

# WORKING FROM SCRAPS: DIGITAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE EDWIN MORGAN SCRAPBOOKS

Bridget Moynihan, University of Edinburgh, [@MyLiminality](#)

***Collaborators:***

*Jonathan Armoza, NYU, [@JonathaNgrams](#),*

*Dr. Anouk Lang, University of Edinburgh, [@a\\_e\\_lang](#)*

**STM  
WEEK  
2018**

# 1. *The Working from Scraps Project*



---

Scrapbook Images: Glasgow University Flickr Album "Edwin Morgan"



# Edwin Morgan (1920-2010)

## Scrapbooks

- 16 scrapbooks compiled between 1931-1967
- Rich resources showing queer identity, evolving technology, and the impact of war over 40 years
- A wide range of sources, including magazines, newspapers, literature, personal photographs, letters, drawings and more



# Digitising the Edwin Morgan Scrapbooks

Home

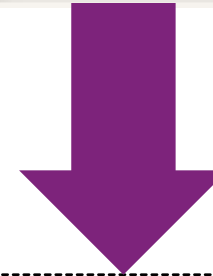
About ▾

View the Scrapbooks

Research ▾

Conclusion

Resources

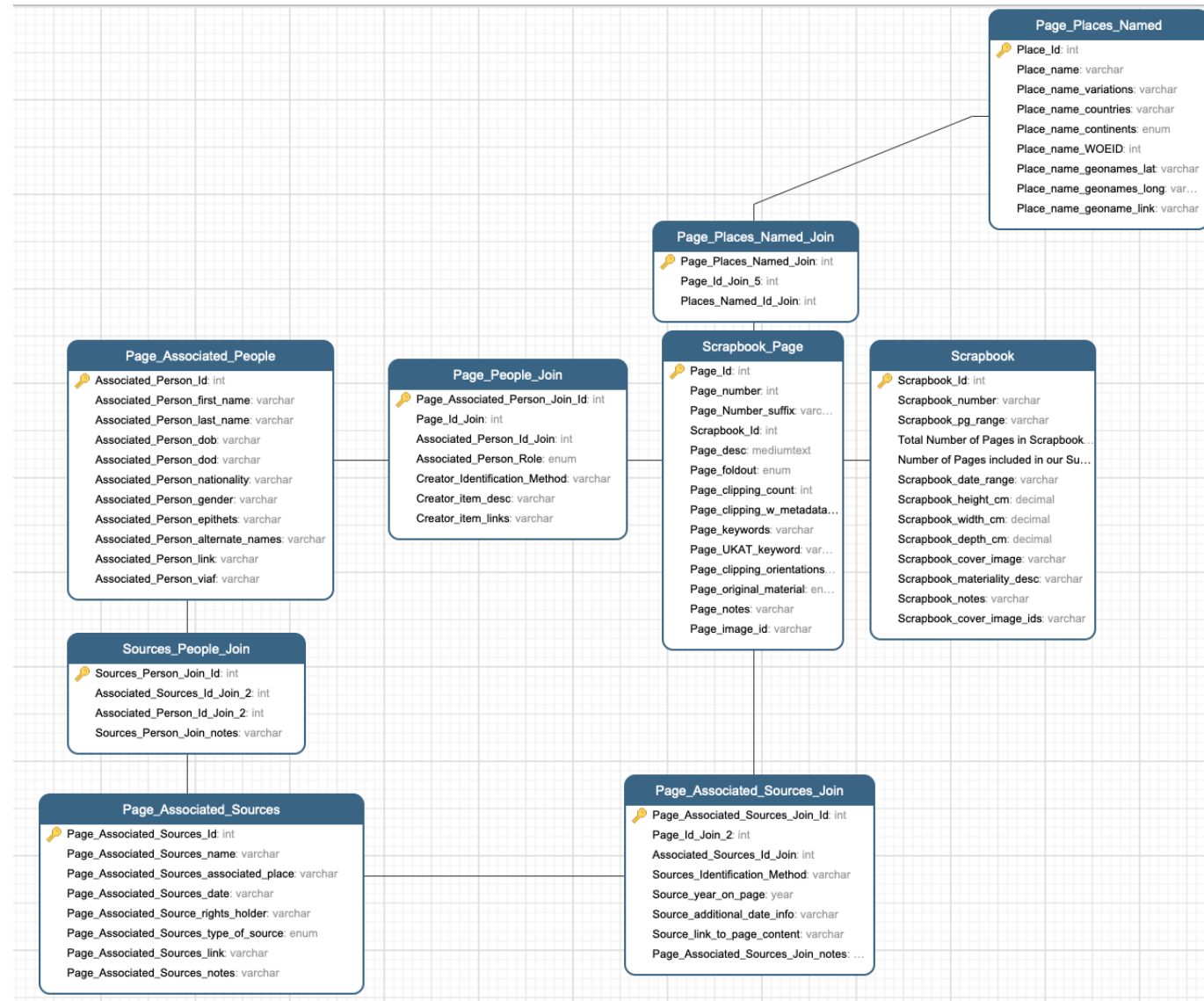


“With respect to the 16 scrapbooks created by Edwin Morgan, we estimate that it would take one researcher over **8 years** to undertake the diligent search activity alone, at a cost of more than **£185,000.**”

--Deazley, Patterson, and Stobo 2017

# Innovating Around Copyright

- **Capture** rich metadata for the scrapbooks in a relational MariaDB database
- **Experiment** with digital prototypes that depart from facsimiles to give the scrapbooks an online presence
- **Explore** media-specific forms of meaning-making embodied by the scrapbooks



Scrapbook 9 : Pages 1519-1520



Scrapbook 12 : Pages 2261-2262



Scrapbook 12 : Pages 2407-2408

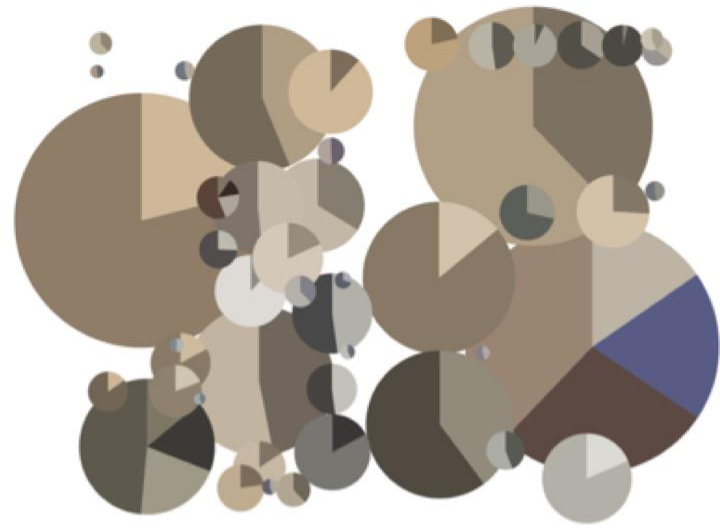


Scrapbook 12 : Pages 2423-2424

Pages 1519-1520



Pages 2261-2262

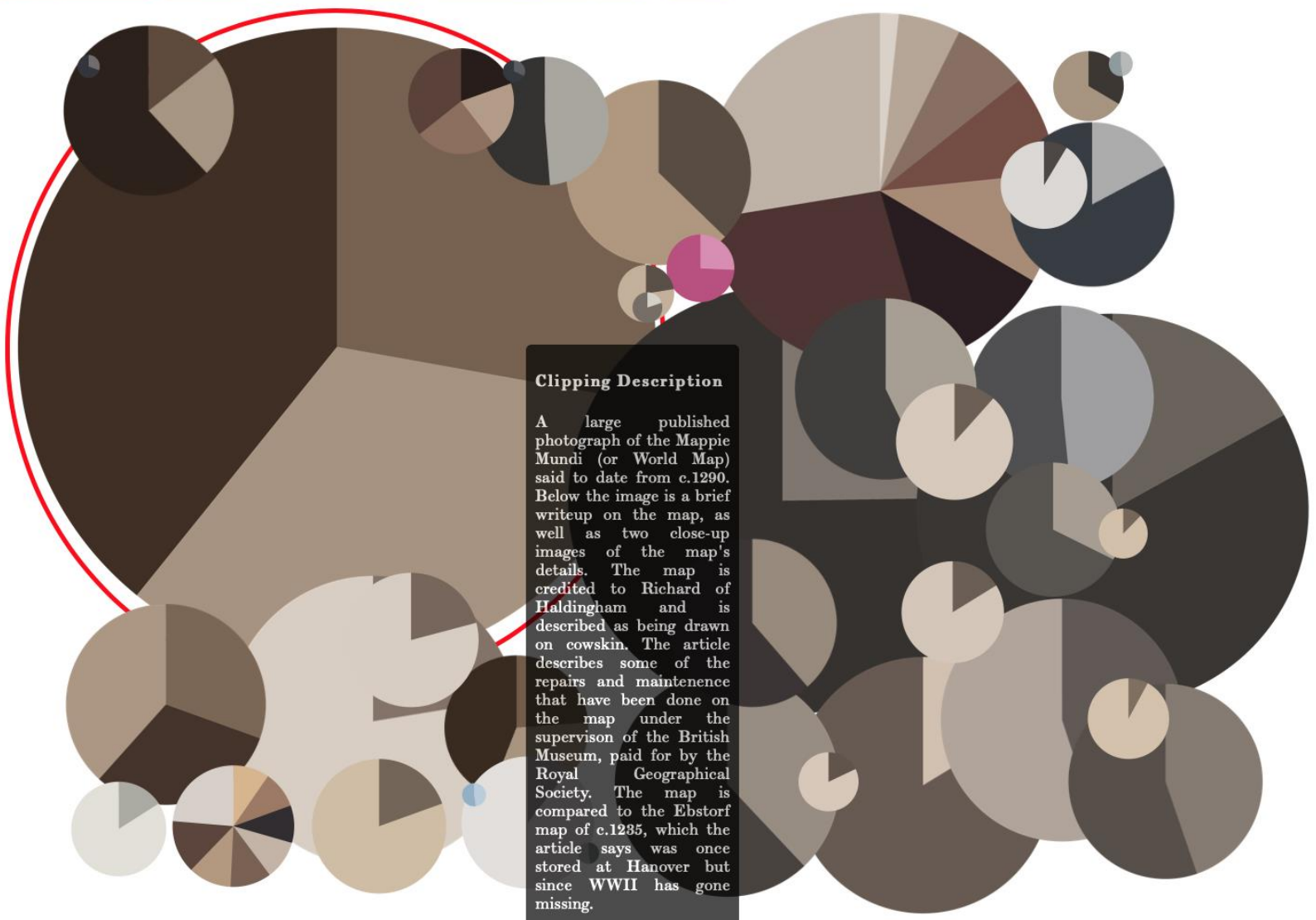


Pages 2407-2408



Pages 2423-2424





**Clipping Description**

A large published photograph of the Mappie Mundi (or World Map) said to date from c.1290. Below the image is a brief writeup on the map, as well as two close-up images of the map's details. The map is credited to Richard of Haldingham and is described as being drawn on cowskin. The article describes some of the repairs and maintenance that have been done on the map under the supervision of the British Museum, paid for by the Royal Geographical Society. The map is compared to the Ebstorf map of c.1285, which the article says was once stored at Hanover but since WWII has gone missing.

**Component Description**

A large image of the Mappie Mundi (or World Map) said to date from c.1290. Sepia tones.

*Built in collaboration with Akmal Putra, Advanced MSc., University of Edinburgh*

<http://ed-morgan.com/scripts/circles.php>

Select a book



*Built in collaboration with Jonathan Armoza, Doctoral Fellow, NYU [@JonathaNgrams](https://twitter.com/JonathaNgrams)*

<https://working-from-scrap.s.herokuapp.com/>

# 2. Open Scholarship



- Public online prototypes
- Code shared via Github
- Connect to linked data (VIAF, WOEID)
- Database to be made public
- Our tools therefore:
  - **increase** the discoverability of the scrapbooks online
  - **reach** out to a range of users and interest levels to help explore the scrapbooks
  - **show** the value of rich, creative metadata in thinking beyond the facsimile



# 3. Publishers and Scrapbooks



The largest collections of scrapbooks in the public domain include the more than six thousand volumes at the Library of Congress, Washington DC ...  
**However, virtually every special collections unit has scrapbooks.**

--Tucker, Ott, Buckler 2006, p285

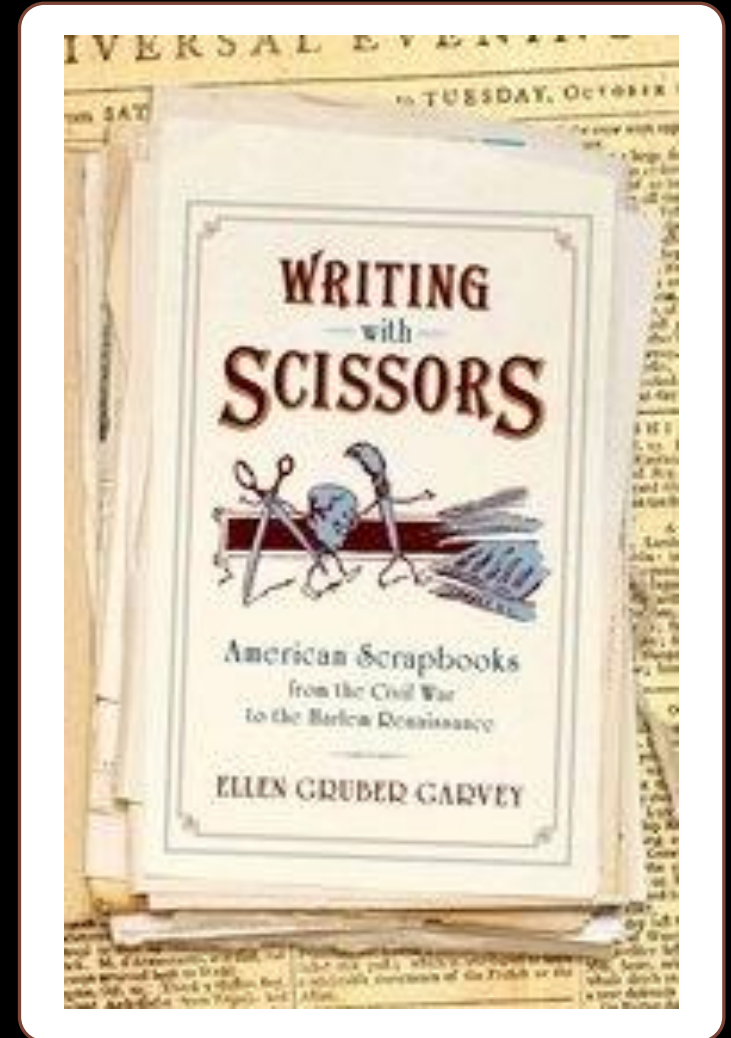


THE SCRAPBOOK  
in AMERICAN LIFE

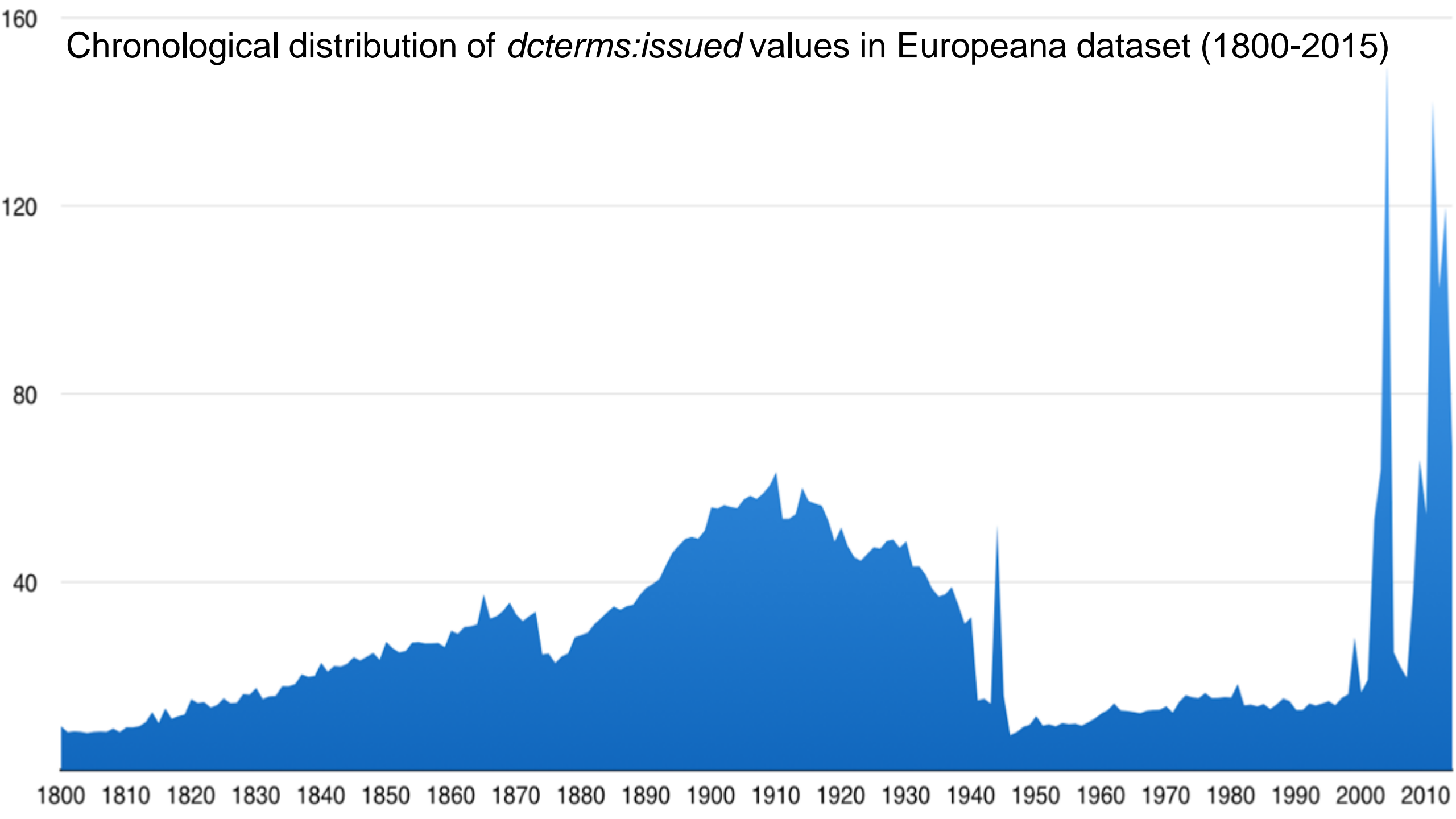
EDITED BY  
Susan Tucker, Katherine Ott, and Patricia P. Buckler

Scrapbooks are the **archives of marginalized groups and ideas** made when such groups were largely kept out of bricks-and-mortar collections. As organizational structures, they [scrapbooks] reflect and embody the thinking of those groups.

--Garvey 2012, p209



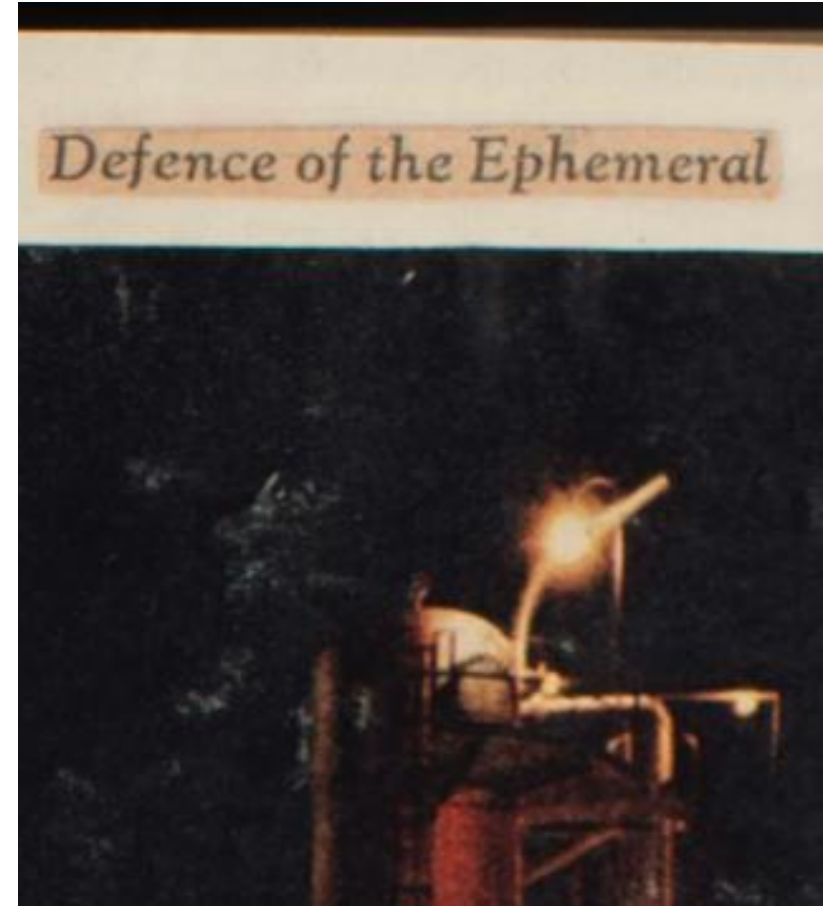
Chronological distribution of *dcterms:issued* values in Europeana dataset (1800-2015)





# Publishers Can Help:

- **Approach** scrapbooks and similarly ephemeral artifacts as texts worthy of publication
- **Collaborate** with research/archival institutions to tackle legal, material, and financial constraints to publication
- **Innovate** publication platforms to enable more creative routes of access by marginalized forms of media
- **Review and assess** digital interfaces and visualizations as arguments and forms of scholarly output
- **Emphasize** with and to legislators the need for changes to copyright laws that more readily account for marginalized and otherwise difficult texts



Thank you!  
And thanks to:

$\square \text{km}^2 \text{mm}^2$   $\square \text{km}^\circ \text{Cmm}^3 \ell$   $\uparrow \text{k} \ell \text{gmm}^2 \text{mm} \ell$   $\square \text{gmcc} \text{kg} \text{t}$



University  
of Glasgow

SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS



THE CARNEGIE TRUST  
FOR THE UNIVERSITIES OF SCOTLAND