

Taking Scholarship into Schools

The Darwin Correspondence Project

Who's Looking at You?

The Darwin Correspondence Project researches and publishes all letters written by or to Charles Darwin. Scholars are our primary user group, but creating an open access internet resource alters both how we reach our audience and our perception of what that audience is.

Available v Accessible

Making material available is not the same as making it accessible; we can no longer assume users have the tools and background knowledge to make sense of what they find. Far from reducing the need to provide context, open access makes it both possible and necessary to provide far more.

Schools' resources

Contextual material is:

- navigable
- flexible
- downloadable

linked to primary resources

Read this letter and more at <http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-196>

The Schools

An education professional with direct access to the research team uses Darwin's letters to create teaching resources across the high school curriculum. Open access is critical to take-up; web delivery allows adaptation to changing curriculum requirements. It also allows schools' resources to be linked directly to the underlying scholarship.

Web Interface

Letter texts and metadata are fully searchable, but even students and faculty are overwhelmed when thrown in to drown among several thousand letter texts with only a search box to cling to.

This interactive timeline was picked up as a university teaching tool within four days of release.

The Layered Access Model

The model mimicks classic museum layout where basic stories are told through engaging wall panels with reference collections in drawers and cabinets below. On a single website, a rich interpretive layer gives teachers and students context, and incorporates direct access to the same scholarly material used by researchers.

Good for Schools & Good for Scholarship

Authoritative resources allow students to drill down into more challenging material. Scholarship is promoted through better understanding of the links between the stories being told and the research on which they are based.

The Scholars

- 18 of 30 volumes published
- 15,000 manuscript letters
- 2,000 correspondents
- 200 repositories
- 20 countries



Chitoseae - Diemichmum [am] | (anemophilous) plant...
 ...the second part of *Chitoseae*...
 ...part I in 1869 (see...)
 ...letter from Richard D...
 ...which consists of two parts, the first part comprises several...
 ...an annotated copy of Delphinium 1868-75 in the Darwin Lab...
 ...copy (19) has not been found.
 ...Delphinium refers to 'Reproduction of orchids', pp. 142-5. On...
 ...*Delphinium* is in the genera, *Bistorta*, *Aplis*, and *Pharmis* are be...
 ...'Fertilization of orchids', pp. 142-5.
 ...On CD and Delphinium's disagreement over whether...
 ...flying insects, see *Parasitica* 1869, pp. 192-3. Delphinium...
 ...*Senecio*...
 ...*Hemium majus*: common barley.
 ...*Hemium didikum* is an alternative spelling of *H. didikum*, now considered to be a variety of *H. majus*.
 ...*Hemium didikum* was known as two-rowed barley. On *H. majus* and *H. didikum*, see also *Germination* vol. 2.

Research Resource

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<letter>
<lognum>5116</lognum>
<calendarum>196</calendarum>
<dates format="1833-1-15;1833-1-21;">15 & 21 Jan [1833]</dates>
<author><name>Henslow, J. S.</name><address>Cambridge</address></author>
<addressee><name>Darwin, C. R.</name></addressee>
<text>
<header>
<address><p>Cambridge</p></address>
<hdate>15 & 21 Jan</hdate>
<hsal>My dear Darwin,</hsal>
</header>
<transcription>
<p>I shall begin a letter to you lest something
till it becomes too late for the next packet

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A working database holds 15,000 complete xml letter transcriptions. 7,000 are already publicly available together with contextual notes; those still being researched can be accessed only by Project editors.

www.darwinproject.ac.uk



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