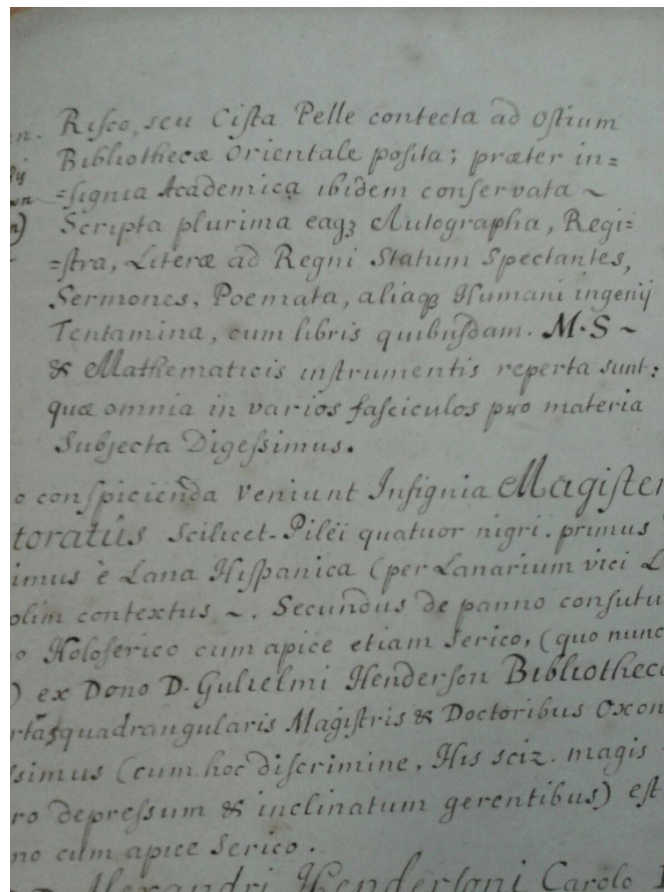




THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Library & University Collections

Centre for Research Collections :: Special Collections

Research Guide: Early Library Records



Abstract

This guide aims to help researchers and members of the public navigate the wealth of early library records. It contains detailed information about these records and points to other sources where information might be found. It also suggests directions for future research.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Aim of the Research Guide | 3 |
| Note | 4 |
| Brief Overview of the Library's history | 5 |
| Types of records | 6 |
| Research Questions & Sources..... | 8 |
| Records Chronology..... | 15 |
| Material yet to be explored | 17 |
| Links & Resources | 18 |

Aim of the Research Guide

This guide is the result of a ten-week project looking at the pre-Enlightenment and Enlightenment records of the University Library. It lists research questions that scholars, students or members of the public might have about the library's history, the university, or topics such as early book history or library management. It is intended as a complement to the online catalogue, where more detailed information can be found about each item mentioned in this guide. Each question, or group of related questions, is followed by a list of sources where answers might be had. This guide is meant to be complemented by three timelines, also to be found on the CRC's webpage: one timeline is of key events in the library's early history, one for the library's early catalogues, and one for other types of library records, such as accession books and student registers.

The library's collection is known for many unique items and the history of some of these can be traced far back, as some of them are listed in 17th and 18th centuries press catalogues. The development of cataloguing in the library can be studied in detail, as we hold catalogues from the early decades of the library's existence to the later series of type-written Guard books (which have now been digitised), the forerunner of the online catalogue, launched in 1985. The history of the university can also be shed light onto when we look at student registers, account books and borrowing registers. We also get a sense of the evolution of the institution's teaching by looking at the books that were being purchased and at what times.

The main outcome of the Early Library Records Project has been to open up a series of records for research. Indeed, with the help of this guide, the online catalogue and CRC staff, it is hoped that researchers and members of the public will be able to navigate more easily the wealth of early library records. The project has also cleared some mist as to the nature of some specific items. For example, it has been discovered that item LIB/1/Da.1.1, an author catalogue, does not date back to 1636 as was thought but is more likely to have been started in the 1670s.

Note

Although this guide has been compiled with clarity and accuracy of information as main intentions, since we are here dealing with early records there still remains a certain amount of uncertainty, especially as regards the dating of each item mentioned in this guide. Nonetheless, it is hoped that this guide will facilitate research and be a useful tool for anyone interested in the library's history. Further possible routes of enquiry, directly or indirectly linked to the library's early records, are also suggested later on in this guide.

As far as has been possible, the main language used in each item has been given (in the descriptive section). However, the language given is often more of an indication rather than a fixed piece of information. For example, some records might be described as mostly in Latin, although they list English language books, because the titles and authors' names have been Latinised. Other records are described as mostly in English, because the titles and authors' names are all in English, although they might include one or several notes in Latin.

Later catalogues, from the 19th and 20th centuries, are not dealt with in this guide. However, they might serve as a first step for someone looking to find out how long a book has been in the library. Therefore, they are mentioned in several sections below and so are ways of accessing them.

The records mentioned in this guide have their references containing the old shelfmark prefix 'Da'. Da was a press in the strong room of the Library in Old College, before it was all moved to George square in 1967.

Reference codes for Requesting Items for Consultation

The Library records form part of the Records of the University. For the sake of brevity, short reference codes have been given. To request items, please cite full references by prefixing them with 'EUA IN!/ADS/

For example, when requesting LIB/1/Da1.1, please cite EUA IN!/ADS/LIB/1/Da.1.1

Brief Overview of the Library's history

Edinburgh University's Library preceded its university by 3 years, when it came into being thanks to the donation of Clement Littil in 1580. The library had its own building in 1617, but was moved to another building in the 1640s. By that time, the collection had grown, in particular thanks to William Drummond of Hawthornden's donation in 1624. A catalogue of this donation was printed in 1627, and we still have several copies of it in the rare books collection. A press catalogue was made in 1636 by Robert Lumsden, and a copy of said catalogue was ordered by the Town Council (which controlled the University until 1858). These two catalogues survive in the collection. In 1667, William Henderson became the librarian, and we owe him a very detailed and beautifully laid out donations book. In 1677, the collection expanded thanks to another bequest, that of the Revd James Nairn. A printed catalogue of the books he donated was made in 1678, and we still possess several copies of it.

In 1684, Henderson's son Robert became librarian in his turn. Through his numerous notes, we get a sense of how the library was being run and also what did not work so well in its management. In 1710, the Copyright Act entitled the four Scottish universities to get a copy of every book registered at the Stationers' hall and this arrangement lasted until 1837. From the second quarter of the 18th century, departmental libraries started to spring up at the university, an example being the Natural History departmental library. It appears that the library collection was moved back into the 1617 building, which had been enlarged, in the 1750s. However, this event is not recorded in the college minutes, although talk of a new building is recorded. During the same decade, the under-librarian Duke Gordon created a four-volume author catalogue which was used up to the early 19th century. In 1762, William Robertson became principal of the university, and we get a sense of some of the administrative tasks a principal had to take on when we look at the student registers, for instance, as his signature is omnipresent. A year after Robertson's appointment, the library's collection welcomed more books, this time from the College of Surgeons which disposed of all its titles. During the rest of the 18th century and in the 19th, several honorary librarians succeeded one another, some of them being James Robertson (1763-1785), Andrew Dalzel (1785-1806), and George Dunbar (1806-1809). The collection continued to expand, was moved to the Playfair library in 1827 and kept expanding until the collection came to use every bit of space available in the university buildings. Eventually, the collection was moved to the George Square area in 1967 in the current Main Library building.

Types of Records

Press catalogues

Press catalogues are lists of books according to where these are located in the library. Usually, a letter is used to indicate the bookcase or bay, a number to indicate the shelf and another number to indicate the book. Thus, we find shelf-marks such as K.11.4. From the mid-18th century, the shelf-mark system changed and it is current to find, in the records, shelf-marks such as A.D.h.2. However, we are not entirely sure what the letters correspond to. Indeed, some shelf-marks have so many letters that it does not seem likely that these letters correspond to bookcases only. Such an example would be A.A.B.k.27. Yet, the lower-case letter is likely to have indicated the shelf.

Author catalogues

Author catalogues are registers of book titles arranged according to authors' names. These often end up being very dense as it is difficult to anticipate how much space is going to be needed for each letter so that it will be possible to make later additions. We also find leaves that have been added inside the catalogue ('pinned' or glued usually) because there was no space left for any addition for a specific letter section. Most early author catalogues, although mainly arranged by authors' names, also contain themed sections, such as 'biblia' (bibles) in B or 'England' in E, for titles related to a specific topic. It is worth noting that in most author catalogues of this period, the letters I and J, and U and V, were considered as two pairs, and we thus usually have only 24 sections in the catalogues.

Purchase books

The major part of the money used for the library was raised through student fees, collected at matriculation and graduation. The fees paid, and sometimes, the books bought with that money, are recorded in the matriculation registers. These are lists of students, usually arranged according to class and year of study. The fees paid by individual students are given, although not all names have fees given for them. In the 17th and early 18th centuries, students were required to pay a fee directly to their regent (*Professor* from 1708) as well as a fee for the library. But in the early decades of the 18th century, matriculations and graduations declined, and this put pressure on the library's funds which depended on the fees collected at matriculation and graduation. To counter this issue, new professors were required to pay a fee to the library from 1737. Matriculation did not become compulsory until 1810, but under the Principalship of William Robertson (1762-1793), Professors were made to collect the matriculation fee, to be used for the library, as well as their own fees. In these early registers, we

only find male students, as women were not allowed to study at the university until the late 19th century.

Account books

Account books are most often similar to matriculation books, in that they also contain lists of students. However, they, on the whole, contain more information on how the money collected from the students was spent. We therefore find lists of books purchased with student fees but also notes of expenses made for the general management of the library, such as towards cleaning or book-binding. The earliest surviving account book dates to the middle of the 17th century.

Borrowing registers

Borrowing registers have not been examined as part of the project of which this guide is the result. However, given that we have one example of a borrowing register in LIB/2/Da.1.34 (if not two, with LIB/1/Da.1.11), it might be worth giving an outline of what the borrowing system was like in the early centuries of the library. In the early decades of the library, the borrowing of books was not possible, but matriculated students as well as staff members were allowed to request titles for reading in the library, with the condition of swearing an oath of ‘good behaviour’. It seems that, at least in the first half of the 17th century, only teaching staff were actively encouraged to use the library. Rules that were to be observed for using the library, as well as the restricted times when it could be used, made its use rather inconvenient. It was not until William Robertson became Principal of the university that students were automatically entitled to using the library after having paid their fee. Thus, from the 1760s, students were allowed to borrow books, providing they paid a deposit equal to the value of the item they wanted to borrow.

Research Questions & Sources

How long has this book been in the collection?

For questions such as how long has this book been in the library? When was it purchased or donated? The reader needs to work backwards, and look at author catalogues from the most recent to the earliest ones. [The timeline document mentioned in the first section might be a useful tool for such purposes]. Below is a list of author catalogues, for which date ranges are given.

| Reference code | Date |
|--|---------------|
| (Digitised Guard book) | (1922-1985) |
| (3-volume published catalogue) | (1918-22) |
| LIB/1/1 (19th century catalogue) | (c.1827-1920) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.12 | (1817-1827) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.13 | (1815-21) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.7-10 | (1750s-1815) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.11 | (-1799) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.6 | (-1752) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.3 | (1670s-1743) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.4 | (1670s-1742) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.5 | (-1711) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.2 | (1678-1693) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.1 | (1670s) |

To find out how long a book has been in the collection, we suggest looking at the 1918 printed author catalogue, which is very clearly laid-out and on open access. Then, items LIB1/Da.1.7- 10 might be a convenient next step. Items LIB1/Da.1.2 to 4 would be the next author catalogue to look at, since it was started in the 17th century. LIB/1/Da.1.1, which also dates to the 17th century, should probably only be looked at if absolutely necessary, as its access is restricted due to its significance to the collection.

The following account books might also be of use here: LIB/2/Da.1.32-34 and LIB/2/Da.1.43, as they contain lists of books purchased with student fees. Other useful items are the accessions books, items LIB/2/Da.1.46- 49.

| Reference code | Date | Type of record |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| LIB/2/Da.1.32 | (1627-1696) | donations from candidates |
| LIB/2/Da.1.33 | (1653-1704) | Matriculation book |
| LIB/2/Da.1.34 | (1695-1769) | account book and borrowing register |
| LIB/2/Da.1.43 | (1791-1800) | List of students/library accounts |
| LIB/2/Da.1.46 | (1762-1792) | Accession book |
| LIB/2/Da.1.47 | (1768-1809) | Accession book |
| LIB/2/Da.1.48 | (1783-1809) | Accession book |
| LIB/2/Da.1.49 | (1787-1809) | Accession book |

Which books were acquired through the 1710 Copyright Act?

LIB/2/Da.1.49 contains titles received from Stationers' Hall. Many of the books which were acquired that way were stamped, and this is sometimes mentioned in the current catalogue. This area of enquiry was beyond the remit of the Early Library Records project, but we do hold some more records which could shed light on the topic.

What did the library look like?

For questions relating to the lay-out of the library, press and subject catalogues might be the best place to look. The press catalogues reveal how the collection was arranged intellectually, for example, all the bibles were grouped together, but also physically. Below is a list of such catalogues, which come in different groups as the shelf-mark system, dependent on the physical lay-out and the furniture of the library, changed over the centuries. The place where the shelf-mark was inscribed on the books also changed over the years. Pre-1750s, the shelf-mark was usually to be found on the head of the title-page. Between the 1750s and 1827, the shelf-mark would be situated on the title page – these were the lengthy shelf-marks such as G.H.b.22. Post-1827, after the collection had been moved to the Playfair library, shelf-marks were written on the inside of the front cover. This is still done today.

To locate books with shelf-marks like K.3.18 (Letter. number. number):

| Reference code | Date |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| LIB/1/Da.1.14/15 | (1636-1640s) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.27 | (-1664) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.17 | (-1669) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.16 | (-1691) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.18 | (1695-1724) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.19 | (1695-1742) |

To locate books with shelf-marks like G.H.b.22 (Letter. Letter. letter. number):

| Reference code | Date |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| LIB/1/Da.1.26 | (1801) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.21/22 | (1807-1818/19) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.23 | (1813-1820) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.24 | (1810-1821) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.25 | (1821-) |

LIB/1/Da.1.20 (-1762): this press catalogue's shelf-marks match only partly with author catalogues of the same period.

We have very little information as to the use of space and the furniture of the library, but we are given some clues in a few items. LIB/1/Da.1.21, which dates to the early 19th century, mentions a 'New Room', while LIB/1/Da.1.19 and LIB/1/Da.1.20 mention a *pluteo vitreo*, which suggests that some items – here probably iconic ones- were stored in a glass press or something similar. LIB/1/Da.1.18-19 usually mention the subject area assigned to each bookcase.

What about iconic items, curiosities and non-books?

For questions about iconic items housed in the library, there are lists of them in LIB/1/Da.1.18, LIB/1/Da.1.19, LIB/1/Da.1.20 and LIB/2/Da.1.31.¹ In these records, we find the date of acquisition and sometimes provenance of iconic items, such as the Bohemian Protest and portraits held in the library. Lists of items related to the discipline of anatomy can also be found in them.

Benefactors & donations

LIB/2/Da.1.31, Henderson's donations book, contains donations made by major patrons, but also by students, merchants and other people not considered as 'key benefactors'. Items LIB/1/Da.1.18, LIB/1/Da.1.19, LIB/1/Da.1.21 and LIB/2/Da.1.32 contain substantial lists of names of contributors and the items or sums of money associated with their names. Items LIB/1/Da.1.29 and LIB/2/Da.1.30 are collections of documents relating to major 17th -century bequests. The documents in them are listed individually on the online catalogue.

| Reference code | Date |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| LIB/1/Da.1.18 | (1695-1724) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.19 | (1695-1742) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.21 | (1807-1818) |
| LIB/1/Da.1.29 | (17 TH C.) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.30 | (17 TH C.) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.31 | (1667-1824) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.32 | (1627-1696) |

Item LIB/2/Da.1.32 lists donations made by students, either of books or money. It also, in some cases, gives the titles of the books that were bought with the money thus donated. LIB/1/Da.1.15 contains a list of mathematical instruments.

We possess examples of printed catalogues of two major 17th century donations, that of William Drummond of Hawthornden and that of James Nairn. We do have several examples of the 1627 printed Drummond catalogue and examples of a re-printed version of 1815, all on open access and

¹ For an introduction to such material, the reader might want to look at the following:
<http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/rarebooks/>

searchable on DiscoverED with the following shelf-marks: De.3.77, De.3.78, De.3.79 and De.3.79/2. For further information about chief donations, the reader is referred to the Collections Directory of the library.²

What was borrowing like?

Item Da.1.11 seems to contain fees associated with specific items for borrowing purposes. However, it seems to be a borrowing register for medical works only, probably used until the late 18th century. Da.1.34 is partly a borrowing register. It was used as such in the 1760s, although it served as an account book before that. It mentions titles of books borrowed and names of borrowers, but the entries are all crossed, which can make their deciphering difficult. Borrowing registers were outwith the scope of the project. However, we do hold a series of them, with the earliest dating to 1763, with shelf-mark Da.2.2. More information about these records can be found on request.

Who were the students and what did they study?

For questions about students, size of classes, disciplines taught and other related questions, the library account books, which are also matriculation books, might be useful, see: Da.1.35, 1.36, 1.37 and 1.38. The set of 'list of students' books will be of help: Da.1.39 to Da.1.45. These registers can also be used for researching names of professors, and examples of signatures of renowned scholars are numerous (e.g. David Hume, Dugald Stewart, Hugh Blair). Items 32 and 33, which are account books, also contain lists of students. For further help in this direction, it is worth noting that the CRC website has a database dedicated to listing names of former students.³

| Reference code | Date |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| LIB/2/Da.1.35 | (1694-1764) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.36 | (1695-1746) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.37 | (1696-1766) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.38 | (1697-1765) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.39 | (1763-1769) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.40 | (1764-1774) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.41 | (1774-1784) |

² <http://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc/collections/special-collections/rare-books-manuscripts/rare-books-directory-section>

³ <http://collections.ed.ac.uk/alumni>

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| LIB/2/Da.1.42 | (1783-1790) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.43 | (1791-1800) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.44 | (1801-1808) |
| LIB/2/Da.1.45 | (1808-1811) |

Who was principal or librarian at the time?

Account books and matriculation registers are a great place to look if one wants to know who the principal of the university was at a specific time, and who the librarian was. Such items are: LIB/2/Da.1.32, LIB/2/Da.1.33, and LIB/2/Da.1.35-44. Notes by librarians can also be found in the catalogues. For these, the reader should refer to the information available on the online catalogue.

A few items in the early records collection are found to have been compiled, for the most part, by a specific, known individual. Such items are: Da.1.20, a press catalogue compiled by George Stuart, library keeper in 1747, LIB/1/Da.1.26, a catalogue compiled by John Lee M.L., and LIB/2/Da.1.31, a book of donations compiled by William Henderson, library keeper between 1667 and 1683/4.

Where did the paper come from?

For the study of watermarks and paper makers, the following items offer varied examples: LIB/1/Da.1.1, LIB/1/Da.1.7-13, LIB/1/Da.1.15, and LIB/1/Da.1.21-26.

Potential routes for further research

There still remain some foggy areas in the library's history. For instance, the arrangement of the collection in each successive building before the collection was moved to the Playfair library in 1827 is far from clear. Several movements of the collection are recorded but there are some contradictions in dates, and we know very little about the physical lay-out of the library in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Looking at press catalogues and early building plans of the library and old College could yield precious information with regards to this topic. The university having been under the control of the Town Council until 1858, much essential information about its management and that of the library could be found in the Town Council's minutes, now held in the City Archives.⁴ Research into the donations made to the library could also yield fruitful results. We do have many lists of benefactors, with more or less information about the people and gifts themselves, and research in that area could

⁴ http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20249/edinburgh_city_archives

enlighten us as to what class of people were more likely to donate to the library, who they were, what their motivations for donating were, and other related issues. We also know little about the borrowing system, but as we do hold some borrowing registers, research in that area could be productive. It might even be possible to follow the borrowings of one single individual over several years.

Records Chronology

Early Press Catalogues

These catalogues date to the time when the collection was housed in the 1617 library building.

LIB/1/Da.1.14: press catalogue, 1636

LIB/1/Da.1.15: press catalogue, 1636-, same as previous item (Town Council's copy), with list of mathematical instruments, letters and manuscripts

The two press catalogues above do not have their shelf-marks matching with any other found in author catalogues.

Author Catalogues

The following catalogues use a shelf-mark system made to fit the new building in which the collection was moved in the 1640s.

LIB/1/Da.1.1: author catalogue, 1670s, mostly in Latin.

LIB/1/Da.1.2: author catalogue, A-DEN, volume 1 of a set of 3, 1678-1693, mostly in Latin

LIB/1/Da.1.3: author catalogue, DIL-POC, volume 2 of a set of 3, 1670s-1743, mostly in Latin

LIB/1/Da.1.4: author catalogue, POEMS-Z, volume 3 of a set of 3, 1670s-1742, includes the printed Drummond and Nairn catalogues, mostly in Latin

LIB/1/Da.1.5: contains a manuscript author catalogue, printed Nairn catalogue (1678), and a list of titles from the College of Surgeons' library, -1711

LIB/1/Da.1.6: author catalogue, A to M, -1752, mostly in Latin

Author catalogues 1 to 4 above use the same shelf-marks system as found in the press catalogues in the section below (matching shelf-marks).

Late 17th century Press Catalogues

LIB/1/Da.1.16: press catalogue, -1691, mostly in Latin

LIB/1/Da.1.17: press catalogue, -1669, mostly in Latin

LIB/1/Da.1.18: press catalogue, 1695-1724, mostly in Latin, most presses have a subject attached to them

LIB/1/Da.1.19: press catalogue, 1695-1742, mostly in Latin, most presses have a subject attached to them

LIB/1/Da.1.27: subject catalogue, not all items have shelf-marks, -1664, mostly in Latin

Mid-18th century and later catalogues

The following author catalogues use the same shelf-marks system as the press catalogues directly below them. Their shelf-mark system was devised in the 1750s, when the collection was moved back to the 1617 building which had been expanded.

LIB/1/Da.1.7: author catalogue, A to C, volume 1 of a set of 4, 1750s-1815, contains a list of illnesses

LIB/1/Da.1.8: author catalogue, D to H, volume 2 of a set of 4, 1750s-1815

LIB/1/Da.1.9: author catalogue, J to P, volume 3 of a set of 4, 1750s-1815

LIB/1/Da.1.10: author catalogue, Q to Z, volume 4 of a set of 4, 1750s-1815

LIB/1/Da.1.11: author catalogue, -1799

LIB/1/Da.1.20: press catalogue, A to Z, 1750-1762, mostly in Latin

LIB/1/Da.1.26: catalogue of pamphlets and tracts, 1801, mostly in English

LIB/1/Da.1.21: press catalogue, A to Z, 1807-1818, mostly in English

LIB/1/Da.1.22: press catalogue, CQ to CV, -1819, mostly in English

LIB/1/Da.1.23: press catalogue, DQ to DY, 1813-1820, mostly in English

LIB/1/Da.1.24: press catalogue, EJ to GQ + later additions, 1810-1821, mostly in English

LIB/1/Da.1.25: press catalogue, GMa to GWg, 1821-, mostly in English

LIB/1/Da.1.12-13: author catalogues of additions, which seem to go together, early 19th century

Purchase books

LIB/2/Da.1.33: account book, list of matriculated students + fees + purchased books lists, 1653-1704

LIB/2/Da.1.34: account book and borrowing register, 1695-1769

LIB/2/Da.1.35: account book, 1694-1764

LIB/2/Da.1.36: account book, 1695-1746
LIB/2/Da.1.37: account book, 1696-1766
LIB/2/Da.1.38: account book, 1697-1765
LIB/2/Da.1.39: account book, 1763-1769
LIB/2/Da.1.40: account book, 1764-1774
LIB/2/Da.1.41: account book, 1774-1784
LIB/2/Da.1.42: account book, 1783-1790
LIB/2/Da.1.43: account book, 1791-1800
LIB/2/Da.1.44: account book, 1801-1808
LIB/2/Da.1.45: matriculation book, 1808-1811

Accession books

Set of 'accession books':

LIB/2/Da.1.46: accession book, 1762-1792
LIB/2/Da.1.47: accession book, 1768-1809
LIB/2/Da.1.48: accession book, 1783-1809
LIB/2/Da.1.49: accession book, 1787-1809, books received from Stationers' Hall

Donations books

LIB/2/Da.1.31: Henderson's donations book, 1667-1824, mostly in English, contains 2 different shelf-marks systems due to its lengthy period of use.

LIB/2/Da.1.32: account book, 1627-1696, donations from candidates and books purchased with money gifts

Material yet to be explored

Later library records are not dealt with in this research guide, as they were outwith the scope of the Early Library Records Project. However, we do hold catalogues for the 19th and 20th centuries, as

well as borrowing registers and account books. For research using later records such as these, we suggest the reader gets in touch with CRC staff, who will be able to direct them to relevant sources.

Links & Resources

<http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/rarebooks/>

http://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17079

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/crc>

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

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20249/edinburgh_city_archives

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

Directory of Collections, The University of Edinburgh, (London: Third Millenium Publishing 2016)

Edinburgh University Library, 1580-1980, a collection of historical essays, eds Guild J. R. & Law A., (Edinburgh 1982: The Edinburgh University Library)

http://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17079

<http://ourhistory.is.ed.ac.uk/index.php/Library>

Document with the three timelines⁵:

Timeline I: timeline with key dates in the early history of the library

Timeline II: timeline for library catalogues (1-28)

Timeline III: timeline for other library/university records (29-49) except loose leaves