

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



Library Services
British Library of Political
and Economic Science

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

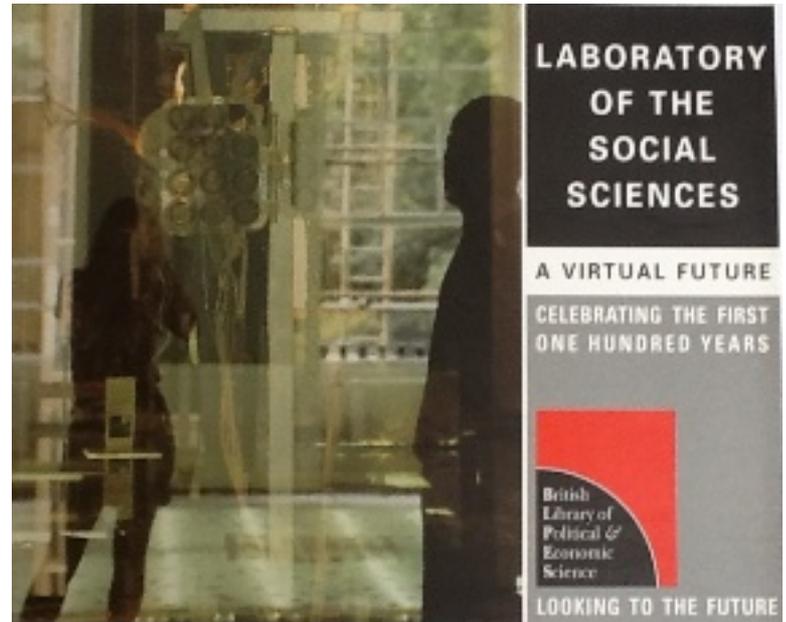


Our approach

'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

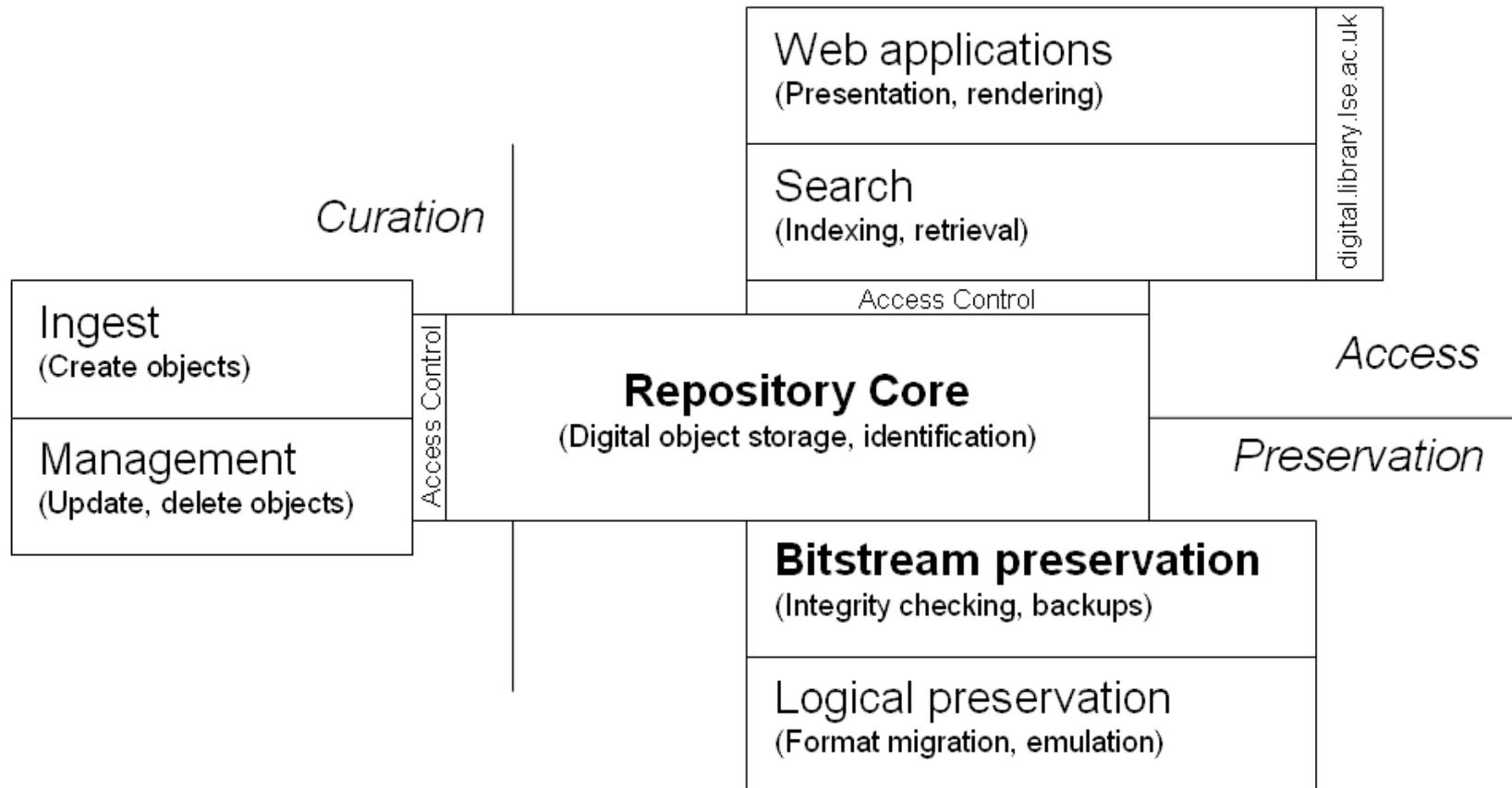
'Cool.'

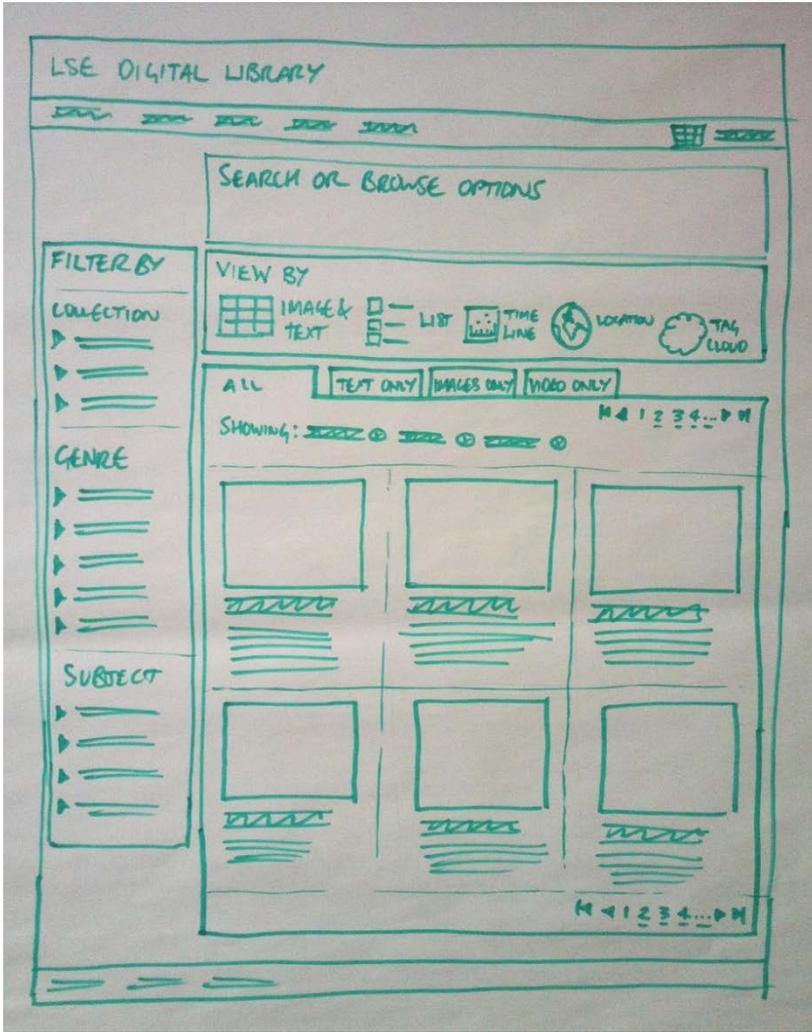
Year 6 School boy commenting on
the Women's Library timeline



Women Writers' Suffrage League.

LSE Digital Library service





Filter by:

Collection
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Subject
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You searched for: Keyword: **Fabian society**, Level: **File**
 Filtered by: Collection: **Vestibulum hendrerit**

View results by:

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 Showing 1 - 16 of 27 Per page: 16 Sort by: Date descending

Previous Page 1 2 3 Next

Why are the many poor?	An eight hours bill	A plan of campaign for labour	Praesent eu nibh

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 Showing 1 - 16 of 27 Per page: 16 Sort by: Date descending

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Why are the many poor?	An eight hours bill	A plan of campaign for labour	Praesent eu nibh

Web Diaries	Nulla feugiat faucibus	Suspensisse tempor	Praesent eu nibh

Web Diaries contains 12 volumes

Object title	Nulla feugiat faucibus	Suspensisse tempor	Praesent eu nibh

Object title	Nulla feugiat faucibus	Suspensisse tempor	Praesent eu nibh

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

		
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View rare books	View bibliography	

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

4:45 pm 24 Feb via [Twitter](#)

[@LSELibrary](#) launches new exhibition

[WW1 @ LSE: a common cause](#) as [@LSEPublicEvents](#)

[#LSElitfest](#) begins today.

[News feed](#)

Featured collection

Future collections



The Women's Library @ LSE

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 ^{objection} 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 Economics 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. 9th [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,

1341
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BIG BEAVER

NEWSPAPER OF THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS STUDENTS' UNION

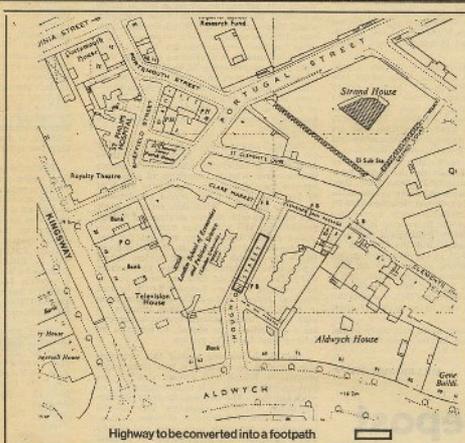
No. 130 APRIL 23rd, 1974

Houghton Street—excitement mounts

HOUGHTON STREET is closing dangerously close to being closed to vehicular traffic. The Secretary of State for the Environment proposes to make "an order" under S.212 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1971. When such an "order" is made the closure of the street becomes operative, it usually being physically closed upon the publication of the "order" some two to three weeks after the "order" has been made.

What the Secretary of State has done is to publish a draft of the "order". This he did on March 29th, 1974. Twenty-eight days are allowed for the inspection of this "draft order" in which time, people may object to it. If no objection is received, the draft "order" becomes an "order" and the long running battle will be over as from the end of April.

BUT, if an objection is made, a local enquiry will



have to be held to decide if the objection is valid. If it is not valid, the "order" will be made. We dread to think what will happen if the objection is adjudged to be valid. As at Tuesday, April 9th, 1974, no objection had been received by the appropriate Department (we refuse to tell you which one it is), although Mrs G. E. Hart, of that Department, thinks it unlikely that this state of affairs will hold.

The police are thought to be the most likely objectors.

As it can be seen on the map, the part of Houghton Street to be closed is not comprehensive. Also the Police, Ambulance and Fire are being given leave to mow down any pedestrian in "an emergency." Further harassment rights will be vested in the Gas, Water, Electricity and Post Office corporations under this "order".

End of story.

P.T.

Carr takes ULU

AS A PRELUDE to his success at Liverpool, John Carr matched the presidency of the University of London Union on March 18th, and steps into Jock McEwan's well-polished shoes on August 1st. Only one indication of a close-fought contest was John Carr's pro-lection society in the glacially and depressing bar at ULU over the apparently right-wing bias of the audience-leaders.

Despite many trade and loud interruptions to the one side from the very leathery members from University College and, on the other, some time-wasting rambling, coupled with threats of legal action from the mad priest of Birkbeck College, Mr O'Donnell, who has already been banned from his own college's union meetings.

Mr Carr and his opponent, the glamorous Miss Heather Isaacs from Bedford College, carried themselves in the truly professional political manner, succeeding in creating an atmosphere that positively reeled of feigned allyship.

Miss Isaacs' speech, centring around the theme of a unified Union, was a model of subtlety, as were her answers to questions later, in which she did not waste the advantages her physical attractiveness might bring. But John Carr's more businesslike approach: his speech on the Murray Report on the University Administration; rearranging of questions from the audience, and efficient canvassing paid dividends. He outstripped Miss Isaacs by 87 votes to 65. Two ballot papers were spoilt, and there were 13 abstentions.

DAVE SHORT

INSIDE THE BIG ONE

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the beaver

11 December 2007 Issue 678 The newspaper of the LSESU

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Students throw the book at the Library

- Students demand return of 24 hour library
- Beaver survey reveals discontent at lack of essential texts and study space

Michael Deas
News Editor

Students are disillusioned with the LSE Library on many fronts, a survey revealed. Students expressed their dismay at the withdrawal of the twenty-four hour opening, with seventy-nine percent of the 356 students surveyed calling for its return. Students also complained that the Library fails to provide adequate copies of essential reading, study space and computer facilities.

The Library was open twenty-four hours a day during all three terms of the last academic year. This year the library will continue to close at midnight until twenty-four hour opening returns during the Easter holiday and summer term, with the school claiming that "resources could be better directed elsewhere".

However, many students have told *The Beaver* that the School has failed to understand the value of twenty-four hour opening.

A second year undergraduate said, "I have a job, I can't study 9-5. Since the LSE is all about the reading list because there is so little contact time, library access is incredibly important. Having the library open after midnight helped me immensely last year".

The LSE Students' Union (LSESU) are launching a campaign to bring back 24-hour library access during Michaelmas and Lent terms. A document outlining the main arguments for longer opening hours is due to be presented to the school at the beginning of the year. The Union also hopes to organise a petition to demonstrate support for the campaign.

Pavith Baker Markar, LSESU General Secretary, said: "The overwhelming support for our campaign this survey reveals is great news. Our campaign hopes to win what the students want and enhance their experience on campus. Hopefully we will be able to address the concerns of those who don't yet support twenty-four hour opening and win their support for this great campaign."

Peter Barton, a member of the campaign team, told *The Beaver*: "Students use the library after midnight because they have to. Some students work during the day and for others it is reassuring to know the library will be open for them when they really need it, no matter what time, even if that is only once or twice a term to meet an important deadline."

The cost to the School of opening the library around the clock during Michaelmas and Lent terms would be £74,704. Hiring security overnight costs £28,360 and extra Estate costs such as energy total, £38,347. However, the campaign team argue that as the School pays these costs in keeping computer room A008 open twenty-four hours a day as compensation for the removal of late library opening, it would instead be a better use of resources to keep the library open.

Furthermore, it is argued that £74,704 is a relatively low figure in context of an institution with a multi-million pound turnover.

However, many students said that twenty-four hour library access would be excessive. But *The Beaver* understands that if the library were to close at 2am—as many students told *The Beaver* would be adequate—they would have to pay for security staff to travel

home in taxis rather than use public transport, reducing any savings made by not staying open around the clock.

The Beaver's survey also asked students if—given that the school is citing cost as the main argument—against extended twenty-four hour opening—they would be prepared to pay a nominal fee (eg 50p) to use the library after midnight. Whilst 48 percent of respondents said they would be prepared to pay such a charge, many students met this question with anger.

"One Masters student said, "I already pay £12,000 to study here. The LSE is already one of the most expensive universities in the world. It would be outrageous to charge us to use a service that most other leading universities provide for free."

But one third year said he was so desperate to be able to use the library he would pay towards keeping it open after midnight: "It would constitute another way in which students are being turned into cash cows, but at the moment, due to other commitments, I hardly spend any time in the library compared to last year, so I'd have to accept it".

Students who were not in favour of twenty-four hour opening said that they feared that if money was spent extending opening hours that this would detract from investment in other areas such as extending course collections and increasing study space.

However, Barton told *The Beaver*: "There is no reason that a world class social science institution cannot have both top class facilities and round the clock access to them."

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EDITORIAL COMMENT P9



Features: Find Your Own Funds, Son

Part B: Interview

Sports: A Christmas Carol



Funding Your Studies
Page 12-13



Part B Page 4
Director
Paul Haggis



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Street Life in London



Street Life in London

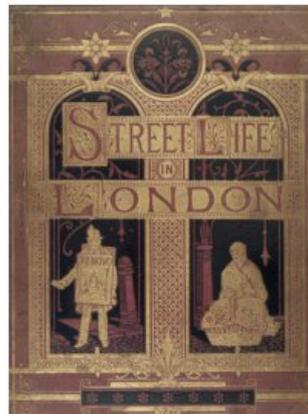
Page contents > [John Thomson](#) | [PDF version](#) | [Images](#) | [Historypin](#)

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-blacks, 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.



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[Street Life in London](#)

In this collection...



[Old Furniture](#)



[London Cabmen](#)



[The Old Clothes Of St. Giles](#)





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

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- List
- Map
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Sort by: Most Recent Most Popular Show: Content Favourites



Recruiting Sergeants At Westminster
 1877
 Great George St, City of Westminster, London SW1P, UK
 Views: 1104

Map Street View 1 Stories



London Nomades
 1877
 87-91 Battersea Rise, London Borough of Wandsworth, London SW11, UK
 Views: 470

Map 1 Stories



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

Map 2 Stories



Street Doctors
 1877
 126A Cornwall Rd, Lambeth, London, Greater London SE1 8TQ, UK
 Views: 152

Map 1 Stories



"Hookey Alf" of Whitechapel
 1877
 42 Adler St, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London E1 1EE, UK
 Views: 144

Map 1 Stories



The Street Locksmith
 1877
 174 Whitechapel Rd, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, London E1, UK
 Views: 142

Map 1 Stories

List

Map

Collections

A302, London, England
Address is approximate



Nearby Content



1877



A302 / A3212

A302

+ 1840

+ 2012



Location e.g. London, NYC, Peo

GO

1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

List

Map

Collections

A302, London, England
Address is approximate




Back to map

Nearby Content



1877



A302 /
Recruiting Sergeants At Westminster

1877

 See more about this

 1



+ 1840

+ 2012



Location

GO

1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

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

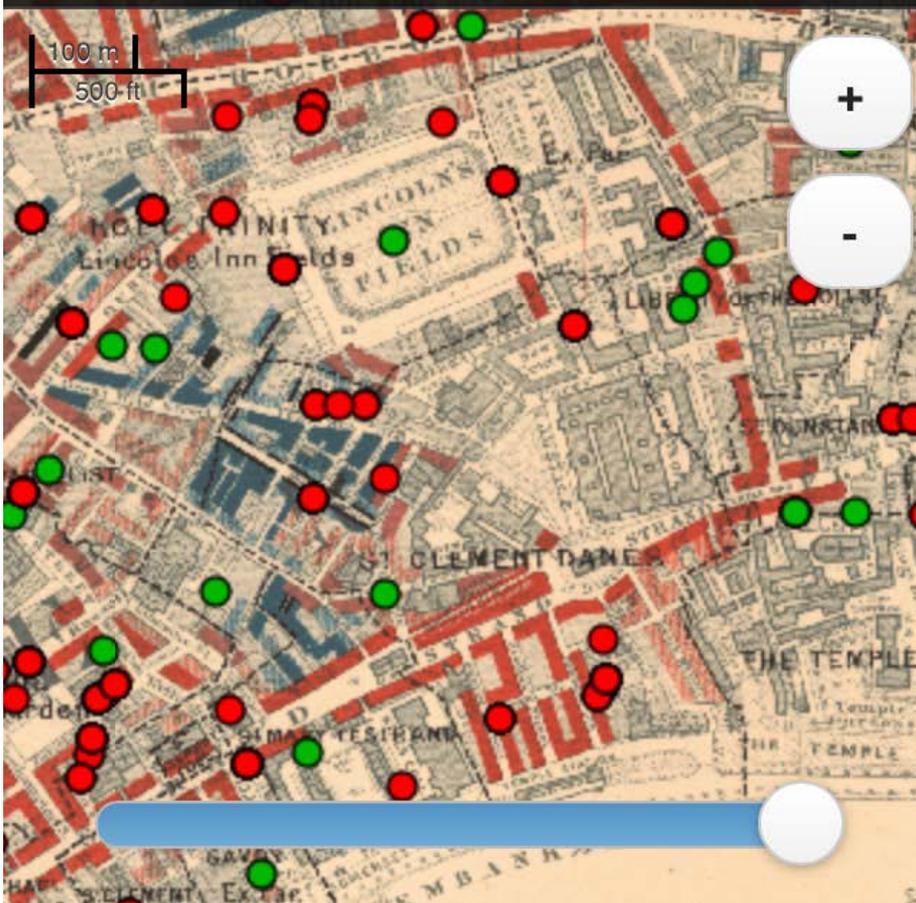


<http://phone.booth.lse.ac.uk/>

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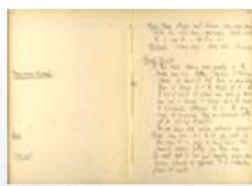
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District 2

July 21. Dist 2 S. 4. 1.

Walk with Police Constable & Test round district bounded on the North by the New Oxford St - High Holborn, on the East by the City boundary which runs through Temple Bar, Duke Court, Cusinston Street, Rolls yard, Chancery Lane, Bell yard & Middle Temple Lane; on the South by Carey Street; on the West by Little Queen St. - being part of the parishes of Holy Trinity New Colston Lane & St Andrew.

Starting at the west end of New Oxford Street. Asphalt paved. Very clean but slippery when wet. It breaks up very easily when there is any frost. 4 st. shops with houses & apartments over. No map. High Holborn is rather narrow. It is very steep. At one end is the New Colston Lane & St Andrew.

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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

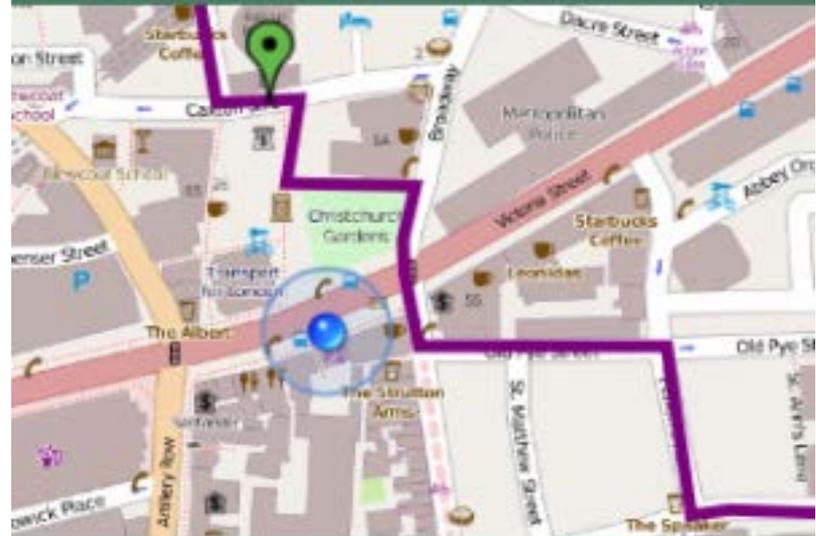


**Pioneers of science and
medicine**

4 Miles



Routes Map



Women's Press



Foreshadowing a major split in
October 1912, in which Emmeline

More ...

Some challenges

Convert Select

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everyday sexism project

EverydaySexism
@EverydaySexism

Documenting experiences of sexism, harassment and assault to show how bad the problem is & create solidarity. We may add tweets with our @ or # in to the project.

London · everydaysexism.com

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.@LeahGreenTweets has made a video about common #EverydaySexism scenarios: theguardian.com/world/video/20...

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Special Collections @MMU...
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15:22

‘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

