

# Global & Imperial History – Digital Thesis Resources Guide

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This document has been compiled to provide students a starting point for exploring digital archives and online resources relevant to global and imperial history. Recommendations of additional resources are welcome and can be sent to Dr Faridah Zaman ([faridah.zaman@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:faridah.zaman@history.ox.ac.uk))

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## General Collections and Databases

- Adam Matthew Digital – <https://www.amdigital.co.uk/>
  - o Themed collections of UK National Archive documents, available through free trial
- British Empire Online – <https://webhost.lclark.edu/campion/hist328/online.htm>
- British History Online (1300-1800) – [Link](#)
- British Parliamentary Debates (from 1800) – <https://hansard.parliament.uk/>
- British Pathé and Reuters Historical Collection – <https://www.britishpathe.com/>
  - o Wide range of newsreel collections from 1910 onward.
- The National Archives, UK – <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
  - o Around 5% of TNA has been digitised, including series such as the Cabinet Papers
  - o See also: The National Archives Online Research Guides – [Link](#)
- Cambridge University Digital Library – <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/>
  - o Relevant collections include: Royal Commonwealth Society, Royal Commonwealth Society 150, Joseph Needham Collection, Bateson Archive (e.g. 1880s tour of central Asia), Voices of Civilian Internment: WWII Singapore, Royal Greenwich Observatory Archives, Darwin-Hooker Letters
- CIA Electronic Reading Room – <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/home>
- Commonwealth Online Archive Commonwealth Online Archive – [Link](#)
- Empire On-Line – [Link](#) (requires SSO)
- Foreign Relations of the US Collection: <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments>
  - o See also Digital National Security Archive (George Washington University – Collection of Non-Governmental Papers relating to Foreign Affairs/Security) – [Link](#)
- Gale / Cengage Historical Newspapers – [Link](#)
- Hathi Trust – <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
  - o Archive of digitized books, much of it available for full view:
- Indigenous Digital Archive (US) – <https://omeka.dlcs-ida.org/s/ida/page/home>
- Institute for Historical Research: Researcher Guide – [Link](#)
- Internet Archive – <https://archive.org/>
  - o Archive of digitised books, available for full view
- League of Nations Digitized Publications and Archives (1919-1946) – [Link](#)
- Legacies of British Slave-Ownership Project – <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>
- Red Cross Archives (Humanitarianism) – [Link](#)
  - o See also: Audio-Visual Collections of the Red Cross <https://avarchives.icrc.org>
- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Digital Collections – <https://digital.soas.ac.uk/>

- Wilson Centre Digital Collections (Histories of Internationalism) – [Link](#)
- Yale Divinity School – <https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/digital-collections>
  - o Missionary documents and records

## University of Oxford – Online Resources

- The Ashmolean Eastern Art Department – <https://www.ashmolean.org/eastern-art>
- Bodleian Historical Databases – [Link](#)
- Bodleian Commonwealth and African Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera Guide – [Link](#)
- Bodleian Digital Collection – [Link](#)
- Historic Environment Image Resource – [Link](#)
  - o Digitised historic photographic images from the world from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- Oxford and Empire: Digital Archives Beyond Britain – [Link](#)
- Oxford and Empire: Online Imperial History Archives and Collections – [Link](#)
- Oxford and Empire: Oxford Related Primary Sources List – [Link](#)
- Oxford and Empire Project's Objects of Empire Collection – [Link](#)
- Pitt Rivers Museum – <https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/collections>

## Visual and Material Cultures – General Online Resources

- ArtStor – <https://library.artstor.org/#/home>
- Basel Mission Photographs – <http://www.bmarchives.org>
- British Library Images Online – <https://imagesonline.bl.uk/>
- Colonial Film: Moving Images of the British Empire – <http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk/>
- Getty Collections – <https://www.getty.edu/resources/>
- The Huntington Digital Library – <https://hdl.huntington.org/digital/>
- National Library of Spain: Hispanic Digital Library – [Link](#)

## Regional or Country-Specific Archives

### Africa

- International African Institute (Leiden) database of online resources – [Link](#)
- Maps of the Melville Herskovits Library of Africana, Northwestern University – [Link](#)
  - o This collection features digital copies of 113 antique maps of Africa dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### South/Southern Africa

- Digital Innovation South Africa (1948-1994): <https://disa.ukzn.ac.za/>
- Struggles for Freedom: Southern Africa: <https://www.aluka.org/struggles>
- Zambia UNIP Party Archive, 1948-1988: <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP121>

[For North Africa, see below]

### Americas

#### Latin America & The Caribbean

- LACLI – [Link](#)
  - o A resource list of 900+ online and free e-resource collections for the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, U.S. Latinx, and Iberia. Includes audio-visual materials, oral histories, books, periodicals, personal archives, government documents and more.
- Yale Library Latin America and Caribbean Digital Archives – [Link](#)

#### U.S. & Canada

- Canada, between the US and Empire, 1883-1904 – [Link](#)
- Simon Fraser University Digital Collections – <https://digital.lib.sfu.ca>
  - o Immigrant/Indigenous experiences in Canada.

## Asia

### East Asia

- Cambridge Archive Editions: China Political Reports 1911-1960, 1961-1970 – [Link](#)
  - o Reports created by British Officials in China.
- Chinese Newspapers Collection (1832-1953) – [Link](#)
  - o Collection of 12 English-language Chinese newspapers and missionary publications, including newspapers from Beijing, Canton, and Shanghai.
- Chinese Propaganda Posters and Photos Collection at the International Institute of Social History/Amsterdam: [Link](#)
- CR/10 project. Oral history interviews of the Cultural Revolution, 1966-76: [Link](#)
- Historical Photographs of China – <https://www.hpcbristol.net/>
- Lafayette Digital Repository – East Asia Image Archive: [Link](#)
  - o Digitized photographs, negatives, postcards, and slides of colonial Taiwan (1900-45) and occupied Japan (1947-52).
- Maoist Legacy Database, University of Freiburg – <https://maoistlegacy.de/>
  - o Collection of documents on the history of the People's Republic of China from the 1970s and 1980s mainly (requires registration, non-commercial).
- MIT Visualizing Cultures: [Link](#)
  - o Includes image-driven scholarly essays and other resources on Chinese and Japanese history.
- North China Herald (1850-1940) – [Link](#)
- Virtual Shanghai Project – <https://www.virtualshanghai.net/>
  - o Includes historical maps, films, and audio.
- Wilson Center Digital Archive: Chinese Foreign Policy Database: [Link](#)
  - o A collection of primary sources from Chinese and international archives (often with English translation) from 1949 to 1989.

### Southeast Asia

- Cornell Southeast Asia Collections – <https://asia.library.cornell.edu/echols/>
- National Archives of Singapore – <https://www.nas.gov.sg/archivesonline/>
- Singapore National Library Board Newspaper Collections – [Link](#)

## South Asia

- The Asiatic Society of Mumbai Digital Collections – <https://granthsanjeevani.com/jspui/>
- Cambridge Centre of South Asian Studies Audio Archive – [Link](#)
- Cambridge Centre of South Asian Studies Video/Film Archive – [Link](#)
- Gokhale Library (Maharashtra, India) Printed Reports – <https://dspace.gipe.ac.in/xmlui/>
- Harvard University Stuart Cary Welch Islamic and South Asian Photograph Collection – [Link](#)
- India, Raj & Empire – [Link](#) (requires SSO)
- Indian Kanoon - <https://indiankanoon.org/>
  - o Indian case law and legislation going back to the 1870s.
- Indian Indenture Project – <https://indianindenture.wordpress.com>
- National Digital Library of India – <https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in>
- National Archives of India Digital Collections – <https://www.abhilekh-patal.in/jspui/>
- Rekhta – <https://rekhta.org>
  - o Urdu poetry and prose, including rare and historic works with translations.
- Shiju Alex Kerala History Archive – <https://shijualex.in>
  - o Consists mainly of printed texts in Malayalam but also including several English language Missionary papers.
- South Asian American Digital Archive – <https://www.saada.org>
- South Asia Open Archive – <https://www.jstor.org/site/saoa/>
  - o Extensive archive of South Asian materials including several collections in the English language.
- University of Tübingen Hermann Gundert Portal – <https://www.gundert-portal.de>
  - o Indian Language Printed Material and Manuscript Collections.
- University of Wisconsin Bhopal Disaster Archive – [Link](#)
- West Bengal Public Library Network – <http://wbsl.gov.in/homePage.action>

## Australia & Oceania

- Early New Zealand Books – [Link](#)
- National Library of Australia online collections, including: Indigenous Collections ([Link](#)) and Pacific Digital Resources ([Link](#))
- University of Hawaii-Manoa Digital Image Collections – [Link](#)
  - o Various collections focused on the Pacific, extending to Japan, China, and beyond.

## Middle East & North Africa

- Access to Middle East and Islamic Resources (AMIR) – <http://amirmideast.blogspot.com>
  - o Link to numerous online resources on Teaching and Learning in this region.
- Akkasah – <http://akkasah.org/>
  - o Digitised photographs from the Middle East and North Africa.
- American Centre for Oriental Resources Library – <https://photoarchive.acorjordan.org>
- American University in Cairo Digital Collections – <http://digitalcollections.aucegypt.edu>
- Arab Image Foundation – <http://arabimagefoundation.com>
- ArchNet archive of Middle Eastern Built Environments – <https://archnet.org>
- Das Bild des Orients – <https://das-bild-des-orientis.info>
  - o Library of images from the Middle East and North Africa.
- Hebrew Books – <https://www.hebrewbooks.org>
- Historical Jewish Press –: <https://web.nli.org.il/sites/JPress/English/Pages/default.aspx>
- Jarayed – <https://web.nli.org.il/sites/nlis/en/jrayed/pages/default.aspx>
  - o Archive of Arabic Newspapers (in Hebrew, Arabic and English) from Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine.
- National Library of Israel Collection of Jewish and Hebrew Periodicals Digitised – [Link](#)
- The Palestine Poster Project Archives – <https://www.palestineposterproject.org>
- Qatar Digital Library – <https://www.qdl.qa/en>
- Saudi Aramco World Digital Archive – <https://photoarchive.aramcoworld.com>
  - o Published and unpublished images belonging to the Aramco World magazine.
- Shamela – <http://shamela.ws>
  - o Digital collection of Arabic books.
- Translatio Uni Bonn – <https://www.translatio.uni-bonn.de/online-zeitschriften>
  - o Arabic, Persian and Ottoman Digitised Periodicals.
- University of Hamburg, Islamic Printed Page project – <http://www.islamicprintedpage.com/>
- Waqfeya – Arabic books with a focus on Islamic Religious Sciences – <http://waqfeya.com>
- Women’s Worlds in Qajar Iran – <http://www.qajarwomen.org/en/>
  - o A unique project with private family papers, institutional documents and official material relating to gender and everyday life in Qajar (1796–1925) Iran.