

# **PAST ECHOES AND PRESENT NEWS:**

**Academic citations  
to The Times 1785-1985**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper investigates post-2001 academic research publications that cite pre-1985 news stories from *The Times*. This coincides with the period in which Gale had a monopoly over the rights to distribute *The Times* digitally. Digitisation of newspapers has created the potential for academics and students to exploit them more easily (desktop access) and comprehensively (through search) (Bingham, 2010; Gooding, 2016; Nicholson, 2013), and this report gives an opportunity to investigate whether and how this has occurred.

The analysis covers the main subject areas citing *The Times*, temporal trends in citing subject areas, the types of citing academic documents, the most frequently citing academic journals, and the most frequently citing academic institutions. In addition, it reports some broad themes that are common to many citing publications and gives examples of a range of different contexts in which academic researchers have found *The Times* a useful source to cite. This information has been extracted from the Web of Science, which indexes citations from academic publications to *The Times*.

## 2. MAIN SUBJECT AREAS CITING THE PRE-1986 *TIMES*

In terms of subject areas (as defined and classified by the Web of Science database, often based on the publishing journal), History is the heaviest citer of *The Times*, accounting for 23.7% of all citing academic works (e.g., journal articles, books, book chapters, dissertations) (Figure 1). Many social sciences and areas within the arts and humanities are also heavy citers of the pre-1986 *Times*.

Despite the large number of citations from a few areas, 143 (out of 176) different Web of Science subject areas cited it at least once, even including a single citation from each of Nuclear Science Technology, Biophysics, Fisheries, Emergency Medicine, Mycology, and Imaging Science Photographic Technology.

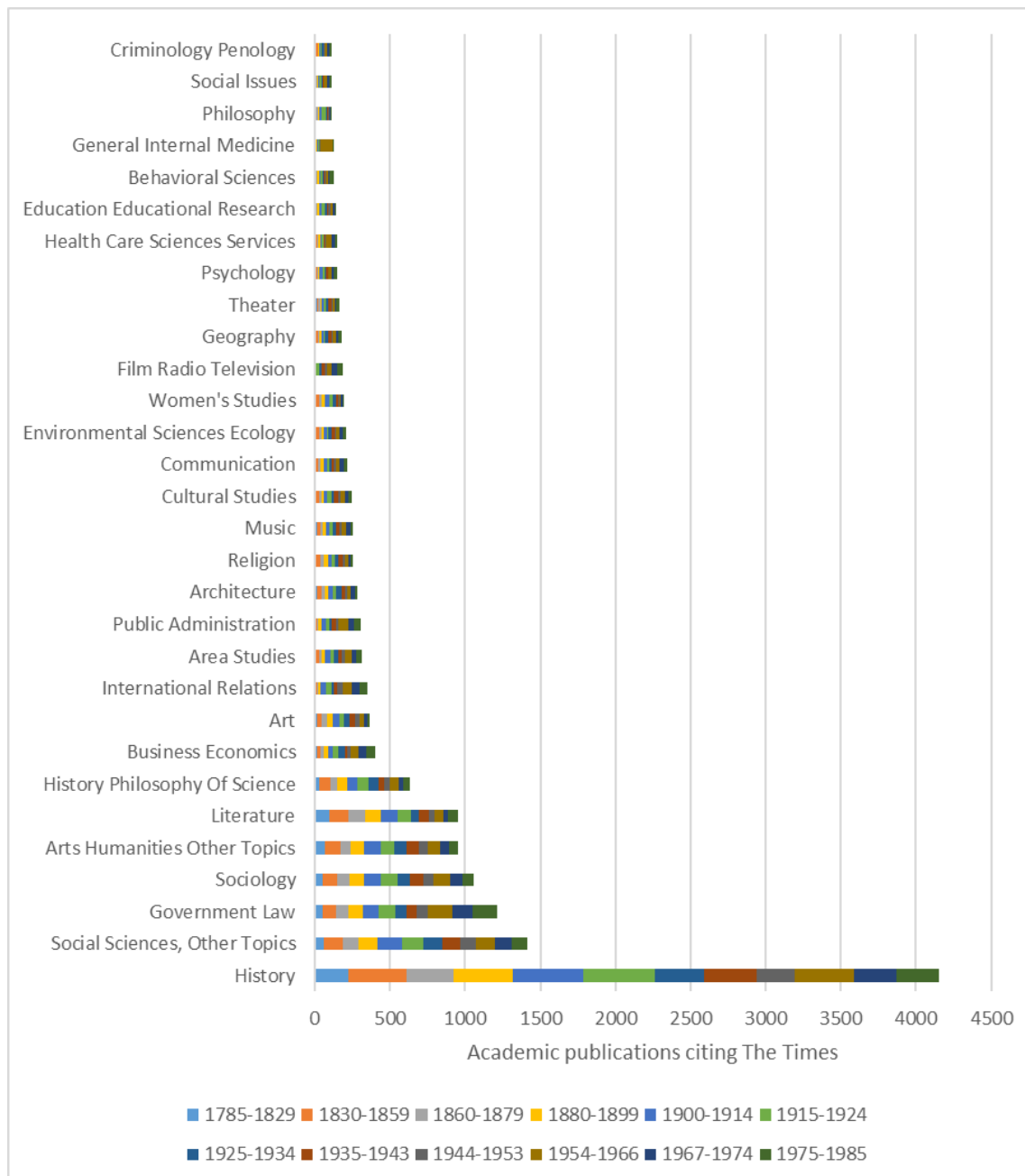


Figure 1. The thirty subject areas (post 2001) most citing pre-1986 *Times* news articles, broken down by cited article publication year.

### 3. HISTORICAL TRENDS BY SUBJECT AREA

Some research areas are more likely to cite older *Times* news articles, whereas others are more likely to cite newer articles (Figure 2). For example, the decreasing bar size for History for newer periods in Figure 2 indicates that it is more likely to cite older *Times* articles, relative to other fields. The same is true for Literature and Arts and Humanities, but Government Law, Business Economics, and International Relations are more likely to cite newer articles. This presumably reflects the time periods that are most of interest to these subjects (but see below for more on Literature).

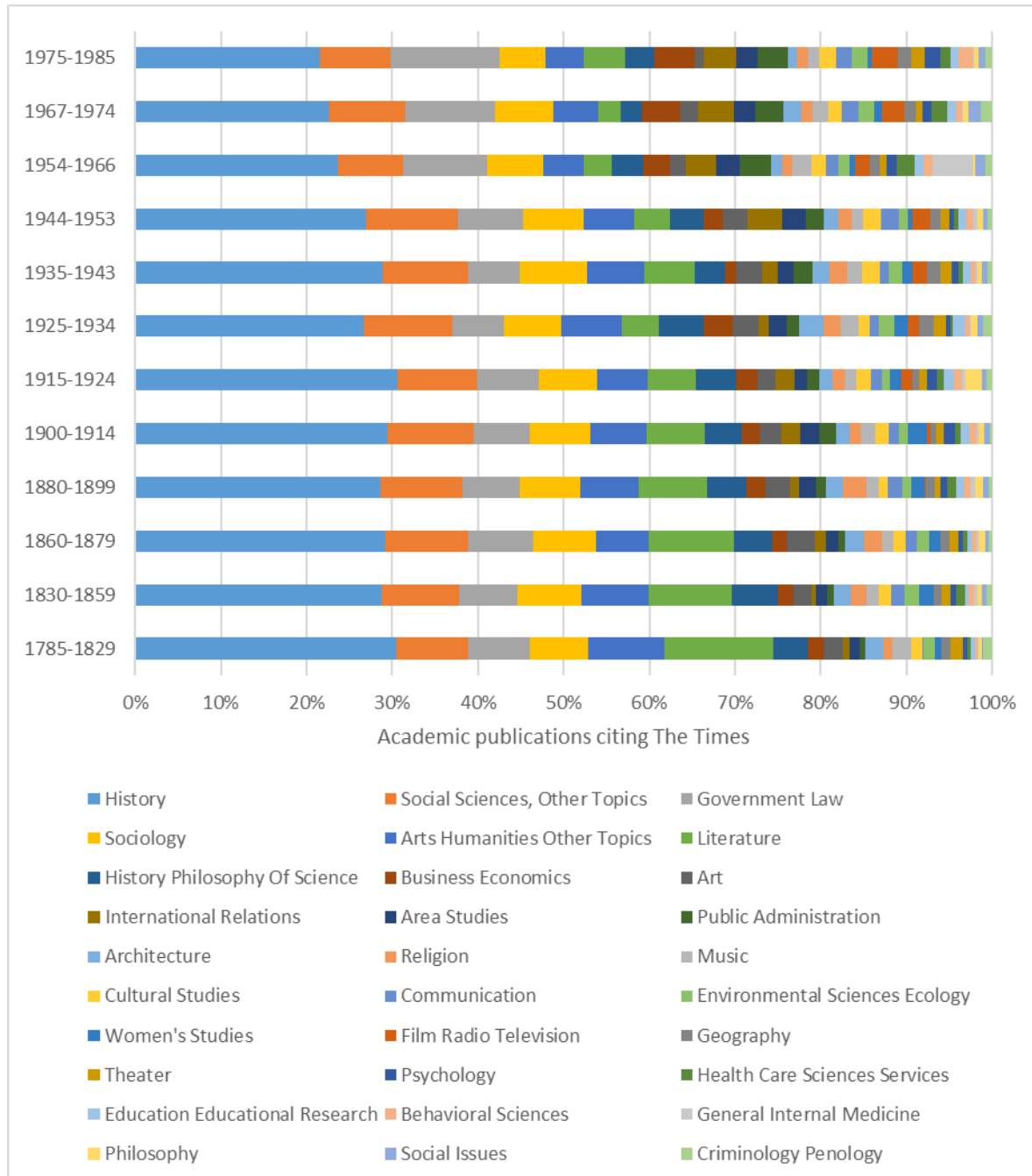


Figure 2. The thirty subject areas (post 2001) most citing pre-1986 *Times* news articles, broken down by cited article publication year, showing the proportions of citations from each field in each period.

### 3.1 Fields tending to cite newer *Times* news articles

Some fields are particularly likely (50% more likely) to cite newer news, perhaps because they have less interest in history than in the relevance of the recent past to current events. Here are some examples from the fifty most citing research areas.

- **Business Economics, International Relations, and Public Administration:** These all seem to focus on contemporary issues, mainly citing historical sources for context. For example, an analysis of the UK aluminium trace association cited ten *Times* articles for various events concerning the association and aluminium (e.g., “Demand for a metal of many uses”, *The Times*, 1960, cited in “Industry dynamics and trade association power: The shifting nature of business influence in UK aluminium”).
- **Social Issues, Criminal Penology, Urban Studies, Social Work:** As above.
- **Geography:** The social geography specialty most cited *The Times*, overlapping with the above topic.
- **Film Radio Television and Computer Science:** These areas have little need to cite sources from before their inventions existed.
- **General Internal Medicine:** Many works cited articles from 1954–1966, including five by the same two authors that analysed the health of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
- **Pharmacology Pharmacy:** The number of effective medicines seems to have increased throughout the twentieth Century, so it is not surprising that fewer older news stories are cited. An example of a recent article is a comparison of the use of the same drug in humans and horses, 1950–2000, “Phenylbutazone (Bute, PBZ, EPZ): one drug across two species”.
- **Anthropology:** It is not clear why this subject tends to cite newer news stories. An example of an article citing newer news is “Durham Anthropology: A provincial history of a provisional discipline”, which cited the 1969 news story “Virgin birth issue is undecided”, about the work of one Durham anthropologist.

### 3.2 Fields tending to cite older *Times* articles

Some fields tend (50% more likely) to cite older news articles, presumably due to a focus on historical issues. Here are some examples from the fifty most citing research areas.

- **Literature:** *The Times* was particularly cited by Literature until the start of the First World War. This is presumably due to the reviews of literature being spun off in 1902 into the *Times Literary Supplement*, which was published separately from 1914.
- **Women's Studies:** Many works cite *Times* articles from the time of high-profile women's activism in the form of the suffragettes. The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK was founded in 1906, and by 1918 some women could vote, and one was elected to the UK Parliament (Constance Markievicz for Sinn Féin).
- **Philosophy:** *Times* articles from 1880 to 1934 were particularly cited by Philosophy, including for discussions of world wars, the philosopher Bertrand Russell, and the influence of new inventions. For example, "Time and the Problems of Television: Three Images" cites a 1930 story about the first BBC play broadcast on television, "The man with the flower in his mouth".
- **Zoology:** Older *Times* articles were perhaps cited by Zoology for Darwin-related discussions, evidence of species before they were systematically reported in academic literature, or the impact of travel on species. For example, "The importation, release, establishment, spread, and early impact on prey animals of the red fox *Vulpes vulpes* in Victoria and adjoining parts of south-eastern Australia" claimed that this fox was imported into Australia nine times from 1845-1879. It used *Times* adverts from 1948 to claim that foxes were easily available for sale in London, where they could be transported to Australia.
- **Asian Studies:** Asian Studies articles particularly cited the *Times* up to World War II, perhaps to discuss facets of the British Empire recorded there. For example, "Seeing the Elephant: Animal Spectatorship and the Imperial Gaze in Colonial India" cited the 1875 news story "Elephants in Ceylon" as evidence that elephant shooting had been prohibited.
- **Physics:** *Times* articles cited by Physics were mostly (twenty-one out of thirty-four) from 1915-24, and there was almost no (five over sixty-one years) subsequent citing of more recent *Times* articles by Physics. The high period of interest included discussions of the theory of relativity, with a letter from Einstein published in the newspaper.

## 4. REASONS FOR CITING *TIMES* ARTICLES

This section illustrates why *The Times* has been cited in academic research with a few illustrative examples, split into clusters. Sometimes *The Times* is a source of evidence for a fact that is not available elsewhere, and sometimes it is cited for its opinion or as a reflection of public opinion.

### 4.1 Press perspectives, using their contents as evidence

Studies of the media and of media influence may cite *The Times* as an obvious source of direct evidence, including in a negative context (Table 1).

Table 1. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about press perspectives.

| <i>Times</i> story  | Year    | Academic citation context   |
|---|---------|---|
| Obituaries  | Various | An analysis of how obituaries were written in various newspapers, analysing samples of them. Cited in: <b>The lives we choose to remember: A quantitative analysis of newspaper obituaries.</b>   |
| Darwinian dogma challenged. New theory of man's evolution | 1956    | Evidence of British press scepticism about an internationally discussed fossil discovery, sometimes framed as an academic challenge to Darwin's theory of evolution. Cited in: <b>'Darwin was Wrong.' The International Media Coverage of the Oreopithecus' Reinterpretation (1956-1959).</b> |
| Greater Risk of Tropical Disease                          | 1964    | An alleged risk due to immigrants from "hot countries" that might affect the "whole community" (reporting an academic talk). Cited as a press immigration scare story in: <b>Immigration, race and local media: Smethwick and the 1964 general election.</b>                                  |
| Nightmare life in the concrete jungle                     | 1972    | Cited as evidence of newspaper characterisations of areas as "'ghetto', 'slum' or 'concrete jungle'" [in Chicago, US, here]. Cited in: <b>Youth, race and the inner-city estate: narratives of everyday life in Manchester's Hulme, 1970-1994.</b>  |
| Manor to be Hospital for 'Fringe Medicine'                | 1974    | Cited as evidence of press attitudes towards alternative medicine, in a <i>Times</i> -based case study article. Cited in: <b>Everyday Healthcare Regulation: British Newspapers and Complementary and Alternative Medicine.</b>   |

## 4.2 Legal and social changes

Analyses of social changes may use newspaper reports as one of the few remaining sources of evidence about historical occurrences (Table 2). As well as capturing otherwise ephemeral information, they are also a useful centralised and digitalised source of evidence in contrast to ad-hoc government and business records that might give similar information. The first example below illustrates how newspaper adverts can serve as an implicit source of information about the products or services advertised. Historical editorials, although the opinions of individuals, have also been used as evidence of likely topics of public concern.

Table 2. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about legal and social changes.

| <i>Times</i> story                      | Year | Academic citation context   |
|---|------|---|
| Laundress advert                        | 1817 | Evidence of the services offered by laundresses to attract business. Cited in: <b>Georgian Washerwomen: tales of the tub from the long eighteenth century.</b>  |
| Poor law for Ireland                    | 1847 | Evidence of a petition in support of Ireland from Glasgow after the potato famine. Cited in: <b>'Irish fever' in Britain during the Great Famine: immigration, disease and the legacy of 'Black '47'.</b>   |
| British Engineers at Constantinople     | 1873 | Evidence of the existence of and prevalence of British engineers in Istanbul. Cited in: <b>British Workers and Ottoman Modernity in Nineteenth-Century Istanbul.</b>  |
| The Enemy Alien. Internment of Suspects | 1914 | Evidence of spy mania in 1914 during WW1. Cited in: <b>Fictional German governesses in Edwardian popular culture: English responses to German militarism and modernity.</b>   |
| Women patrols                           | 1914 | The emergence of women patrols near military bases to safeguard all concerned from the "flighty conduct" of women. Cited in: <b>'Giddy Girls', 'Scandalous Statements' and a 'Burst Bubble': the war babies panic of 1914-1915.</b>   |
| Peace day in London                     | 1919 | Evidence of how WW1 veterans were celebrated. Cited in: <b>'And those who live, how shall I tell their fame?' Historical pageants, collective remembrance and the First World War, 1919-39.</b>   |
| Mayflower pageant                       | 1920 | Evidence of British celebrations of Anglo-American connections. Cited in: <b>The Mayflower and 'Mother Plymouth': Anglo-America, Civic Culture and the Urban Past.</b>  |
| The problem of the domestic servant     | 1937 | <i>Times</i> article on the increased difficulties in finding domestic servants, cited as evidence of increasing social change in working patterns leading to more people [of all classes] dining out. Cited in: <b>Dining Out: Restaurants and British Society in the 1930s.</b> |
| Heart-to-heart over cups of tea         | 1968 | Report of striking women discussing gender equality with female cabinet minister as evidence of rank-and-file agency in the strike. Cited in: <b>The Women's Movement and 'Class Struggle': gender, class formation and political identity in women's strikes, 1968-78.</b>       |
| End of birching near                    | 1970 | Evidence of changing attitudes towards corporal punishment. Cited in: <b>Human Rights at the Edges of Late Imperial Britain: The Tyrer Case and Judicial Corporal Punishment from the Isle of Man to Montserrat, 1972-1990.</b>   |



### 4.3 Medical or health discoveries or threats

Health topics are frequently reported in the press (e.g., Kousha & Thelwall, 2019), and so public information about, and attitudes towards, health changes or medical innovations is abundantly available in newspapers to be cited (Table 3).

Table 3. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about health.

| <i>Times</i> story  | Year | Academic citation context   |
|---|------|---|
| No penicillin for the public  | 1942 | Evidence about government policy on penicillin distribution. Cited in: <b>The role of the media in influencing public attitudes to penicillin during World War II.</b>  |
| Letter, 'Health Policy: Claims of Social Medicine'                    | 1942 | Evidence of the attitudes of a prominent letter writer. Cited in: <b>The 'new era in medicine': John Ryle and the promotion of social medicine.</b>   |
| Influenza and Its Causes  | 1918 | <i>The Times</i> emphasising the need to research common diseases like flu during a pandemic. Cited in: <b>Putting pandemics in perspective: England and the flu, 1889–1919.</b>  |
| The Metropolitan Railway  | 1868 | Evidence of public concerns (letter to the editor) that it is difficult to avoid tobacco smoke on trains. Cited in: <b>Minding the Gap: Uncovering the Underground's Role in the Formation of Modern London, 1855-1945.</b> |
| Advance in Study of Common Cold: Viruses Propagated in Tissue Culture | 1960 | Evidence that journalists viewed tissue culture technology development as an unproblematic, important advance. Cited in: <b>A Troubled Past? Reassessing Ethics in the History of Tissue Culture.</b>                       |

### 4.4 Press or public attitudes

Although newspapers report their own attitudes rather than those of the public, in some circumstances academics might find these relevant to public opinion about an issue. Letters from members of the public may also be cited as direct, albeit partial, evidence of public opinion (Table 4).

Table 4. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about public attitudes.

| <i>Times</i> story             | Year | Academic citation context   |
|--------------------------------|------|---|
| British and French at Salonika | 1915 | Evidence of attitudes towards army mules. Cited in: <b>The vagaries and value of the army transport mule in the British army during the First World War.</b>  |
| Free Bigamy for Heroes         | 1918 | Letter-to-the-editor complaint that a bigamist wounded soldier had been let off legal punishment, cited as evidence of court variations in treatment of bigamy. Cited in: <b>Trust, authenticity and bigamy in twentieth-century England.</b> |

## 4.5 Government or establishment attitudes or policy

*The Times* often reports official statements and has reported transcripts of the speeches of politicians and establishment figures, such as bishops. It can therefore serve as a convenient source to find and cite these (Table 5). This type of content may have become less common in *The Times* in recent decades.

Table 5. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about government.

| <i>Times</i> story       | Year | Academic citation context   |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| The Triumph of Sea Power | 1918 | First Lord of the Admiralty speech quoted as evidence of British establishment claims about the importance of sea power. Cited in: <b>Rebuilding the Mills of Sea Power: Interwar British Planning for Economic Warfare against Japan.</b>                    |
| The national Church      | 1919 | Sermon on church reformation cited as evidence of an important perspective on the topic. Cited in: <b>Herbert Hensley Henson, J. N. Figgis and the Archbishops' Committee on Church and State, 1913–1916: Two Competing Visions of the Church of England.</b> |
| Salvage From The Dustbin | 1940 | Report of a wartime conference on recycling. Cited in: <b>Paper salvage in Britain during the Second World War.</b>   |

## 4.6 Opinions on the arts

Especially until the spin-off of the *Times Literary Supplement*, the newspaper was a source of critical analysis of the arts. It also contained indirect evidence of the reception of the arts in the form of prizes and attendance records. This could be cited in historical discussions or new evaluations of artworks (Table 6).

Table 6. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about the arts and humanities.

| <i>Times</i> story  | Year | Academic citation context   |
|---|------|---|
| The Empire writes back with a vengeance (by Salman Rushdie) | 1982 | Argues that ex-empire English fiction writers will rejuvenate the craft. Cited as a motivation in: <b>Greek Migrant Literature in the Early Roman Empire.</b>   |
| The Audience at "Parsifal"                                  | 1914 | Evidence of a critic's argument that Parsifal is religious. Cited in: <b>Spiritual Succor or Sacrilege? British Catholic Responses to and Interpretations of Wagner's Parsifal.</b>   |
| Femina-Vie Heureuse Prize                                   | 1922 | A UK literary prize with a female jury from 1920-1939, with stories discussing it or announcing winners cited in: <b>Narrative data, informational poetics: Modernist literature and the emergence of cybernetic thought.</b> |
| Panorama Of Boothia   | 1834 | Evidence of popular representations of the Arctics. Cited in: <b>Going in Circles: Changing Perceptions of the Arctic Through Literary and Visual Representations in the Long-Nineteenth-Century.</b>                         |
| Hotch-potch Musical Version of Oliver Twist                 | 1960 | A critical review of a musical adaptation of a book. Cited in: <b>From Books to Broadway: The Musicalization of Literature.</b>   |

## 4.7 Evidence of global affairs

*The Times* is a huge repository of facts about the world and particularly events that were relevant to Britain at the time of publication. During the British Empire, this probably included most of the world, but it also had wide international reporting after this (Tables 7-11). For example, twenty-eight articles citing *The Times* discussed massacres around the world, which may have been primarily recorded in the press. This section gives examples broken down by geographic area, although some examples span multiple areas. The topics of the citing articles are not restricted to international political affairs but cover many different themes.

Table 7. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to **Africa**.

| <i>Times</i> story                  | Year | Academic citation context  |
|-------------------------------------|------|--|
| Mr. Rhodes and South Africa         | 1897 | Evidence of “large crowds” supporting a speaker for adding Rhodesia/Zimbabwe to the British Empire. Cited in: <b>‘Sixteen tons’ : mineworkers and their communities in Clifton-Morenci, Arizona and Kimberley, South Africa, 1880-1910.</b>            |
| The Natal Zulus at Olympia          | 1899 | Evidence of Zulu artists mistreated in London. Cited in: <b>The 1907 Deputation of Basuto Chiefs to London and the Development of British–South African Networks.</b>  |
| Dying children wait for help        | 1968 | Firsthand evidence of famine in Biafra. Cited in: <b>‘The Other Side’ of the Nigeria-Biafra War: A Transnational History.</b>  |
| Rhodesian Police accused of Torture | 1975 | Interviews about the experiences of ordinary citizens in a war zone. Cited in: <b>Zimbabwe’s Liberation War and the Everyday in Honde Valley, 1975 to 1979.</b>  |
| The Economic Tragedy of Egypt       | 1977 | Evidence of a curfew in Egypt in 1977. Cited in: <b>The Moral Economy of Global Crowds: Egypt 1977, Brazil 2013.</b>   |
| Trade with Egypt                    | 1930 | Trade missions to Egypt. Cited in: <b>It’s no secret at all: Extra economic and exogenous development and change in the interwar Egyptian economy, 1919-1939.</b>  |
| Racial Equality                     | 1950 | Information about the state of the Herero and other Nambians in South West Africa. Cited in: <b>Remov[e] Us from the Bondage of South Africa: Transnational Resistance Strategies and Subnational Concessions in Namibia’s Police Zone, 1919-1962.</b> |

Table 8. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to the **Americas**.

| <i>Times</i> story                                       | Year | Academic citation context  |
|--|------|--|
| Development in Brazil                                    | 1973 | Evidence that deforestation was ignored, and development praised internationally. Cited in: <b>The materiality of data transparency and the (re)configuration of environmental activism in the Brazilian Amazon.</b> |
| Democracy in Chile                                       | 1952 | A <i>Times</i> claim that ‘Chile was “an oasis of freedom” in South America’. Cited in: <b>Western Europe and Chilean development 1945-1973.</b>   |
| The Other Spains. Spanish America and the War            | 1937 | Evidence of the influence of the Spanish Civil War in Latin America. Cited in: <b>Mexico and the Spanish Republic. 1931-1939.</b>  |
| The Gold Diggings on the Fraser River                    | 1858 | Romanticization of the “manly” white gold prospector. Cited in: <b>White Power, Yellow Gold: Colonialism and Identity in the California and British Columbia Gold Rushes, 1848-1871.</b>                             |
| Obituary. Professor Gayley. English Scholar and Humanist | 1932 | A biographical sketch of a US literary professor. Cited in: <b>Plautus goes USA: the adaptation of <i>Rudens</i> by the Ladies’ Literary Society of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1884.</b>       |

Table 9. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to **Asia**.

| <i>Times</i> story                                | Year | Academic citation context   |
|---|------|---|
| Indian Criminal Procedure                         | 1883 | Description of legal system in India before the British and a criticism of it, reported as evidence of colonial attitudes. Cited in: <b>Trust Law Goes East: The Transplantation of Trust Law in India and Beyond</b> . |
| To the Earl of Moira                              | 1813 | Concerns about the actions of a British diplomat in India. Cited in: <b>A Nabob's Progress: Rowlandson and Combe's The Grand Master, a Tale of British Imperial Excess</b> .  |
| Contemporary Chinese painting                     | 1933 | Critical praise of Qi Baishi's "delightful paintings" in London. Cited in: <b>Introducing the art of modern China: Trends in exhibiting modern Chinese painting in Britain, c. 1930-1980</b> .                          |
| Ur of the Waters: Fortification by Canal          | 1930 | A description of the location of the ancient city of Ur taken from an archaeological report in <i>The Times</i> . Cited in: <b>The Suburbs of the Early Mesopotamian City of Ur (Tell al-Muqayyar, Iraq)</b> .          |
| America in the Philippines, Part VII              | 1910 | Critical admiration from the UK for a US hill station, Baguio, built in the Philippines. Cited in: <b>The Iron Hand of Power: US Architectural Imperialism in the Philippines</b> .                                     |
| New tactics in Malaya                             | 1951 | Statistics about the Malaysian Home Guard. Cited in: <b>Securitization of undocumented migrants and the politics of insecurity in Malaysia</b> .  |
| Prisoners And Captives: Orang-utans from Sumatra  | 1928 | Evidence of protests against importing orangutans from Indonesia to Europe. Cited in: <b>Plantations, Peddlers, and Nature Protection: The Transnational Origins of Indonesia's Orangutan Crisis, 1910-1930</b> .       |
| The Opening of The Karun River to Commerce        | 1889 | Expansion of British-run steamer services in Iran. Cited in: <b>British consuls and "local" imperialism in Iran, 1889-1921</b> .  |
| The arrival of the British China Squadron at Kobe | 1905 | Evidence of impressive industrial achievements in Japan recognised in the West. Cited in: <b>Reverse emulation and the cult of Japanese efficiency in Edwardian Britain</b> .   |

Table 10. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to **Australasia**.

| <i>Times</i> story                           | Year | Academic citation context  |
|--|------|--|
| The king of the Maori                        | 1884 | Evidence of positive press coverage for King Tawhiao's London visit. Cited in: <b>Kingitanga and Crown: New Zealand's Maori King movement and its relationship with the British monarchy</b> .   |
| Patent reports                               | 1908 | The UK patenting of asbestos cement boards. Cited in: <b>The effect of global trade on the New Zealand house</b> .   |
| A gun for every city                         | 1918 | Evidence of a politician's enthusiasm for the display of war trophies in Australia. Cited in: <b>War remains: contributions of the Imperial War Graves Commission and the Australian War Records Section to material and national cultures of conflict and commemoration</b> . |
| The future of telegraphy                     | 1926 | An influential British politician's opinion on communications policy quoted. Cited in: <b>'Upholding the Penny Principle': The Australian Press, Empire Communications and the 1929 Beam Wireless Select Committee</b> .   |
| Losses in the Pacific: The cost of new ships | 1936 | British subsidies to Pacific shipping in the 1930s. Cited in: <b>'Fiji is really the Honolulu of the Dominion': Tourism, empire, and New Zealand's Pacific, ca. 1900-35</b> .  |

Table 11. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to Europe.

| <i>Times</i> story  | Year | Academic citation context  |
|---|------|--|
| Ukrainian Minority in Poland                                | 1931 | Evidence of international interest in a Women's International League for Peace and Freedom report on the situation for Ukrainians in Poland. Cited in: <b>Minority Rights and Humanitarianism: The International Campaign for the Ukrainians in Poland, 1930-1931.</b> |
| Feeding the Enemy: Austrian needs                           | 1919 | US attempts to get food to the hungry in Austria after WWI. Cited in: <b>The Austrian hunger crisis and the genesis of international organization after the First World War.</b>   |
| Editorial comment about tram tracks                         | 1870 | Worries that tram tracks would threaten existing modes of transport in cities. Cited in: <b>The Machine in the City: Public Appropriation of the Tramway in Britain and Germany, 1870-1915.</b>  |
| Universal time  | 1886 | Report that local time was dropped in the UK in favour of railway time. Cited in: <b>One Clock Fits All? Time and Imagined Communities in Nineteenth-Century Germany.</b>  |
| The Church in Spain, Report on Conditions by British Clergy | 1936 | Publication of a report about the state of Christianity in Spain. Cited in: <b>Sacred Destruction? Anticlericalism, Iconoclasm and the Sacralization of Politics in Twentieth-Century Spain.</b>   |

## 4.8 Miscellaneous

The examples in this section represent diverse reasons for citing *The Times* that do not fit well into the main clusters (Table 12).

Table 12. Examples of *Times* stories cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics.

| <i>Times</i> story                             | Year | Academic citation context   |
|--|------|---|
| Time, space, and gravitation                   | 1919 | Einstein's discussion of principles in physics. Cited in: <b>Defining a crisis: the roles of principles in the search for a theory of quantum gravity.</b>  |
| Women Doctors for the Wounded                  | 1915 | News report of women war doctors being used internationally cited as evidence of the international spread of the idea. Cited in: <b>Caroline Matthews's Experiences of a Woman Doctor in Serbia: Advocacy for Women Doctors in Early Twentieth Century War Writing.</b> |
| At a Meeting of the Members of the Jockey Club | 1836 | High fees charged for entry into certain clubs cited as evidence of their social exclusiveness. Cited in: <b>The Demimonde as a Female Dandy: Masks, Masquerade, and the Making of the Dandy's Personae in Nineteenth-Century British Culture.</b>                      |

## 5. COMMONLY CITING JOURNALS

Whilst the above tables offer reasons why *The Times* was found useful in a wide variety of scholarly publications, analysing the journals in which all citing articles were published gives additional insights into the specialties that find *The Times* most useful. This section also effectively refines the earlier section on commonly citing Web of Science subject areas.

The academic journals that most frequently cite *The Times* mostly have a word meaning “history” in their titles (e.g., *English Historical Review*), reference a historical period (e.g., *Journal of Victorian Culture*, *The Dickensian*) (Table 13), or have an implicit focus on history (e.g., *Journal of Medical Biography*).

There are also many “studies” journals that cover the contemporary and historical aspects of a single topic. These include *Journal of British Studies* (“British culture from the Middle Ages to the present”, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-british-studies/information/about-this-journal>), *Britain and the World* (“Britain and its interactions, past and present”, <https://www.britainandtheworld.org>), and *Modern Asian Studies* (“history, social anthropology, sociology, political science, and cultures of modern Asia”, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/modern-asian-studies>) within the top 30. This set also includes *Burlington Magazine* (“Art and its history”, [www.burlington.org.uk](http://www.burlington.org.uk)) and *The London Journal* (“all aspects of metropolitan society past and present”, [www.thelondonjournal.org](http://www.thelondonjournal.org)).

Table 13. The 30 journals publishing the most academic articles citing *The Times* articles.

| Journal title                                    | Citing works |
|--|--------------|
| Twentieth Century British History                | 87           |
| Parliamentary History                            | 70           |
| Women’s History Review                           | 70           |
| Journal of British Studies                       | 67           |
| Historical Research                              | 53           |
| Journal of Victorian Culture                     | 53           |
| International History Review                     | 52           |
| Cultural & Social History                        | 50           |
| English Historical Review                        | 49           |
| The Historical Journal                           | 45           |
| History Workshop Journal                         | 41           |
| Social History of Medicine                       | 41           |
| Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television | 39           |
| British Journal for the History of Science       | 35           |
| Labour History Review                            | 34           |
| Journal of Contemporary History                  | 33           |
| The London Journal                               | 33           |
| Journal of Medical Biography                     | 29           |
| History  | 28           |
| Burlington Magazine                              | 27           |
| Journal of Historical Geography                  | 27           |
| Journal of the History of Collections            | 27           |
| Victorian Literature and Culture                 | 27           |
| History of Education                             | 26           |
| The Dickensian                                   | 25           |
| Sport in History                                 | 25           |
| Britain and the World                            | 23           |
| Modern Asian Studies                             | 22           |
| Notes and Queries                                | 22           |
| War in History                                   | 22           |

In addition, there is a “long tail” of 1,284 journals that have cited *The Times* at least once, such as *Theory in Biosciences*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, *Malaria Journal*, and *Ultrasonics Sonochemistry*.

## 6. COMMON THEMES AMONGST CITING ARTICLES

Academic works citing *The Times* seem to be characterised by diversity rather than by patterns, as the detailed examples above perhaps suggest. Nevertheless, commonly recurring terms in the titles of these citing works suggest that the UK, history, and war are frequently relevant, as well as women, culture, the Victorian times, Ireland, India, and the British Empire.

A topic modelling automated analysis of the titles of the works citing *The Times* has the potential to give more insights, at least in theory, by finding underlying factors. The best-fitting topic model has five broad topics or themes.

- **Topic 1:** British law
- **Topic 2:** Empire and war
- **Topic 3:** Politics and social change
- **Topic 4:** The First World War
- **Topic 5:** Women and social issues in the First World War

## 7. COMMONLY CITING INSTITUTIONS

In parallel with the above report of different geographic areas of articles citing *The Times*, it is possible to identify the most citing institutions for additional insights. It is not worth reporting a list, but some general patterns may be informative. Institutions most citing *The Times* were predominantly from the UK and its former colonies and partly or predominantly English-speaking countries: the US, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Ireland, Hong Kong, Israel/Palestine, and Singapore. The colonial connection presumably explains this, such as through researchers moving to countries that they have family ties to and can speak the language of, or the former colonial country taking an interest in the UK as part of its history.

Some European universities also frequently cite *The Times*, including from Germany, France, Finland, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. These may be due to increasing economic and cultural connections between the countries when the UK joined the European Communities (now European Union) in 1973. For example, Leiden University cited an article in *The Times* to evidence the amount of UK-financed property development in the Netherlands in the 1970s. It is also partly due to a parallel emergence of the European as a field of study. To illustrate this, another article from Leiden, “Disabled citizens and the neoliberal turn in Britain: Whose rights and whose responsibilities?” focused on the UK and was from a European history scholar.

Outside of these areas, high citers of *The Times* include the following.

- **Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia:** For example, two *Times* articles have been used to evidence a change in the spelling of the Russophile novelist Gerhardie and the high regard for him by Graham Greene. Cited in: **William Gerhardie: An English Writer with a Russian Accent on the Revolution and Civil War.**
- **Fudan University, China:** The *Times* story “An Oxford Tribute to Chiang Kai-Shek: Profound Admiration” from 1939 was used as evidence of Chen Tiqiang’s education in England. Cited in: **Tracing Chinese Scholar Chen Tiqiang’s Pursuit of International Law Education and His Major Contribution to the Doctrine of Recognition.**

- **Kyoto University, Japan:** Various stories about the island of Aldabra from 1970 were used as evidence of scientific opposition to airport building on Aldabra for conservation reasons. Cited in: **Towards 'a new Okinawa' in the Indian Ocean: Diego Garcia and Anglo-American relations in the 1960s.**
- **Sakarya University, Turkey:** The 1951 news story "Security council vacancy: Seven more inconclusive ballots" was used as evidence of US influence on Latin American foreign policy. Cited in: **Controlling International Institutions: How the US Engineered UNSC Non-permanent Members in the Early Cold War.**

There is also a wide range of different types of institutions citing *The Times*. Whilst the most frequently citing institutions are often large research-intensive universities, including Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff, Monash, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Guelph, and Toronto, there are also more mixed teaching/research universities, like Wolverhampton, Manchester Metropolitan, and Lincoln in the UK and Appalachian State in the US. In addition, some smaller specialist institutions cite *The Times*, including the Victoria and Albert Museum (London), the Science Museum (London), and the Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance (Australia).

## 8. CITING DOCUMENT TYPES AND YEARS

At least in the Web of Science, two-thirds of publications citing the times are journal articles, with 17% being book chapters, 6% being books, and 2% being dissertations. This highly depends on the Web of Science selection and indexing procedure, however, and this probably substantially underestimates the contribution of books, book chapters, and dissertations (Figure 4).

The graph suggests that the extent to which *The Times* was cited dropped in 2021, but this is misleading and almost certainly due to indexing changes in the Web of Science, since there is a similar pattern of fewer apparent citations in recent years for other newspapers and news media, including *Al Jazeera*, *China Daily*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Times of India*, and *The Washington Post*.



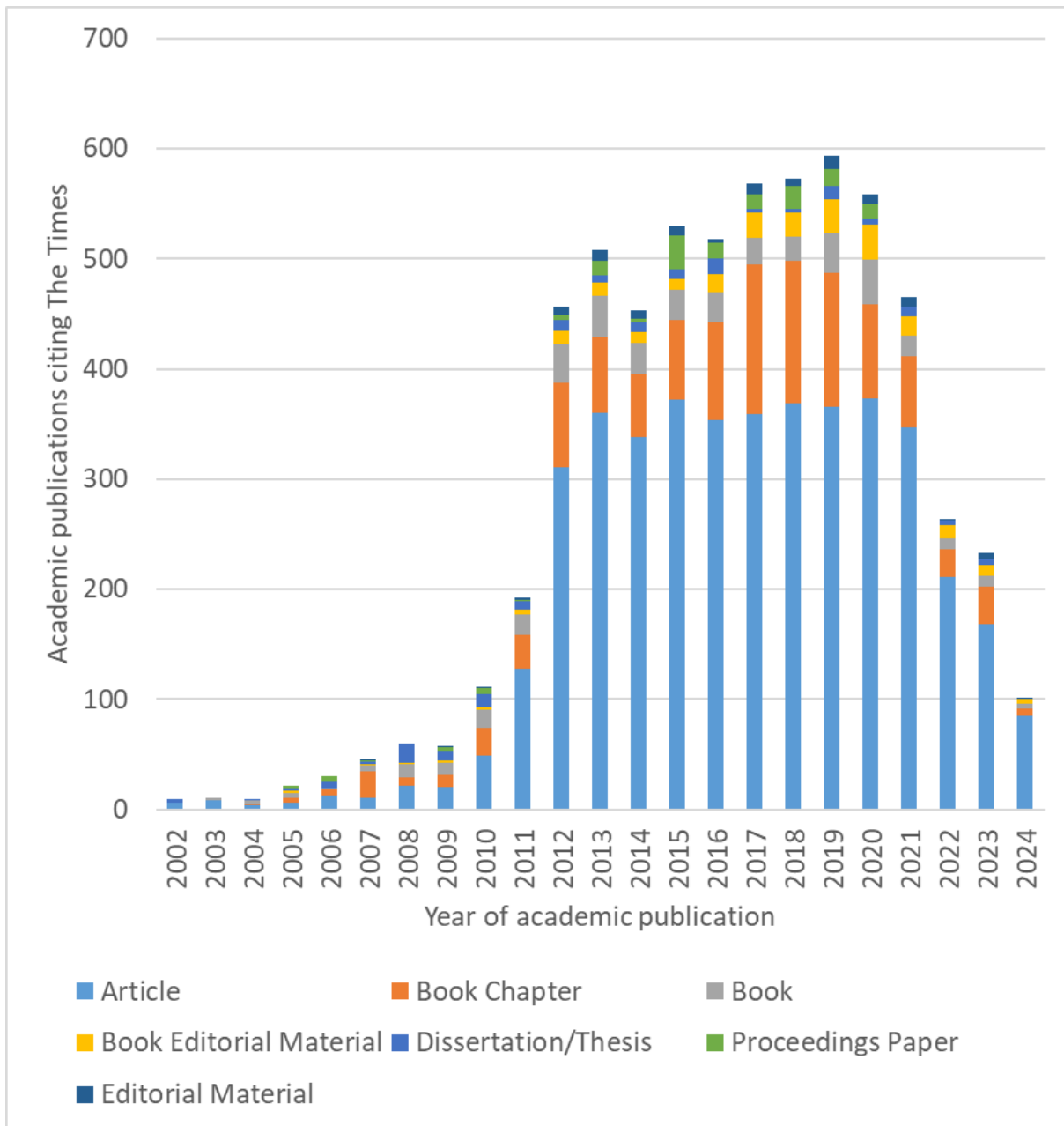


Figure 4. The seven document types most citing pre-1986 *Times* news articles, broken down by citing work publication year.

## 9. SUMMARY

This report has identified some themes in the peer-reviewed academic documents citing *The Times*. Despite these themes and that the citing articles frequently focus on historical subjects, it is evident that there is a wide range of topics, geographies, and purposes for which *The Times* may be useful. Of course, the main users of *The Times* archives are undergraduate and postgraduate students on taught degrees, but their essays and dissertations do not get systematically indexed so are not included here. For academic research citing *The Times*, the main topics identified above are as follows.

- Press perspectives
- Legal and social changes
- Medical or health discoveries or threats
- Press or public attitudes
- Government or establishment attitudes or policy
- Opinions on the arts
- Evidence of global affairs—especially for the former British Empire, but also for Africa, Asia, the Americas, Australasia, and Europe

Whilst the fields most making use of *The Times* are primarily those with a historical aspect, this includes many fields where history is not the primary focus, such as Asian Studies. Many fields that clearly don't have a historical focus also sometimes cite *The Times* for an occasional foray into the historical origins of an aspect of their focus.

## 10. REFERENCES

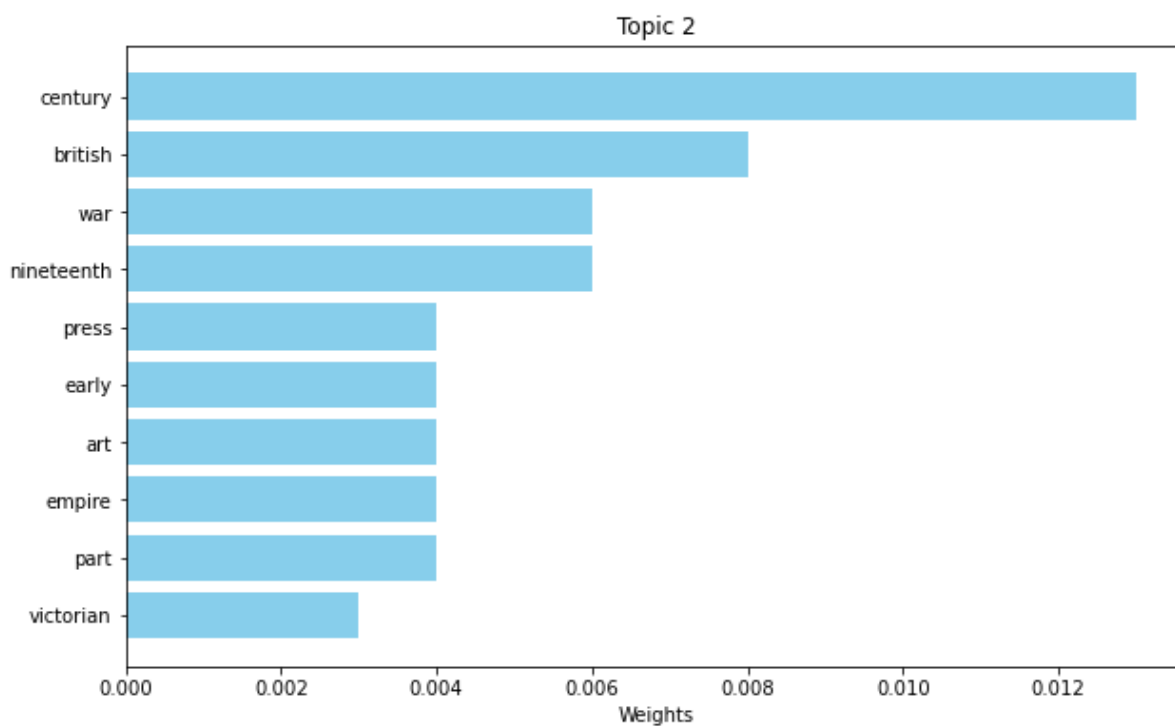
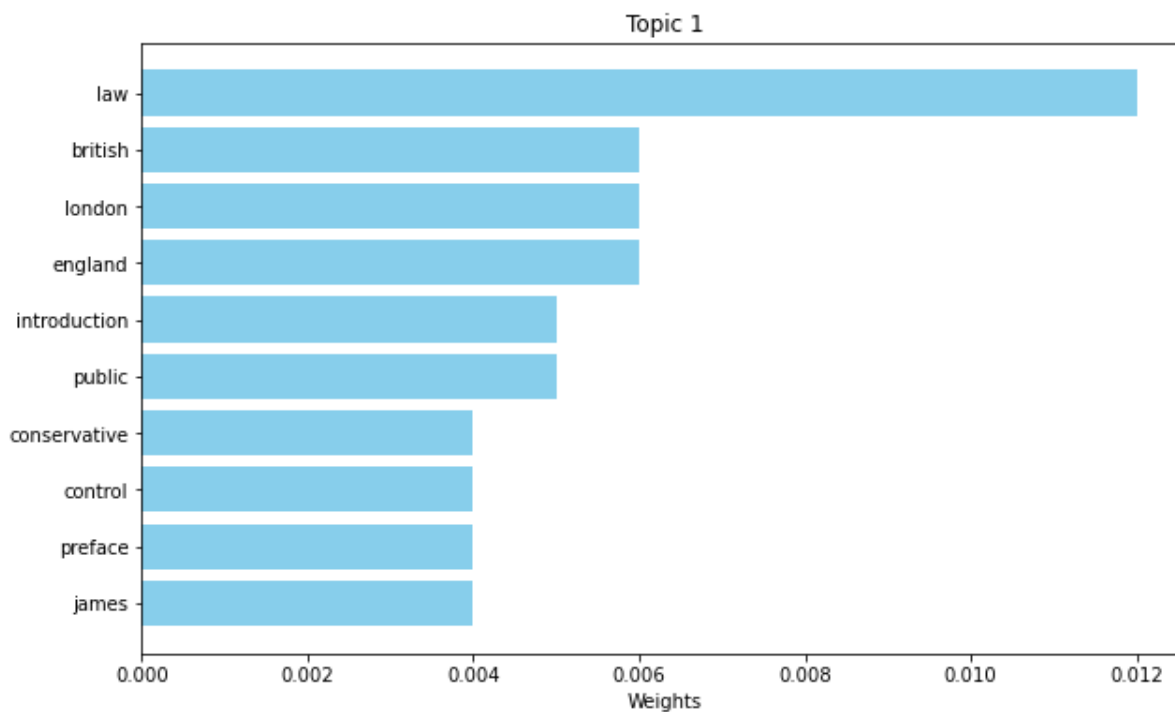
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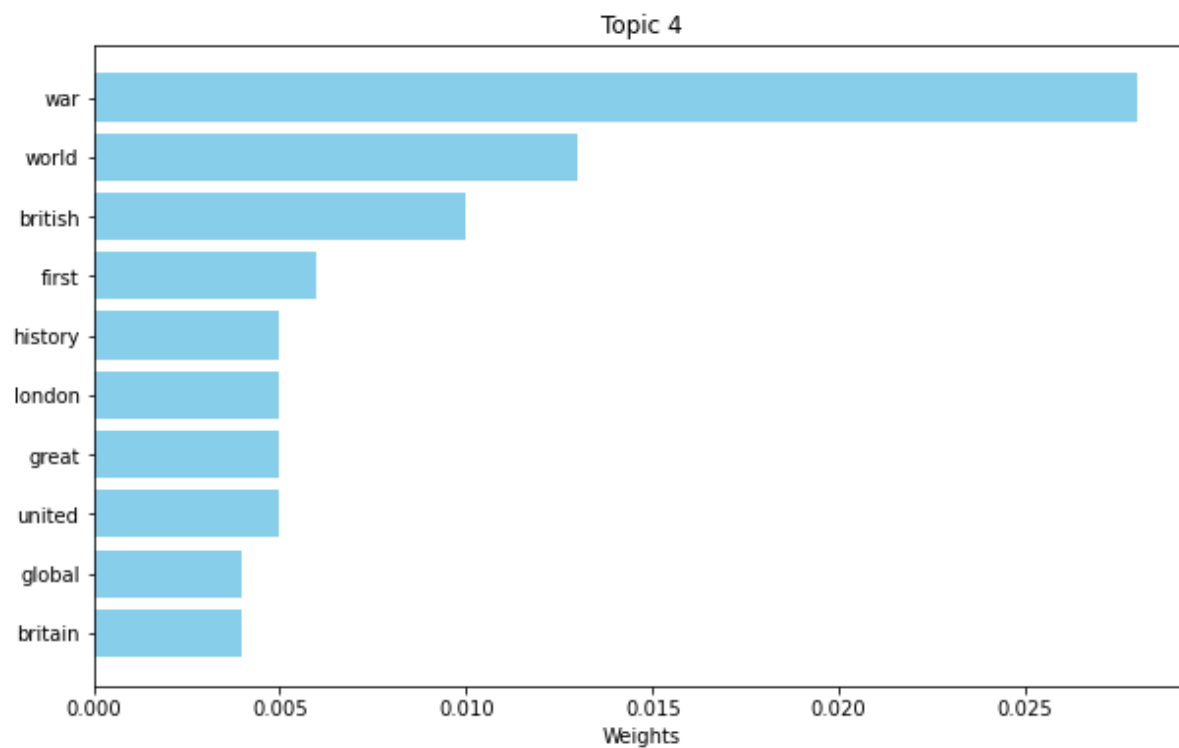
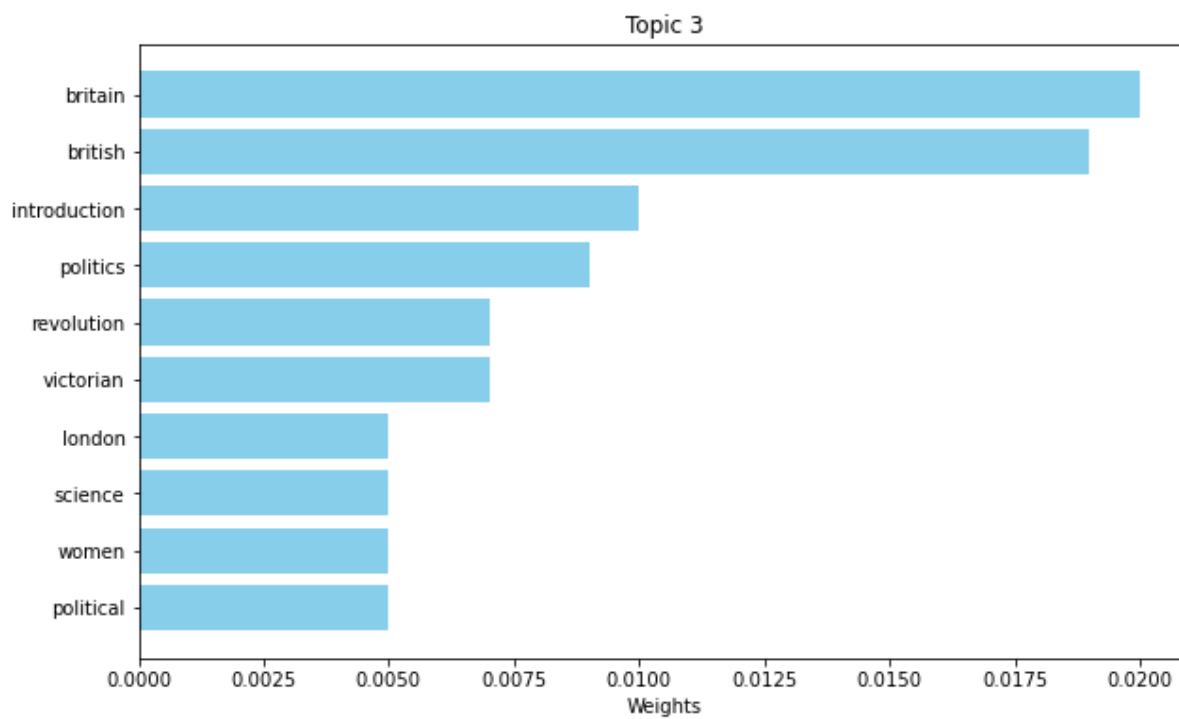
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Nicholson, B. (2013). The Digital Turn: Exploring the methodological possibilities of digital newspaper archives. *Media History*, 19(1), 59-73.

## 11. APPENDIX 2: TOPIC TERMS FOR THE TOPIC MODELLING





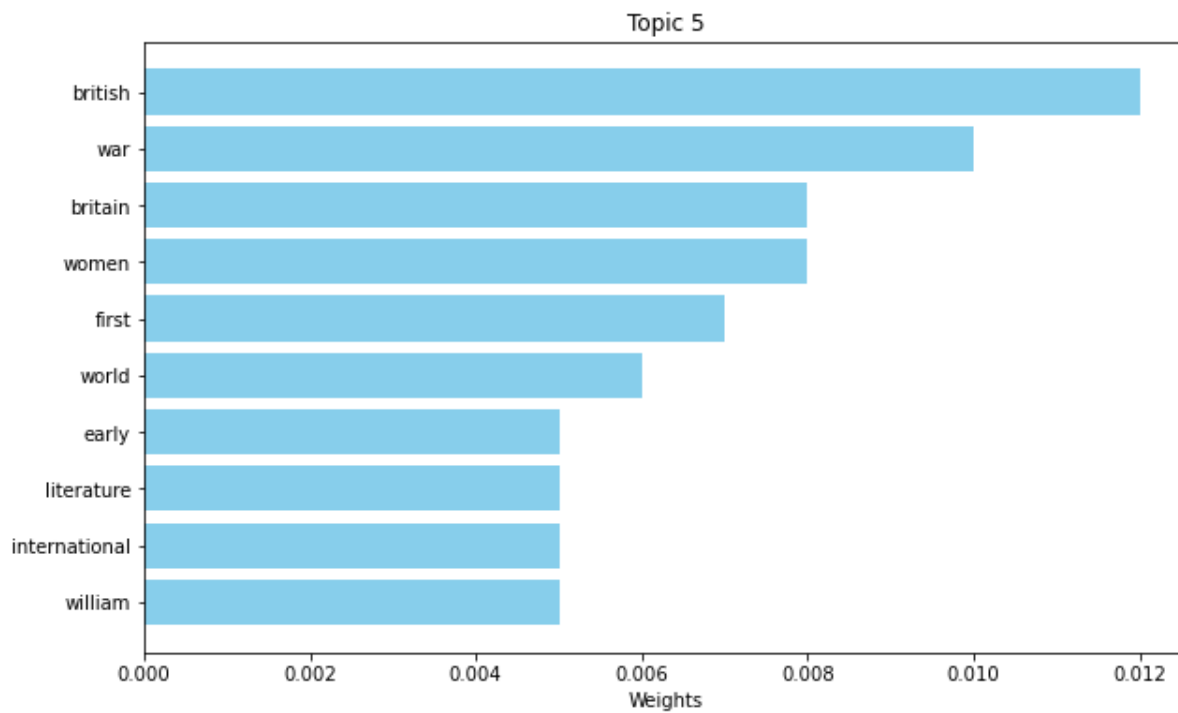


Figure 5. The most important words for each of the five topics found by the topic modelling solution.

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