

EXPANDING RESEARCH WITHOUT EXPANDING BUDGETS:

Durham University's Experience with Gale Accelerate

Explore how Durham University utilised the Gale Accelerate programme to expand its digital resources, improve accessibility, and optimise cost efficiency. Through strategic acquisitions, faculty and students gained access to a broader range of historical and primary source materials, enriching research and teaching across multiple disciplines.

UNIVERSITY NAME: Durham University

Participants: Neil Davies, Content Acquisition Manager; Richard Pears, Faculty Librarian for Arts and Humanities; Richard Holmes, Faculty Librarian for Social Sciences

THE RESOURCE

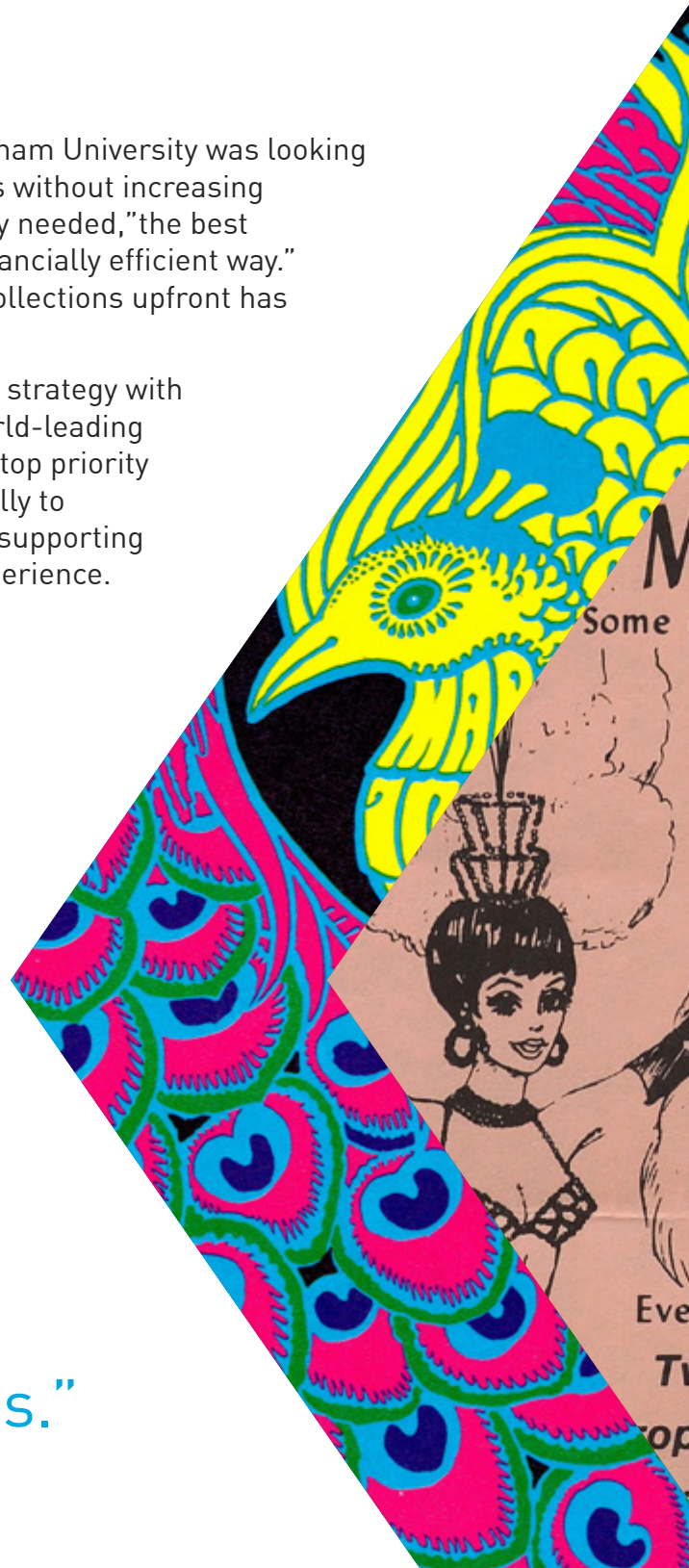
Gale Accelerate allows institutions to access their wishlist of *Gale Primary Sources* archives upfront with the option to spread payments over multiple years. This programme enables libraries to maximise their budgets, ensuring students and faculty have access to key research materials across disciplines, from humanities to social sciences.

THE CHALLENGES

Before joining Gale Accelerate, Durham University was looking to expand its collection of resources without increasing its budget. Richard Pears noted they needed, "the best resources, managed in the most financially efficient way." However, acquiring large archival collections upfront has traditionally been a challenge.

Durham University aligns its library strategy with its institutional vision of being a world-leading research and teaching university. A top priority was managing resources strategically to maximise financial efficiency while supporting research, teaching, and student experience.

"The abundance of material upfront and the flexibility to try different products make this really useful to recommend to other universities and libraries."





“What made this valuable was the ability to choose from a wide selection, gain immediate access to everything upfront, and spread the cost over three years.”

- Neil Davies

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Durham University found significant benefits in adopting Gale Accelerate. The programme enabled them to acquire a broad range of digital resources at a substantial discount while maintaining flexibility in selecting materials that met staff and student needs. Neil Davies explained, “It allows us upfront access to more resources than we can buy at any given time.” This ability to get the content they want spread across multiple payments aligned well with Durham’s budget, ensuring that essential research materials were available immediately while costs were distributed over time.

Through the programme, the university obtained key archives that had long been on their wishlist. Neil Davies explained, “What made this valuable was the ability to choose from a wide selection, gain immediate access to everything upfront, and spread the cost over three years. In the end, we were paying for it, but with the advantage of getting everything right away—plus a significant discount.” Additionally, the ability to add and swap resources ensured they were continually investing in the collections most used by students and staff.

Durham particularly valued Gale’s extensive newspaper coverage and resources focused on expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion, such as the *Archives of Sexuality and Gender*. “I do like anything that diversifies our collections. We’ve been looking at packages, archives, and collections that contribute to that diversification in all sorts of different ways.” Richard Holmes stated.

The accessibility of Gale’s platform proved especially useful for faculty supporting students in research. Richard Holmes stated, “Through collections like the Gale Accelerate programme, we’ve massively increased the range of resources available to students and researchers, so they no longer have to traipse off to archives elsewhere in the country or the world.” This ease of access has significantly improved research efficiency and enriched academic work across various disciplines.

Richard Holmes noted that the *Gale Primary Sources* platform offers many benefits to the user. For example, he explains, “Gale’s citation button means that the references are available for me to instantly copy and paste into my own document without having to spend time formatting them all separately.” These features have made research more efficient for students, reducing barriers to accessing and citing scholarly materials.



THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Integrating the new resources into the university's system was seamless. Neil Davies stated, "It is literally a case of just switching it on and away we go." Faculty librarians quickly informed students and academic staff about the new materials, ensuring they could immediately use their expanded archives.

Additionally, the university benefited from Gale's support services, including the Gale Student Ambassador Program. Richard Pears noted, "Having a Gale student ambassador each year is incredibly valuable. This year's ambassador, Megan, has been great." This initiative has helped raise awareness of the resources and how to use them efficiently and ensures students make the most of them.

THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, Durham University sees Gale Accelerate as a strong investment in its research infrastructure. Pears added, "The abundance of material upfront and the flexibility to try different products make this really useful to recommend to other universities and libraries."

Through Gale Accelerate, Durham University has successfully expanded its digital research offerings, improved accessibility, and enhanced student and faculty engagement with primary sources. The programme exemplifies how strategic acquisitions can transform library resources while staying within budget and making high-quality research materials more readily available to all.



Get Instant Access to 3X the Content You Pay For and Expand the Possibilities of Research with **Gale Accelerate**

To see how Gale
Accelerate can support
your library's vision and
meet your needs, visit:

gale.com/accelerate

