

# Digital and online resources for the study of the history of medicine

## Resources accessible at the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and online

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### Onsite Wi-fi and internet access

There is free public wi-fi in the RCP's building at 11 St Andrews Place (11 SAP), including in the research study space in the 2nd floor reading room. There is also a PC with internet connection in the study space.

### Catalogues

The catalogues for all RCP historical collections are fully searchable online. They contain descriptions of the items and objects in the archive, heritage library and museum services (AMS) holdings.

Archive and museum catalogues: <http://rcp.adlibhosting.com/>

Library catalogue: <https://rcp.soutron.net/Portal/HeritageLibrary/en-GB/Search/SimpleSearch>

### Onsite free access to digital content

One third of the archive collection (c.10,000 items) and a small part of the library collection (c.7,000 volumes) have been fully digitised to create online copies. RCP researchers can access this resource for free at 11 SAP, via the study space PC or via the public wi-fi at <https://app.wileydigitalarchives.com/rcp>

External to the RCP, this resource is available via a subscription service at <https://www.wileydigitalarchives.com/>

### Remote online access – RCP resources

RCP history of medicine website: <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/>

This site contains many resources on the history of the RCP, and the medical profession, including:

- A [timeline](#) for the development of the medical professions over the last 500 years
- Our [blog](#) which tells the stories behind our collections and displays
- Online versions of our [exhibitions](#) and our [events](#) programme

The site also contains full digital surrogates of some of our unique and fragile manuscripts and books:

- The Wilton Psalter, an illuminated psalter (copy of the biblical book of psalms) dating from c.1300. <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/book1>
- *Regimen Sanitatis Salerni* (The Salernitan Rule of Health), a medieval medical text written in Latin, c.1300-1400. This work was translated into every European language and used as a medical text for over 500 years. <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/book2>
- *L'art et instruction de bien dancier* (The art and instruction of dancing well), published Paris, c.1495. The only surviving copy, this small book contains music and steps for the courtly *basse* dance. <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/book3>
- *Shishi bessho zui* (illustrated acupuncture scroll), Hozumi Koremasa, Japan, 1820s <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/book4>

## **Inspiring Physicians**

Medical biography is a strong focus in the RCP's historical collections. We have published a brief biography of every medical practitioner linked to the RCP from its foundation in 1518 to the 1820s, and of every fellow (voting member) since then, in our Inspiring Physicians obituary series. The entire series is available online at: <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/inspiring-physicians>

## **Remote online access – External resources**

Certain collections within the RCP's holdings have been digitised and made available online at:

- Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/> - archive and heritage library collections
- Art UK: <https://artuk.org/> - museum collections

## **Archive**

The RCP's unique collection of medical recipe or receipt books from the archive (domestic medicine manuals), dating from the 16th to 19th century, are being added to the Internet Archive at: <https://archive.org/details/rcplondonmanuscripts>

## **Heritage library**

Over 4,000 books from the RCP library, dating from 1780 to 1914, were digitised by the [UK Medical Heritage Library](#). They are available, via the Internet Archive at: <https://archive.org/details/rcplondon>

## **Museum**

Most of the RCP's fine art collection comprising portraits and busts of medical men and women, landscapes and modern and contemporary art (264 artworks) is accessible via Art UK at: <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/search/venue:royal-college-of-physicians-london-7080>

## **Hard copy resources**

While many of the items in the RCP's collection are currently only fully accessible in their original form, onsite, we are committed to an ongoing programme of digitisation and access. Digitised copies of items and finding aids will continue to be developed and made available, as resources allow.

We have images of many of our collection items, on our image gallery at: <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/shop-images>

## **Reuse of resources**

Researchers are welcome to link to our website and resources and to use our online content as source material. When doing so, please ensure the source is fully referenced.

## **Contact**

For all enquiries about the above services, contact our team at [history@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:history@rcp.ac.uk)