

BLT19 Pilot Project

Progress Report

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BLT19 Project Précis

- **Aims**

- Make lesser-known business, labour, temperance, and trade periodicals digitally available
- Provide pedagogical materials to promote study of 19th-century periodicals in secondary and undergraduate classrooms

- **Planned Outcomes**

- Digitised periodicals
- Open-access website
- Web-based collection of teaching materials
- Published volume of essays

BLT19 Pilot Project (April-July 2016)

- **Digitisation**

- *British Workman* (1855-1921): Digitised 1-43 (1855-1858) and 77-120 (1861-1864)
- *Stationery Trade Review* (1881-1913): Digitised vol. 7 (Jan – Nov 1887)
- Blt19.org website

- **Teacher Materials**

- Theme-based Teacher Materials
- Pilots in Greenwich-area classrooms
- Secondary Materials (essays, bios, image galleries, etc.)

Digitisation



BLT19

Nineteenth-Century Business, Labour, Temperance & Trade Periodicals

The **BLT19 Project** encourages teachers to use digitised historical periodicals in the classroom. The website provides lesson plans, digitised publications, case studies, and contextual materials suitable for secondary and undergraduate students.

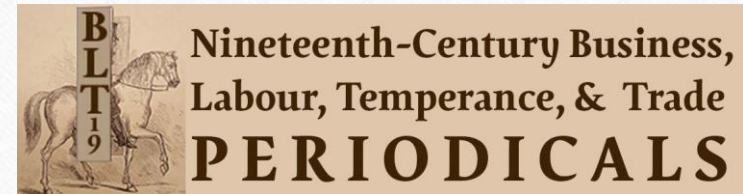
The periodicals digitised by the **BLT19 Project** contain a variety of content well-suited to the classroom both in terms of subject matter and length: nonfiction articles, short stories, serial fiction, poetry, advertising, and illustrations. We identify a number of possible themes to use either as stand-alone lessons or in conjunction with existing literature, history or media-studies modules.

The BLT19 Project site is currently under construction. Content and its location may change. We wanted to make materials available even if they are not "complete" or "final." The site is a work in progress that highlights and embraces the mutability and flexibility of new media.



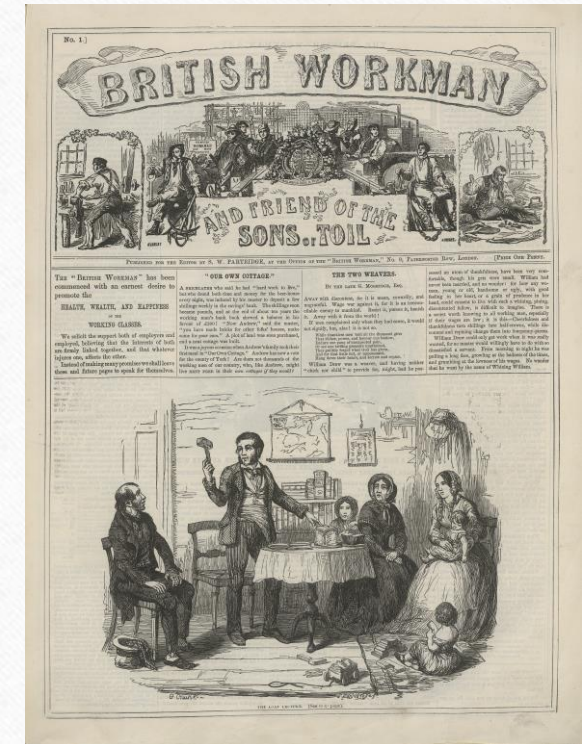
Project Identity: BLT19

- Logo and identity (sandwich-board theme)
 - Marketing materials
 - Facebook
 - Twitter @blt19Project
- Domain(s)
 - Blt19.co.uk, blt19.org, blt19.com, blt19.net
 - Next phase: blt19.ac.uk



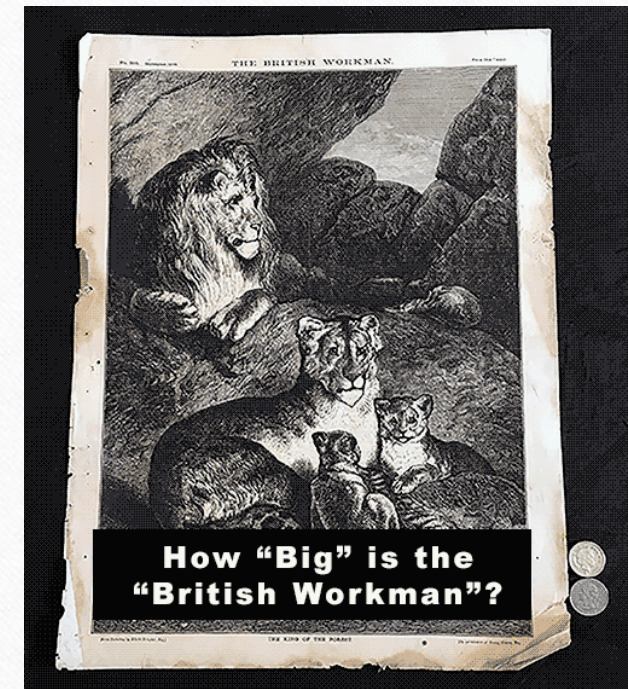
Digitisation: Image Files

- Bids from two potential contractors
- Hollingworth & Moss selected
 - Non-destructive scanning equipment – automatic page turning
 - Scanning took approx. 2 weeks
 - JPEG, TIFF, PDF with OCR



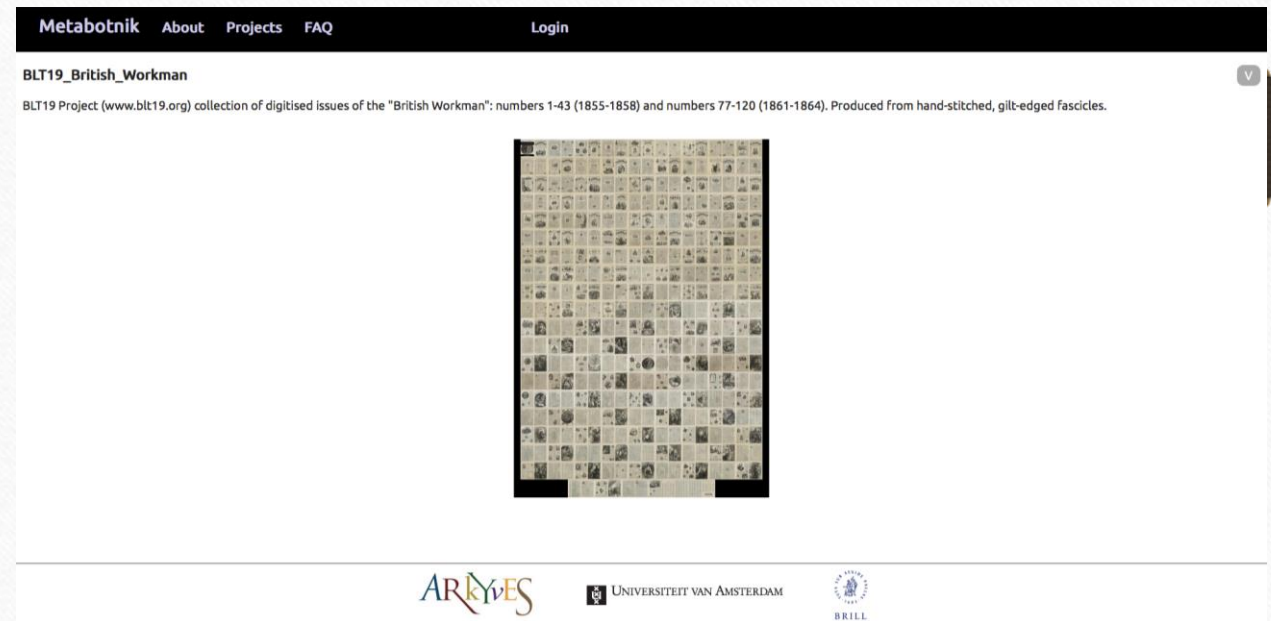
Digitisation: Website

- **BLT19.org/BLT19.co.uk** = what we could do with limited time and limited tech support
 - Commercial rather than institutional host
 - WordPress – various free plug-ins
- **Work in Progress**
- Content = samples to show potential for future expansion



Digitisation: *Alternative Interface*

- Metabotnik
 - Image-based – highly-detailed resolution
 - Zoom and browse (no search)
 - Gives a different sense of periodicals' design/layout over time
 - <https://metabotnik.com/projects/259/>
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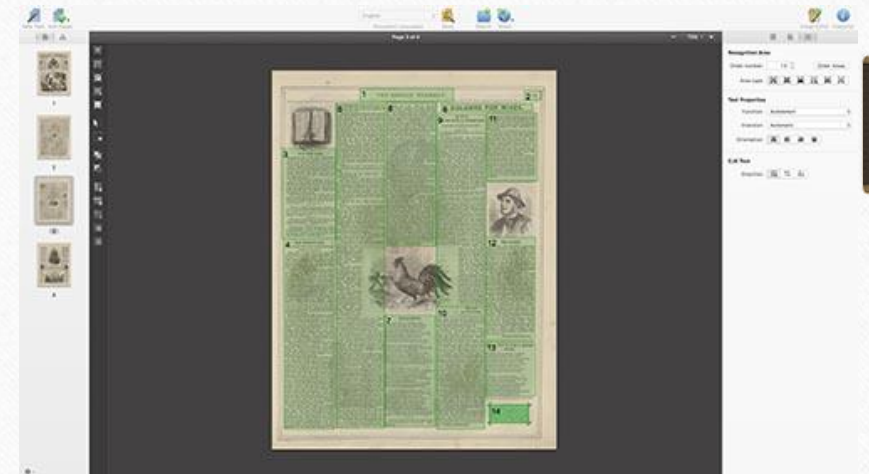


Digitisation: Status

- Issues, files, and OCR text still being added
 - *British Workman* 1-43 (1855-1858) + 77-120 (1861-1864) + Index
 - PDFs and Image files for all issues uploaded
 - OCR – only through number 30
 - *Stationery Trade Review* vol. 7 (Jan – Nov 1887)
 - PDFs for all issues uploaded
 - OCR – only number 1

Digitisation Challenge 1: OCR

- OCR from Hollingworth & Moss poor
 - *British Workman* layout/design resists machine reading
- Abbyy FineReader Pro for Mac
 - OCR quality surprisingly good
 - Lightly-edited OCR on website (mostly formatting cleanup – removing line breaks and extra spaces)
 - Search results improved
- **Lesson**
 - Good OCR can be produced, but it takes time and human intervention



Digitisation Challenge 2: Platform

- Platform and host limits influenced unit of consideration and layout
 - File size – single-issue organisation rather than annual or full-run
 - PDF embedder – free plug-in does not allow downloads
 - Multiple file formats – image and downloadable PDFs included for flexibility
- Searching capabilities/interface poor
- **Lesson**
 - More robust platform and asset management system needed in next phase

Digitisation: Recommendations

- Transform from digital to DH
 - More Rigorous Platform
 - Digital Asset Management Infrastructure
 - TEI or Other Coding Structure
- Pre-planning and editorial decisions before moving to new platform

Teacher Materials



Theme 2: Identifying Target Audience

Academic Level

- Key Stage 4 (UK)

Subject(s)

- English Language and Literature
 - Interpreting Texts
 - Interpreting Images
 - Identifying Target Audience

Time

- 2 hours (2 1-hour lessons)

Downloadable/Printable Files of Materials on this Page



Teacher Materials

- **Themes**

- Industrialisation
- Target Audience
- Gender
- Colonialism
- Trade Periodicals

- **Academic Levels**

- UK Key Stages 3, 4, 5
- Undergraduate

- **Additional Materials**

- Essays (“Topics”)
- Bios (“People”)
- Image Galleries

Teacher Materials: Secondary

- **Collaboration with Royal Borough of Greenwich**
 - **Sue Gyde**, School Improvement Advisor in English and Literacy, Royal Borough of Greenwich
 - **Thomas Tallis School** – mixed comprehensive in Kidbrooke, Greenwich
 - **Eltham Hill** – all girls school in Eltham, Greenwich
- **AQA GCSE – English Language**
 - High-quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries
 - Literary non-fiction, essays, reviews, and journalism

Teacher Materials: Pilots

- **THOMAS TALLIS:** English, Year 8 (Key Stage 4) – Hannah Davey-Smith
 - Gender in the *British Workman*
- **ELTHAM HILL:** English, Year 7 (Key Stage 3) – Richard Luke
 - Industrialisation and the *British Workman*
 - Industrialisation and the *British Workman* – Child Labour
- **ELTHAM HILL:** English, Year 8 (Key Stage 3) – Arooj Ahmad
 - Representation of Women in the *British Workman*

Teacher Materials: Arooj Ahmad (Eltham Hill)

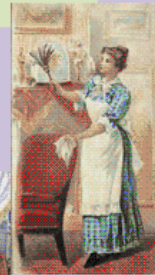
The Good Wife

Learning Objective: To explore the representation of women in Victorian Periodicals

Starter:

Draw a spider diagram and explore the traditional expectations of wives

Challenge: How have these stereotypes influenced our perception of women today?



Teacher Materials: Key Findings

- BLT19 materials fulfill UK English Language and Literature GCSE requirements (19c non-fiction)
- *British Workman* images were particularly effective
- Teacher materials need to be adaptable so teachers can tailor lessons to their students and teaching styles
- Teachers and classrooms do not necessarily have access to technology and online materials – paper-based alternatives still needed
- Students enjoyed working with the physical, material periodicals--something that will not be available to all BLT19 users and cannot be replicated on the digital platform

BLT19 Conclusion
