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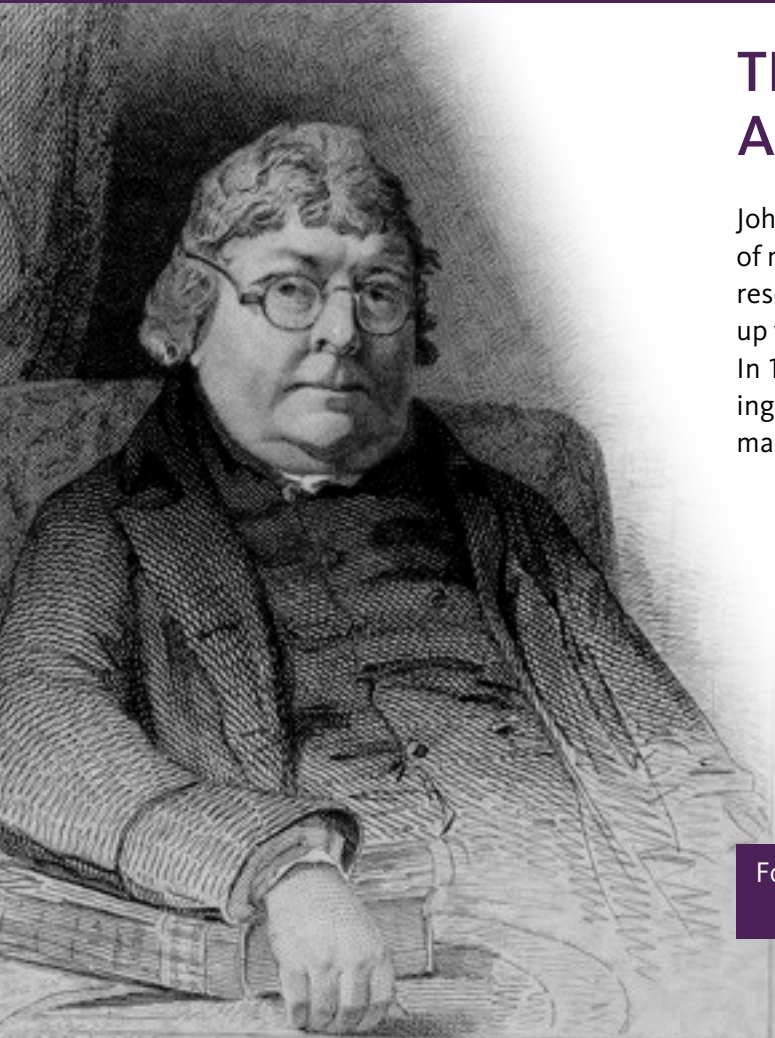
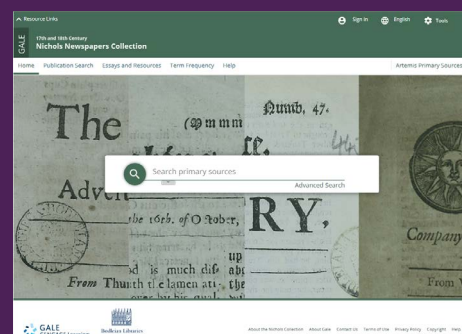
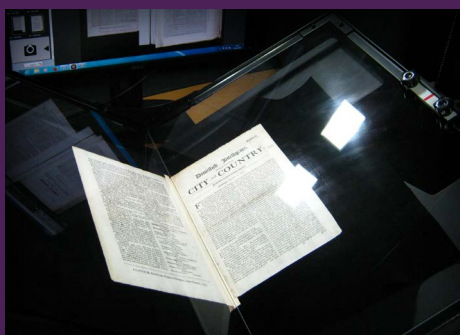
# 17th and 18th Century Nichols Newspapers Collection

Various sources. Primary Source Media. 17th and 18th Century Nichols Newspapers Collection.



# 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NICHOLS NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION

The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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

© National Portrait Gallery, London / cropped from original

# 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 Evening Post, 1709

The Evening Post. Numb. 1.

Tuesday September 6. 1709.

Year of earliest document

1672

Year of last document

1737

Number of years covered

65

Number of titles

Over 300

Number of pages

Over 150,000

- The archive fills many of the gaps of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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

The Spectator, 1711

NUMB. XXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

— Neque semper arcum  
Tendit Apollo. Hor.

Monday, April 2. 1711.

I shall here present my Reader with a Letter from a certain Officer under you, for the Improvement of several petty Enormities which your self cannot attend to; and finding daily Aburdities hung upon the Sign-Posts of this City, to the great Scandal of Foreigners, as well as those of our own Country, who are curious Spectators of the same: I do humbly propose, that you would be pleased to make me your Superintendent of all such Figures and Devices as are or shall be made use of on this Occasion: with full Powers to rectify or expunge whatever I shall find irregular or defective.

For want of such an Officer, there is nothing like found Literature and good Sense to be met with in those Objects, that are every where thrusting themselves out to the Eye, and endeavouring to become visible. Our Streets are filled with blue Boars, black Swans, and red Lions; not to mention flying Pigs, and Hogs in Armour, with many other Creatures more extraordinary than any in the Defarts of Africa. Strange! that one who has all the Birds and Beasts in Nature to chuse out of, should live at the Sign of an *Est Rat onus!*

My first Task therefore should be, like that of Hercules, to clear the City from Monsters. In the second Place I would forbid, that Creatures of jarring and incongruous Natures should be joined together in the same Sign; such as the Bell and the

this Subject, that it is usual for a young Tradesman, at his first setting up, to add to his own Sign that of the Master whom he serv'd; as the Husband after Marriage, gives a Place to his Mitrefs Arms in his own Coat. This I take to have given Rise to many of those Aburdities which are committed over our Heads, and, as I am inform'd, first occasion'd the three Nuts, and a Hare, which we see so frequently joined together. I would therefore establish certain Rules, for the determining how far one Tradesmen may give the Sign of another, and in what Cases he may be allowed to quarter it with his own.

In the third Place, I would enjoin every Shop to make use of a Sign which bears some Affinity to the Wares in which it deals. What can be more inconsistent than to see a Brewer at the Sign of the Angel, or a Taylor at the Lion? A Cook should not live at the Boot, nor a Shoemaker at the roasted Pig; and yet for want of this Regulation, I have seen a Goat set up before the Door of a Perfumer, and the French King's Head at a Sword-Cutler's.

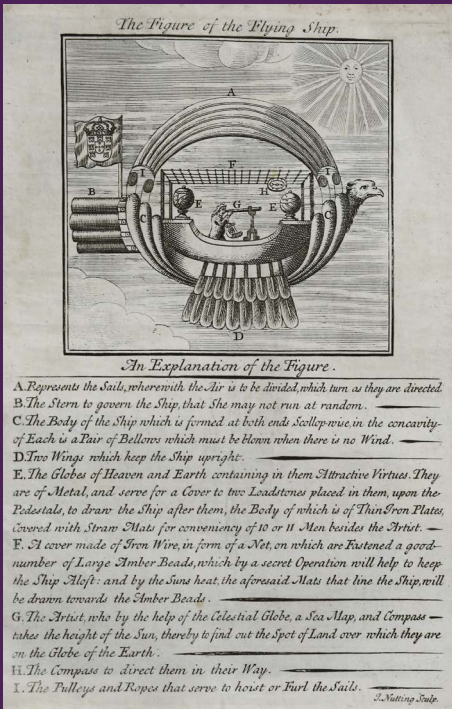
An ingenious Foreigner observes, that several of these Gentlemen who value themselves upon their Families, and overlook such as are bred to Trade, bear the Tools of their Forefathers in their Coats of Arms. I will not examine how true this is in Fact: But though it may not be necessary for Posterity thus to fet up the Sign of their Fore-fathers; I think it highly proper for those who actually profess the Trade, to show some such Marks of it before their Doors.

When the Name gives an Occasion for an in-

The Post Boy, 23-25 December 1714. No 3063. Vol.24C

of this Paper, and know further. Whereas on the 17th of November last, the left at the Three Kings in Piccadilly, St. Martin's Fields, a Sorrel Nag, with a small Star in his Forehead, high, full Age. This is to give Notice to the Person that said Nag, or any other Person concern'd, that unless he pays for his keeping in Seven Days after the Date hercof, he is apprais'd and sold according to Law.

For the Publick Good,  
ALL Sorts of fine Leather and Dimmety Toys, Men, Women, and Children, are to be had at the Gold



The Description of a FLYING SHIP, lately Invented, in which one may Travel Two Hundred Miles in Twenty Four Hours, carry Orders to Generals in remote Countries, as also Letters, Recruits, Provisions, Ammunition and Money; supply beleag'd Places with all Necessaries, and transport Merchandise through the AIR;

As is to be seen by the following Copy of the Original Address presented to the King of PORTUGALL Invented by a Priest in BRASILA.

According to the COPY Printed at VIENNA 1709.

A COPY of an ADDRESS made to his PORTUGUESE MAJESTY in the Portuguese Tongue.

Alther Excellencies Ladies first, that he has found out an Invention, by the Help of which one may more speedily travel through the Air than by any other Way either by Sea or Land, so that one may go 200 Miles in 24 Hours; first Orders and Commissions of Councils to Generals, in a manner, as soon as they are determin'd in private Cabinets; which will be so much the more Advantageous to your Majesty, as your Dominions lie far remote from one another, and which for want of Councils cannot be maintain'd in Reverence and Esteem.

Merchants may have their Merchandise, and send Letters and Packets more conveniently. Places besieged may be supplied with Necessaries and Succours. Moreover we may transport out of such Places what we please, and the Enemy cannot hinder it.

The Portuguese have discovered unknown Countries bordering upon the Extremity of the Globe: And it

will contribute to their greater Glory to be Authors of so Admireable a Machine, which is many Nations in vain attempted.

Many Discoveries and Discoveries have happen'd for want of Maps, but by this Invention the Earth will be more exactly Measur'd than ever, besides many other Advantages, worthy of your Majesty's Encouragement.

But to prevent the many Disorders that may be occasion'd by the Usefulness of this Machine, Care is to be taken that the Use and full Power over the same be committed to one Person only, to whom your Majesty will please to give a full Command, that whoever shall presume to transgress the Order herein mention'd, shall be Severely punish'd.

May it please your Majesty to grant your humble Petitioner the Privilege that no Person shall presume to Use, or make this Ship, without the Express Licence of the Petitioner and his Heirs, under the Penalty of the loss and Forfeiture of all his Lands and Goods, for that one half of the same may belong to the Petitioner, and the other to the Invention. And this to be Executed throughout all your Dominions from the Treatments, without Exception or Diffinition of Persons, who likewise may be declar'd liable to an Arbitrary punishment, &c.

# VALUABLE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

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

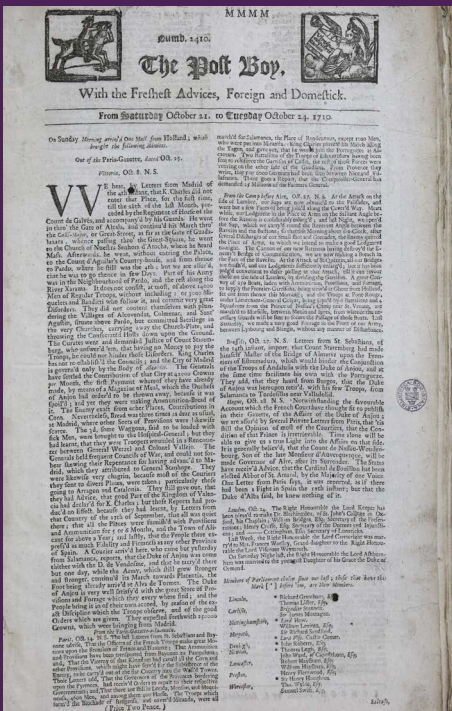
Many influential publications are included in the collection, and represent a variety of interests and approaches. Ranging from early 'agony aunt' formats to literary criticism and essays, many publications in the collection were highly influential in the development of publishing history. This collection 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
- Literature, arts and popular culture
- Crime and punishment
- Political liberty, revolutions and trade
- Economic history
- Social conditions in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century England
- English language and literature studies
- Gender and women's studies
- History of journalism and media studies
- Humanities/humanistic studies
- Western European studies



# THE GALE PRIMARY SOURCES PROGRAMME

*17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Nichols Newspapers Collection* is one of many resources available in the *Gale Primary Sources* programme which offers a ground-breaking research environment that, to date, integrates over 30 of the programme's collections; allowing researchers to conduct one search and instantly pull related results from approximately 170 million pages of historical content. The combination of uniquely rich, full-text primary source content, dependable metadata, and intuitive subject indexing, is further enriched by innovative workflow and analytical tools.

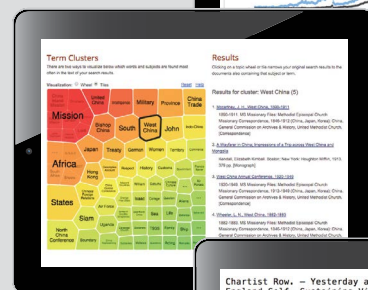
## TERM FREQUENCY

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.

Chartist Row. — Yesterday a meeting of the Church of England Self-Sustaining Village Society, was to have been held in the Hanover-square Rooms. At the hour appointed a good many ladies and gentlemen assembled, and when the chair was about to be taken by the Bishop of Norwich, a mob of Chartists appeared, and presented tickets of admission. This the proprietor refused, and when an attempt was made to force their way by the Chartists, the inner doors were barricaded, and the police interfered to keep the peace. In consequence of the uproar, the parties who called the meeting very wisely adjourned it at once, and three of the Chartists were taken into custody. They were afterwards brought up before Mr. Bingham, at the Marlborough police-court. The names of the three Chartists were Mander May, gentleman, No. 2, Park-lane; John Holloway, weaver, Mile-end; and James Parley, ginger-beer manufacturer, Whitechapel. After hearing a great deal of evidence, Mr. Bingham stated that as no very great violence had been used, he should be content with re-quiring the parties to find securities for their good behaviour for three months.

## 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:*

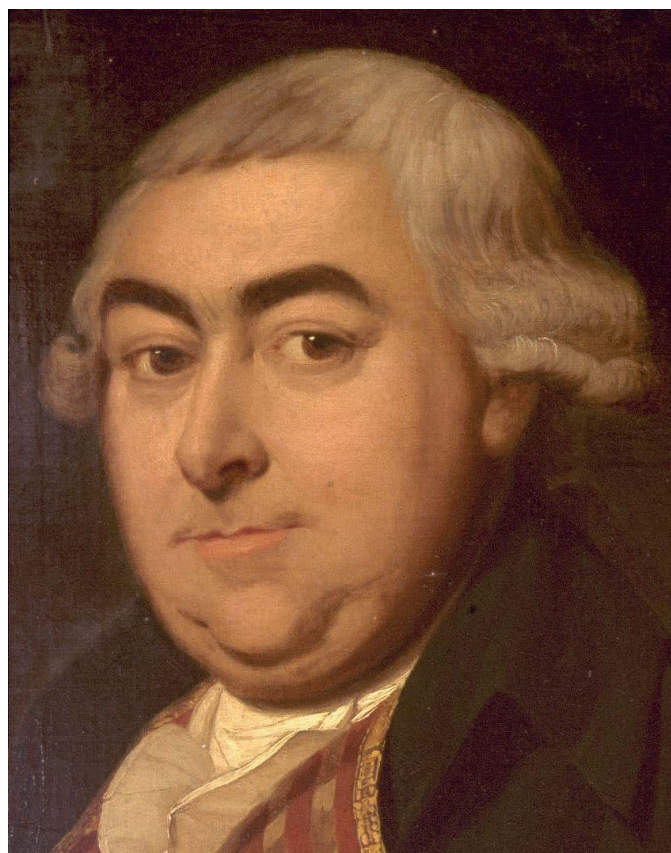
## **'A Copious Collection of Newspapers'**

*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.<sup>3</sup> 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*.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> His *Literary Anecdotes* and *Literary Illustrations* are essential reading for any study of literary life and culture throughout the long eighteenth century.<sup>6</sup>

Portrait of John Nichols from 1787. John Nichols, by Gerard van der Puyl, 1787. Oil on canvas. (Private Collection. Reproduced by permission of the owner. Photograph by Julian Pooley).



### **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)'.<sup>11</sup> Nichols had been writing for the magazine since 1765.<sup>12</sup> 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'.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Keith Maslen and John Lancaster, *The Bowyer Ledgers* (London, 1991).

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Johnson, *The Lives of the Most Eminent Poets; with Critical Observations on Their Works*, ed. Roger Lonsdale, 4 vols (Oxford, 2006) and J. Pooley 'Conciliating His Esteem: John Nichols' Contribution to Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*, to Biographies of Johnson and to later Johnsonian Scholarship'. *The Age of Johnson* 21 (2011): p. 143–192.

<sup>5</sup> Edward L. Hart, (ed.) *Minor Lives. A Collection of Biographies* by John Nichols (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1971), p. xviii.

<sup>6</sup> 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*].

<sup>11</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol. 1 (1731), Introduction.

<sup>12</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol. 35 (1765) p. 335, 'Spring'. John Nichols writing as 'J.N.'

<sup>13</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine* vol. 48 (1778) pp. 312–313, 'Genuine Fragments of our best Poets'. John Nichols writing as 'Eugenio'.

<sup>14</sup> Bodleian Library, Nichols Newspaper Collection, 24C, 19 Oct–30 Dec 1714.

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- 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*

# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND THE ACT OF LEARNING IS EMPOWERING.

Whether you are working on your essay for an undergraduate module, or writing your dissertation, thesis, or next article for an academic journal, Gale Primary Sources provides a new and unique way to discover information.

In any field of study, the best work comes from finding the right sources of information, and using them to elevate work beyond the ordinary. Research is the most important bridge to getting the results you want, and to make you and your effort stand out from the crowd. Primary sources are an invaluable part of this, and with our archives, you can start at the source, building your own contribution to your field.

At Gale, our aim is to empower you. Empower you to find new and richer information, push your work to new levels, and get the results your effort deserves. Aligned with modern tools and workflows, our progressive learning resources and primary source collections help to connect you with the knowledge essential to achieving your goals.



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- Develop new and original ideas, and explore previously hidden avenues

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- Help students develop lifelong skills that go beyond university and into their careers

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

### 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BURNEY COLLECTION NEWSPAPERS

**17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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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