

About the National Library of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland is a major European research library and one of the world's leading centres for the study of Scotland and the Scots - an information treasure trove for Scotland's knowledge, history and culture. The Library's collections are of world-class importance.

The Library holds well over 14 million items, including printed items, approximately 100,000 manuscripts and nearly 2 million maps. Every week it collects approximately 6,000 new items via Legal Deposit. Since 2008 NLS also incorporates the Scottish Screen Archive, Scotland's national moving image collection. It holds more than 32,000 films and videos presenting over 100 years of Scotland's history.

Manuscripts and archives are the responsibility of the Manuscripts Division. The first manuscript was acquired by the predecessor of the NLS, the Advocates Library, in 1683, and since 1925 the Library has been the repository of the major collections of manuscripts and archives which cover many aspects of the lives, activities and interests of Scots at home and abroad.

The Library is a major centre for David Livingstone studies, with a large collection of letters, journals, maps and other papers of Livingstone, and papers of several friends and associates in his African missions and explorations, including figures such as Sir Henry M. Stanley, Sir John Kirk and Robert Moffat.

The collection also features diary segments written by Livingstone on his final expedition, which would later be written up in his *Last Journal*. Livingstone wrote the entries in 1870-71 on scraps of paper and on pages torn from printed books and newspapers. This makes the entries all the more difficult to read and an ideal subject for this project.

The acquisition of the John Murray Archive in 2006 further augmented the Library's existing Livingstone holdings. Highlights include the manuscript of the book of Livingstone's first expedition, *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*. Published by John Murray in 1857, the year after Livingstone returned from his first expedition, *Missionary Travels* was a huge success; the first print run of 12,000 copies sold out before publication, and the book went on to several reprints and editions.

Links

The National Library of Scotland: <http://www.nls.uk/>