



## The importance and use of digital primary sources in teaching and research

- Hugh Murphy, Head of Collections & Content, Maynooth University Library, Ireland
- Sarah Evans, Research and Collections Engagement Manager, Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)
- Kathryn Simpson, Lecturer in Information Studies, University of Glasgow
  - Poll Results
- Question and Answers

Please submit your questions for the Q&A panel throughout the presentations

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# Digital Primary sources in Maynooth University

Hugh Murphy

Head of Collections & Content

MU Library

@hughtweet

**W**

**Widow and her heirs**

**And the**

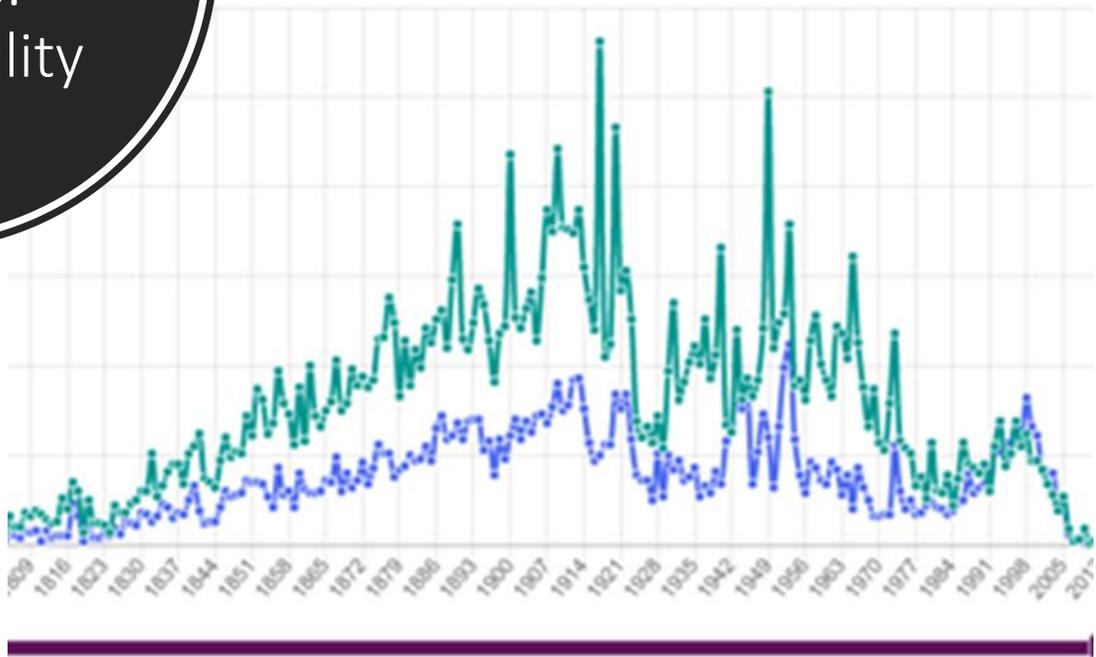
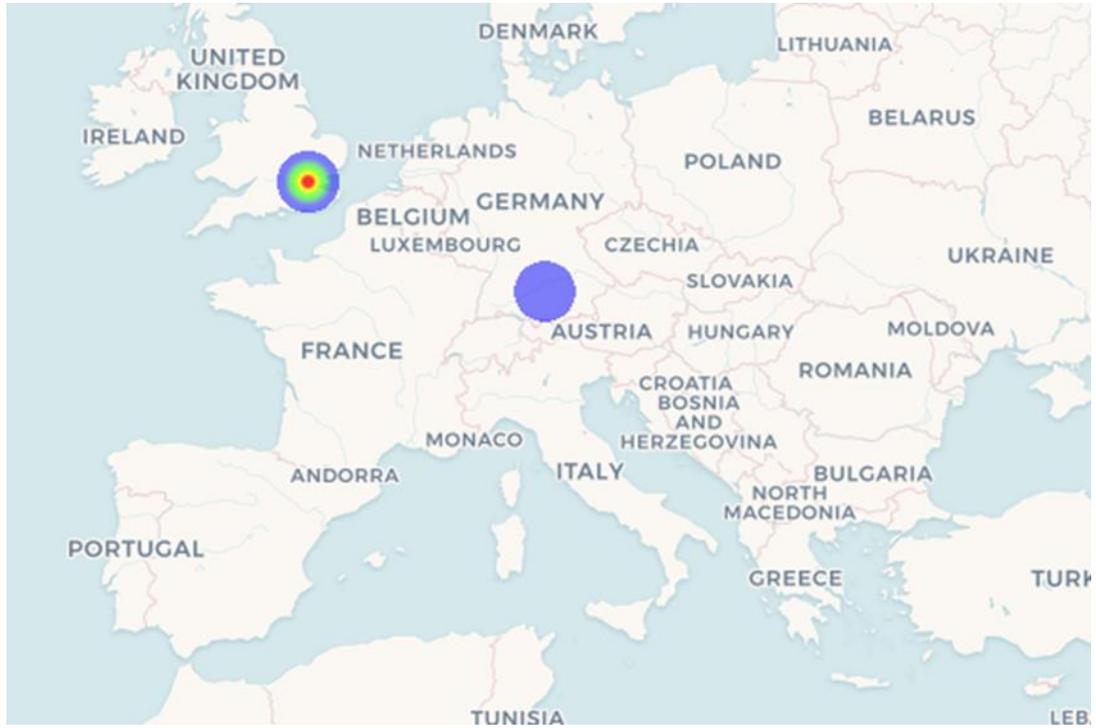
**Widow and her heirs**

**Provided also**

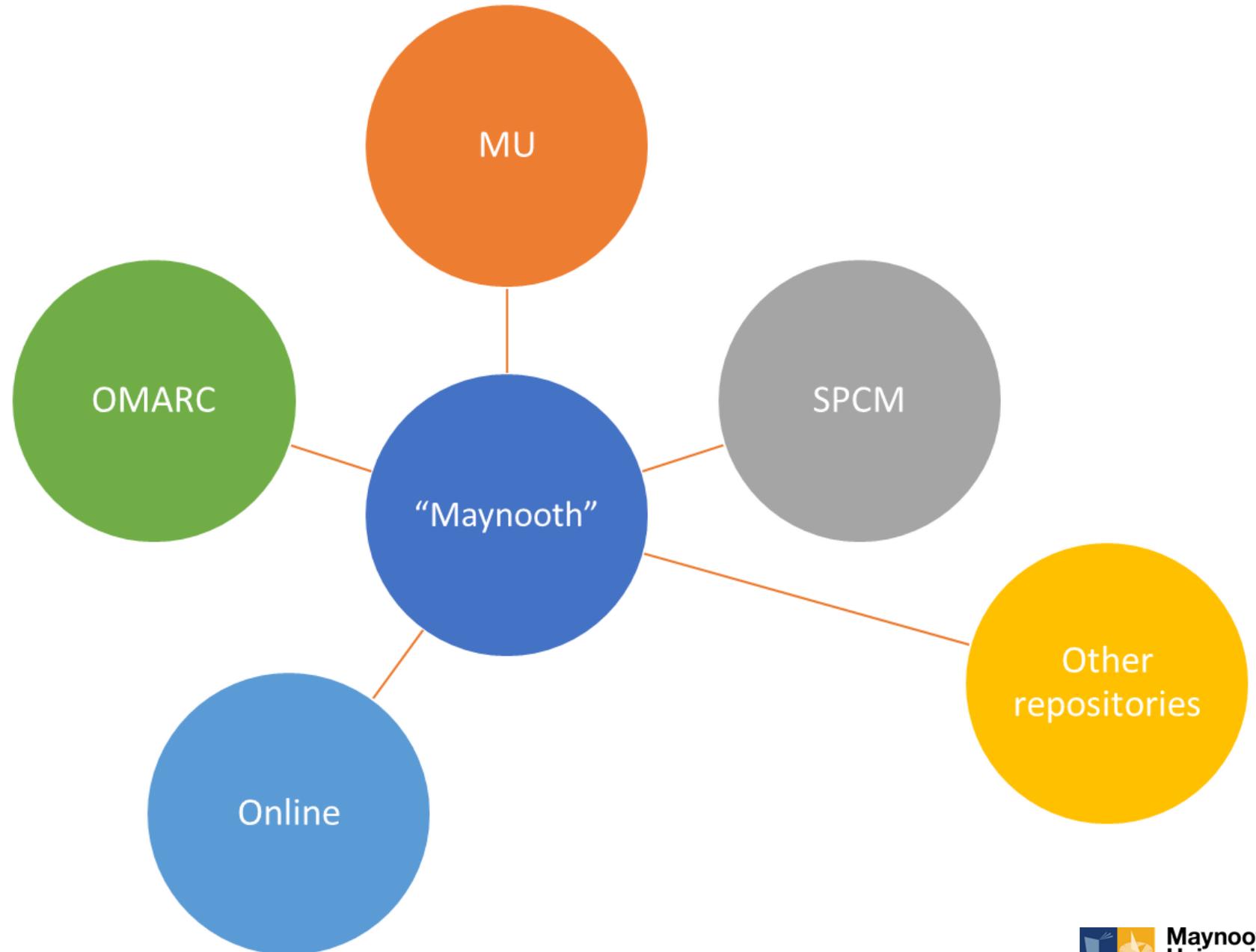
**And the**

**What is a primary source**

Digital primary sources:  
Functionality



What does  
this mean for  
library  
collections?



We aim in particular to stimulate developments in digitally-enabled and technology-supported learning. We intend to sponsor three significant pilot projects in this area and will build on the experience of these to establish a clear strategy for flexible and blended learning that is specific to the needs and objectives of Maynooth University.

## Teaching Learning Research

2.2 We will enhance the attractiveness, sustainability and flexibility of our taught Master's portfolio, enabling an increase in taught Master's enrolments from 1,000 to 1,600.

*While it is marvellous to be able to see digitised images of originals on screen, there is no substitute for getting to see or even handle the original letters. For those starting out on research in particular, that hands-on experience can be very important in igniting their enthusiasm for historical research as it conveys in a very powerful sensory way, the antiquity of the document (seal, handwriting, vellum/paper, signatures, corrections to mistakes made in drafting, etc.).*

*A good digitisation project needs to replicate all of that [drafts] material and not just the legible finessed letter as the very process of generating the source can reveal insights into how the writer's views change or are changed for him. A good digitisation project also needs to acknowledge gaps in collections, explicitly explain methodological decisions regarding sequencing of material (e.g. stating clearly if the ordering of material has been changed/'corrected' in the digitised version).*

*Furthermore, the absence of the collections from our University library has been a significant factor in dissuading otherwise keen students from pursuing doctoral studies and postdoctoral research at Maynooth.*

*Lack of institutional access has imposed restrictions on the variety and depth of course and programme content at all teaching levels, from undergraduate level upwards, particularly our MA offering*

*It would demonstrate the university's commitment to research excellence in the Arts and Humanities and would have a measurable impact in attracting funded research projects to the university.*

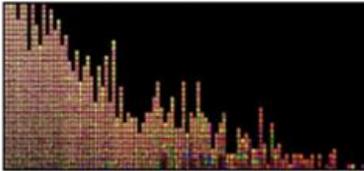
*Lack of access has been a serious brake to interdisciplinary research activity, imposing another hurdle of inconvenience to joint research proposals for funding.*

# Research



Few magazines can boast being continuously published for over a century, familiar and interesting to almost everyone, full of iconic pictures — and also completely digitized and marked up as both text and images. What can you do with over 2,700 covers, 400,000 pages, 6 TB of data? Students, librarians and faculty are excited about the possibilities of working with *Vogue* to explore questions in fields from gender studies to computer science. We highlight some early experiments below:

### Slice Histograms



Direct visualization of color patterns.

Explore »

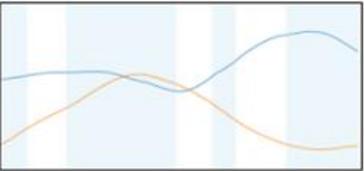
### Cover Averages



Visual continuity and change across the decades.

Explore »

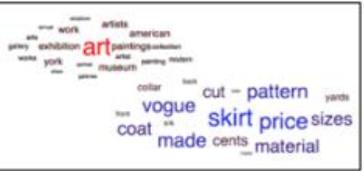
### n-gram Search



Search and compare word usage in 400,000+ pages within ads, articles, or all texts.

Explore »

### Topic Modeling



Self-organizing themes determined by word co-occurrence.

Explore »

### Advertisements



### Statistics



### Student Work



### Colormetric Space





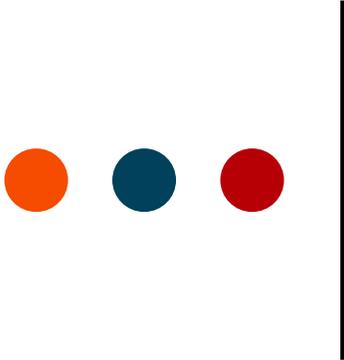
## Commerce and bias

**Thank you!**  
**Go raibh**  
**maith agaibh!**

Hugh Murphy

Head of Collections, Maynooth University Library

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>



# The importance and use of digital primary sources in teaching and research

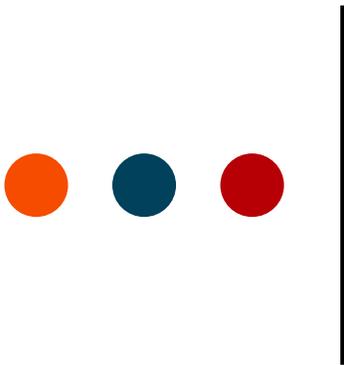
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and geographical learning

Unlocking the archives: supporting research  
and teaching with digitised materials

*Dr Sarah L. Evans, RGS-IBG*



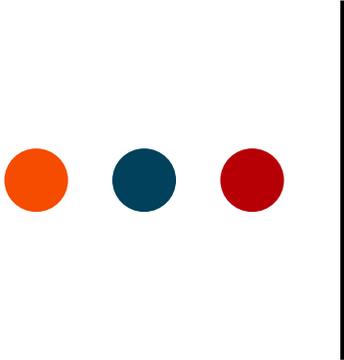
# Who we are – about the Society

**Royal  
Geographical  
Society**  
with IBG

Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

- The UK's **learned society and professional body** for geography, founded in 1830
- A **world leader in advancing geography** and supporting its practitioners in the UK and across the world
- Exists to advance geography and is actively involved in supporting and promoting **geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, policy, professional geographers, and public engagement**
- >16.5k members; 400 events (now online); significant online footprint





# About the Collections

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Over two million items, spanning over 500 years of geographical research and knowledge

- Open to the public since 2004 in the purpose-built Foyle Reading Room

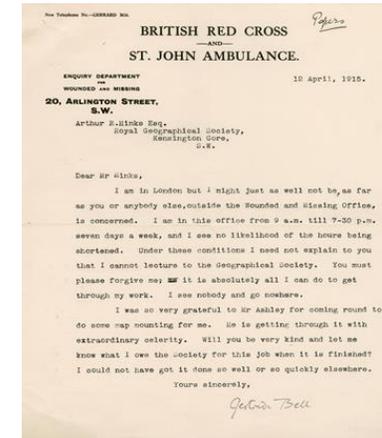
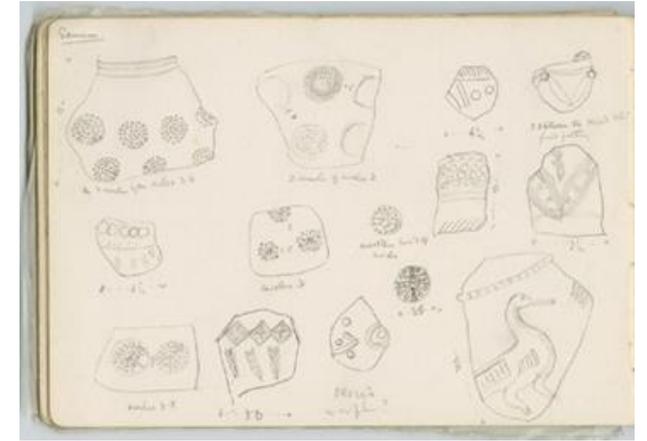
**[www.rgs.org/Collections](http://www.rgs.org/Collections)**



# Maps, archives, photographs and more..

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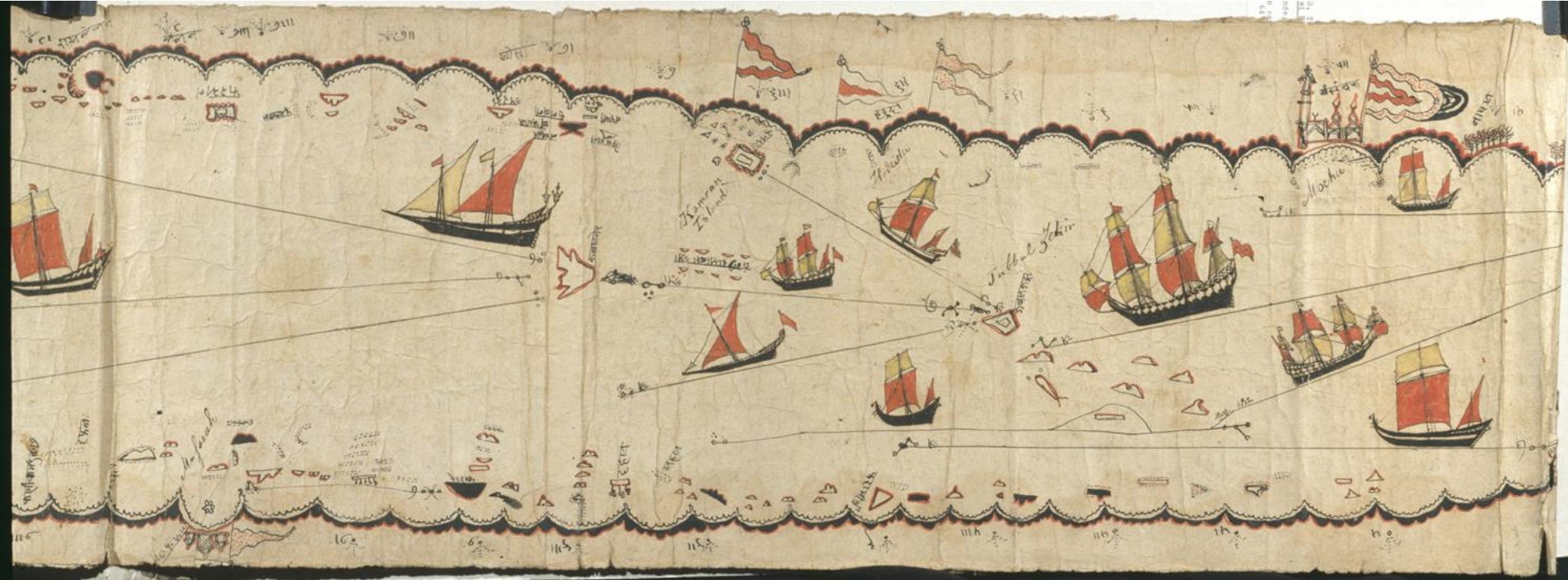




# Collaborative Doctoral Programme

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# Unlocking the Archives

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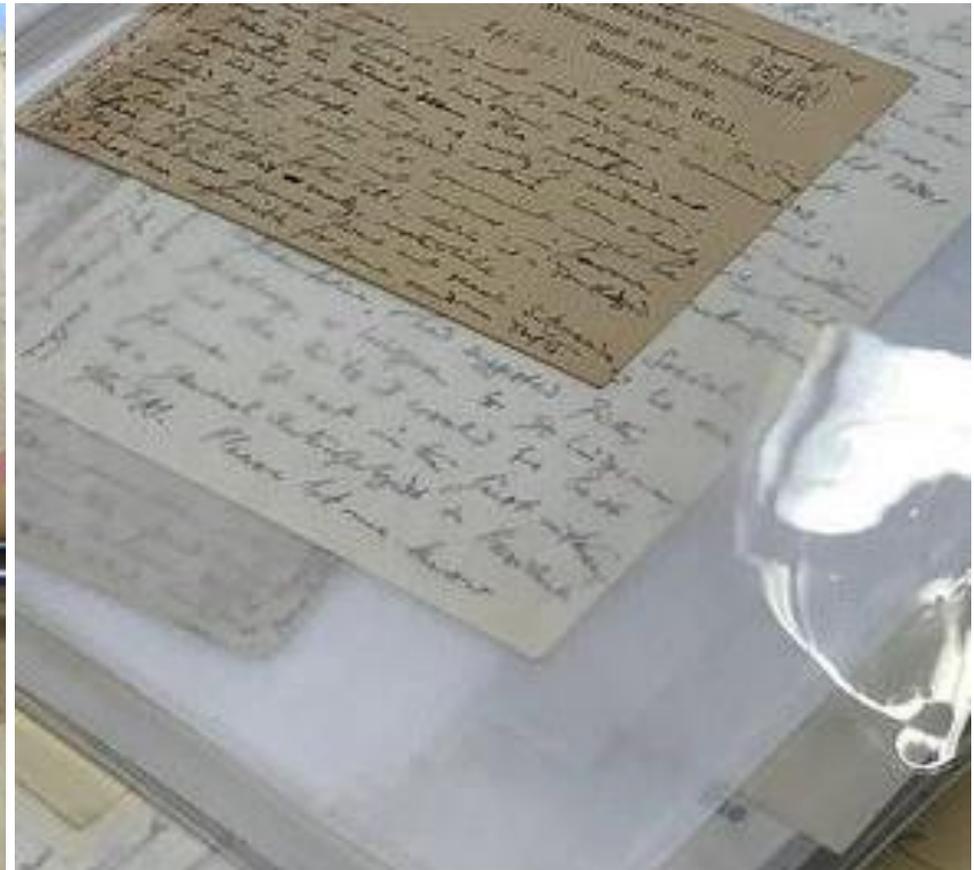
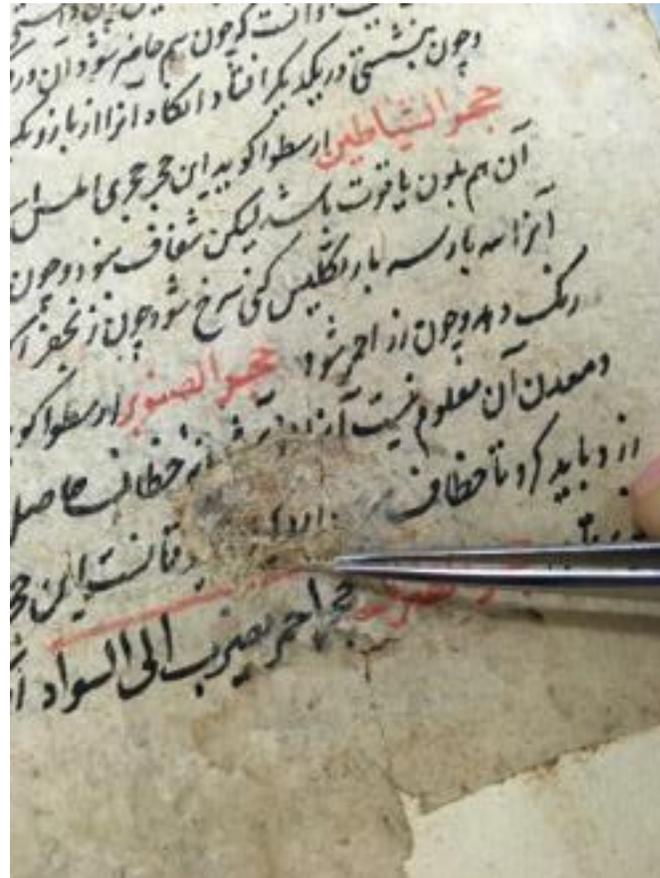


# Wiley Digital Archives

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# Wiley Digital Archives

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The screenshot displays the Wiley Digital Archives interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'ENGLISH', 'ABOUT', 'OTHER ARCHIVES', and 'TOOLS'. The main content area is titled 'Committee Minute Book' and includes the text: 'W. E. Goodenough, W. E. G., et al., Additional Papers, 1932-1938. Source: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)'. A 'Result View' sidebar on the left shows a grid of document thumbnails with page numbers 94, 154, 240, 258, 259, 287, and 460. The main document viewer shows a scanned page with the following text:

It was resolved that these plans be approved, that in informing the Foreign Office of the approval the relation between Mr. Courtauld's and Mr. Wager's plans should be explained.

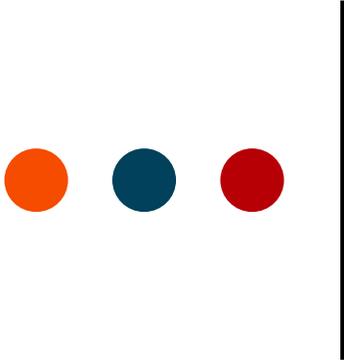
The President said that Mr. Wager was awaiting the result of his application to the Society before making any further effort to complete the funds for his expedition. £750 had been obtained from the Government Grant Fund of the Royal Society. Mr. Wager had informed him that it was now proposed that the wives of two members of the expedition should accompany the party and winter at Scoresby Sound, returning in the summer of 1936 by the Danish Government ship, while the party made the proposed overland journey to Kangerdlugsuak and returned by a Norwegian sealer if no Danish ship was available.

(e) Mr. Glen's plans were further considered, and the Committee was informed that if the promised £100 from the Society could be increased to £150 the sum required would be complete.

3. The President said that after careful consideration he proposed to the Committee that of the £400 available £200 should be allotted to Mr. Wager's expedition, £150 to Mr. Glen, and £50 to Mr. Shipton, and these proposals were accepted by the Committee for recommendation to the Council.

The President said that the Society must make a real effort to obtain gifts to the Expedition Fund.

At the bottom of the page, there is a signature 'D. Z. Cox' and the date '18/12/35'. The footer includes the copyright notice 'Copyright © 2000-2020 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., or related companies. All rights reserved.' and the Wiley logo.



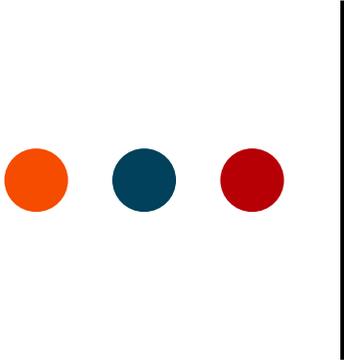
# WDA Research Fellowships

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- The Wiley Digital Archive Research Fellowships provide researchers with six months' access to the Wiley Digital Archives to pursue a focused research project.
- Successful applicants are asked to keep a research diary, provide updates on their progress, and submit a short report at the end of the project.
- There will also be opportunities for sharing their findings with wider audiences.



# Find out more and support our work

- Visit [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org)
- Follow us @RGS\_IBG
- Contact us – [rhed@rgs.org](mailto:rhed@rgs.org)

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Hidden Voices: Using the digital  
archive to critically renegotiate  
histories.

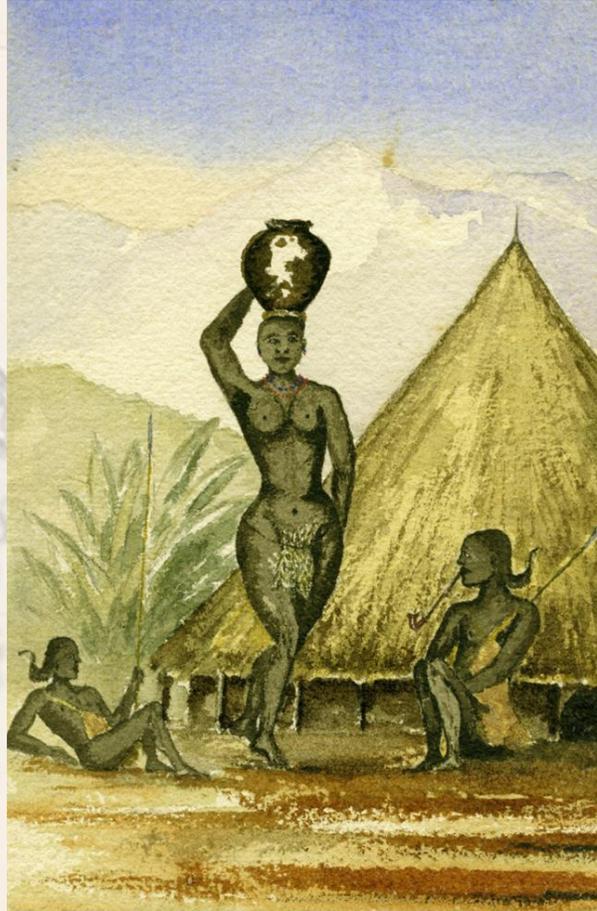
Kate Simpson  
@drkatesimpson

Baines, Thomas. "African War Fetish, Taken by the Boats of HMS 'Archer' 1865, in the River Congo." RGS Images Online, 1 Jan. 1865, <http://WDAgo.com/s/25f44a07>. Wiley Digital Archives: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).





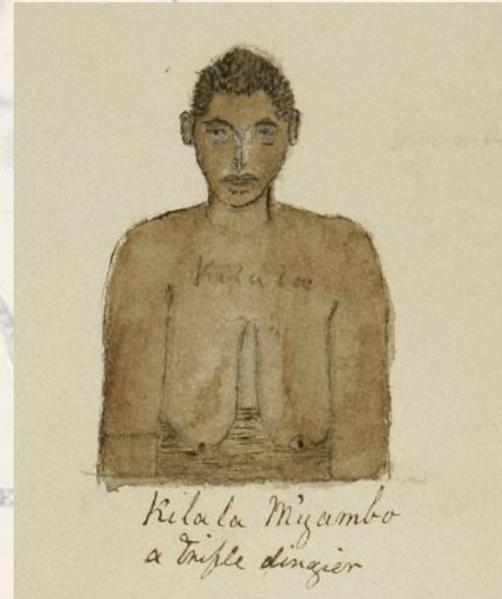
Baker, Samuel. "Women of Obbo." RGS Images Online, 5 Jan. 1863. Wiley Digital Archives, <http://WDAgo.com/s/75c2beea>.



Baines, Thomas. "Group of Sketches of African Men and Women." RGS Images Online, 29 Dec. 1851. Wiley Digital Archives, <http://WDAgo.com/s/91c7d98b>.



Eyton, F. J. "44 X Central Africa." Albums, 1869–1870. Wiley Digital Archives, <http://WDAgo.com/s/44e90a4e>.



Speke, Hanning John. "Illustrations of Four Local People Encountered." RGS Images Online, 1 Jan. 1860. Wiley Digital Archives, <http://WDAgo.com/s/106fba0e>.



**Unknown Lunda women.** Steel, A. E. "The Zambezi-Congo Watershed." Lantern Slides (cropped), No Date, <http://WDAgo.com/s/d90ad5e3>. Wiley Digital Archives: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

But Manenko was not to be circumvented in that way, She came forward, with her people and said her uncle would be angry if she did not carry forward the tusks and goods of Sekeletu, -seized the luggage and added she would carry it in spite of me—My men succumbed to this petticoat government sooner than I did so, leaving me no power, - and being unwilling to encounter her tongue I was moving off to the canoes; - but she gave me a kind explanation, and with her hand on my shoulder put on a motherly look saying, now my little man just do as the rest have done My feelings of annoyance of course vanished, and I went out to try and get some meat.

David Livingstone, *Missionary Travels* (Edinburgh: John Murray, 1857).

Baines, Thomas. "Our Wagon at Leshu Kabebis Town Preparing to Leave." RGS Images Online, 4 Sept. 1862, <http://WDago.com/s/af7993ff>. Wiley Digital Archives: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

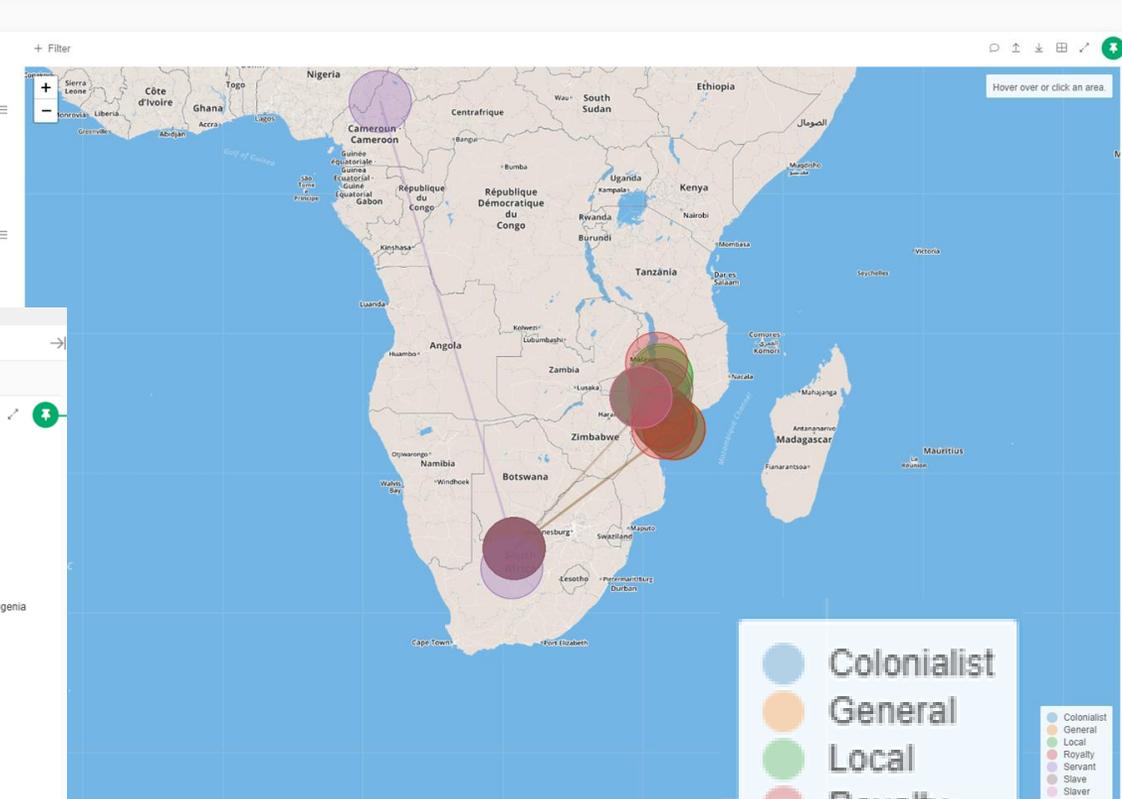
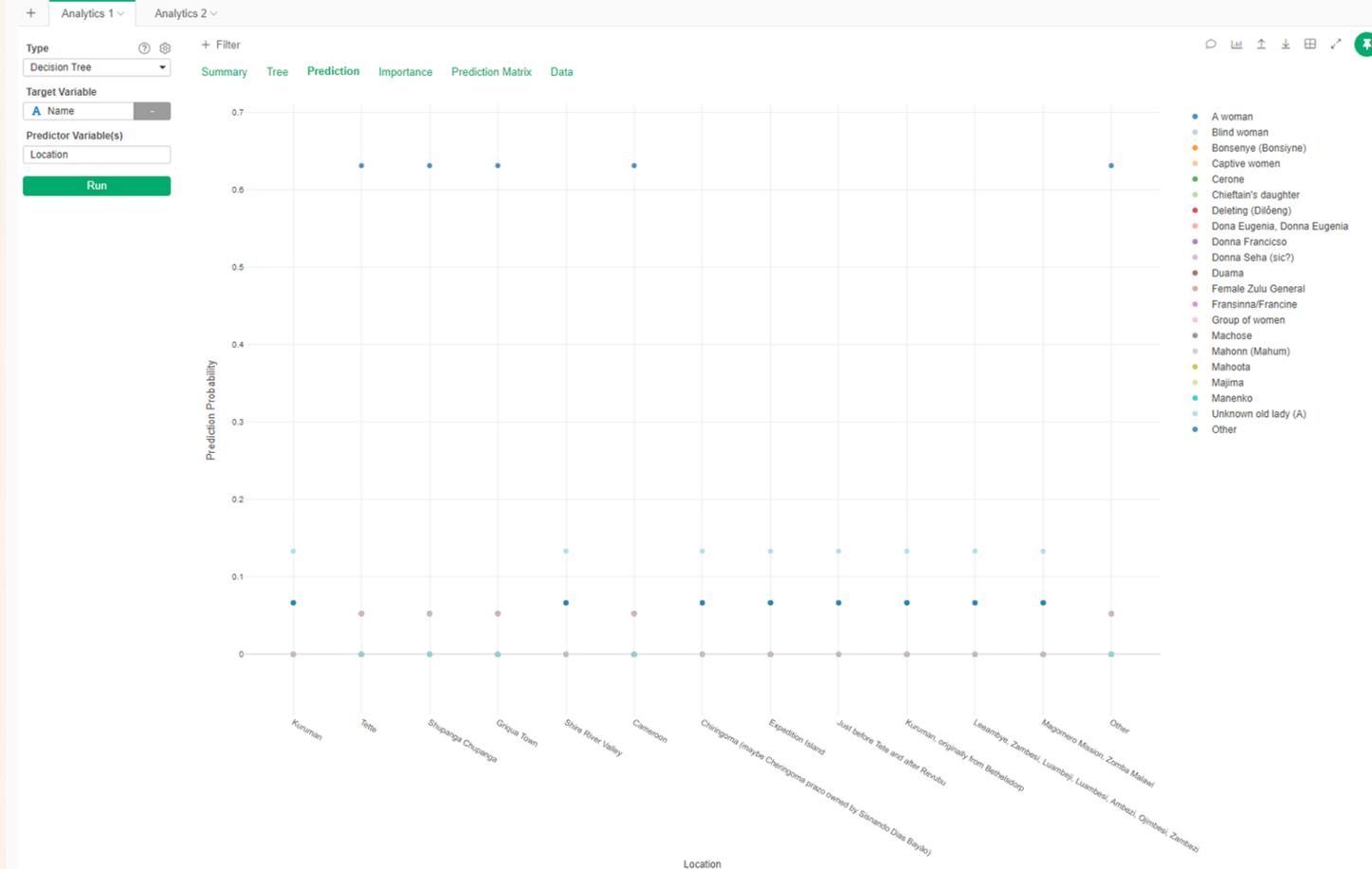






My work could not take place without the scholarship and research of the following people, to whom I give thanks

Marenka Thompson-Odlum	Sybren Renema	Walima T. Kalusa
David Chanaiwa	Mark Campbell	Steve Martin
Petina Gappah	Andrea Fatona	Tsitsi Dangarembga
Joseph Ki-Zerbo	Yvonne Kabombwe	Chisomo Kalinga
Kristin Moriah	Arturo Alfonso Schomburg	Booker T. Washington



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**Thank you!**

