



# Digital Libraries as a Tool Uniting Communities

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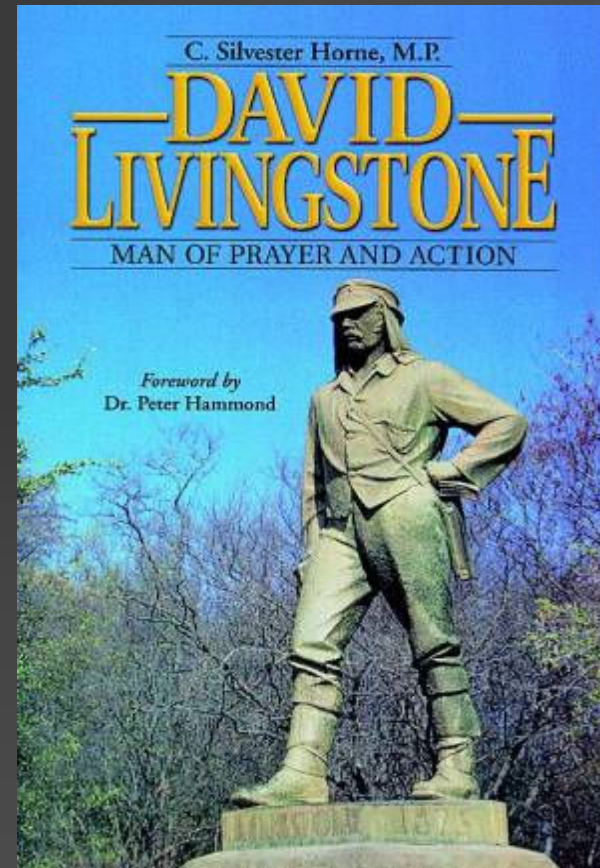
# University of Strathclyde

- 18<sup>th</sup> Century > James Watt > Steam Engine > Industrial Revolution > Environmental Pollution and Global Warming



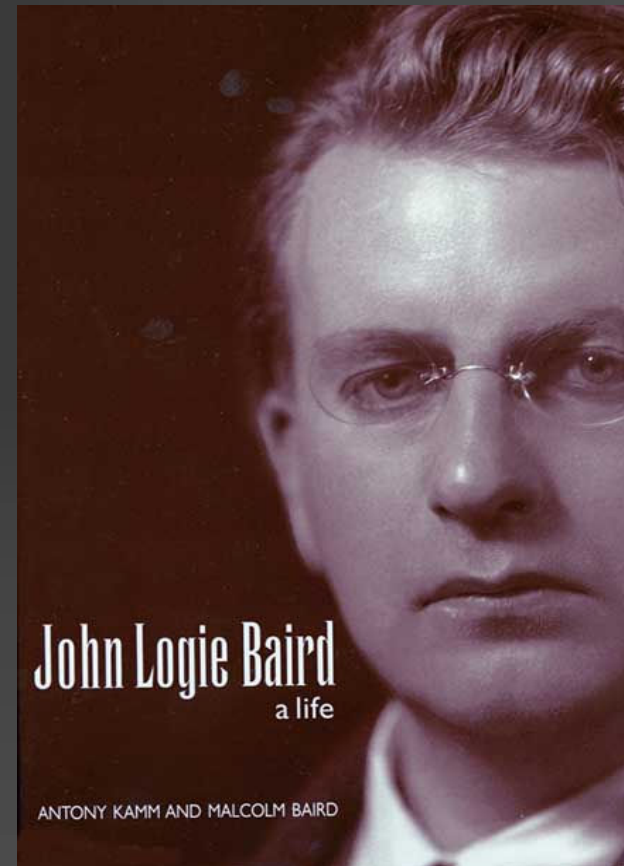
# University of Strathclyde

- James Watt
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century > David Livingstone > Exploration of Africa > British Empire > Political chaos from Iraq to the Malvinas



# University of Strathclyde

- James Watt
- David Livingstone
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century > John Logie Baird > television > Baywatch and Big Brother



# University of Strathclyde

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- James Watt
- David Livingstone
- John Logie Baird
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century > Arthur Van Hoff > Javascript > Pop up windows



# Why bother getting involved?

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- Leave it to technology
    - But we are user focussed
  - Leave it to the market?
    - But we want to change society
  - Leave it to big countries?
    - But one size doesn't fit all
    - Not everyone wants to share
    - Small is beautiful from Finland to Singapore
  - Leave it to publishers?
    - But they have no grandmothers
-



**Why you should fall to your  
Knees  
and worship a Librarian**

# Trust Me I'm a Librarian

- “People become librarians because they know too much. Their knowledge extends beyond mere categories. They cannot be confined to disciplines. Librarians are all-knowing and all-seeing. They bring order to chaos. They bring wisdom and culture to the masses. They preserve every aspect of human knowledge. Librarians rule. And they will kick the crap out of anyone who says otherwise.”

(Olson, 2000)



# Underpinning philosophy

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- The Vesalius Conundrum
  - This is rocket science not a plug in the wall
  - Ease of use = “the satisfied inept”
  - IT Skills Gap is growing (Production < demand)
  - Public sector bodies are producers not just consumers of information
  - The Internet is AT PRESENT very flawed as a teaching and learning tool
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# User not technology driven

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- The Library as place
    - Second most used public service
    - University space has not grown
  - Staff and students are library conservatives
  - Communities share a history
  - Librarians can collect and interpret that
  - Returning their history to communities
  - Collection focussed
-

# Glasgow Digital Library

Organised digital collections to support teaching, learning and research



## Aspect

Assets of Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999



## Red Clydeside

Political History of the Scottish Left 1910-1922



## Springburn Virtual Museum

Photographs from Springburn Community Museum 1880-1987



## Voyage of the Scotia

Scottish National Antarctic Expedition 1902-04



## GlasgowInfo

Directory information for and about Glasgow 2002



## 100 Glasgow Men

Memoirs and Portraits of 100 Glasgow Men 1855-1885



## Virtual Mitchell

Images of Glasgow by area, street or subject 1860-1980



## Victorian Times

Social, political, and economic conditions 1837-1901

[Overview](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Reports](#) | [Policies](#)

The Glasgow Digital Library is based at the [Centre for Digital Library Research](#) in the [University of Strathclyde](#). It was set up as part of the [Research Support Libraries Programme](#), supplemented by funding from [SCRAN](#) for specific digitisation projects.

# Glasgow Digital Library

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- Identifying Resources for Digitisation
  - Encouraging Electronic Content Creation
  - Cost-cutting by City-wide Licences
  - Mirroring heavily used content
    - The Virtual Human
  - Setting and Implementing Standards
  - A distributed regional resource - ScoDiDiLi
-



..\Pictures\Valley\Community in  
the Tibetan & Himalayan Digital  
Library.htm



THE EVE OF WAR  
VALLEY  
OF THE  
SHADOW

TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE  
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

EDWARD L. AYERS

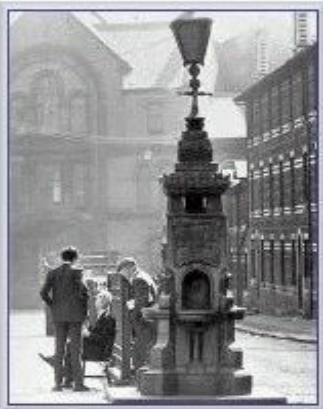
ANNE S. RUBIN



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# Springburn Virtual Museum

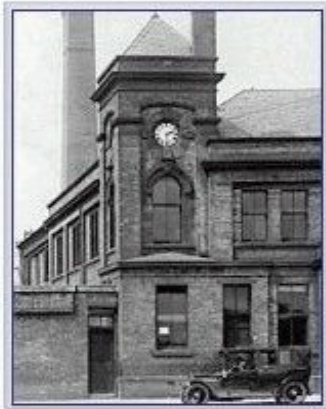
An online exhibition of photographs and related materials from Springburn Community Museum



**Community life**



**Railway industry**



[Background](#) | [Bibliography](#) | [Links](#)



W. Graham  
1907/7/97





# Red Clydeside



Glasgow Digital Library

ASPECT

PARTIES

CONSTITUENCIES

REGIONS

CANDIDATES

### ASPECT: Access to Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999

A digital archive of leaflets and newsletters produced by candidates and political parties for the first Scottish parliamentary election in May 1999.

[Background](#) | [Bibliography](#)  
[Devolution Campaigns](#)  
[Election Statistics](#) | [Links](#)



Constituency Candidates



Electoral Regions



Political Parties

Glasgow Digital Library

ASPECT

PARTIES

CONSTITUENCIES

REGIONS

CANDIDATES



# Information arbitrage

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- Identifying products
  - Identifying value for money
  - Is the Pareto Principle relevant?
  - Independent, authoritative and right
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# Law's Laws

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1. Good Information systems will drive out bad
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# Law's Laws

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1. Good Information systems will drive out bad
  2. User Friendly systems aren't
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# Training

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- The satisfied inept – staff as well as students
  - 13% get information from the Library
  - But it's also a:
    - cybersandpit
    - dating agency
    - learning space
    - 7x24 chatroom
    - Training ground
-

# Data preservation and trusted repositories

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- Clearing the study
  - Building research collections for the future
  - Digital Asset Management and Curation
  - Repository standards
-



# Trusted Repositories: the five Maori tests

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- Receive the information with accuracy
  - Store the information with integrity beyond doubt
  - Retrieve the information without amendment
  - Apply appropriate judgement in the use of the information
  - Pass the information on appropriately
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# Conclusion

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- Digital libraries are a social phenomenon as much as a technical one
  - Communities cut across geography as well as class and function
  - There is a lot of money available for creating collections
  - He who pays the piper may call the tune – but may not get an audience
-

# The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902

