

CASE STUDY

Eighteenth Century Collections Online

Eighteenth Century Collections Online provides access to content you may otherwise struggle to obtain. What was once only available in source libraries is now fully available in one central digital resource.

THE RESOURCE

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) contains over 180,000 titles (200,000 volumes) and more than 32 million pages, making *ECCO* an indispensable leading resource for eighteenth-century research. Users of *ECCO Part I* and *Part II* can search the full text collection via an intuitive user interface.

ABOUT

Professor Riccardo Capoferro teaches English Literature at Sapienza University of Rome, focussing on “the long 18th century” that covers 1688 to 1815. His research interests are not only 18th century narrative, but non-literary genres such as reviews or periodicals.



Professor Riccardo Capoferro

THE CHALLENGES

Professor Capoferro spoke of the challenges he faced in the past when conducting his own research, “*The main obstacle was geographical distance, having to travel to the archives, and often having to take researchers abroad to collect the information needed.*”

“What was once available in a week is now available in two hours.”

Professor Capoferro explained, “*Before I had access to Eighteenth Century Collections Online, I had to buy a flight ticket to London to access the British Library, but thanks to ECCO I saved money on flights and a lot of time. Furthermore, our libraries have difficulty in purchasing rare books because of a lack of funds, but ECCO*

provided me with access to content I would have otherwise struggled to obtain. With ECCO, what was once only available in just a few places is now available in one central resource.”

IMPACT ON RESEARCH

Discussing the impact that *Eighteenth Century Collections Online* had on his research, Professor Capoferro stated, “*Digitising these materials has let me have access to an abundance of material, allowing for a more text-based research focus. ECCO was a crucial tool during my doctoral research on the 18th century, as it helped me have access to new materials*





which I might otherwise have overlooked. I was able to access obscure works such as 'The Travels and Adventures of William Binglefield', 'A Voyage to Cacklogallinia' and 'A Narrative of the Life and Astonishing Adventures of John Daniel'. Overall ECCO had a positive impact on my research output."

Professor Capoferro went on to explain that, *"Digital resources like ECCO can attract students and researchers from other universities, as they will consider such resources in their evaluation of which university is best suited to their needs."*

"In addition, a key benefit of having a cross-search platform like Gale Primary Sources is that it helps users find more relevant material and accelerate their research."

In conclusion, Professor Capoferro stated *"there has been a dramatic increase in the amount of 18th century research that has been undertaken using these resources. And it is clear these resources are becoming fundamental to the growth of the Digital Humanities."*