

## THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY with The Institute of British Geographers

**Give your faculty  
and students access  
to the RGS archive.  
Available digitally  
for the first time—  
all with no annual  
hosting fees.**

### THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

Founded in 1830 to promote the advancement of geographical sciences, today **the Royal Geographical Society (RGS)** is a 16,000-member professional organization. Since its creation as a dinner club for informal scientific debates, the Society has been home to notable scientists, geographers and explorers who have helped understand and map the world as we know it.

Throughout its history, the Society has successfully advocated for the inclusion of geography teaching in schools and universities, and served as an information exchange for geographers, explorers, soldiers, administrators and naturalists, providing intelligence for academic and state endeavors.

### PRIMARY SOURCE MAPS AND CHARTS DATING BACK TO THE 1400s

The digital archive is representative of the world's largest private collection of maps and charts that is held in the Society building in London. Some of the most influential geographers of the last two centuries have contributed to the collection. Notable RGS members and contributors whose works can be found in this archive include **Gertrude Bell, John Hanning Speke, David Livingstone, Robert Falcon Scott, Richard Francis Burton, Ernest Shackleton, and Edmund Hillary.**

*Most of the archive materials, now available on Wiley Digital Archives, have never previously been accessible outside of the Society.*

## INSIDE THE ARCHIVE

Spanning 1478 to 1953, the **Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) digital archive contains more than 150,000 maps, charts and atlases** complemented by manuscripts, field notes, expedition reports, scrapbooks, correspondence, diaries, illustrations, sketches, and drawings. The archive collections include:

**Mount Everest** expedition photographs, field notes, records, illustrations, diaries and personal correspondence providing intimate insights into the journeys of scientists and geographers, beginning with the first British expedition in 1921 and including **Edmund Hillary's first successful ascent** in 1953.

Historic images, documents and notes from the great **Antarctic explorations** of **Robert Falcon Scott** and **Ernest Shackleton** – even including photographs of Shackleton's iconic Burberry® helmet.

**Gertrude Bell's** detailed expedition reports, writings, illustrations and photographs, that gave many Westerners a window into the Middle East for the very first time.

Field notes, illustrations, manuscripts, maps and notes from **David Livingstone** and **John Hanning Spekes'** expeditions into **Africa**, including the first 19th century maps of the continent.

More than **80,000 photographs** dating back to the height of the Empire and over **20,000 lantern slides** dating back to 1886.

## THEMES

- Expeditions into Africa
- Expeditions to Arctic and Antarctic
- British Empire
- European colonization in Africa and the Middle East
- Climate Change
- Colonial History, Law and Policies
- Colonization and Decolonization
- Connected Continents
- Environmental Degradation
- International Trade Route Development
- Power and Borders
- Slavery and Manumission
- Women in Science and Exploration

## AREA STUDIES

- Arctic and Antarctic Studies
- African Studies
- Asian and Asian Pacific Studies
- British and Commonwealth Studies
- Caribbean Studies
- European Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Middle Eastern Studies
- North American Studies
- South East Asian Studies

## WILEY DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Wiley Digital Archives is the only archival program dedicated to the History of Science and its connections to society and culture. We restore, digitize and catalog millions of rare, primary source materials from some of the world's most influential scientific societies and universities. Our platform is purposely designed to power research, support teaching, and foster learning.

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## SUBJECTS

- Anthropology
- Agricultural Geography
- Cartography
- Cultural Studies
- Environmental History
- Ethnography
- Geography
- Geology
- Geopolitics
- Historical Geography
- History
- History of Colonization and Decolonization
- International Relations
- Natural Resources
- Meteorology
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