In this London School and this Library - High ideals and the LSE Digital Library

16th Fiesole Collection Development Retreat, Cambridge
10-12 April 2014

Nicola Wright, Deputy Director of Library Services
Vision and practice

- High ideals – then and now
- LSE Digital Library service
- Digital collections and their users
- Some challenges
It’s all about the people

‘...in this London School and this Library, there is a great opportunity of getting together a body of students who will have a real influence on “the condition of the people”...’

Beatrice Webb letter to a potential library employee, 1896
Our approach

‘We need librarians who support the users rather than the system, who see the end as clearly as the means.’

Dame Lynne Brindley celebrating the first 100 years of BLPES, 1996
Our Vision and strategy

Provide services beyond our walls:

• Build and preserve distinctive collections to support research and learning, and represent a record of thought in the social sciences
Our aspiration

‘The Library is dangerously enticing.’

LSE Professor of Government commenting on the lure of the statistics collections

‘Cool.’

Year 6 School boy commenting on the Women’s Library timeline
Designing for use
Welcome to the Digital Library

The Digital Library contains digitised material from LSE Library collections and also born-digital material that has been collected and preserved in digital formats.

Search

More search options

Browse

The Women's Library @ LSE
Webbs on the Web
Street Life in London

Latest exhibition

WW1 @ LSE
WW1 @ LSE: a common cause draws on the Library's collections to feature a selection of digital images related to the First World War.

News

4:48 pm 24 Feb see Twitter
@LSELibrary launches new exhibition
WW1 @ LSE: a common cause as @LSEPublicEvents
#LSEFirst: begins today.

Copyright

Selected material on women's history from LSE Library and The Women's Library @ LSE.

In this collection...

The Law's Resolutions of Women's Rights
Millicent Fawcett's Hyde Park address
Women for Life on Earth banner
Digital Collections and their users

- Beatrice Webb’s diary
- Student newspaper – The Beaver
- Street Life in London
- Charles Booth Survey of London
- Women’s Walks
Beatrice Webb’s diary

‘But Reform will not be brought about by shouting. What is needed is hard thinking.’

Beatrice Webb diary entry, September 21st 1894
collectivists before the end of the century. But Reform will not be brought about by shouting. What is needed is *hard thinking*. And the same applies to sending nondescript socialists into Parliament. The radical members are quite sufficiently compliant in their views: what is lacking in them is the leaven of knowledge. So Sidney has been planning to persuade the other trustees to devote the greater part of the money to encouraging Research and Economic study. His vision is to found, slowly and quietly, a "London School of Experience and Political Science" - a centre not only of lectures on special subjects but an association of students who would be directed and supported in doing original work. Last evening we sat by the fire and jotted down a whole list of subjects which want elucidating - issues of fact which need clearing up. Above all, we want the ordinary citizen to feel that reforming Society is no light matter and must be undertaken by Experts specially trained for the purpose.

Oct. 6th [1894]. Borough Farm.

It is some years since I have watched summer turn into autumn and felt the first breath of winter creeping over the country. This year the summer left us early, the sky closing over with cold grey clouds, only now and again they break and the sun slants out and lights up the sombre blues and browns of the landscape. Perhaps it is the rich tones of the heath and bracken which recall some of those early lovely Rusland autumns,
Houghton Street—excitement mounts

MALLARD STREET is coming alive. A new-look student centre is going to be opened in the students' union building. The centre, which is due to open in the next few weeks, will feature a restaurant, bar, and lounge area. The centre is being jointly funded by the university and the students' union.
Street Life in London

Street Life in London, published in 1876-7, consists of a series of articles by the radical journalist Adolphe Smith and the photographer John Thomson. The pieces are short but full of detail, based on interviews with a range of men and women who eked out a precarious and marginal existence working on the streets of London, including flower-sellers, chimney-sweeps, shoe-blackers, chair-caners, musicians, dustmen and locksmiths. The subject matter of Street Life was not new – the second half of the 19th century saw an increasing interest in urban poverty and social conditions – but the unique selling point of Street Life was a series of photographs ‘taken from life’ by Thomson. The authors felt at the time that the images lent authenticity to the text, and their book is now regarded as a key work in the history of documentary photography.

Published copy of volume 1 of Street Life in London (Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, London, 1877) by John Thomson and Adolphe Smith.

John Thomson

John Thomson was a talented and influential photographer, who had spent ten years travelling in and taking photographs of the Far East. On his return to London he joined with Adolphe Smith, a socialist journalist, in a project to photograph the street life of the London poor. The volumes were published in monthly parts as Street Life in London, and were an early example of social and documentary photography.
LSE Library

We are the Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science, also known as the British Library of Political and Economic Science.

You can view more of our digital collections on our Digital Library, including exhibitions that we have created: digital.library.lse.ac.uk

We are also leading some exciting projects to further widen access to our digital collections. See below for some ways to keep in touch with us.

Find out more at digital.library.lse.ac.uk/

Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
Visit our Google+ Page
Visit our blog

Recruiting Sergeants At Westminster
1877
Great George St, City of Westminster, London SW1P, UK
Views: 6104

London Nomades
1877
87-92 Battersea Rise, London Borough of Wandsworth, London SW11, UK
Views: 470

London Cabmen
1877
7 Regency St, London Greater London SW1P 4BY, UK
Views: 153

Street Doctors
1877
126A Cornwall Rd, Lambeth, London, Greater London SE1 8TQ, UK
Views: 132

"Hookey Alf" of Whitechapel
1877
42 Adler St, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London E1 3EE, UK
Views: 144

The Street Locksmith
1877
174 Whitechapel Rd, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London E1, UK
Views: 342
Charles Booth Survey of London

- Charles Booth: systematic investigation of living and working conditions in London, 1886-1903
  - Maps, Descriptive of London Poverty 1898-9
  - Police notebooks: eye-witness, street-by-street observations

http://phone.booth.lse.ac.uk/
Dad 2

July 21

Dad set off, went to the front line and got a job to build a new barrack. He was in the nearby district, worked in the north of the city, near Temple, and went to the New Baptist Street. He was in the front line near Temple, near the New Baptist Street.

Church of England

Holy Trinity

Skeffington

Headquarters

Field

Skeffington

Field
Women’s Walks
All Routes

From print to protest: campaigning for women’s suffrage

- 2.1 Miles

Journey to Westminster: Women and Parliament

- 3 Miles

Pioneers of science and medicine

- 4 Miles

Women’s Press

Foreshadowing a major split in October 1912, in which Emmeline
Some challenges
'This library should be a constant source of knowledge and inspiration to us – allowing us to fulfil, what I consider, our responsibility to listen to women’s lives, in their own words and in their own time.'

Mary Robinson at the Opening of the Women's Library @ LSE, March 12th 2014