Archives Direct brings together Adam Matthew's digital collections from The National Archives, UK, the government’s official archive. Collections are self-contained, but presented in a single, cross-searchable environment.

Archives Direct collections offer a fascinating insight into 19th and 20th century world history, from the point of view of the British state. Collections are themed by subject or geographical region, and form an important resource for the study of international relations and British diplomatic history. As far as possible, government file classes are digitised complete, giving students and researchers access to the widest available range of primary sources.

Types of material

Archives Direct consists of British government and diplomatic files from the Foreign Office, Colonial Office, Prime Minister’s Office and a range of other departments. Material types include:

- Official and private correspondence
- ‘Confidential Print’ – the British government’s most important documents
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- Newspaper cuttings
- Statistical analyses
- Military and police papers
- Material from international organisations and agencies
- Annual reports of events, by country
- Profiles of prominent individuals
- Maps
- Pamphlets, posters and other published items
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Key features:

- Access to millions of pages of primary source materials
- All Archives Direct collections are cross-searchable offering an immensely powerful international studies research tool
- Clickable indexing terms for each document allow users to assess content at a glance
- Lists of popular search terms to aid interaction with the material
- Map galleries highlighting the most interesting visual material from selected collections
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  - Integrated and searchable chronology
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