

# CAPOD Funding Report

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Event /Course Title	British Library Doctoral Open Day: Explore the collections: 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> century
Date of event	26 February 2018

## 1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

This well-organised event first introduced how the British Library (BL) runs. The leading curators from various departments introduced how they curate contemporary multi-modal information, ranging from web archives to oral history collections. During the lunchtime, participants met other postgraduate students from universities across the UK. We browsed some selected items displayed by curators across the BL, ranging from artist's book to manuscripts of a playwright. A reference specialist explained how to navigate the complicated reference system of BL. There was an optional tour of BL at the end of the event.

## 2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

Although my project is not archive-based, to learn more about what I could expect to find in BL is always beneficial. I become more aware that I could not only access to the published books but also multi-modal items in BL. It is useful to know that BL's ambition is to archive the important aspects of social and cultural lives not only in the past but also in the present. This event helps me to understand what such archival organisations could offer and what the value of everyday information is.

I also meet students from the Arts and Humanities and hear about their research interests. I have noted down the curatorial contacts in BL.

## 3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

I plan to visit the National Library of Scotland, which might also be relevant to my studies. I also plan to learn more about the archival resources in local museums and special collections at various university libraries.

I start to think about contributing or encouraging others to contribute items to the collections in archival organisations.

I had spent some time in BL after the event at exploring project-related items located in different reading rooms.

## 4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials.

The organiser sent us a recap email and kindly agreed to share here:

*'As promised the slides have been uploaded to SlideShare and you can access them [here](#). Please note that slides and images are for your personal use only. We have also uploaded some [resource documents](#) we think may be of some interest.*

*Here are some links to pages mentioned at the Open Day – and which you will probably be visiting fairly often over the course of your research.*

- 🔗 [Explore the British Library](#) – our main catalogue
- 🔗 [Archives and Manuscripts catalogue](#) – for further unique collection items
- 🔗 [Electronic resources and databases](#) – browse online by subject and format
- 🔗 [Digitised Manuscripts](#) – digitised copies of manuscripts and archives, with descriptions of their contents
- 🔗 [EThOS](#) – access over 400,000 PhD thesis records online for free

*You can discover more about our collections and resources online on our [Subject Pages](#), through our dedicated [Collections Guides](#), and across our full range of [Blogs](#). If you have not already done so, make sure to [Register for a Reader's Pass](#) and learn how to use our reading rooms.*

*Our Reference Services team also run [1-1 consultation sessions](#) with a Reference Enquiry specialist. They can show you how to get the most from our catalogues and resources and can use their expertise to direct you towards useful and hard to find material based on your research interests.*

*Finally we appreciate there is a lot to take in on the Open Day – if you feel you would like to find out more, why not book onto one of our [Library Tours](#) or [Conservation Studio Tours](#)?'*

## 5. Tips/experience learned from the event

- no coats and no pens are allowed in reading rooms
- plan ahead if you hope to access the items since the waiting time varies from 70min to 48 hours. Opening hours varies every day, and the latest item request time is 4 pm
- self-scanning is free, and machines are available in the reading rooms
- photographing an item might be permitted
- the categorisation of the departments in BL could be confusing

## 6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

Several open access BL databases are available: <https://www.webarchive.org.uk/shine>;  
<https://sounds.bl.uk/>; [https://data.bl.uk/?\\_ga=2.131783183.1453220574.1530983414-1234226524.1530983414](https://data.bl.uk/?_ga=2.131783183.1453220574.1530983414-1234226524.1530983414);

Websites will disappear too, so do 'print' it as pdf if you hope to archive it for future reference.