Have you thought about digital resources for this topic?

Gale Primary Sources
Start at the source.

British Literary Manuscripts Online:
c. 1660-1900

Number of pages
Over 440,000

EMPOWER™ RESEARCH
This fully searchable digital archive provides access to thousands of pages of poems, plays, essays, novels, diaries, journals, correspondence, and other manuscripts from the Restoration through the Victorian era. This collection, once available only on microfilm or to those with access to the source libraries, enables researchers to view manuscripts page-by-page or preview and apprehend the entire work via the thumbnail view in a way that would never have been possible with the physical copy.

For more information on this archive, visit gale.com/searchblmo1