Declassified Documents Online: Twentieth-Century British Intelligence, Monitoring the World

Declassified Documents Online: Twentieth-Century British Intelligence, Monitoring the World places the all-important work of signals intelligence (Sigint) carried out by Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and its predecessors alongside the central machinery of intelligence at the Cabinet Office, providing scholars access to government documents including decrypts of intercepted telegrams, correspondence, reports, daily records, assessments and analysis from 1914 to 1985.
ABOUT THE ARCHIVE
This module presents 17 series of material from GCHQ, including detailed records from wartime Bletchley Park, surviving files from regional bureaus in the Far East, Middle East and Brisbane, and a wealth of intercepted communications decrypted, assessed and disseminated by hundreds of men and women working in secret. This material is digitised here for the first time, alongside 10 series of Cabinet Office material from the Central Intelligence Machinery division, comprising minutes, memoranda and reports from various committees and sub-committees of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

Stretching from the earliest days of signals intelligence, up to the era of worldwide networks playing a key role in global conflicts, this collection provides unparalleled insight into the British intelligence web of the twentieth century, making it a key resource for the study of international politics and diplomacy, warfare and conflict, as well as imperial history, the development of the Cold War, and the national histories of countries such as Japan, Afghanistan and Russia.

ARCHIVE SNAPSHOT
Approximate Size
699,000 pages
Date Range
1914–1985
Source Library
The National Archives, Kew, UK

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COLLECTION
• Detailed information through intercepted decrypts of the conduct of WWII and international relations during this period.

• HMS Anderson and signals intelligence in the Far East, particularly focused on the Pacific theatre of war.

• JIC reports on international threats or concerns, such as the Iranian Revolution and its aftermath.

• Material generated by or shared with intelligence allies, including undertakings such as the Venona project in Australia.

• Important early records such as the deciphering of the Zimmerman telegram and the subsequent entry of the US into WWI.

FEATURES AND TOOLS
Textual Analysis Tools
Identify and visualise patterns, trends, and relationships to explore content in new ways.

Stand-alone or Cross-search Capabilities
Use the archive on its own or cross search with other primary source collections to make connections that were not possible previously.

Browse Collection
Available from each collection page, this feature enables researchers to browse a complete list of files in the order they were arranged by the source library.

Google and Microsoft Integration
Sign in with a Google or Microsoft account and seamlessly save material to Google Drive or OneDrive.

For more information, or to request a trial, please visit gale.com/intelligence2