The 17th and 18th Century Nichols Newspapers Collection features the newspapers and periodicals, as well as pamphlets and broadsheets, that form the Nichols newspaper collection held at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, UK. All 296 volumes of bound material, covering the period 1672-1737, are presented in digitised format.

**THE NICHOLS COLLECTION: A BRIEF HISTORY**

John Nichols (1745–1826) was a London printer and avid collector of newspapers, which he used to inform his literary and historical research work. His collection was assembled over time, buying up various smaller holdings at auction when opportunities arose. In 1808, his large collection escaped a dramatic fire at his printing office and warehouse, only to be greatly reduced later when many of the newspapers were stolen and never recovered.

After his death, his family kept the remaining newspapers until 1864, when many were sold at auction. In 1865 the present 1672-1737 Nichols newspapers collection was sold to the Bodleian Library. Originally bound in 96 volumes, of which number 14 (July 1705-July 1708) and 90 (Jan-April 1736) no longer exist, the collection was later re-bound into the present 296 volumes by splitting each volume into 3 or 4 parts.

For more detailed information on the history and development of the collection, visit [www.gale.com/nicholsinformation](http://www.gale.com/nicholsinformation)

'John Nichols' by Charles Theodosius Heath
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WHY IS THIS ARCHIVE IMPORTANT?

The collection is an invaluable resource for a range of research topics, forming a comprehensive mine of domestic and international political and religious information of the period, and - crucially - of the contemporary reactions to it. In addition, newspapers provide a lot of economic information, for example the publication of prices of goods and stocks, and shipping information.

• The archive fills many of the gaps of the 17th and 18th Century Burney Newspapers Collection, as well as including additional unique titles

• Most of these early English newspapers have otherwise been lost, so the two collections represent a unique resource for studying the news and print culture of the period

• The Nichols Collection has never previously been digitised. Part of the collection has been available on microfilm, but the archive in this form was never completed: ours is the first, including never before digitised newspapers

• The archive is cross-searchable with other Gale Primary Sources, opening up new avenues for digital humanities scholarship through the new availability of large-scale delivery of data and metadata
This collection includes over 250 titles of newspapers and periodicals (increasing to nearly 350 with variant titles) alongside over 250 more pamphlets and broadsheets.

As many early English newspapers have not survived, this collection provides rare primary source content that is difficult to access elsewhere. The collection runs through the development of the press in England, Licensing Acts and censorship, dynastic changes, and virulent Whig and Tory antagonism. Notable content includes:

- **The Glorious Revolution** of 1688, including James II’s General Pardon and calls for the loyalty of his subjects
- Both versions of *The Female Tatler*, the first known periodical with a female editor, and all four issues of *The Ladies Mercury*, an early example of a periodical aimed at women
- The deaths of monarchs from Charles II to George I, as well as reports on the death of James II in France in 1701
- Narratives of social change and morality, such as ‘Against Duelling’, ‘Liberty of Printing’ and ‘Inhumane Treatment of the Blacks’
- Movements in international politics, such as reports on the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht and Queen Anne’s speech to Parliament

**NOTABLE DOCUMENTS**

Many influential publications are included in the collection, and represent a variety of interests and approaches. Ranging from early ‘agony aunt’ formats to literary criticism and essays, many publications in the collection were highly influential in the development of publishing history. This collection includes:

- **The Athenian Mercury**, a publication of the Athenian Society, designed to answer reader’s question on a range of topics, including divinity, mathematics and poetry
- **The London Gazette**, one of the journals of record of the British government, originally sent direct to subscribers rather than being available to the general public
- **The Tatler**, which challenged convention, preferring to feature essays, and provided the blueprint for many future publications, including *The Spectator*

**A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESOURCE**

The collection includes a diverse range of content: revolution, war, gossip, trade and adverts for peculiar medicines are all contained in its pages, alongside coverage of many other areas. The content will be of value to researchers in:

- Colonialism and the rise of Empire
- Crime and punishment
- Economic history
- English language and literature studies
- Gender and women’s studies
- History of journalism and media studies
- Humanities/humanistic studies
- Literature, arts and popular culture
- Political liberty, revolutions and trade
- Social conditions in 17th and 18th century England
- Social sciences
- Western European studies
TERM FREQUENCY
The term frequency tool aids researchers in tracking central themes and ideas. Researchers can now see the frequency of their search term within a content set to begin assessing how individuals, events, and ideas interacted and developed over time.

TERM CLUSTERS
The term cluster assists students in thoroughly developing their research topic. By identifying and organising frequently occurring themes, this tool reveals hidden relationships between search terms - helping users shape their research and integrate diverse content with relevant information.

TEXT & DATA MINING
At request, Gale will deliver data and metadata associated with the collection for use in data mining and textual analysis, supporting the digital humanities as a growing area of scholarly research.

OTHER TOOLS & FEATURES
- Basic and Advanced search options, as well as the ability to search within an individual work
- Persistent URLs for every page of the collection facilitate inclusion in course packs and bookmarking
- Subject Indexing to make content accessible and expose key data elements
- Zotero Compatibility to optimise, collect, cite, and organise sources
- User Accounts to enable users to create and edit user-generated tags and annotations, which can be saved between sessions
- Image Viewer to zoom, highlight, rotate, reverse, and view pages in full-screen mode
- Downloadable OCR to enable a new level of access to and analysis of search results
- ‘Keywords in Context’ option on the results list previews the first keyword in the document
- Unlimited downloads
- Citation generator and bibliographic citation export functionality (Full citation records for each title in Nichols from the English Short Title Catalogue)
- Fuzzy Searching allows users to widen results and search for words with variant spellings
- COUNTER compliant usage statistics
- MARC Records available (sourced from the English Short Title Catalogue)
Specially commissioned essays for the archive empower you to uncover new paths of learning and research: ‘A Copious Collection of Newspapers’

Julian Pooley, University of Leicester

FROM APPRENTICE TO BIOGRAPHER

Nichols’ interest in early newspapers was integral to his career and research. Apprenticed to Bowyer in 1757, he was taken into partnership in 1766 and inherited the business – one of the largest of its kind in London, printing for Parliament and several learned Societies – on Bowyer’s death. Nichols’ genial personality and keen business acumen rapidly steered him to the top of his trade. He shared lucrative copyrights with booksellers and was soon involved in their project to engage Samuel Johnson to prepare his magisterial Lives of the English Poets. In an age of biography and anecdote, John Nichols also collected, preserved and printed more biographical information about the book trade, antiquaries and writers than all of his contemporaries combined. His correspondence and publications link him to most of the significant antiquarian or biographical activities of his time. His Literary Anecdotes and Literary Illustrations are essential reading for any study of literary life and culture throughout the long eighteenth century.

FORMING THE COLLECTION

Nichols began collecting early newspapers in circa 1778, when he purchased a major share in the Gentleman’s Magazine. This leading periodical was established in 1731 by Edward Cave (1691–1754) to provide ‘Monthly, a View of all the pieces of Wit, Humour, or Intelligence, daily offer’d to the Publick in the News-papers (which are of late so multiply’d as to render it impossible, unless a man makes it a business, to consult them all).’ Nichols had been writing for the magazine since 1765. By 1782 he was both sole printer and editor, developing a successful editorial technique of using a variety of pseudonyms to encourage contributions and debate. In 1778 he attributed a pamphlet about the periodical, The Present State of Wit (1711) to John Gay, explaining that ‘The collecting of fugitive pieces by eminent writers having for some time past been a part of my amusement, I find my stock somewhat considerable’. Many of these pieces had first appeared in newspapers and Nichols, who was printing Johnson’s Lives of the English Poets, realised their research potential. His copy of The Post Boy for 23–25 December 1714 still bears his annotation of an advertisement to the subscribers of Pope’s translation of Homer. Such notices were vital evidence for the works of Johnson’s poets.

TO VIEW THE ESSAY IN FULL VISIT: www.gale.com/pooleyessay

Read our specially commissioned essays and see the depth this archive can bring to your work, including:

• Julian Pooley, John Nichols and his Collection of Newspapers, Pamphlets and News Sheets, 1760–1865
• Daniel Reed, The Nichols Collection, 1666–1737: Religion, Regulation and the Development of the Metropolitan Press
• Professor Hannah Barker, London Newspapers and Domestic Politics in the Early Eighteenth Century
• Claire Boulard Jouslin, Dealing with the ‘Fair Sex’: Women and the Periodical Press in the Nichols Collection
• Dr. Siv Gøril Brandtzæg, Advertising Novels in the Early Eighteenth-century Newspaper: Some examples from the Bodleian’s Nichols collection

4 John Nichols, Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century 9 vols (London, 1812–1815) and Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century 8 vols (London, 1817–1858), [hereafter cited as Literary Anecdotes or Literary Illustrations].
5 Gentleman’s Magazine vol. 1 (1731), Introduction.
8 Bodleian Library, Nichols Newspaper Collection, 24C, 19 Oct–30 Dec 1714.
KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND THE ACT OF LEARNING IS EMPOWERING.

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If the 17th and 18th Century Nichols Newspapers Collection will be a valuable resource to you, you will be interested in our other archives, especially:

**17TH AND 18TH CENTURY BURNEY COLLECTION NEWSPAPERS**

17th and 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers, a perfect complement to the Nichols collection, is an unparalleled digital reference resource. Based on the newspapers and news pamphlets gathered by the Reverend Charles Burney, this archive represents the largest single collection of English news media from these two centuries, including titles from England, Scotland, Ireland, and several British colonies.

**BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS**

The British Library Newspapers series is the most comprehensive range of mid-18th to mid-20th-century regional and local British newspapers ever made available in a digital collection. More than 160 publications, taken directly from the extensive holdings of The British Library, illuminate diverse and distinct regional attitudes, cultures, and vernaculars, providing an alternative viewpoint to the London-centric national press over a period of more than 200 years. The British Library Newspapers collections feature London national newspapers, English regional papers, home country newspapers from Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales, and titles in specialist areas such as Victorian radicalism and Chartism.

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