

Researching Rare Books & Manuscripts in EUL: some key resources

Online (for finding books)

EUL main catalogue

<http://discovered.ed.ac.uk>

The first place to look. Not all our rare books are online and many records are very basic.

Directory of Rare Book Collections

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc/collections/special-collections/rare-books-manuscripts>

English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)

<http://estc.bl.uk>

The master union catalogue for books in the English language or printed in the British dominions before 1801. Detailed catalogue records with locations, links to digital versions.

COPAC

<http://copac.ac.uk/>

Access to merged library catalogues of most major UK libraries

H. G. Aldis, *List of books printed in Scotland before 1700* (revised edition 1970)

<http://www.nls.uk/catalogues/scottish-books-1505-1640>

Chronological listing of every book known to have been printed in Scotland up to 1700.

Early English Books Online (EEBO)

<http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home>

Digital facsimiles of 100,000 pre-1701 British books, including Scottish books.

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

via <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/services/library-museum-gallery/finding-resources/library-databases/databases-a-z>

Digital facsimiles and searchable text of 150,000 18th-century British books.

Scottish Book Trade Index (SBTI)

<http://www.nls.uk/catalogues/scottish-book-trade-index>

Lists Scottish printers and publishers up to 1850; useful for identifying undated books.

Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue (ISTC)

<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/index.html>

Catalogue records for pre-1501 books, including EUL holdings.

Online (for finding manuscripts and archives)

Edinburgh University Library archives & manuscripts catalogues

<http://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk>

Archives Hub

<http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/>

Collection-level records for manuscripts around the UK, including EUL

NAHSTE

<http://www.nahste.ac.uk/>

Detailed catalogue records for 18 EUL manuscript collections

Printed

[*Catalogue of the printed books in Edinburgh University Library*](#). 3 v., Edinburgh: 1918-1923.

Guardbook catalogue. Records of printed books catalogued before 1985. The typescript guardbook catalogue is available in Research Support Collection, 6th Floor, Main Library.

Manuscripts catalogue. Green sheaf binders in 6th floor CRC reading room – the only way to get detailed information about most of our manuscripts.

Borland, Catherine R. [*A descriptive catalogue of the western mediaeval manuscripts in Edinburgh University Library*](#). Edinburgh: 1916. Annotated copy available on request at CRC.

Durkan, John and Anthony Ross. [*Early Scottish Libraries*](#). Glasgow: John S. Burns, 1961. Very useful for EUL books with early Scottish provenances.

Finlayson, Charles P. [*Clement Litill and his Library: the origins of Edinburgh University Library*](#). Edinburgh: 1980.

Gal, Hans. [*Catalogue of manuscripts, printed music and books on music up to 1850 in the library of the Music Department at the University of Edinburgh \(Reid Library\)*](#). Edinburgh: n.d.

Hukk, Mohammed. [*A descriptive catalogue of the Arabic and Persian manuscripts in EUL*](#). Edinburgh: 1925. Annotated copy available on request from CRC.

MacDonald, R.H. [*The library of Drummond of Hawthornden*](#). Edinburgh: 1971.

Mitchell, William. [*A history of Scottish bookbinding, 1432 to 1650*](#). Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1955. The standard work on Scottish decorative bookbindings, including details of our copies.

Mizuta, Hiroshi. [*Adam Smith's Library: a supplement to Bonar's catalogue with a checklist of the whole library*](#). Cambridge: 1967. Annotated copy available.

Nicholson, Frank. "List of fifteenth century books in the University Library, Edinburgh." Offprint from Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, [*Lists of fifteenth century books in Edinburgh libraries*](#). Edinburgh, 1913. Annotated copy available on request at CRC.

Pollard & Redgrave, [*Short-title catalogue 1475-1640*](#) (London, 1976-1991)
Also known as *STC*, this printed author-based union catalogue is still a standard reference work for early British books. Followed by Donald Wing, *Short-title catalogue 1641-1700*. ESTC is more up to date, but *STC* and Wing numbers are still used by researchers.