

About the
British Museum Library

The British
Museum

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British Museum Library
ITP Program

About the British Museum & Library: some dates

- 1759 The British Museum opens its doors to the public
- 1822 Donation of the King's Library
- 1824 National Gallery founded
- 1847 Grenville Library collection bequeathed to the Museum
- 1857 The Round Reading Room opens to the public for the first time
- 1881 Natural History Museum created to house the Museum's natural specimens
- 1979 Donation of the Library of the Royal Anthropological Institute
- 1998 Most Library Collections move to the British Library, save the curatorial collections.
- 2000 Opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Great Court

[More: A History of the British Museum](#)

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The Museum's Library is comprised of over a third of a million records and represents a dynamic history of acquisition - and separation! The result is a mosaic of internally-driven acquisitions which today represent the history of exhibitions and projects taken over time by the curatorial departments:

Africa, Oceania, and the Americas; Asia, Britain, Europe, and Prehistory; Coins and Medals, Egypt and Sudan, the Middle East, Greece and Rome, and Prints and Drawings.

The Library Catalogue has just migrated to an open-sourced system, launched in summer 2020.

[British Museum Library Catalogue](#)
[Digital Resources Menu \(login to access\)](#)

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Beta: Research Repository

Museum staff are now uploading their new publications into a new Research Repository.

Currently, this is a beta platform being rolled out by the British Library, with the British Museum as a pilot partner along with TATE, the National Gallery, Royal Botanical Gardens at KEW, Museum of London Archaeology, and the National Library of Scotland, to start. You will see it is a work in progress!

The Research Repository is a feature of many universities already, but is now coming to Independent Research Organisations and Museums too, as funders for research projects demand an open-access endpoint for user access.

[British Museum Research Repository \(beta\)](#)

[British Library Shared Research Repository](#)

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More!

The Museum is in even more places.

[Google Arts and Culture](#)

[Wikimedia Commons](#)

[Sketchfab](#)

[Github](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Twitter](#)

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Lastly...

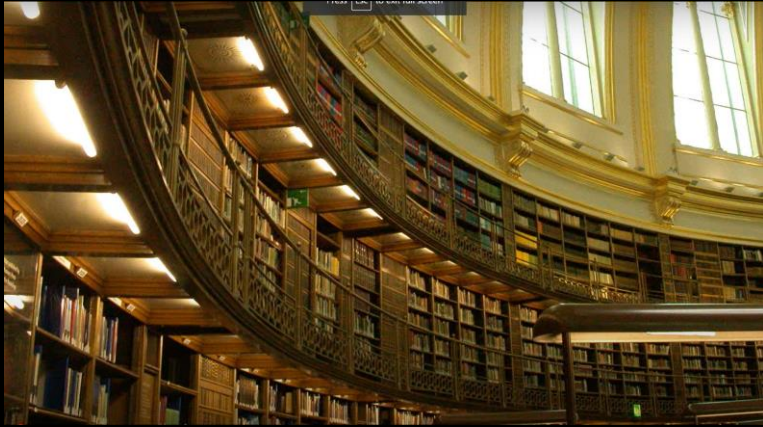
Selected Podcasts:

[The British Museum Cats](#), and
[The Suicide Exhibition](#), or, what the museum did to protect
its' objects during WWII, produced by Nick Harris.

[The Wonder House Podcast](#) a new podcast on decolonial and
curatorial practice by Sushma Jansari, Tabor Foundation
Curator for South Asia.

[@BM Librarian](#) << we are not boring I swear!

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Sounds of the Round Reading Room

Thank you!

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