

Full Course Catalogue – Updated August 2021

Current Courses

The following courses are part of our regularly recurring schedule.

101 This is Digital Scholarship

A thought-provoking look at how information technology has transformed research. This course offers colleagues an overview of the concepts, tools and methods which define digital scholarship today. Through group discussion staff will explore how their own expertise and interests can support digital researchers.

See: <https://sway.office.com/SAaDUzeteEQHDs5Y>

103 Copyright, Licensing and Data Protection in Digitisation Projects

As part of digitisation planning and delivery, all projects have to plan for rights clearance and comply with data protection and sensitivity guidelines. This presentation will explain the practicalities of online publication as related to copyright and highlight other due diligence.

105 Crowdsourcing in Libraries, Museums and Cultural Heritage Institutions

Provides an overview of the history and types of crowdsourcing projects in memory institutions, illustrating best practices and providing guidance in getting started in this area.

See: <https://www.miaridge.com/resources-for-crowdsourcing-in-libraries-museums-and-cultural-heritage-institutions/>

107 Data Visualisation for Cultural Heritage Collections

This course provides an overview of key concepts in data visualisation and shows how freely available visualisation tools can be used to help scholars understand, analyse and present large-scale datasets in the humanities, sciences...and British Library!

See: <https://n8cir.org.uk/events/event-resource/data-vis-resources/>

108 Digital Mapping

In recent years digital mapping technologies have transformed the way we interact with the world through GPS, mobile apps and spatial data. British Library collection items are replete with geographic information, for example, place of publication, place-names within content and many others we might not have considered. Digital mapping provides a different perspective on Library collections, creating possibilities for discovery and analysis and supporting new forms of digital scholarship and research.

109 Integration: Mash-ups, API's and The Semantic Web

Introduces staff to the fundamentals of information integration and sharing from web mash-ups, API's to semantic web/linked open data technology and how these technologies are being used to communicate and connect collections online.

See: http://www.meanboyfriend.com/overdue_ideas/2014/10/information-integration-mash-upsapis-and-the-semantic-web/

116 Metadata at the British Library

The goal of this course is to increase participants' literacy with the various cataloguing systems and standards used for physical and digital collections across the British Library. This course is currently being updated and will include self-contained modules with presentations from metadata and cataloguing teams and projects.

118 Cleaning up Data

This popular Digital Scholarship Training Programme workshop provides a hands-on guided introduction to OpenRefine, a powerful open source tool for cleaning messy data and augmenting it. It's like Excel on steroids.

See: http://www.meanboyfriend.com/overdue_ideas/2014/11/working-with-data-usingopenrefine/

120 Text and Data Mining

The Digital Scholarship team are excited to announce a season of talks and workshops on text and data mining. This is a new, flexible format for learning and maintaining skills in the Library. Our first season will include talks and hands-on sessions from external experts on computer vision and computational models for semantic change, and introduce you to software tools (Jupyter notebooks, Python libraries) for text and data mining that can be used with digitised collections. Building on the data visualisation course and distant reading methods, it will provide an overview of the methods and tools available to help analyse digitised collections as corpora or datasets.

121 Copyright at the British Library

The course aims to provide a very general overview of copyright law in the UK; and information on how the Library's policies and processes deal with copyright in the context of digitisation projects. Plus the Library's policies and processes for dealing with copyright queries from Library readers and users.

122 Introduction to Emerging Formats

This course will provide an introduction to 'emerging formats', the term we use to refer to types of publication that are in scope to collect under the UK's Non-Print Legal Deposit Regulations, but whose content and structure are more challenging compared to publications currently collected. This course includes a hands-on show and tell display, for attendees to directly experience a curated selection of UK eBook mobile apps on iPads and android tablets.

See: <https://notagoth.itch.io/the-memory-archivist> for an example of an interactive narrative

123 Chronotopic Cartographies Schema and Coding

Chronotopic Cartographies is an AHRC-funded research project investigating how digital tools can be used to analyse, map, and visualise the spaces of literary texts. It draws on the literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin's concept of the 'chronotope': a way of describing how time and place are linked and represented in different literary genres. This course introduces uses the Comparative Literyscape AnalySis Encoding (CLAYE) toolset developed by the project. This is a custom XML schema designed to capture the qualitative linguistic aspects of literary spaces and temporalities.

124 Introduction to OCR and HTR

This course will introduce OCR and HTR, and discuss their importance in the context of library collections. It will look into how OCR is integrated within Library operations, and our aspirations

for HTR integration. It will also pose some of the challenges to automate text recognition in different collection types and different languages – especially handwritten materials and non-Western languages – and how these challenges could be tackled.

125 Data Protection and Sensitivity Review: Making our Modern and Contemporary Archives Available

This introductory course has been designed to familiarise curators, cataloguers, and colleagues across the British Library with the general principles and guidelines surrounding data protection. Specifically, we will look at how the law applies to our Collections and digital archives, and what to look for when carrying out a sensitivity review. Our aim is that by the end of this course you will be able to more comfortably identify potential risks and be more confident when deciding to make the Library's Modern and Contemporary Collections available, both on-site and online.

Introduction to Computer Vision: working with maps and other digitised images

This workshop is aimed to help researchers interested in the use of computer vision, as well as curators and librarians interested in using computer vision with digitised visual materials. Although this tutorial will focus primarily on using maps, many of these techniques can be adapted to other types of visual material (for ex., photographic or other art collections, satellite imagery). Alongside practical discussions we also want to use the session to discuss how these techniques can help libraries work with digital image collections, and what it means to turn maps and other visual material into 'data'.

Library Carpentry Workshop

Colleagues from [Research Services Team](#) and [Digital Scholarship](#) have teamed up to deliver a special staff-only Library Carpentry workshop to the British Library. It is made up of three sessions covering the basics of working with spreadsheets, XML, working with regular expressions and command line interface, and working with GitHub

See: <https://blogs.bl.uk/digital-scholarship/2020/04/rapidly-pivoting-to-online-delivery-of-a-library-carpentry-course.html>

Supplementary Learning Opportunities

In addition to our taught courses, we offer the following learning opportunities.

21st Century Curatorship Talk Series

This is a series of professional development talks and seminars, open to all staff, providing a forum for keeping up with new developments and emerging technologies in scholarship, libraries and cultural heritage.

Hack & Yacks

This a casual meet up arranged by the Digital Research Team every month to work through an online tutorial at everyone's own pace but with support of colleagues. We use it as an opportunity to explore new tools/techniques/applications relevant to digital research and keep our own skills up to speed. Topics range from [Transforming XML with XSLT](#) to [Interactive Writing Platforms](#).

Digital Scholarship Reading Group

Our internal Reading Group meets monthly for an informal discussion of a specific article, blog post or video. This provides staff a great way to keep up with new ideas or reality check trends in digital scholarship (including the digital humanities).

Retired Courses

Since the inception of the Digital Scholarship Training Programme in 2012, some of the courses have been retired and dropped from the regular recurring schedule.

The information below, while no longer being updated, helps demonstrate the types of training that the Programme can provide.

102 Digital Collections at British Library

An overview of the present and future landscape of our permanent digital offering focusing on how these digital collections are acquired, ingested, preserved, and access provided.

104 Communicating our collections online

This course follows on from the mandatory Copyright, Licensing and Access & Reuse Training Workshop provided by Rachel Marshall. It will explore emerging opportunities for sharing digitised collections online on platforms ranging from Pinterest, to the British Library Facebook and History Pin. Note you must have taken Rachel's course to register.

106 Introduction to Scholarly Markup: Text Encoding Initiative & EAD

This course will introduce participants to Extensible Markup Language (XML), specifically the version developed by the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) for document content markup. It will survey the basics of TEI used by scholars and librarians, and contextualize it in relation to other XML technologies, such as Encoded Archival Description (EAD), transformation languages, and schema languages. The course will provide opportunities for applied learning that will assist participants in understanding TEI independently and in relation to other technologies.

110 Managing personal digital research information

This course will provide an introduction to managing digital research information. It will explain how reference management software can be used to manage individual and collaborative research.

See: <http://sharonhoward.org/zoterowiki/>

111 Social Media

Sessions cover the Library's Social Media Policy and offer practical introductions to Twitter and Blogging for beginners. Also, new for Autumn 2013 is an improvers session for more advanced social media users.

112 Working collaboratively: Using the BL Wiki and Beyond

Provides practical training in the Library's internal document sharing services such as the Wiki and Yammer as well as Google Drive, which underpin much of the Digital Scholarship Training Programme.

113 Presentation skills: From PowerPoint to Prezi

Strong presentation skills are vital for engaging audiences, ensuring your key messages are understood and positively remembered. This course covers presentation preparation, understanding and involving audiences, and using visual aid effectively.

See: <https://www.ned-potter.com/upcoming-events/in-house-presentation-skills-workshop-forthe-british-library>

114 Foundations in working with Digital Objects: From Images to A/V

Covers basic image and A/V literacy, introducing attendees to common terminology and concepts related to working with these digital objects. Through practical exercises participants learn about the creation, processing, editing, management and use of digital objects.

115 Behind the Screen: Basics of the Web

Introduces the history of computing, demystifying the difference between the internet and the web, and offers practical experience in creating simple webpages using different languages of the web including HTML, XHTML and XML.

117 Digital Storytelling

During this highly participative day, attendees will learn about storytelling as a communications approach, and consider its potential in the context of their own work. In more detail, they will write and refine ideas for stories, learn to work with different story structures, consider how their script could be enhanced with visuals and start creating a paper-based storyboard for their story. There will also be a demonstration of the different tools required for producing digital stories and guidance on using social media to improve the potential for sharing and discoverability.

119 Programming in Libraries

This course (formerly The Programming Curator) aims to provide an introduction to querying, transforming and mining research data using the command line. It will explore why well documented and structured research data is an important prerequisite of data mining, before introducing a number of basic Unix command line actions for querying, transforming, and mining research data. The course is aimed at beginners, so no knowledge of code or programming is required!

See: <http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/intro-to-bash>

Excel for Archivists - Level 1 & Level 2

Level 1 will use genuine archive lists to explore the features available in Excel 2016 which are useful to archivists and others. It aims to increase participants' confidence in using MS Excel 2016 for listing and cataloguing archives, including box listing and preparing catalogues for export into Calm or other systems, although we will not cover the actual import/export of data. Level 2 will build on this by exploring the tools that Excel offers to help with Data Improvement and Data Migration, including conditional formulas, combining formulas, and removing duplicate records.