

# British Library Labs: Awards (2016) winners



The BL Labs [Awards](#) recognises outstanding and innovative work that has been carried out using the British Library's digital collections. Find out more at <http://labs.bl.uk>

## Research Award Winner – Scissors and Paste

*Dr Melodee Beals*



Scissors and Paste utilises the 1800-1900 British Library Newspapers, collection to explore the possibilities of mining large-scale newspaper databases for reprinted and repurposed news content. The project has involved the development of a suite of tools and methodologies, created using both out-of-the-box and custom-made project-specific software, to efficiently identify reprint families of journalistic texts and then suggest both directionality and branching within these subsets. From these case-studies, detailed analyses of additions, omissions and wholesale changes offer insights into the mechanics of reprinting that left behind few if any other traces in the historical record.

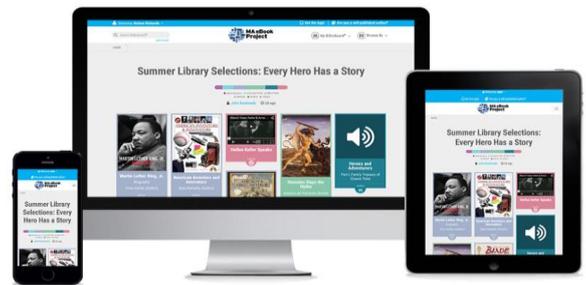


**Melodee Beals, Lecturer in Digital History at Loughborough University and historian of migration and media.** Melodee joined the Department of Politics, History and International Relations at Loughborough University in September 2015. Previously, Melodee has worked as a pedagogical researcher for the History Subject Centre, a teaching fellow for the School of Comparative American Studies at the University of Warwick and a Principal Lecturer for Sheffield Hallam University, where she acted as Subject Group Leader for History. Melodee completed her PhD at the University of Glasgow.

## Commercial Award Winner – Curating Digital Collections to Go Mobile

*Mitchell Davis*

As a direct result of its collaborative work with the British Library, BiblioLabs has developed BiblioBoard, an award-winning e-Content delivery platform, and online curatorial and multimedia publishing tools to support it. These tools make it simple for subject area experts to create visually stunning multi-media exhibits for the web and mobile devices without any technical expertise. The curatorial output is almost instantly available via a fully responsive web site as well as through native apps for mobile devices. This unified digital library interface incorporates viewers for PDF, ePub, images, documents, video and audio files allowing users to immerse themselves in the content without having to link out to other sites to view disparate media formats.



**Mitchell Davis, publishing and media entrepreneur.** Mitchell founded BookSurge in 2000, the world's first integrated global print-on-demand and publishing services company (sold to Amazon.com in 2005 and re-branded as CreateSpace). Since 2008, he has been founder and chief business officer of BiblioLabs- the creators of BiblioBoard. Mitchell is also an indie producer and publisher who has created several award winning indie books and documentary films over the past decade through Organic Process Productions, a small philanthropic media company he founded with his wife Farrah Hoffmire in 2005.

## Artistic Award Winner – Here there, Young Sailor

*Written and directed by Ling Low, visual art by Lyn Ong*

Hey There, Young Sailor combines live action with animation, hand-drawn artwork and found archive images to tell a love story set at sea. Inspired by the works of early cinema pioneer Georges Méliès, the video draws on late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century images from the British Library's Flickr collection for its collages and tableaux. The video was commissioned by Malaysian indie folk by The Impatient Sisters and independently produced by a Malaysian and Indonesian team.



**Ling Low, Writer and Filmmaker.** Based between Malaysia and the UK, Ling has written and directed various short films and music videos. In her fiction and films, she is drawn to the complexities of human relationships and missed connections. By day, she works as a journalist and media consultant. Ling has edited a non-fiction anthology of human interest journalism, entitled *Stories From The City: Rediscovering Kuala Lumpur*, published in 2016. Her journalism has also been published widely, including in the *Guardian*, the *Telegraph* and *Esquire Malaysia*.

## Teaching / Learning Award Winner – Library Carpentry

Founder: James Baker, Library Carpentry Team (see below)

Library Carpentry is software skills training aimed at the needs and requirements of library professionals. It takes the form of a series of modules that are available online for self-directed study or for adaption and reuse by library professionals in face-to-face workshops. Library Carpentry is in the commons and for the commons: it is not tied to any institution or person. For more information on Library Carpentry see <http://librarycarpentry.github.io/>



**James Baker, Lecturer in Digital History and Archives at the School of History, Art History and Philosophy and at the Sussex Humanities Lab.** James is a lecturer and historian of the long eighteenth century and contemporary Britain. He is a Software Sustainability Institute Fellow and holds degrees from the University of Southampton and latterly the University of Kent. Prior to joining Sussex, James has held positions of Digital Curator at the British Library and Postdoctoral Fellow with the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies of British Art. James is a convenor of the Institute of Historical Research Digital History seminar and a member of the History Lab Plus Advisory Board.

The Library Carpentry Team also comprises:

### United States of America



**Tim Dennis**  
University of California



**Juliane Schneider**  
University of California



**Gail Clement**  
Caltech



**Tracey Teal**  
Data Carpentry



**Matthias Liffers**  
Curtin University



**Carmi Cronje**  
Macquarie University



**Belinda Weaver**  
University of Queensland

### United Kingdom



**Caitlin Moore**  
Formerly City University London



**Ernesto Priego**  
City University London



**Ludi Price**  
City University London



**Dan van Strien**  
Formerly City University London



**Owen Stephens**  
Owen Stephens Consulting



**Jez Cope**  
University of Sheffield



**Raquel Alegre**  
University College London

### Netherlands



**Mateusz Kuzak**  
Netherlands eScience Center

### South Africa



**Anelda van der Walt**  
North-West University

### Canada



**Cam Macdonell**  
MacEwan University



**Thomas Guignard**  
Ontario Colleges Library Service

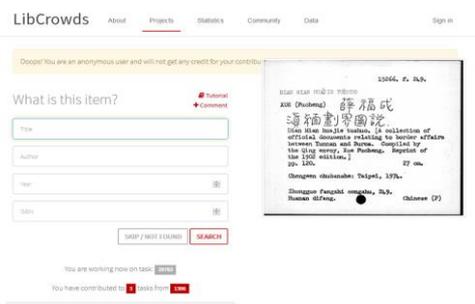


**Greg Wilson**  
Software Carpentry

Please note that many new members are joining constantly.

## British Library Labs Staff Award Winner – LibCrowds

Led by Alexander Mendes, British Library



LibCrowds is a crowdsourcing platform built by Alexander Mendes. It aims to create searchable catalogue records for some of the hundreds of thousands of items that can currently only be found in printed and card catalogues. By participating in the crowdsourcing projects, users will help researchers everywhere to access the British Library's collections more easily in the future. The first project series, Convert-a-Card, experimented with a new method for transforming printed card catalogues into electronic records for inclusion in our online catalogue Explore, by asking volunteers to link scanned images of the cards with records retrieved from the WorldCat database. Additional projects have recently been launched that invite volunteers to transcribe cards that may require more specific language skills, such as the South Asian minor

languages. Records matched, located, transcribed or translated as part of the crowdsourcing projects were uploaded to the British Library's Explore catalogue for anyone to search online. By participating users can have a direct impact on the availability of research material to anyone interested in the diverse collections available at the British Library.



**Alex Mendes, Software Developer, British Library.** Alex has worked at the British Library for several years and recently completed a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science with the Open University. Alex enjoys the consistent challenges encountered when attempting to find innovative new solutions to unusual problems in software development.