

An Overview of Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage

Sunoikisis Digital Classics
November 2019

Dr Mia Ridge, Digital Curator, British Library

Overview

- Defining crowdsourcing
- Motivations for organisations and participants
- Key examples
- Defining ‘success’
- Looking to the future

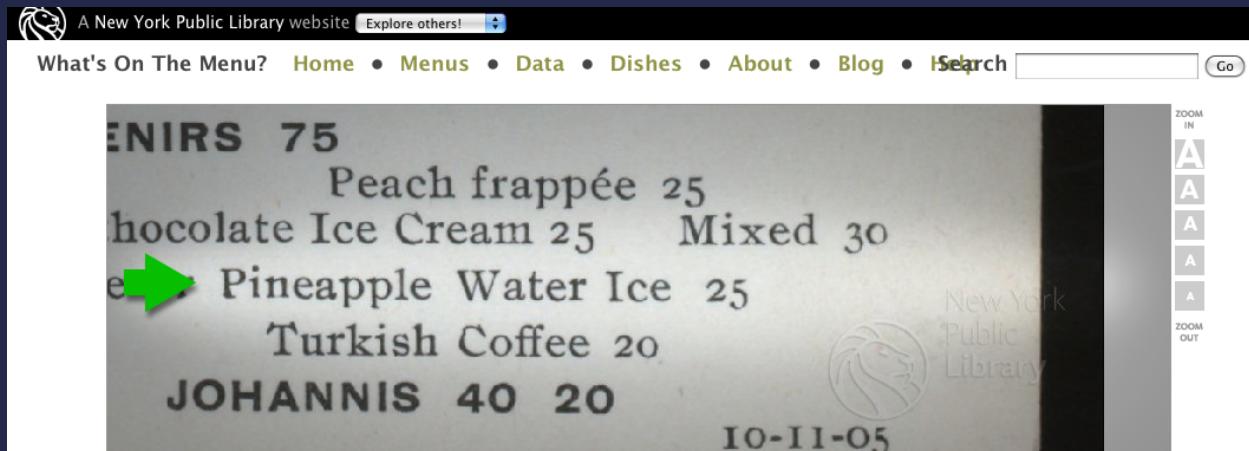


Crowdsourcing in cultural heritage is...



...asking the public to do tasks that contribute to a shared, significant goal related to cultural heritage collections or knowledge

e.g. NYPL 'What's on the Menu?'



What does this say?

Pineapple Water Ice

Please type the text of the indicated dish EXACTLY as it appears. Don't worry about accents.

Price (in Dollars):

[See more than one price for this dish?](#)

Trouble reading the text? Type your best guess, then check this box ->

[cancel](#)

[Delete this dish](#)

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A PROJECT OF NYPL LABS. WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



Heritage crowdsourcing as volunteering



...but convenient



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jdevaunphotography/8456110245/> by Jason Devaun

Why crowdsourcing?

- Help deal with the cataloguing backlog
- Address the ‘semantic gap’ in describing items
- Access external specialist expertise
- Create meaningful experiences with collections
- Provide opportunities for learning

Why do people volunteer?

Altruistic motivations

- helping to provide an accurate record of local history

Intrinsic motivations

- reading 18thC handwriting is an enjoyable puzzle

Extrinsic motivations

- an academic transcribing a quote from a primary source

Understand motivations and barriers

 **Crowdsourcing our Cultural Heritage / Mia Ridge.**
Mia Ridge, author.
Routledge, 2016.

[Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

Notes here allow you and other users to comment and make notes on items, viewable by the whole community.
NB: Please use the [Report Catalogue Error form](#) to advise us of catalogue inaccuracies.

 [Add a note](#)

Actions ▾

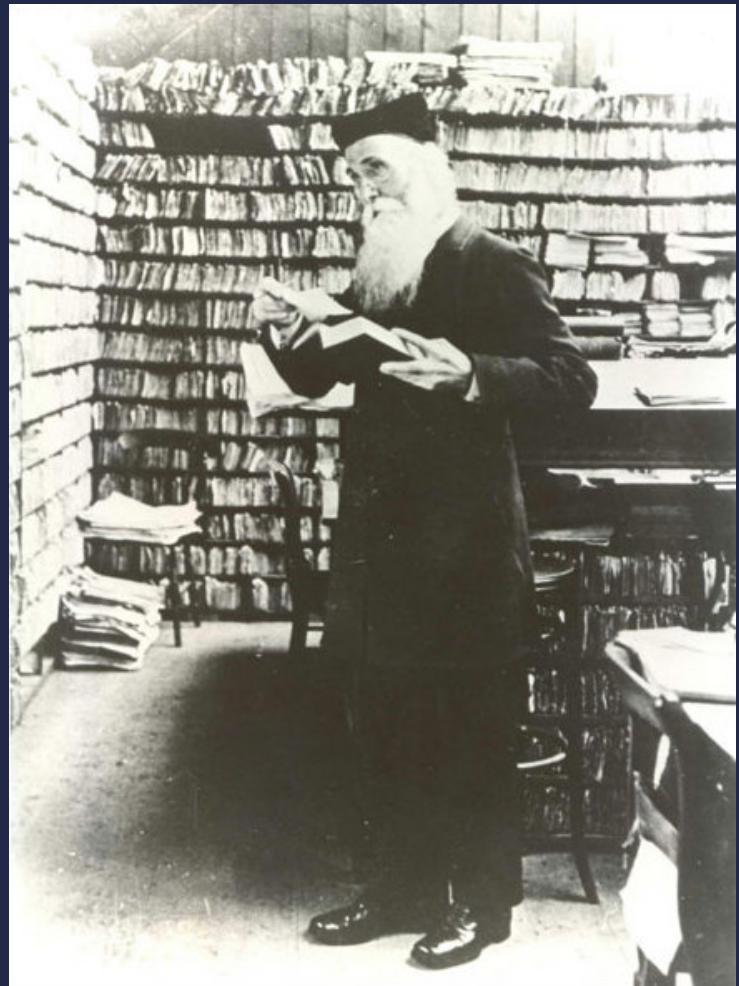
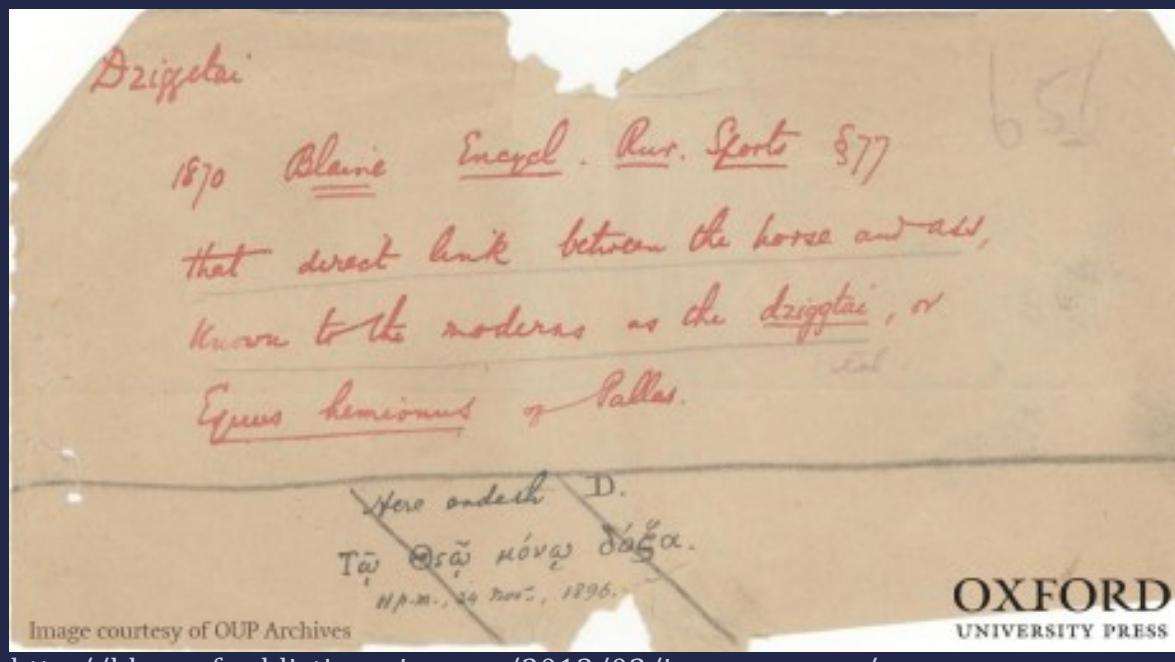
Tags allow you and others to define and search on related groups of items.

 [Add / remove tags](#)

All tags	Cloud
My tags	Edit

What could I write that others would want to see?
Could someone else delete my tags?
What if I do the wrong thing?

Technology helps, but ultimately crowdsourcing is all about people



James Murray, editor, OED, with contributor slips

Key examples

Example project types

'Type what you see'

'Describe what you see'

'Share what you know'

'Validate other inputs'

FamilySearch Indexing



Batch ▾ Data Entry ▾ Help ▾

QA Brad -- Image Set Holds One [MMML-GFZ]

M Ridge Indexing

Field Help [[en]] Principal Given (MH) More

Image 1 of 5

Record 1 of 1

[[en]] Principal Given (DN) *

[[en]] Principal Family (DN) *

[[en]] Principal Birth Date (DN) *

[[en]] Father Given (DN)

[[en]] Mother Given (DN)

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

STATE OF MONTANA
Bureau of Vital Statistics
Certificate of Death

I filed this certificate for record in this office on 6-10-19
County Clerk and Recorder of Sanders County, State of Montana

County Sanders State Montana Registered No. 73 100

PLACE OF DEATH

County Sanders State Montana
Village Glendale, Montana
FAMILY NAME Ida Blanche Clark

SEX Fem COLOR OR RACE white Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced
HUSBAND OF (or) WIFE OF Pete Clark

DATE OF BIRTH 27 1899
AGE 19 Years Months Days
OCCUPATION OF DECEASED Housewife

BIRTHPLACE Clark
NAME OF FATHER Alby S. Stant
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Ills
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Mary Butler
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Mo

Informant: (Address) Mary Stant
Filed: 7/1/94 TAKEN: 7/1/94
REGISTRATION NUMBER: 73 100

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DATE OF DEATH 11 5 1918
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Oct 27 1918 to Nov 5 1918
that I last saw her alive on Nov 5 1918
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 7 P.m.
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Influenza - Bronchitis

Duration: yrs mos ds
CONTRIBUTORY: Influenza
(duration): yrs mos ds
(Signed): (Address): Mary Stant, M.D.
Place of Burial, Cremation, or Removal: Hamilton, Montana
Date of Burial: 1918

New Record

National Library of Australia: Trove

The World's News (Sydney, NSW : 1901 - 1955) [\(about\)](#)

◀ Saturday 11 November 1905 ▶

◀ Page 19 ▶

Go of 32 ▶



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1 correction by anonymous - [Show corrections](#)

MISSING FRIENDS.

Circulating as it does throughout the Southern Hemisphere. "The World's News" is unique as a medium for the discovery of missing friends. The charge for these advertisements is 14 words 2s cash, and thereafter 1s per line.

"BUTTERWORTH, WILLIAM, of Hull, England, who went to Australia, in 1882, and was last heard of in 1891, is requested to write to his nephew, J. W. Butterworth, 26 Lockwood-terrace, Hull.

GILPIN, JOSEPH, last heard of at Melbourne. Communicate with cousin, Mary Jane Killen (now Mrs. Cooper), 90 Watercroft, Almondbury, Yorkshire, England.

KORNER, Mrs., last heard of by advertiser at Wagga Wagga between 4 and 5 years ago, cooking at Experimental Farm; please communicate with Charles F. Korner, care "Tweed Herald," Murwillumbah.

PARFITT, RICHARD PALMER, who sailed from England in the ship Chatham, about 1852, and went to the gold diggings, Ballarat, Victoria, is sought for by daughter, Phoebe Parfitt (now Mrs. Wood), 6 St. Nicholas-rd., Sutton, Surrey. Mother died in 1886.

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ROBINSON, Mrs. (formerly Laura Marsden), left Rashwick, Brighouse, for Brisbane, about 1889. Please write to mother, Mrs. Jane Marsden, 88A Lilycroft-rd., Manningham, Bradford, England.

FLAIR, Mrs. (formerly Jane Geary), left Banbridge, Ireland, for New Zealand, in 1885. Please write to brother, Rev. Joseph Geary, Killinichy, co. Down, Ireland.

TROTTER, JOHN, whose last address, in 1901, was Coopers, Brisbane, is sought for by Sister, Mrs. Oliver, 8 Roberts-avenue, Central-st., Cumberland-st., Hull, England.

WOULD WALLACE WALTER ROBERTS or EMMA FRODSOM (natives of Shrewsbury, England) please

[View entire page](#)

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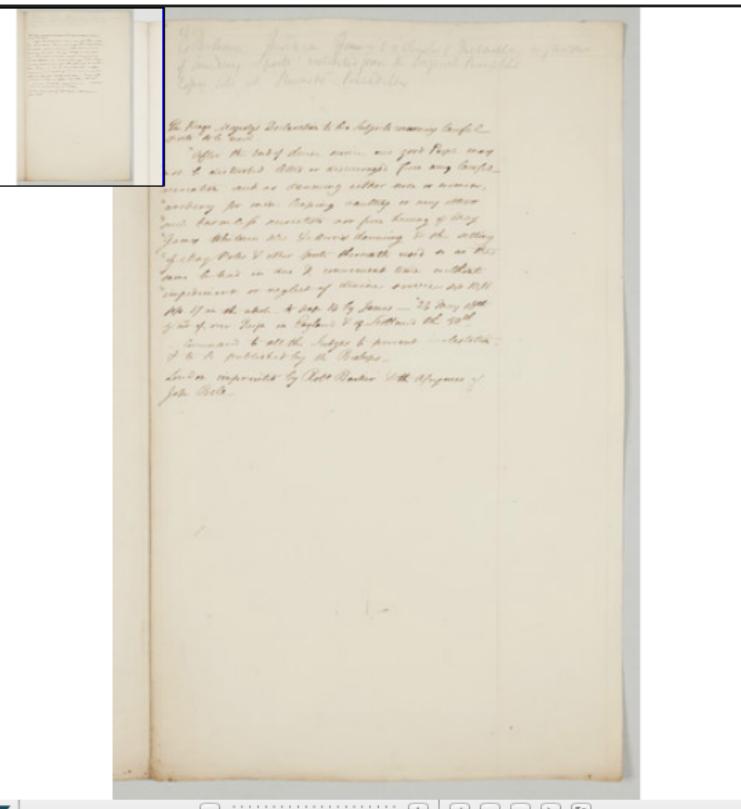
JB/097/172/002

[Click Here To Edit](#)

The King's Majesty's Declaration to his subjects concerning lawful sports to be used.

"After the end of divine service our good People may "not be disturbed letted or discouraged from any lawful "recreation such as dauncing either men or women, "archery for men, leaping vaulting or any other "such harmless recreation nor from having of May "Games Whitsun Ales & Morris dauncing & the setting "of May Poles & other Sports therewith used so as the "same be had in due & convenient time without "impediment or neglect of divine service pp 10,11.
pp 17 in the whole to page 14 by James - "24 May 10th year of our Reign in England & of Scotland the 50th command to all the Judges to prevent molestation & to be published by the Bishops.

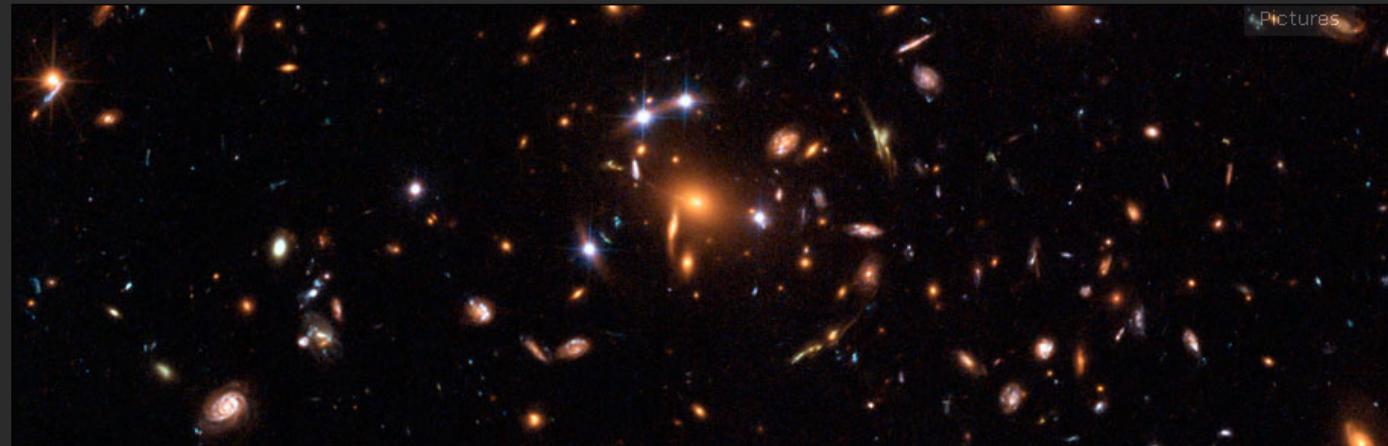
London imprinted by Rob^t Barker Xth[?] Assignees of John Bell.



GALAXY ZOO

HUBBLE

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Pictures

Welcome to Galaxy Zoo, where you can help astronomers explore the Universe

Galaxy Zoo: Hubble uses gorgeous imagery of hundreds of thousands of galaxies drawn from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope archive. To understand how these galaxies, and our own, formed we need your help to classify them according to their shapes — a task at which your brain is better than even the most advanced computer. If you're quick, you may even be the first person in history to see each of the galaxies you're asked to classify.

More than 250,000 people have taken part in Galaxy Zoo so far, producing a wealth of valuable data and sending telescopes on Earth and in space chasing after their discoveries. The images used in Galaxy Zoo: Hubble are more detailed and beautiful than ever, and will allow us to look deeper into the Universe than ever before. To begin exploring, click the 'How To Take Part' link above, or read [The Story So Far](#) to find out what Galaxy Zoo has achieved to date.

Thanks for your help, and happy classifying.

The Galaxy Zoo team.

Classifier Log In

[Click here to log in](#)

- [» Register](#)
- [» Forgotten Password?](#)

Explore galaxies

Latest News

Voorwerpje paper submitted

by Chris - 25 Jul 2011

Bill has written an excellent post about the Voorwerpje, or small Voorwerp, hunt over on the main Zooniverse blog. You should ...

- [» Voorwerpje paper submitted](#)
- [» 365 Days of Astronomy Podcast – Do Bars Kill Spirals?](#)
- [» More on our fake AGN](#)
- [» Galaxy Zoo classifications in SDSS Database](#)



Nantucket Historical Asso...

[+ Follow](#)**Almira West Williams**

c. 1910s.

Image number: PH31-16-1

5,481
views15
faves6
commentsTa
O[\(i\) Show EXIF](#)

This photo is in 1 group

**"History & Antiquities (Post 5 - Award 3)"**

282,830 items

This photo is in 1 album

**Nantucket Brides**

20 items

Tags

Nantucket Weddings

Brides woman portrait

lace

Kozorek Studio (New Bedf...

Almira (Flossie) West Willi...

Almira Floretta West

Mrs. Charles H. Williams

wedding Wampanoag

Chappaquiddick

☆ [Katie Ashdown, mamaheartsbugsy](#) and 13 more people faved this

**GabaGaba** 6y

beautiful!

**lilli sands** 6y

wow, lilli

**glesgagirl59** 6y

WoW photos back then are just amazing to look at.

**Jun Acullador** 6yHi, I'm an admin for a group called "[History & Antiquities \(Unlimited Posting - Award 3\)](#)", and we'd love to have this added to the group!**Pixel Wrangler** 6y

Almira West Williams is the daughter of John E. West and sister to Gertrude West Ames.

**wealthywamp** 6y

This is my relative. She also went by the name of Flossie. She was Chappaquiddick Wampanoag. Her Grandmother was Elizabeth Brown West the daughter of Lucy Wamp Brown and Abram Brown who lived on the Indian reservation lands of the island of Chappaquiddick. Her great-grandmother was Wealthy Wamp. Almira (Flossie) lived in New Bedford.

British Library Georeferencer

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BBC Research & Development

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WED 11 AUG 1999 | FAITH AND VALUES

Dreamtime Dreams
10: Martin Luther King

An examination of Martin Luther King's vision for racial equality and the impact it had on his own life and the lives of millions.
Presenter Rosemary Hartill.

⌚ 14 minutes

⚠ FLAG THIS EPISODE AS INAPPROPRIATE



Suggest a better image ▶

▶ 00:00/13:38

Tags

These tags describe this programme so that other listeners can find it. You can help us improve these tags by voting down the ones that do not apply to this programme and voting up those which best describe this programme.

Add tag

- Political divisions of the United States
- Politician
- Political party
- Political science
- Politics
- Polish language
- Police
- Political divisions of Mexico
- Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

RATINGS	SOURCE
0 0	Synopsis
0 0	Synopsis
0 0	Audio
0 0	Audio

Micropasts photo-masking

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Photo Masking of British Museum Bronze Age Objects: Contribute

Draw the outline and/or holes of the main object shown in the picture

[Tutorial](#) [Community Help](#) [Different photomask?](#)

Photo loaded! Outline Holes Draw Edit Remove all polygons [Save the drawings](#)

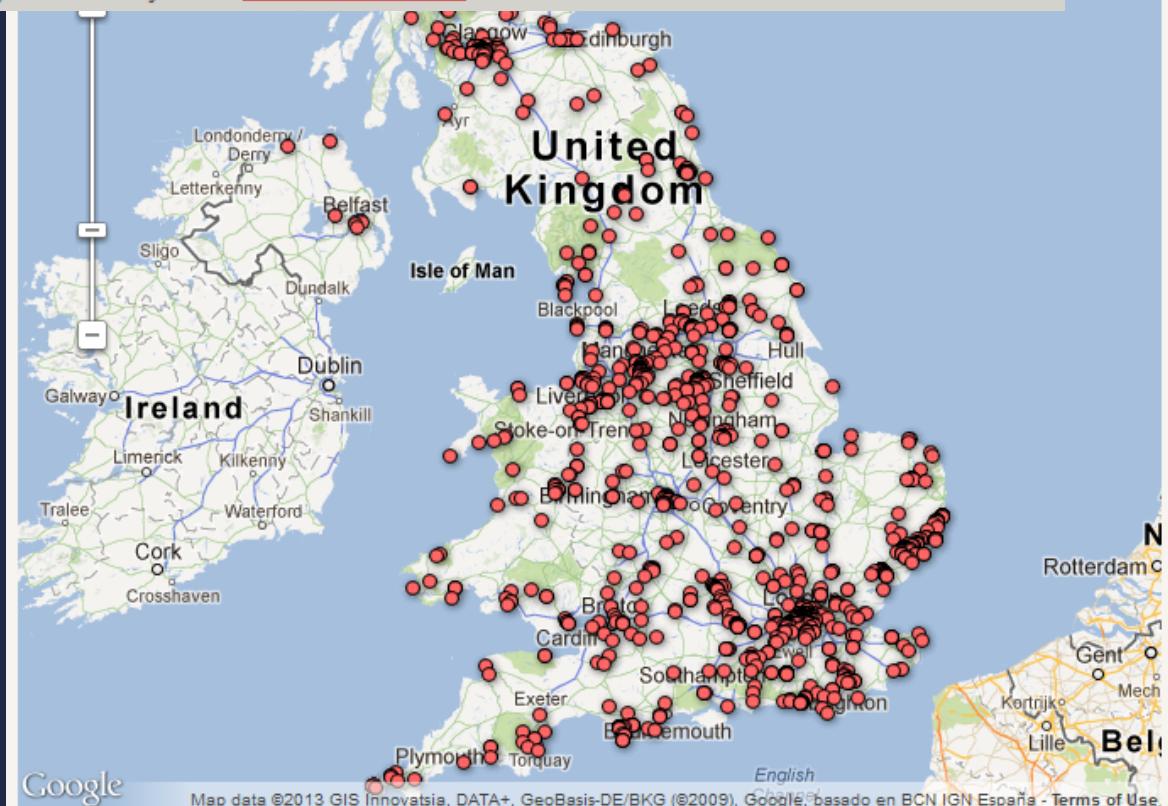
You are working now on task: 6963

You have completed: 0 tasks from 1740

Collecting British Library Sound Maps

Sound map - UK Soundmap

The UK Soundmap, the first nationwide sound map, invited people to record the sounds of their environment, be it at home, work or play. Over 2,000 recordings were uploaded by some 350 contributors during the period July 2010 to July 2011. [Further information](#).



Your accents <http://sounds.bl.uk/Sound-Maps/Your-Accents>
<http://sounds.bl.uk/Sound-Maps/UK-Soundmap>

10 Most Wanted



10 Most Wanted

a website for the Museum of Design in Plastics

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[How to Begin](#) [Points & Prizes](#) [Hall of Fame](#) [Research Tips](#) [Solved Cases](#) [Cold Cases](#)

[Home](#)

Ice bucket and tongs

This is a striking object about which we know little other than it was made in Australia. We are hoping the down under members of the Plastics Historical Society might help us to learn more about it.



Case number - AIBDC : 0_6445

A turquoise, white and silver coloured ice bucket and tongs set. The ice bucket has a dribbled silver pattern and a inner liner with drainage holes in the bottom.

[View more images on the MoDiP site](#)

Designer	Unknown - Wanted
Manufacturer	Unknown - Wanted
Country	Australia
Date	1900 - 1990 - Wanted
Dimensions	height 150 mm, diameter 140 mm
Materials	plastic, unidentified - Wanted
Method	unknown - Wanted
Colours	blue, silver, white
Inscription	"Made in Australia"

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How do you define ‘success’?

Defining success: productivity

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Trove gothenburg

Home About Site news Statistics Tags Help Forum Contact us

Newspapers / Browse / The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) / Thu 2 Nov 1922 / Page 10 / GOTHENBURG EXPEDITION.

A GOTHENBURG EXPEDITION.

Gothenburg, the leading shipping town in Sweden, will next year draw the attention of the commercial world to its name, not only in Sweden but also over large parts of the face of the globe. The Tercentenary Exhibition, which was postponed from 1921, will be opened on May 8, 1923, and continue to September 30. For

selections. The doors will be opened early to allow elderly members of the community to be seated first.

GOTHENBURG EXPEDITION.

Gothenburg, the leading shipping town in Sweden, will next year draw the attention of the commercial world to its name, not only in Sweden but also over large parts of the face of the globe. The Tercentenary Exhibition, which was postponed from 1921, will be opened on May 8, 1923, and continue to September 30. For several years Gothenburg has been working on the creation of the exhibition with high expectations and with strong faith in its undertaking, and the work has been pressed on so energetically that it is now

mander in the Salvation Army in America has been confirmed by her secretary. The latter states that it will probably become effective so soon as Gen. Bramwell Booth, the commander-in-chief, names her successor. Latest news is that Miss Booth has received a wireless message from Gen. Bramwell Booth notifying her that her retirement has been definitely decided upon.

EMINENT SWEDE.

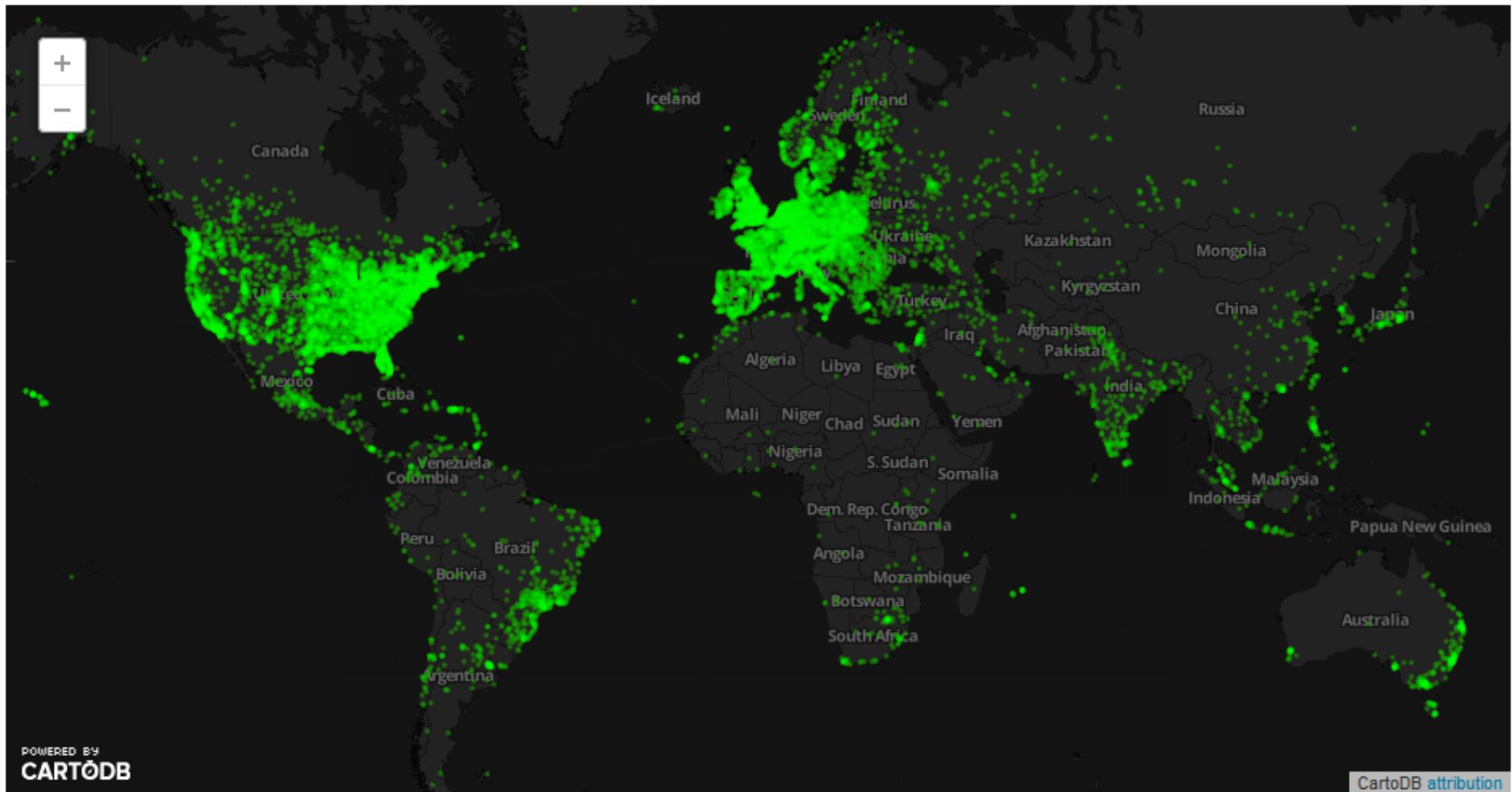
One of the most eminent men in the political life of Sweden is Mr. Ernst Trygger, LL.D., Judge of the High Court, whose powers have often been drawn on for foreign affairs. He was one of the Swedish delegates at the assembly of the

Text corrections

[The Register \(Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929\), Thu 2 Nov 1922, Page 10 - GOTHENBURG EXPEDITION.](#)

Date modified	Old Lines	New Lines
a minute ago *anon*	<p>GOTHENBURG EXPEDITION.</p> <p>Gothenburg, the leading shipping town in Sweden, will next year draw the attention of the commercial world to its name, not only in Sweden but also over large parts of the face of the globe. The Tercentenary Exhibition, which was postponed from 1921, will be opened on May 8,</p>	<p>GOTHENBURG EXPEDITION.</p> <p>Gothenburg, the leading shipping town in Sweden, will next year draw the attention of the commercial world to its name, not only in Sweden but also over large parts of the face of the globe. The Tercentenary Exhibition, which was postponed from 1921, will be opened on May 8,</p>

Defining success: reach



Map created by  [simpson](#)



<http://community.zooniverse.org/>

Defining success: engagement



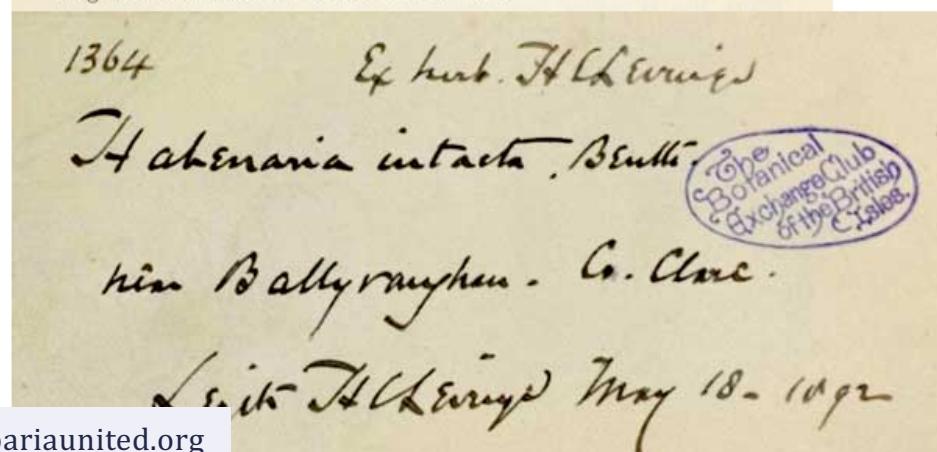
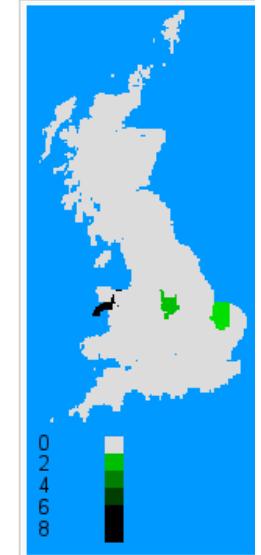
Harry Corby Levinge

Mr Harry Corby Levinge (1831-11/1896) of Knock Drin Castle, Mulligar, J.P, D.L. Spent many years in the Indian Civil Service [Bengal], where he collected ferns; particularly in Sikkim and Kashmir. Unfortunately much of his collection was destroyed in a fire. On his return, he interested himself in the Irish flora and contributed a number of important papers on this topic to the Irish Naturalist and the J of Botany (1892). Published "The plants of Westmeath" in 1894. The fern *Adiantum levinge* was dedicated to him by J G Baker. His herbarium is now housed in the National Museum in Dublin.

WESTMEATH PLANTS.

By E. F. AND W. R. LINTON.

THE plants here enumerated are most of them records for District VII. of the *Cybele Hibernica* (these have an asterisk pre-fixed), and were observed by us while enjoying the hospitality of Mr. H. C. Levinge at Knock Drin Castle last July. Some of them were detected by the Rev. E. S. Marshall, our fellow-guest for part of the time, and some were pointed out to us by Mr. Levinge himself, whose investigations have done so much to throw light on the Flora of Westmeath. A rainy season had set in, and hindered work during part of our visit; but, thanks to the long preceding drought, many wet localities were unusually accessible, and all the loughs had sunk below their normal level.



Further info : see

Balancing definitions of success

Playbills 'In the Spotlight'

Collection of over 230,000 printed sheets in
1,000 volumes

Minimal cataloguing: 'A collection of playbills
from miscellaneous Plymouth theatres 1796-
1882'

No information about individual playbills,
performances, people

Designing for productivity and engagement

The image shows a screenshot of a digital platform for transcribing historical documents. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT' and several menu items: 'Home', 'About', 'Take Part', 'Data' (which is circled in red), 'Browse Tags', and 'Discuss' (which is also circled in red). Below the navigation bar is a large, aged document page featuring text about a ventriloquist and two playbills for theatrical performances.

Top Navigation Bar:

- IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- Home
- About
- Take Part
- Data
- Browse Tags
- Discuss

Document Content:

... or the door, as if an invisible agent was conversing with him: he can exercise the peculiar gift that he is endowed with, even while drinking a glass of wine, a circumstance hitherto unknown to the scientific and curious; he superadds a particular faculty, not exhibited in this or in any other kingdom by any other Ventriloquist, of imitating the pleasing NOTES of BIRDS, with the chicken, sucking pig, puppy, cur dog, and mastiff, equally wonderful and surprising, and will perform several select PIECES OF MUSIC, on his much admired DUMB FIDDLE.

PART II.

Force of Hercules,
With GROUND and LOFTY TUMBLING,
By Master GARBUT, the first Performer in this Kingdom.

PART III.

THAUMATACTICS;
OR, THE WONDERFUL CONJURER!

... order to blend the utile dulce, and make it agreeable and useful to those truly instructive and rational amusements, so admirably calculated to expose those specious arts practised at gaming tables, and guard the unwary against the artful and fraudulent, he will exhibit his astonishing performance, which consists of seeming impossibilities.

Transcription Interface:

Transcribe the title

Type in the title exactly as displayed in the highlighted box on the page, including any subtitles and punctuation. You don't need to include any genre or description.

TITLE

Tag this sheet Something's wrong

Seen something interesting?
Add a note

Save and Continue

<http://playbills.libcrowds.com/>

@LibCrowds Newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/btvBKT>



Looking ahead to ‘human computation’

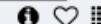


Living with Machines

ABOUT CLASSIFY TALK COLLECT

This is a beta version of our project - your feedback can make a real difference! Hit the 'Talk' boards and tell us what's what.

A serious accident occurred late on Monday night to a cyclist named Albert Marshall, aged 30 years, residing at Knightrider-street, St. Paul's-church yard. He was riding a bicycle, without a brake, down Arkwright road, Hampstead, an exceptionally steep declivity, where there had already been several accidents, when he lost control of the machine. At the foot of the hill he dashed into a one-horse covered van, which was passing along Finchley-road. Marshall was thrown to the ground and rendered insensible, and after being seen by a doctor, he was removed to Hampstead Hospital and dera nied. His injuries consist of scalp wounds and concussion of the brain.



TASK

TUTORIAL

Is there one or more articles in this image that mentions a specific accident involving machinery?

There is only one article on the image and it mentions a specific accident involving machinery

There is more than one article on this image and at least one mentions a specific accident involving machinery

There are no relevant articles on this image

The article text is too hard to read

NEED SOME HELP WITH THIS TASK?

Done & Talk

Done



Try the task:
<http://bit.ly/LivingWithMachines>

Crowdsourcing and data science

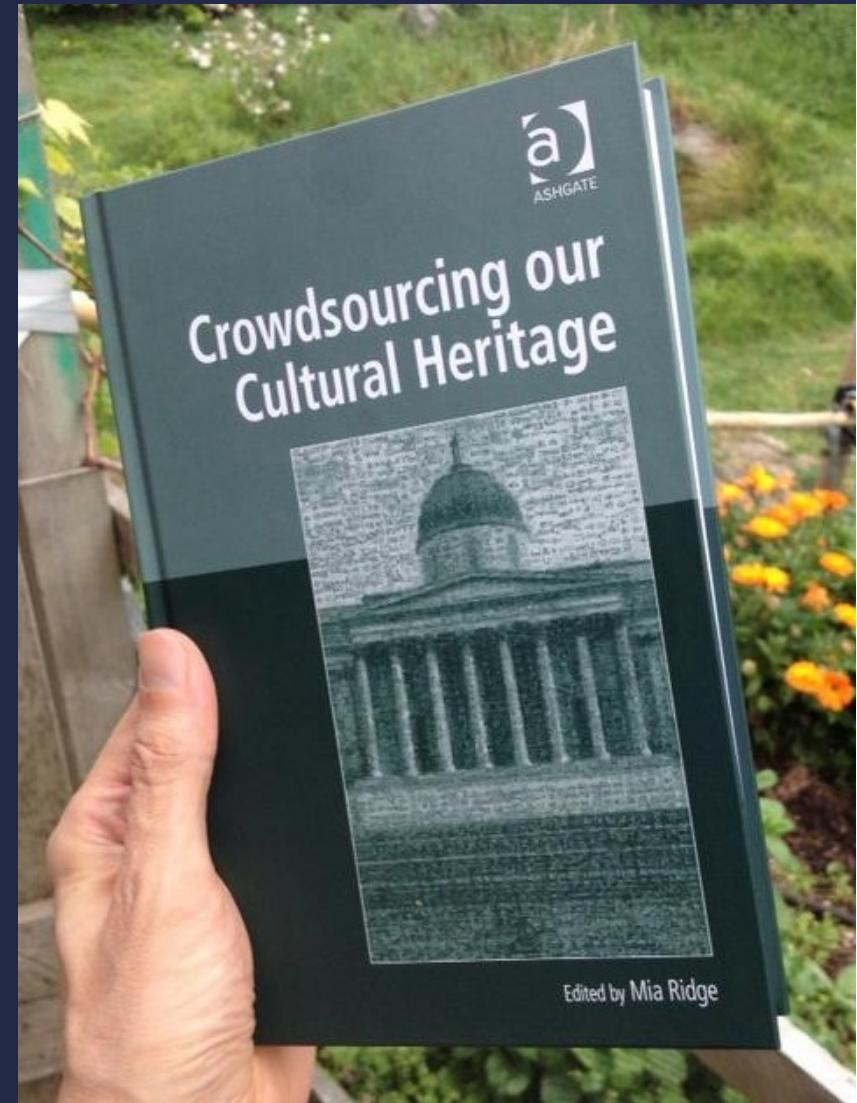
- Classifications feed into machine learning algorithms to help find more source articles
- Goal is to give computers the boring bits and give people the most interesting tasks and content
- Follow our progress: @LivingWMachines
<http://bit.ly/LwMnewsletter>

Thanks for listening

Dr Mia Ridge, Digital
Curator, British Library

Email:
digitalresearch@bl.uk

Twitter: @mia_out



Readings and exercise

- Bland, R. 2013 "Response: the Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme." *Internet Archaeology* 33. Available:
- Mia Ridge (2013). "From Tagging to Theorizing: Deepening Engagement with Cultural Heritage through Crowdsourcing." *Curator* 56.4, 435–450. Available:

Exercise: bit.ly/SunoikisisCrowdsourcing