

THE	
NATIONAL	
ARCHIVES	

Research at The National Archives

Jack Butterworth
Head of Research, Grants and Academic
Engagement



Who we are

1. A **Government department**
2. The **sector lead** for archives in England and Wales
3. A **cultural institution**
4. An **international archival leader**
5. A **commercial organisation**
6. ... and an **Independent Research Organisation**



Research, Grants and Academic Engagement - what we do

1. World-leading research:

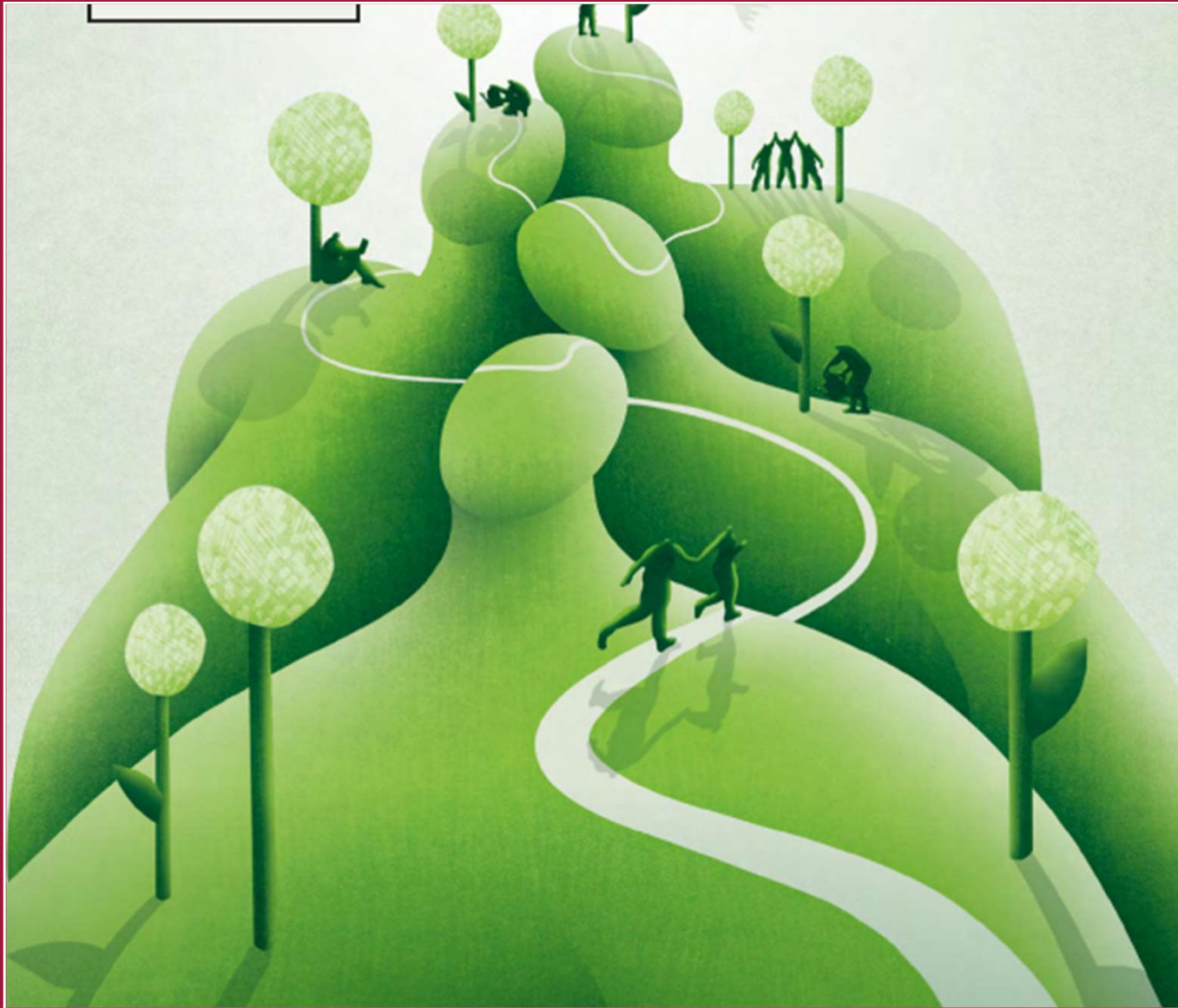
- Collections and Archives
- Digital, data and emerging technologies
- Conservation and heritage science

2. **Research funding:** over £16m of projects in delivery at the moment

3. **Archives sector funding:** over £2m granted to the archives sector each year

4. **Research impact, culture and engagement:** 20+ PhD students, researcher training, internal and external events, fellowships, x2 conferences, digital engagement...





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Our Research Vision

Four principles



1. **Practice-based:** research that is grounded in 'what we do' as much as 'what we have'.
2. **Strategic:** purposeful research that supports our strategy and public task.
3. **Uncertain:** research which embraces experimentation, risk and (sometimes) failure.
4. **Connective:** which is delivered through partnership within and beyond TNA.

Four themes



1. Trusted and secure custodianship
2. A responsible, sustainable future
3. Global, inclusive access
4. The archive within and for society

Our expertise	Our themes	1. Trusted and secure custodianship	2. A responsible, sustainable future	3. Global, inclusive access	4. The archive within and for society
Collections and Archives		What should we collect, preserve and present, as we shape changing standards, practices and cultures in managing information, to fully realise the value of authenticity, trusted evidence and the archive in a democratic society?	How do we realise our collection's potential to shape geographical, environmental and ecological histories, to inform a sustainable future?	How do we make global majority histories and marginalised voices visible, in an ethical, inclusive and meaningful way, within and through our collections?	How do we advance interdisciplinary scholarship in medical and health humanities, and realise the archive's contribution to health, wellbeing and place?
Digital, Data and Emerging Technologies		How can we use AI and other emerging technologies, in an ethical, safe and transparent way, to solve our biggest archival practice challenges in preservation, selection and sensitivity review?	How can we measure and mitigate the environmental impact of our digital estate?	How can we use AI, OCR/HTR and other emerging technology to dataify our digitised collections and provide computational access to our born-digital collections on a national and global scale?	How can we use HCI, emerging technologies and other digital scholarship approaches to empower the widest-possible audience of archive users?
Conservation and Heritage Science		How do we use the latest advances in scientific and conservation practice to preserve the physical record for future generations?	How can we adapt our estate, practice and standards, to safeguard our collections in the most environmentally responsible way?	How do we enable safe and global access to the whole of our material collection, including where it is hazardous; and comprehensive access to our heritage science and conservation data?	How do the material and visual histories of our collection enhance our collective understanding of our shared history?
Impact, Culture and Engagement		How do we rethink our own role as a researching archive, creating encounters between different institutions and disciplines, and leading and learning from others in our research practice?	How can we facilitate opportunities for future research, supporting the development of researchers at all career stages and cultivating an inclusive research culture across our organisation and our partnerships?	How do we ensure open and equitable access to our research outputs, outcomes and opportunities?	How do we actively engage different audiences and research communities in impactful ways, maintaining a reflexive and inclusive approach to research practice, engagement and development?
Research Infrastructure		Policy and legal infrastructure: understanding information legislation, data protection, and our role as custodian of the record of the state.	Physical infrastructure: the state-of-the-art spaces, laboratories and repositories needed for the development, delivery and dissemination of cutting-edge research and scholarship.	Digital infrastructure: an open, sustainable and cost-effective digital estate for our digital collection and research outputs.	National infrastructure: realising the economic and social value of The National Archives and the wider archives sector.



Thank you

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/our-research-and-academic-collaboration/>

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The National Archives
Kew, Richmond
TW9 4DU