

The Social Role of Digital Libraries

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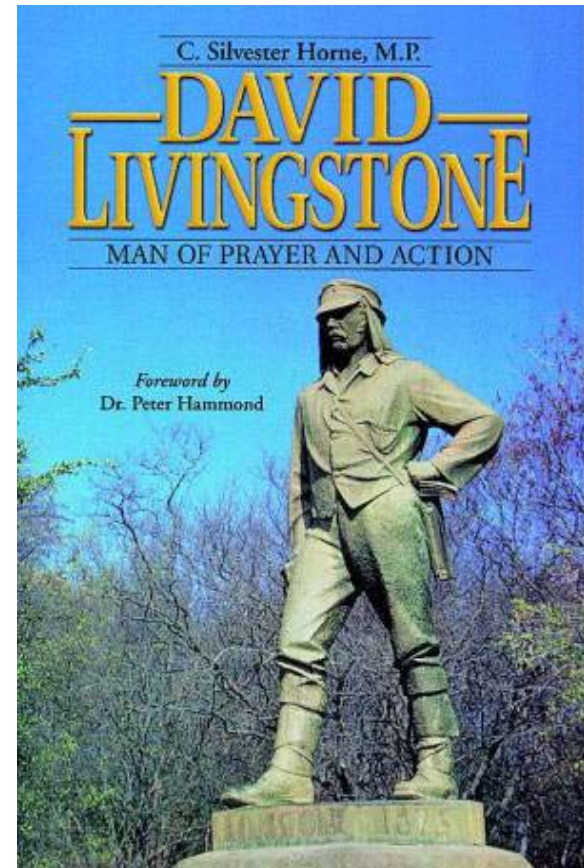
- ◆ 18th Century > James Watt > Steam Engine > Industrial Revolution > Environmental Pollution and Global Warming



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



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



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



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Why bother getting involved?

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

Underpinning philosophy

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Librarians are information professionals



**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)

User not technology driven

- ◆ The Library as place
 - Second most used public service
 - University space has not grown
- ◆ 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](#)

Access to 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



[Glasgow Info](#)

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

- ◆ 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 -
ScoDiDil i

THE EVE OF WAR
VALLEY
OF THE
SHADOW

TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

EDWARD L. AYERS

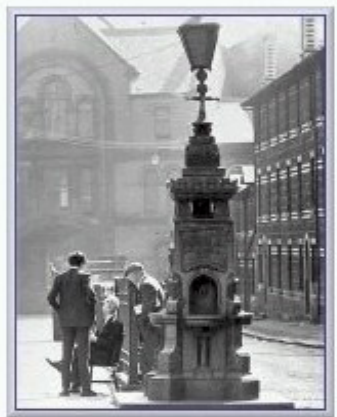
ANNE S. RUBIN



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Springburn Virtual Museum

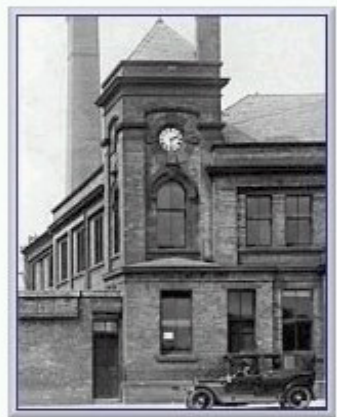
An online exhibition of photographs and related materials from Springburn Community Museum



Community life



Railway industry



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



PROCESSION
FEBRUARY
WOMEN'S
SOCIETY

W. C. ...

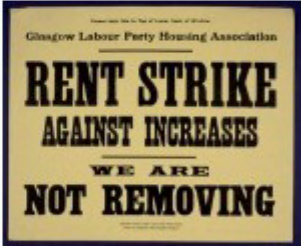
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Red Clydeside: A Political History of the Scottish Left 1910-1922

A gateway to images and information resources on the history of Red Clydeside and the Scottish Labour movement of the early 20th century



Key Political Figures



Timeline of Events



Political Parties and Organisations



Literature and Propaganda

[Background](#) | [Abbreviations](#) | [Bibliography](#) | [Essays](#) | [Political Cartoons](#) | [Links](#)

Red Clydeside

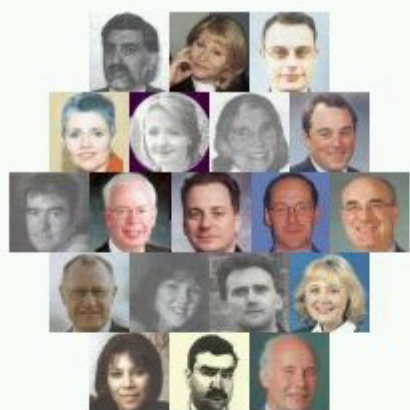


Glasgow Digital Library	ASPECT	PARTIES	CONSTITUENCIES	REGIONS	CANDIDATES
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ASPECT: Access to Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999

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

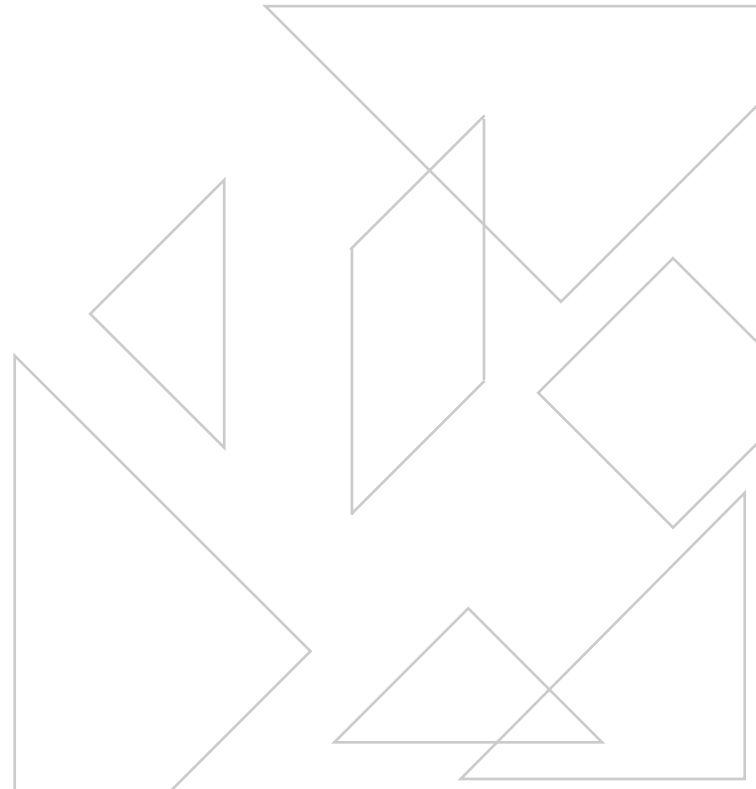


Political Parties

Glasgow Digital Library	ASPECT	PARTIES	CONSTITUENCIES	REGIONS	CANDIDATES
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Law's Laws



1. Good Information systems will drive out bad



Law's Laws

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

Training

- 
- 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

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

Trusted Repositories: the five Maori tests

- 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

Conclusion

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Commercial is not necessarily best
 - He who pays the piper may call the tune – but may not get an audience

The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902

