

4.1.2 Mission Statement: Archive Services at Gladstone’s Library

The archives at Gladstone’s Library are one of the most significant resources in the United Kingdom. A key part of the Library’s unique collections, the archives maintain a scholarly collection relating to the humanities in the nineteenth century. One of the few independent scholarly resources in the UK, the archive holdings were initiated with the deposit of the private papers of the Library’s founder, William Gladstone, and his immediate family. Since 1996, Gladstone’s Library has been a repository for significant contemporary archives pertaining to Gladstone’s three chief areas of interest: theology and religion; history and politics; literature and literary culture.

As a team we are committed to administering the archives according to best practice within the confines of our Grade-1 listed building. We want our archives to gain greater visibility and inform original research. With improved finding aids, digitised materials, collaborative projects and general public engagement, the archives are being seen by large numbers of scholars than ever – and with improved recording methods the security of the collections is prioritised. The Library’s scholarship programme helps to support scholars to stay and work with our collection items.

As a team we can only commit to one external collaborative project at a time. We are also closed to new donations while we work to establish best practice storage and access for our existing archives.

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Revision History

Version:	Version Date:	Summary of Changes:
1.0	13.10.2016	Created and approved
v. 2	27.11.2018	Updated to reflect deposits
v. 2 2020	October 2020	Reviewed during the pandemic