central to the life and culture of the period. Reflecting the type of devotional material reserved for the elites of society, the *Mostyn Psalter Hours*, a richly illuminated thirteenth century manuscript acquired by the British Library: Western Manuscripts, is a rare example of a devotional luxury book produced in medieval London. Its calendar features a sequence of London saints, and the feast of the translation of Edward the Confessor in Westminster in 1269. And showing the use of music in worship as part of the Mass, Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections, accessioned 2 bifolia from a twelfth century Gradual, probably from France or Normandy.
Religion was also sometimes combined with medicine and magic. The Wellcome Collection accessioned a manuscript containing 3 medical texts in the Austro-Bavarian dialect, written in 1489 by a scribe, Jakob Kreutter von Augsburg, in red and black ink. The manuscript includes the complete text of Nikolaus Frauenlob von Hirschberg’s *Elixer*, a compendium of medical, veterinary, natural-scientific and agricultural works, some of which is in verse, produced specifically for a lay audience.

Also included in the manuscript is a copy of one of the most widely transmitted German language medical texts of the medieval period, the *Arzneibuch* of Ortolf von Baierland. Ortolf, a surgeon from Wurzburg, was attempting to make the medical knowledge of the Latin university texts available to a German-speaking audience. Such was its popularity that the text continued to be transmitted in print into the seventeenth century. The third text is the *Korpus der Klostermedizin*, a compilation of mostly monastic medical knowledge that presented medical recipes alongside blessings, spells and prognostication. The text highlights how magic and astrology were prominent in ideas of healing and medicine.
Accessions survey and The National Archives

The Accessions to Repositories programme intersects a number of activities led or administered by The National Archives. As well as aiding the discovery of records by researchers, Accessions also provides evidence to measure the impact of the advice and guidance we offer archives through sales monitoring and maintenance of the Manorial Documents Register, but also facilitates the monitoring of public records transfers to places of deposit.

Sales monitoring

Sales monitoring guides manuscripts from the market towards the collecting institutions we survey in Accessions. More broadly cultural property work gives us context and provenance for a range of items in the survey. We know when and where items were purchased, for what price and often the details of associated fundraising.

We also track acquisitions made through tax incentives and the movement of controlled classes of records, reminding owners and vendors of their obligations, which can lead to deposit. In turn, the Accessions survey confirms the acquisition of items not otherwise reported to us. Usually the description in the survey return is more accurate and helpful than the bookseller or auctioneer’s catalogue, but it can sometimes be the other way round, so that sales information can help improve the quality of a survey entry.

It is striking how many of the acquisitions for the earlier periods highlighted above came through purchases, recorded as part of our work monitoring the commercial market in manuscripts.

Early in the year, there was a good example of grant funding complementing the tax system in securing preeminent archives. At Dominic Winter in January Durham County Record Office acquired, with the substantial support of Friends National
Libraries, correspondence between Charles William Vane Stewart, third Marquis of Londonderry and Lord Burghersh, relating to Londonderry’s time as ambassador to Vienna. It joins the Londonderry Durham estate papers recently allocated there under the Acceptance in Lieu scheme (D/Lo/C).

New accessions are not always records emerging for the first time. Forum Auctions Fine Books and Works on Paper in March included a substantial run of court books for the manor of Netherhall Tyndalls in Cambridgeshire previously offered at Bloomsbury Auctions in 2010. Outbid then, Cambridgeshire Archives acquired them (R117/035) by private sale this time when they were unsold at auction.

This year continued the recent rise in the market of the non-specialist and amateur seller and with them the poor quality of description of items for sale. 16 October’s eBay monitoring revealed a substantial collection of ledgers, journals and other documents pictured but not otherwise described. The only clearly identifiable document was a 1657 rental for the manors of the Bayntun family of Bromham Wiltshire. The vendor was sent notice of the manorial documents rules and the rental appeared in Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre’s return (4406).

Bath Record Office acquired photographs and papers of Major Noel C. Harbutt, A.R.P.S relating to the 1942 Bath Blitz at Dominic Winter’s Aviation and Military Sale on 9 November. As well as skilled amateur photographers, the Harbutts were a prominent local family, famous for the manufacture of Plasticine. The album arrived too late in the year to appear in Bath’s 2017 return. Surrey History Centre did report a court baron minute book for the manor of Colley (9850/1) acquired at Dominic Winter’s Printed Books and Maps sale on 8 November. Overall, ten of the ninety purchases recorded in the 2017-18 sales year were manorial documents, a clear indication of a thriving market despite the manorial documents rules.
The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) is the official index of English and Welsh manorial records and provides brief descriptions of documents and details of their locations in public and private hands.

Owners or custodians of manorial documents are under an obligation to provide the Secretary of The National Archives: Historical Manuscripts Commission with brief details of any documents in their possession for inclusion in the Manorial Documents Register. We send vendors of manorial documents notice of their obligations under the rules and notify the relevant repository of their sale.

The accessions survey is an important source of new information for the Register. In 2017, 20 repositories in England and Wales acquired manorial records. Of these, over two thirds are new discoveries that were not previously recorded by the Manorial Documents Register.

Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds Branch accessioned one fragment of a court roll, for Impey manor with Howckton. This had been returned to England as a donation in 2017 by an American University who in turn had acquired it from a book dealer in Florida. It seems likely that the manuscript left the country prior to the 1922 Law of Property Act and the issuing of the first Manorial Documents Rules in 1926, but we had no prior knowledge of its existence. It fits within a run of court rolls held by Suffolk Record Office (Bury).

As well as publishing a curated overview of manorial records for 2017 in the published survey, the MDR is also regularly updated with new collections information and published on Discovery. The MDR is partially computerised and so in addition to this new material which is continuing to turn up, descriptions are also being added in bulk following the completion of county projects.

In 2017 three MDR county projects were completed – Devon, Northamptonshire and Worcestershire. As the data gathered in our survey relates to the most of recent acquisitions, several manorial records which were reported to The National Archives...
during the 2017 Accessions survey, and therefore not included in the original project data, have since been made available on the Register. This includes two manorial records held by Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (South West Heritage Trust) and Northamptonshire Archives.

The extensive programme to computerise the MDR will be completed in 2022. With this in mind, our thoughts are moving towards increasing audiences and stimulating new uses of the Register, leading to new types of research into or using manorial records. As the county projects conclude, clearly manorial records will continue to be acquired through purchase, gift or deposit subsequently altering the Register, as these historic records find new homes including those known to this survey.
New burdens

The Public Records Act requires certain public bodies, such as NHS hospitals and magistrate’s courts, to transfer records of historical value for permanent preservation to archive services appointed as ‘places of deposit’ or PoDs. There are over 100 local authority PoDs that manage and provide access to public records held outside The National Archives.

In 2013 the government began its move towards releasing records when they are 20 years old, instead of 30. Since 2015 specified local public sector organisations are also required to transfer their public records to a PoD. To assist local authorities in covering the costs of managing accelerated record transfers in the transition to the 20-year rule The National Archives distributes a significant £660,000 annually (until 2024) of New Burdens funding from central government to local authority PoDs.

New Burdens payments are calculated on the total linear meterage of public records an archive service has accessioned in the previous year, which is reported in accessions returns. A staggering 4 kilometres of public records have been accessioned by local authority PoDs since 2015. The highest funded archive service receiving payment in 2018 was Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service who received £153,000 of New Burdens funding for accessioning 188 linear metres of public records in 2017.

Archive services are putting this extra funding to good use. Some like Hull History Centre and Derbyshire Record Office are using their New Burdens funding to pay for additional archivists. Dorset and Berkshire archive services will be deploying their funding into improving the storage of their records. With an eye on the future Wiltshire and Swindon Archives are spending their New Burdens funding on acquiring new a digital preservation system.
Analysis

Our analysis is based upon the full set of data that archives services invited to report their accessions send us for our survey. This information is presented in a spreadsheet, providing a structure for reporting the creator, record description, reference and other supplementary information including the extent of the material. This structured format is vital in allowing us to pull the data from all of the spreadsheets together and to analyse the information as one.

Scale of collecting

We received reports from 286 UK archives who reported details of 15,929 new collections acquired and accessioned in 2017, including nil returns. This figure represents a 5% decrease on the total from last year. Although the number of responses from archives has slightly increased this year (up from 280 for 2016), the number of nil returns doubled to 18. In some cases nil returns were necessitated by the closure or redevelopment of archives or as a result of staffing issues. In others cases they reflect repositories who simply did not acquire new collections in 2017.

In this analysis archives are divided into 12 regions of the UK (including a small amount of information from both sides of the border in Ireland) and into four types: local, national, special and university.

Regions

The largest number of reported collections accessioned came from the South West, followed by the South East and London.

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3 This represents about 10% of UK repositories with entries in the ARCHON directory so the true figure will be much larger.
Figure 1. Number of collections accessioned by region

But there were, for instance, more than three times as many returns received from archives in London as there were archives in the South West. Dividing collections recorded by the number of returning repositories suggests that (as in 2016) it is the East Midlands region where individual repositories are collecting proportionately more than archives in other regions.

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*With the addition of Guernsey
**With the addition of the Isle of Man
We have also attempted to calculate the extent of these collections. Archives report this extent in a range of ways. They might provide a formal measurement in cubic or linear metres or they might provide a summary such as ‘7 boxes’, ‘89 items’, ‘10 rolls’. We have added these counts to produce a total of orderable units. Since many more archives used these counts than provided measurements in metres we have produced estimated item counts from these figures.\(^5\)

We estimate UK repositories accessioned over 225,000 files and boxes.

\(^5\) We used an estimate of 1 cubic metres to 12 linear metres, based on reports from archives. We used a conversion of 15 items to 1 linear metre based on the median results from returns from three test regions.
Figure 3. Estimated files accessioned by region

Figure 4. Estimated files accessioned per repository
As in 2016, London, the South West and Yorkshire appear to have accessioned the largest volumes of material. When averaged by repository, Ireland and Yorkshire appear to have achieved the highest accession volumes, followed by the South West. Ireland’s statistics are based on a small sample of 3 repositories including the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, which accounts for this large averaged figure.

Across two years these figures vary interestingly by region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Collections 2016</th>
<th>Collections 2017</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
<th>Items 2016</th>
<th>Items 2017</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland (NI and Eire)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>1790</td>
<td>6120</td>
<td>241.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>925</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>8655</td>
<td>6975</td>
<td>-19.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>1273</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>12963</td>
<td>6200</td>
<td>-52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>1070</td>
<td>1259</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>8457</td>
<td>25836</td>
<td>205.5</td>
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<td>East Midlads</td>
<td>1105</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>-4.8</td>
<td>9877</td>
<td>5859</td>
<td>-40.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>1543</td>
<td>1442</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>17297</td>
<td>12140</td>
<td>-29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and the Humber</td>
<td>1218</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>-5.5</td>
<td>56409</td>
<td>48275</td>
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<td>South West*</td>
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<td>62736</td>
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<td>-14.3</td>
<td>23468</td>
<td>12796</td>
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<td>25894</td>
<td>16212</td>
<td>-37.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>16766</td>
<td>15929</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
<td>306149</td>
<td>226608</td>
<td>-26.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Collections and objects accessioned regionally 2016/2017

Some of this variation is an artefact of reporting (e.g. in Ireland the number of repositories sending in returns was 2 in 2016 and 3 in 2017, partly explaining a growth in reported collections). But in many regions the numbers of returns was roughly stable and the large increases in some regions, for example the West Midlands and decreases in others (East Midlands, Wales) reflects the volatility of collecting and the huge variation in declared collection sizes, such that, in Wales it was possible for the number of accessions to increase even as the volume of those accessions decreased.

In the East and South East, as many as one in six collections were recorded without any accompanying extent information so the volumes in these areas is almost certainly an underestimate.
Types

It is local archives who are the workhorses of collecting in the UK.

Figure 5. Collections accessioned by repository type

If we divide the number of collections by the number of reporting repositories we find that on average, national institutions received only about 55% of the number of collections as local archives.⁶

Figure 6. Collections accessioned per repository by type

⁶ Figures from The National Archives itself are not included in this study.
In 2016, these differences reduced sharply when the extent of material was considered rather than simply the number of collections. In 2017, however, this gap in volumes is maintained.

Figure 7. Estimated files accessioned per repository by type

This year, the average national archive appears to have taken in roughly the same volume of records as an average local archive.

Figure 8. Estimated files accessioned per repository by type
Characteristics of collecting

Digital Accessions

In the preceding section we have considered both paper and digital records together. In 2017, archives were able to provide the extent of 281 digital collections, constituting 5.8 terabytes in total.\(^7\)

In 2016 the volume of this data was 1.31 terabytes from 50 collections but archives were not formally and explicitly asked to report digital accessions. Much of this apparent growth must therefore been seen as an artefact of reporting.

Even so, this total still understates the number and volume of digital collections, a number of which were supplied with extents such as '311 digital photographs', rather than a size on disk. Since proper management of digital assets is impossible without consideration of the volumes involved, we must conclude from such accessions (and for those with extents such as 5 CDs, 1 hard drive) that these digital assets may not be actively preserved within a digital repository. Nevertheless, 69 archives were able to report digital assets with their extent and such assets were reported across every region and type of repository.

Many digital collections were hybrids, with a digital component being listed alongside a set of paper records.

Of the collections reported with an extent on disk, the median collection size was 0.17GB and the mean size 618GB. The largest single accession was 1,587GB of uncompressed (.WAV) oral history recordings, collected by Lothian Health Services Archive. The second largest was 122GB of historic adoption files, accessioned by Dorset History Centre.

Digital collections made up 1.8% of total collections counted but this varied significantly by region and by repository type. For national and university collections, roughly 3% of accessioned collections were digital. For specialist repositories this was 2.4% and for local archives 1.4%. Local archives still took in 169 of the 281 collections (more than three times as many as national collections) but this is a small part of their overall collecting.

In other words, it might be expected that with their greater resources, national museums would be leading digital collecting but their smaller collecting footprint overall prevents this from being the case.

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\(^7\) A terabyte is 1024 gigabytes.
Only one of the three Irish repositories (PRONI) reported high rates of digital collecting. From the rest of the sample, two regions had rates above 3% - North East (3.8%) and South West (3.4%). This represents 113 collections between them to Ireland’s 16. Wales and both Midland regions had rates below 1%.

Regardless it is clear from these numbers that the total of digital accessions per archive is currently very small, even in a region such as the North East. For the UK this is an average of 4.9 digital accessions per repository reporting digital assets. This is highest in the South East where 4 repositories collected 40 digital collections but more typical would be the North West where 5 repositories accessioned 14 digital collections between them.

In terms of content, these collections contain many born digital photographs and oral history recordings (in both audio and video formats). Also included are Lidar images, databases, born digital academic articles and the minutes of meetings as digital files. A certain amount of digitised material is also present.

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8 It must be remembered that over 200 hundred archives in the sample were not able to report the extent of a single digital accession for 2017.
Dates

The date profile of accessioned material is calculated by breaking ranges into discrete centuries and multiple counting where necessary. For example, a collection provided the range 1945-60 joins the 20th century group (in red). A collection bearing the range 1642-1850 is counted in the 17th, 18th and 19th century groups.

![Figure 10. Accessions by century by repository type](image)

We can see that around 20% of collections include at least some 21st century material. Interestingly, this proportion is lowest in national collections who may therefore be acquiring a slightly greater proportion of historic rather than ‘working’ papers compared to local archives. Rates of 19th century collecting also show some variety.

Regionally, Ireland has a slightly different chronological profile to the other regions but otherwise there is a high degree of homogeneity, as there was in 2016.
Figure 11. Accessions by century by region
Accruals

Accruals represent the proportion of accessions which are additions to existing collections as opposed to completely new deposits.

Regionally, the mean rate of accruals is 46%. It follows that regions like London and the North East and South East, which fall furthest from this mean should consider whether these figures are as they plan and expect.

Some regions saw a large jump in accruals (+12%) in the North East with smaller increases in London (+5%) and Scotland (+6%) but many regions have rates virtually the same as last year. A small number report a fall with the biggest in the South East (down 7%), the West Midlands and the North West (down 4%) and Wales (down 3%). This indicates more variety in collecting than in the previous year.
Accrual rates remain very steady in University and Local archives. They have risen in National collections this year (+6%) and are higher in the sample of Specialist repositories than they were last year (+10%).
Keywords and Themes

In a change to last year’s survey, archives were encouraged to provide keywords describing the content of an accession separate from the description. Many archives responded positively to this request which provides a richer picture than simply mining the description field and examining occurrences of individual words. Terms describing record types (‘wills’, ‘deeds’, ‘photographs’) rather than content were excluded from the analysis.

<table>
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<th>Count</th>
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Table 2. Accessions keywords by type (2017) and mined description terms (2016)

The variety across the sector and within individual repository types is much more obvious. Some of the content is entirely predictable – the preoccupation of national collections with political and military records but the analysis this year demonstrates the cultural content of university collections much more clearly and shows the
important role of local archives as collectors of business records, amongst those of the church and local government.

The method is also more effective for the regions. Collections in London look like national collections and many other regional interests are present: for the West Midlands this was a good year for transport history, in Wales, political history was on the agenda, theatre records were strongly represented in the South West, records of the Women’s Institute in the East Midlands and a cache of records relating to Oman in the South East.

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Table 3. Accessions keywords by region (2017) and mined description terms (2016)
This was a folksonomy but many shared terms were used allowing some consideration of say, the relative importance of church records in the returns of different regions. In many cases these seem to be overrepresented versus records of secular society.
Acknowledgements and thanks

Thanks to all of the archives that contributed to the 2017 Accessions to Repositories Survey including those who kindly provided images for use in this report.

This report draws on collections information supplied from by following archives services:

- Bath Record Office
- Bristol Archives
- Bristol University Information Services: Special Collections
- Bedfordshire Archives & Records Service
- Berkshire Record Office
- University of Reading: Special Collections
- Museum of English Rural Life
- Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
- Cambridgeshire Archives
- Huntingdonshire Archives
- Cambridge University Library: Department of Archives and Modern Manuscripts
- Cambridge University: Churchill Archives Centre
- Cambridge University: Scott Polar Research Institute
- Cheshire Archives and Local Studies
- Teesside Archives
- Cornwall Record Office
- Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle
- Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal
- Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre, Barrow
- Derbyshire Record Office
- Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (South West Heritage Trust)
- Plymouth and West Devon Record Office
- University of Exeter Library (Special Collections)
- Dorset History Centre
- Durham County Record Office
- Durham University Library, Special Collections
- Essex Record Office
- Gloucestershire Archives
- Hampshire Archives and Local Studies
- Portsmouth History Centre
- Southampton Archives Office
- Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre
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Linnean Society of London
Royal College of Physicians of London
Royal College of Surgeons of England
Cambridge University Library: Royal Commonwealth Society Library
Royal Society
Westminster Abbey Library and Muniment Room
Wellcome Collection
Greater Manchester County Record Office (with Manchester Archives)
Bolton Archives and Local Studies Service
Bury Museum and Archives
Manchester Archives and Local Studies
Stockport Archive Service
Tameside Local Studies and Archives
Wigan Archives and Local Studies
Manchester University: University of Manchester Library
National Museums Liverpool: Maritime Archives and Library
Liverpool Record Office
Wirral Archives Service
University of Liverpool: Special Collections and Archives
Birmingham: Archives, Heritage and Photography Service
Coventry Archives & Research Centre
Dudley Archives and Local History Service
Sandwell Community History and Archives Service
Wolverhampton City Archives
University of Birmingham: Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections
Warwick University: Modern Records Centre
Norfolk Record Office
Northamptonshire Archives
Northumberland Archives
Nottinghamshire Archives
Nottingham University Library, Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections
Oxfordshire History Centre
Oxford University: Bodleian Library, Special Collections
Pusey House Library
Oxford University: St Antony's College: Middle East Centre Archive
Shropshire Archives
Somerset Heritage Centre (South West Heritage Trust)
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service: Staffordshire County Record Office

Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch

Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds Branch

Suffolk Record Office, Lowestoft Branch

Surrey History Centre

Kingston History Centre

East Sussex Record Office

Sussex University Library Special Collections

West Sussex Record Office

Tyne and Wear Archives

Newcastle University: Special Collections

Warwickshire County Record Office

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Isle of Wight Record Office

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre

North Yorkshire County Record Office

Explore York Libraries & Archives

Borthwick Institute for Archives: University of York

York Minster Archives

Barnsley Archive and Local Studies Department

Doncaster Archives

Rotherham Archives and Local Studies

Sheffield City Archives

Sheffield University Library

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Kirklees

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds

Leeds University Library, Special Collections

Flintshire Record Office

Denbighshire Archives

National Library of Wales: Department of Collection Services

Ceredigion Archives

Pembrokeshire Archives and Local Studies

Glamorgan Archives

West Glamorgan Archive Service

Swansea University: Richard Burton Archives

Gwent Archives

Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon Record Office

Gwynedd Archives, Meirionnydd Record Office

Archifau Ynys Mon / Anglesey Archives
Bangor University, Archives and Special Collections
Powys Archives
Stirling Council Archive Service
Aberdeen University, Special Collections Centre
Highland Archives
National Library of Scotland, Manuscript Collections
Edinburgh City Archives
Edinburgh University Library, Special Collections
Lothian Health Services Archive
Orkney Archive
Glasgow City Archives
Ayrshire Archives
LiveArgyll Archives
Special Collections, The Mitchell Library
Glasgow University Library, Special Collections Department
Glasgow University Archive Services
Strathclyde University Archives
Dundee City Archives
Perth and Kinross Council Archive
Dundee University Archive, Records Management and Museum Services
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)
St George's Chapel Archives and Chapter Library
Cambridge University: King's College Archive Centre
Ushaw College
Leicester University Library: Special Collections
National Gallery Research Centre
Wandsworth Heritage Service
Chiswick Library Local Studies Service
Barking and Dagenham Archives and Local Studies Service
Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive
Hillingdon Local Studies, Archives and Museums Service
Horniman Museum and Gardens
London University: Institute of Education
London University: Institute of Modern Languages Research
London University: Queen Mary University of London
Bishopsgate Institute
History of Advertising Trust Archive
Royal London Hospital Archives
Labour History Archive and Study Centre (People's History Museum)
Royal College of Midwives Archives
St Bartholomew's Hospital Archives
Chetham's Library
Museum of Science and Industry
Oxford University: Regent's Park College, Angus Library and Archive
Oxford University: Griffith Institute
London University: Royal Holloway
Bradford University: JB Priestley Library
Clackmannanshire Archives & Local History Service
Heriot-Watt University, Heritage and Information Governance
West Dunbartonshire Council Archive Services: Clydebank Library
West Dunbartonshire Council Archive Services: Dumbarton Library
Angus Archives
Representative Church Body Library
Trinity College Dublin
University of Southampton Library
Trafford Local Studies
Search Engine (National Railway Museum)
Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office
Oldham Local Studies & Archives
University of Bristol: Theatre Collection
The Postal Museum
Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society
North Devon Record Office (South West Heritage Trust)
Island Archives, Guernsey
Working Class Movement Library
East Dunbartonshire Archives: Kirkintilloch
Islington Local History Centre
National Museum of the Royal Navy
Knowsley Archives
National Portrait Gallery
Scottish Borders Archive and Local History Centre
Heritage Quay - University of Huddersfield Archives
Britten-Pears Foundation
Bath University Archives
The Waterways Archive
Ealing Local History Centre
Manchester Metropolitan University Library
Royal Northern College of Music
University of East Anglia Archives
Peterborough Archives
Royal College of Nursing Archives
Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre
Cardiff University
National Arts Education Archive @ YSP
British Film Institute, Special Collections
Henry Moore Institute Archive
East Dunbartonshire Archives: Bearsden
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Jersey Archive
Historic England Archive
Isle of Man Public Record Office
Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives (Caithness Archives)
University of Westminster Archives
North Lanarkshire Archives
Wallace Collection
South Lanarkshire Council, Finance and Corporate Resources (Council Archives)
Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre, Whitehaven
Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service: Stoke-on-Trent City Archives
Douai Abbey
University of Gloucestershire Special Collections and Archives
Conwy Archive Service
British Library, Music Collections
Kingston University Archives & Special Collections
University of Birmingham: Information Services, Shakespeare Institute Library

Sheffield University: National Fairground Archive and Circus Archive
London University: Goldsmiths Library: Special Collections and Archives
Cambridge University: Jesus College Archives
Liverpool John Moores University
Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art
Mountain Heritage Trust
Oxford Brookes University: Special Collections
Mills Archive
University of the Arts London: University Archives and Special Collections
Highland Archives: Lochaber Archive Centre
Highland Archives: Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre