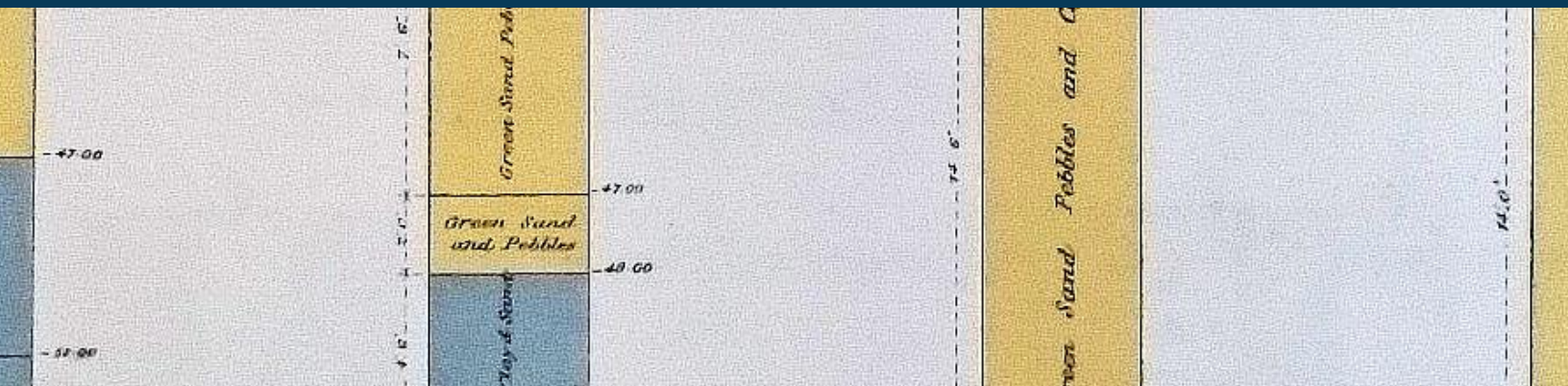


Archives & Research Collections

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2024-2025



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The Library aims to build, maintain and make accessible unique and distinctive collections in support of institutional research and teaching activities, and to preserve a lasting historical record of the University.

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Find out more at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/library-archives-and-research-collections/>

UKOLN Collection

In September 1977, with funding from the British Library, University Librarian Maurice Line (1928-2010) initiated the Bath University Programme of Catalogue Research with the aim of supporting research and education on all aspects of the design, production and utilisation of library records. The work of the Programme led in 1979 to the establishment of the Centre for Catalogue Research, later renamed the Centre for Bibliographic Management to reflect its broadening remit. Based at the University of Bath the Centre's first director was Philip Bryant (1932-2016).

In 1989 the British Library set up the UK Office for Library Networking to work in association with the Centre for Bibliographic Management. The two units merged in 1992 to become the UK Office for Library and Information Networking later known simply as UKOLN.

As a centre of expertise in information management serving the library, education and cultural heritage sectors UKOLN's work was diverse and far-reaching. It included advancing knowledge through research, influencing policy and informing practice, promoting community-building and raising awareness, developing innovative systems and services based on emerging technologies and acting as an agent for knowledge transfer. Members of UKOLN staff played a key role in the evolution of professional information management theory while offering support to those concerned with its practical application. With specialist focus on the exploration of issues such as metadata, interoperability and digital curation UKOLN was involved in a broad range of national and international projects at the cutting edge of information science over a period of time that saw the rapid transition from print to digital formats.



From 1996 UKOLN published *Ariadne*, a magazine for information practitioners in academia, archives, libraries and museums, containing news of current initiatives, technological developments and networking opportunities in the UK and abroad. UKOLN also organised a huge number of events, from meetings and workshops to large international conferences including the annual Institutional Web Management Workshop. In 2004 UKOLN was one of the founder members of the Digital Curation Centre (DCC).

In 2013 JISC's annual funding grant was withdrawn and as a result two thirds of UKOLN's 24 members of staff based at the University of Bath were made redundant. UKOLN's Director departed and was not replaced. July 2015 marked the cessation of all UKOLN activity.



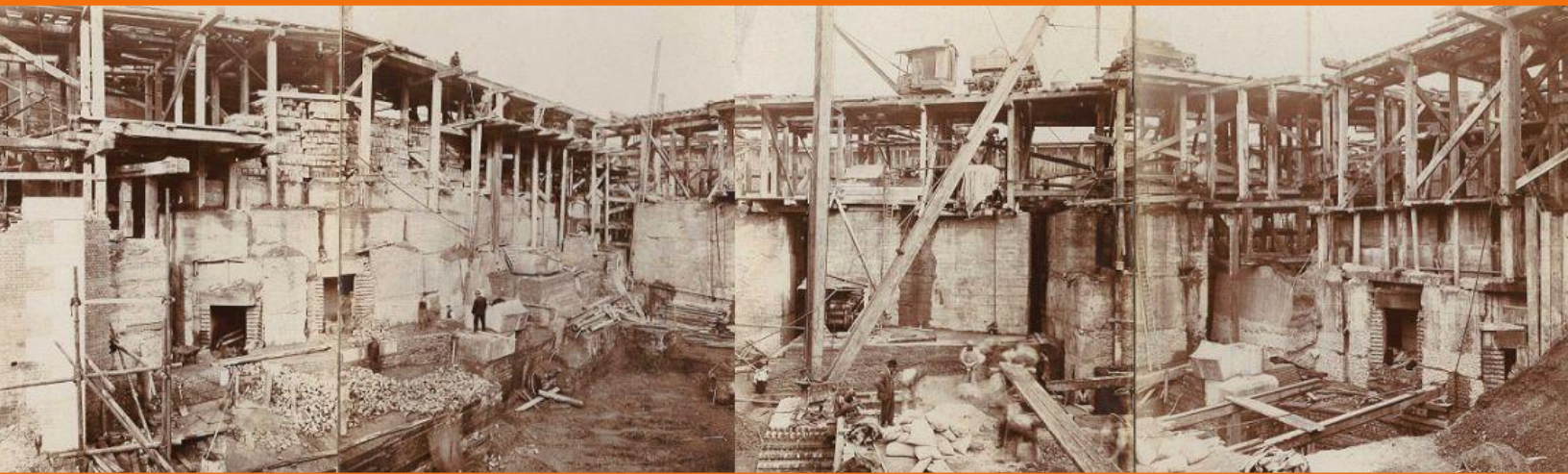
The collection is not comprehensive but comprises a representative cross section of administrative documentation and research outputs spanning four decades of UKOLN operations. It includes advisory and management committee minutes, planning and funding records, publications, reports, conference and event papers, and material relating to UKOLN project work. As well as containing examples of pioneering research, the collection provides detailed evidence of how information professionals anticipated and adapted to the changing technologies, priorities and expectations of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

View contents of the UKOLN Collection at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/ukoln-collection/>

Hollingworth Collection

Archival collections covering multiple generations are not that unusual but additions to collections made by members of the same family over 50 years apart don't happen very often. An original donation of material, owned by J. E. R. Hollingworth (1905-1976), a civil engineer whose father, E. W. Hollingworth (1873-1927), had been resident engineer to Henry Brunel (1842-1903), was deposited with the University of Bath Library in the early 1970s. In 2024 a supplementary donation of material was made by Edward Hollingworth comprising further papers of his father and grandfather.

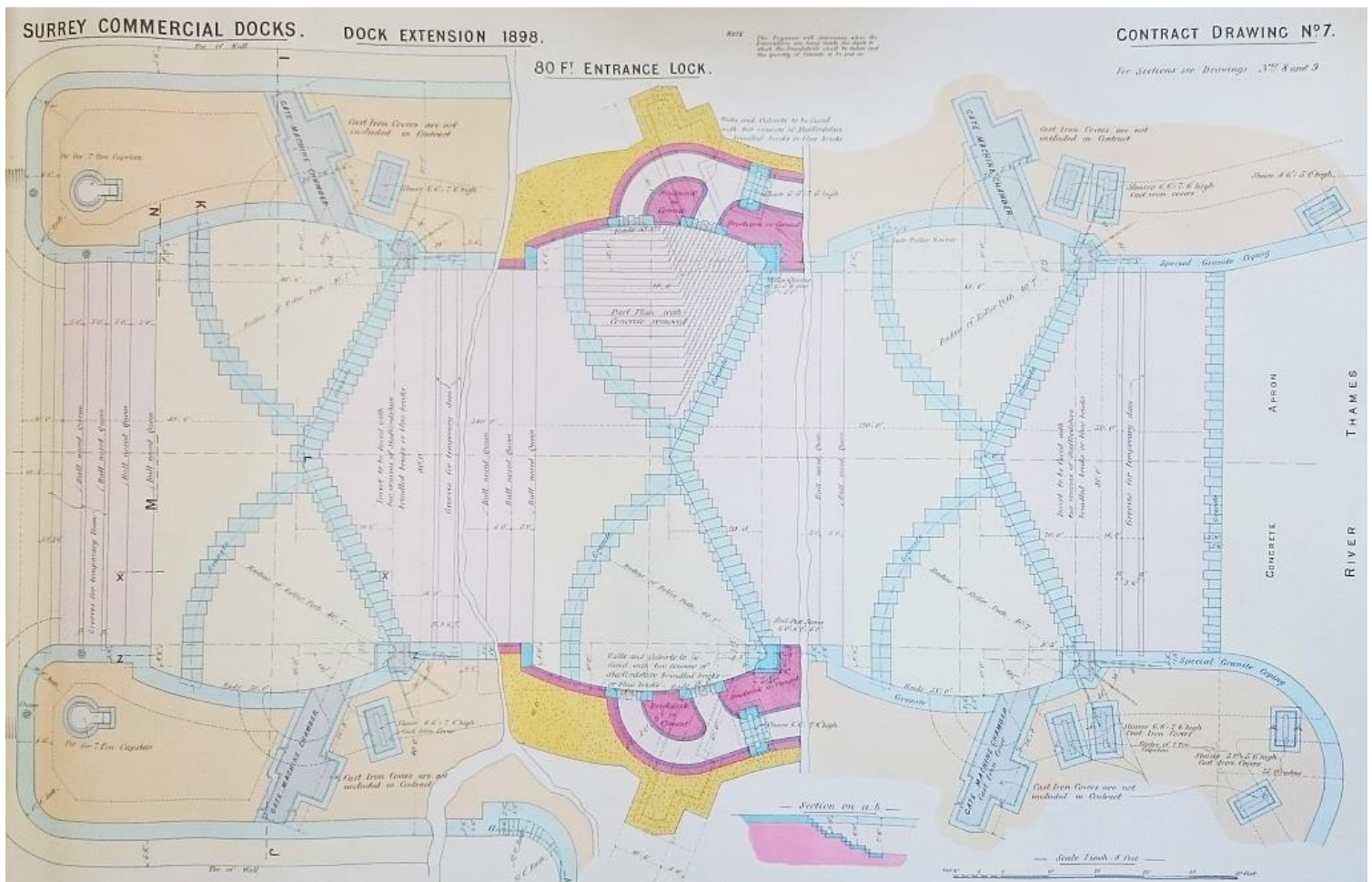
The newly augmented collection is small but diverse. Its theme is broadly engineering but beyond this its subject matter is rather eclectic, and Hollingworth family ownership, through authorship, purchase and inheritance, appears to be the strongest link between some of the otherwise unconnected documents and publications.



Despite the lack of obvious overall coherence, the collection contains items of national and international significance. They include an early proposal for the UK's first largescale, landscaped cemetery, architectural drawings of churches in Derbyshire and specifications, plans and photographs relating to an expansion of Surrey Commercial Docks, Rotherhithe, London, undertaken by Sir John Wolfe Barry & Partners between 1895 and 1904.

The collection also contains working drawings and original plans produced by Marc Isambard Brunel (1769-1849) and his son, Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859) in the course of various civil engineering projects. They include plans relating to dock and harbour construction and improvement works in Plymouth, and a bound series of annotated sectional drawings of railway bridges, brick culverts, cuttings and embankments from 1846.

It seems fitting that a collection documenting several generations of involvement in the business of 19th-century engineering and industrialisation should have found its way to us via the agency of three generations of the Hollingworth family.



View contents of the Hollingworth Collection at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/hollingworth-collection/>

Roy Inman (Judo) Collection

Roy Inman (1946-2015) didn't take up judo until a relatively late age. In 1969, soon after joining the Budokwai, he won the British Open Judo Championships before going on to represent Great Britain in the sport for over a decade. Whilst still an active competitor Inman took on official international coaching responsibilities which, over the following decades, saw him coach a record-breaking number of women judoka, including Jane Bridge, Karen Briggs and Kate Howey, to European, Commonwealth, World and Olympic medals. In 1991 he was named International Coach of the Year. He received an OBE in 1992.



Inman served as Vice-President of the British Judo Association and is the author of ten highly regarded judo-related books. In 1999 he was appointed Head Coach and Technical Director of the University of Bath's High Performance Judo Programme. He was awarded an Honorary Blue by the University in 2002 and was the recipient of the Ivor Powell Award for Excellence in Coaching in 2006.

Donated for inclusion in the Richard Bowen Collection, the material comprises photographs, press cuttings, reports and associated memorabilia documenting Inman's life in judo as a practitioner, competitor, coach and manager, as well as his lasting contribution to the development of judo at the University.



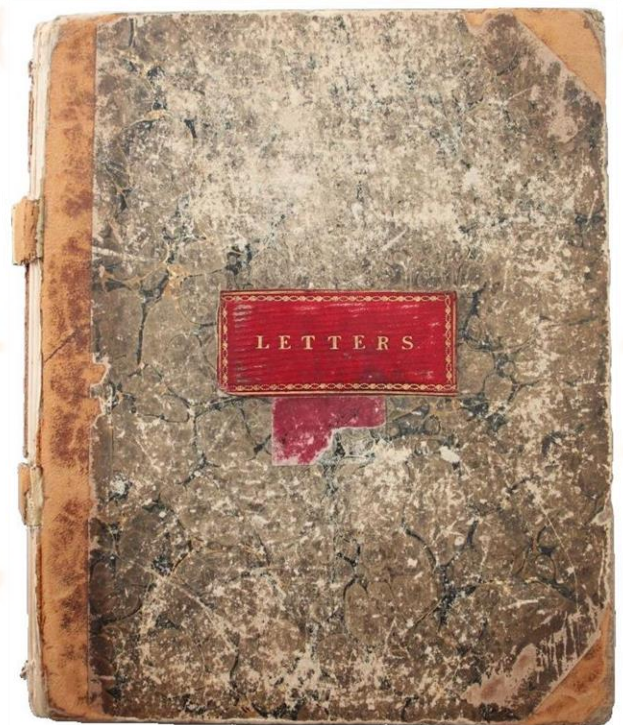
View contents of the Roy Inman Collection at:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/richard-bowen-judo-collection/>

Saving sound writing

In June we learned that our application to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust had been successful. The grant will allow us to repair Sir Isaac Pitman's letter book (1833-1838) which is in an extremely fragile and unstable condition making handling it problematic.

Because it's so closely tied up with shorthand, as we move further into the 21st century there's an increasing (and understandable) tendency to regard the contents of the Pitman Collection as outmoded and irrelevant. Underestimating the Collection in this way is a mistake as its value goes far beyond the history of shorthand writing. It's an important source on Victorian innovation and entrepreneurship, evidencing a vital stage in the ongoing evolution of data and communication technology. Sir Isaac Pitman's belief in the power of knowledge - that it should be available to as many people as possible at the least cost - underpinned his commercial activities and played a part in paving the way to the information age. His pioneering approach to capturing and transmitting language fuelled a global business empire and helped to shape our appreciation of information as an asset.

The letter book contains copies of Sir Isaac's correspondence during the period in which, while working full-time as a teacher, he designed and published stenographic soundhand (aka Pitman's shorthand). It documents the ideas behind his invention and early attempts to encourage its adoption. Recording the concept that generated a worldwide business enterprise and the thinking behind a story of self-made success, it's the key with which to unlock the full archival potential of the Pitman Collection. Given its place in the unfolding narrative of information and communication technology we're keen to make the letter book safe for the decades and centuries ahead.





Big boat book

Last year a researcher travelled all the way from Harvard University to look at the smallest item in our collections. So this year when Dimitris Hartonas came from Princeton University to consult the largest, there was a satisfying symmetry to his visit. Dimitris' PhD entitled 'Unfounded: Units of Environment in Transit, 1851-1889' focuses on oceanic architectures of the 19th century world, particularly the design, construction, launch, repair and dismantling of the SS *Great Eastern*. As well as three giant volumes of John Scott Russell's *The Modern System of Naval Architecture* (1865), we were able to show Dimitris two log-books used during the *Great Eastern*'s cable-laying voyages across the North Atlantic and the Arabian Sea.

LOG OF THE <i>Great Eastern</i>	Hour	E	F	COURSE	WINDS	Sea	REMARKS
1	5	5	WLN	NW 5	AW		Fresh Gale and squally with rain.
2	5	5					
3	5	5	WLN & N			57.25	
4	5	5				58.00	
5	5	2	NNW & WNW				Seaway from 6 to 15 fms
6	5	2					to altered course to NNW & W.
7	5	2				58.50	Strong Gale with hard squalls.
8	5	2				59.00	
9	5	2	NNW & WNW				
10	5	2				59.50	
11	5	2				60.00	
12	6	2				60.50	
1	5	2	NNW & WNW	NNW			Good. No Wind and Weather.
2	5	2	WLN & N			61.00	Fresh Gale and blowy
3	5	2				61.50	with hard squalls & high sea.
4	5	2				62.00	
5	5	2				62.50	
6	5	2				63.00	Decreasing breeze & cloudy

Global reach

Quantifying the impact of archives is practically impossible. Connecting the spark of an idea, the beginnings of a hypothesis or an accrual of evidence back to a single archival source is not easy. Tracing the trajectory of academic research through cumulative archive-based discoveries to a concrete conclusion or published outputs is complicated. But measuring archival reach is more straightforward; we can do it in miles or kilometres. Over the last 12 months people have travelled from universities a long way away to consult material in our amazing collections. That's a lot of reach.



That is to say...

We're always delighted to get our hands on more archives so when Dr Dai Moon, Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies, contacted us about the possibility of a new donation we jumped at the chance. Thanks to Dai and to the great generosity of Graham and Ange we've recently taken delivery of what will become the Graham Dury (Viz) Collection. Comprising original artwork, layout sheets, sketches and scripts mainly relating to the design and content of comic magazine *Viz*, it offers a uniquely irreverent, humorous, complex and sometimes controversial visual commentary on over 40 years of news, politics and current affairs. We're very much looking forward to getting stuck in!



A Year in Archives

It's not every day that you get to meet an astronaut. When Colonel Alvin Drew, lead for space sustainability at NASA, came to see us in order to view records relating to historical designs for a new English alphabet we knew it was something special. We were chuffed to learn that The National Archives thought so too. Colonel Drew was exploring ideas to inform NASA's long-term strategic plans for interplanetary travel. His visit was selected for inclusion in the TNA's A Year in Archives 2024 highlights featured on their web pages.

Digitising *Sul*

We've recently made a start on a project to digitise University of Bath student newspapers published between 1966 and 1974. At this time the newspaper was called *Sul*. We're digitising the newspapers for two reasons; to keep them safe and to make them more easily accessible. We need to keep them safe because they're fragile. As far as we know our collection of *Sul*, though incomplete, is the only one that exists making it very precious. The newspapers were designed for speed of production and to keep costs to a minimum rather than for sturdiness and longevity. Handling them causes physical damage so creating digital surrogates is a way to safeguard their future. We need to make them more easily accessible so that they can be used and enjoyed by a wider audience. Our market research suggests that this wider audience would include the Students' Union media team and members of the University's alumni community.

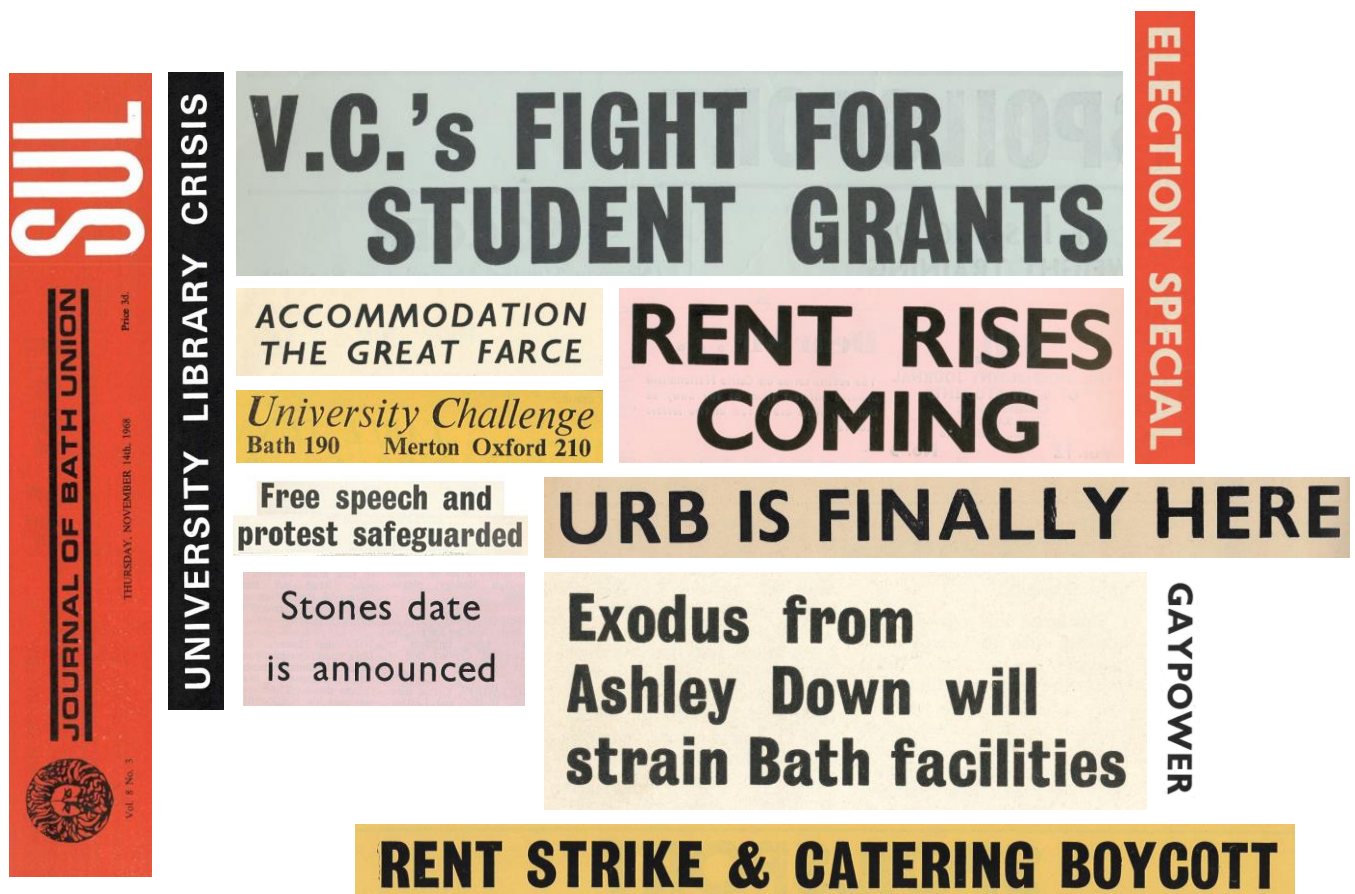
The project is happening in two phases. The first phase is technical and involves scanning, ingesting and adding metadata. The second phase is a little trickier and involves sharing the digital copies we've made online. We figured out a digitisation workflow comprising a sequence of processes and used it to create access and preservation copies of each edition of *Sul*. We relied heavily on the expertise of scanning ninja Sophie, our colleague in Copy & Print. Thank you Sophie!



1966-1974 was a formative period in the University's history. The newspapers give us a rare and valuable glimpse of student life during these early years when things were first getting started. In 1969/1970 the total number of University of Bath students was 1,958 and the campus as we know it today was only just beginning to take shape with many schools (departments), services and facilities still based at the premises of the former Bristol College of Science and Technology in Ashley Down. The digitised newspapers capture the outlook, ideas and activities of students at the fledgling university they were helping to build.

So far we've scanned the opening of the new Library building, multiple University Challenge defeats, the arrival of sport on campus, a speech by Enoch Powell and a RAG stunt to knit a scarf around the Abbey. We've also scanned student protest marches, the birth of URB (University Radio Bath), a 'Sex and Sociability Survey', visitors from China and the creation of a ground-breaking Morris Dancing side.

There's more to come so watch this space....



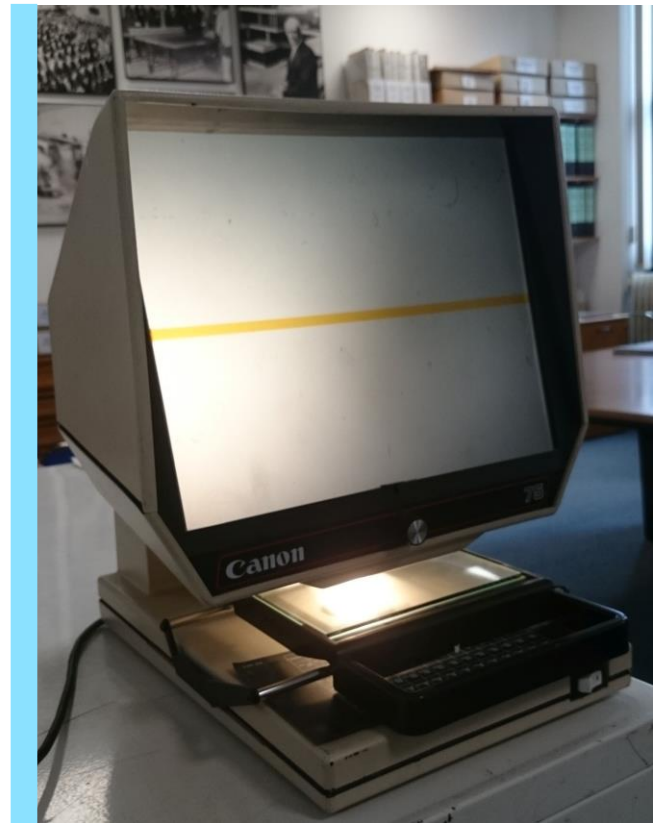
HistArc Soc

We've very much enjoyed meeting members of the new Students' Union HistArc Society. A small group of dedicated undergraduates from different academic backgrounds with a shared interest in all things historical have made several visits to the Reading Room where their enthusiasm and insight have been most welcome. We're hoping the Society will continue in 2025/2026. The beginning of a beautiful friendship?



Accessibility issues

Just because archivists tend to be into documents doesn't mean they don't like 'nerdy tech' too. Perhaps that's why we couldn't resist including this image of one of our favourite bits of kit. There was a time in the 1970s when this microfiche reader represented the cutting edge of information technology. Back then - when jobs were more about people in offices than processing power - several academic departments microfilmed student records to save space. Bulky filing cabinets of paperwork were reduced to dinky index boxes of microfiche. Over the years IT moved on and microfilming was overtaken and left behind; people got rid of their microfiche readers. Since it's our job to keep records safe and to make sure they're accessible the University Archives is home to a trusty old microfiche reader.



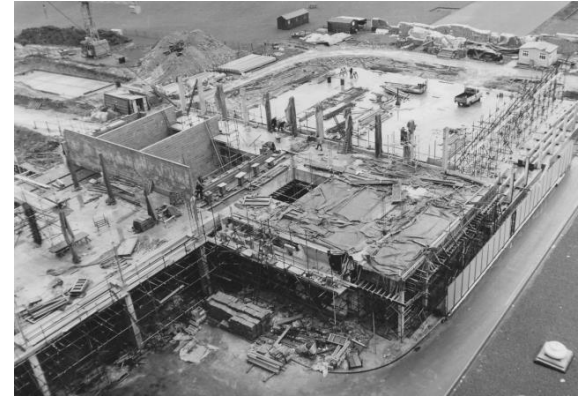
50 years of sport

Today the University of Bath regularly places highly in the BUCS league tables but its earliest associations with sport were not altogether positive. During the late 1960s, as construction continued at Claverton Down and the University operated from sites in both Bristol and Bath, sporting students had to contend with a challenging situation.

“The Athletic Union is now in the frustrating position of awaiting the promised land ... and many students will still leave the University without it having a single sports facility.” SU Handbook, 1969-70.

In May 1969 rowdy but not unfriendly students staged a sit-down protest during a visit to the campus by Denis Howell, Minister for Sport. A year later work finally began on the construction of new sports facilities. By the end of 1973 the University had a 25m swimming pool and a sports hall equipped with three squash courts, a weight training room and an outdoor climbing wall. On 23rd October 1974 Denis Howell returned to campus for an official opening ceremony. He and the Mayor of Bath were given a tour, watched demonstrations and were introduced to members of SU sport clubs. These included undergraduate Stan Kolaczowski of the Karate Club.

50 years later, in October 2024, past and present members of the Karate Club came together in the Sports Hall (now known as the Founders Hall) for a reunion event hosted by Professor Stan Kolaczowski, Department of Chemical Engineering.



Facts and figures

We hosted 84 visits by individuals and groups to the Reading Room.

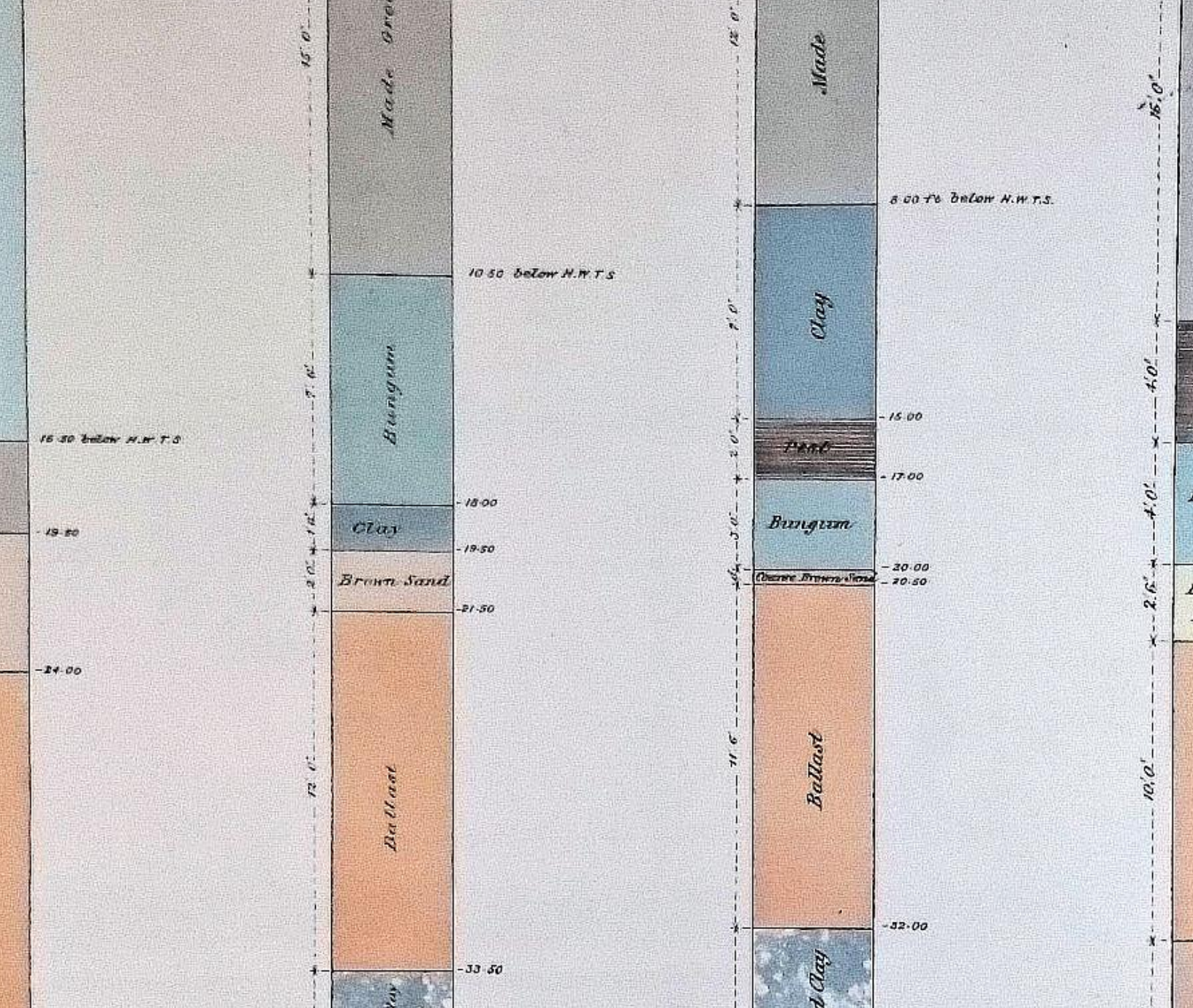
New accessions: Graham Dury (Viz) Collection.

Total holdings: 1.7km (excluding map chests).

Archives & Research Collections also appearing in...

- *The Future of Structural Design*, Institution of Structural Engineers, 2025
 - Legacy tea and conversation event hosted by the Advancement Office
 - MSc assignment on the development of land occupied by Bristol Zoo
 - BA2 Issue 32
 - 'Out of the West: The History of the Development of Women's Judo in the West', M Callan and A Callan-Spenn, *The Arts and Sciences of Judo*, **4(2)**, 2024
 - MSc assignment on the iron bridges of Sydney Gardens, Bath
 - Enquiry from a gallery relating to the artist Berenice Sydney (1944-1983)
 - Undergraduate dissertation entitled 'A Textual Analysis of the League of Empire Loyalists' Campaign Against the End of the British Empire Using Fantasmatic Narratives'
 - Leverhulme Trust project on British officials at the European Commission
 - University of Bath Library Research Services Bluesky account
 - Hockey Museum web article entitled 'Fast Play on Foreign Fields: 1925 AEWHA Tour of South Africa'
 - Research for a forthcoming book on the history of shorthand
 - Development of a research proposal on the greening of religion in Europe
 - Undergraduate assignment on links between architectural classicism and wealth generated from the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
 - 'The lasting impact and intellectual legacy of H. Igor Ansoff', ed R Puyt & P Antonio, *Strategic Change Special Issue*, 2025
 - Top secret (!) investigation being conducted by *The Times* newspaper
 - Obituary: William Gosling (1932-2024), School of Electrical Engineering
 - University of Cambridge research into links between British fascism and South African apartheid
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For more take a look inside our digital Cabinet of Curiosities:
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/cabinet-of-curiosities/>



Library



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

