



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH



Online, 2021 October 4-15

# Doctoral thesis digitisation and metadata enhancement at Edinburgh University Library

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Alasdair MacDonald

Metadata Co-ordinator, Edinburgh University Library



# Library & University Collections

- 35,000 students (2020)
- Main Library, sites and Collections Facility
- 2m+ physical volumes; 1.6m+ electronic resources
- Integrated Centre for Research Collections (Rare Books, Archives and Museums)
- DCMI institutional member since 2017





# Doctoral Thesis Collections

- 'Attic' collection (MD), 1726 – ca. 1830; 3,500 pamphlets catalogued to DCRM(B)
- 'Early Thesis' collection (MD), 1830 – 1880; ca. 1,200 hand-written manuscripts, recorded on paper catalogues
- Modern thesis collection, 1880s –
- Typeset physical and electronic, partially catalogued on Alma and ERA; move to all subject areas

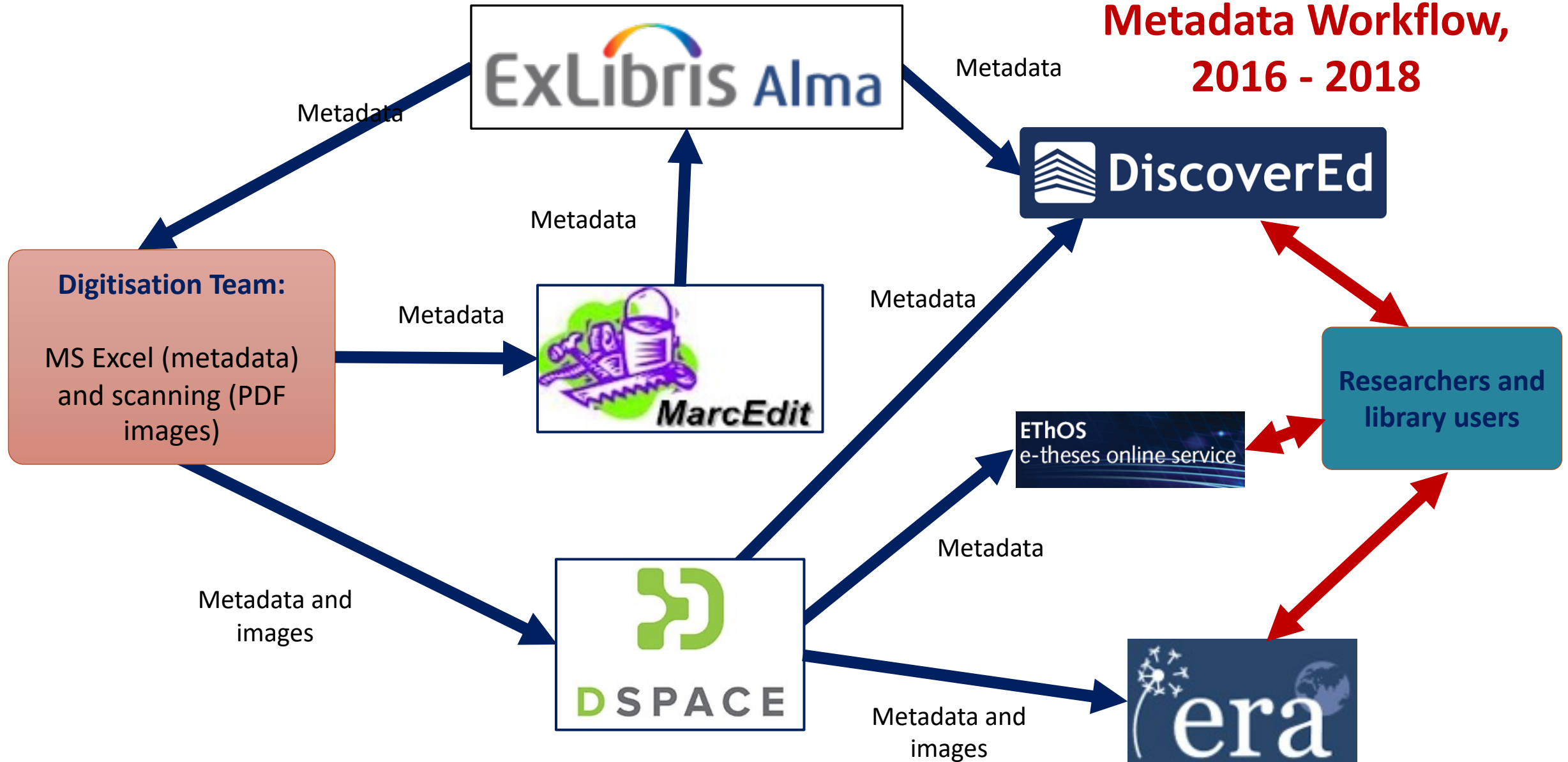


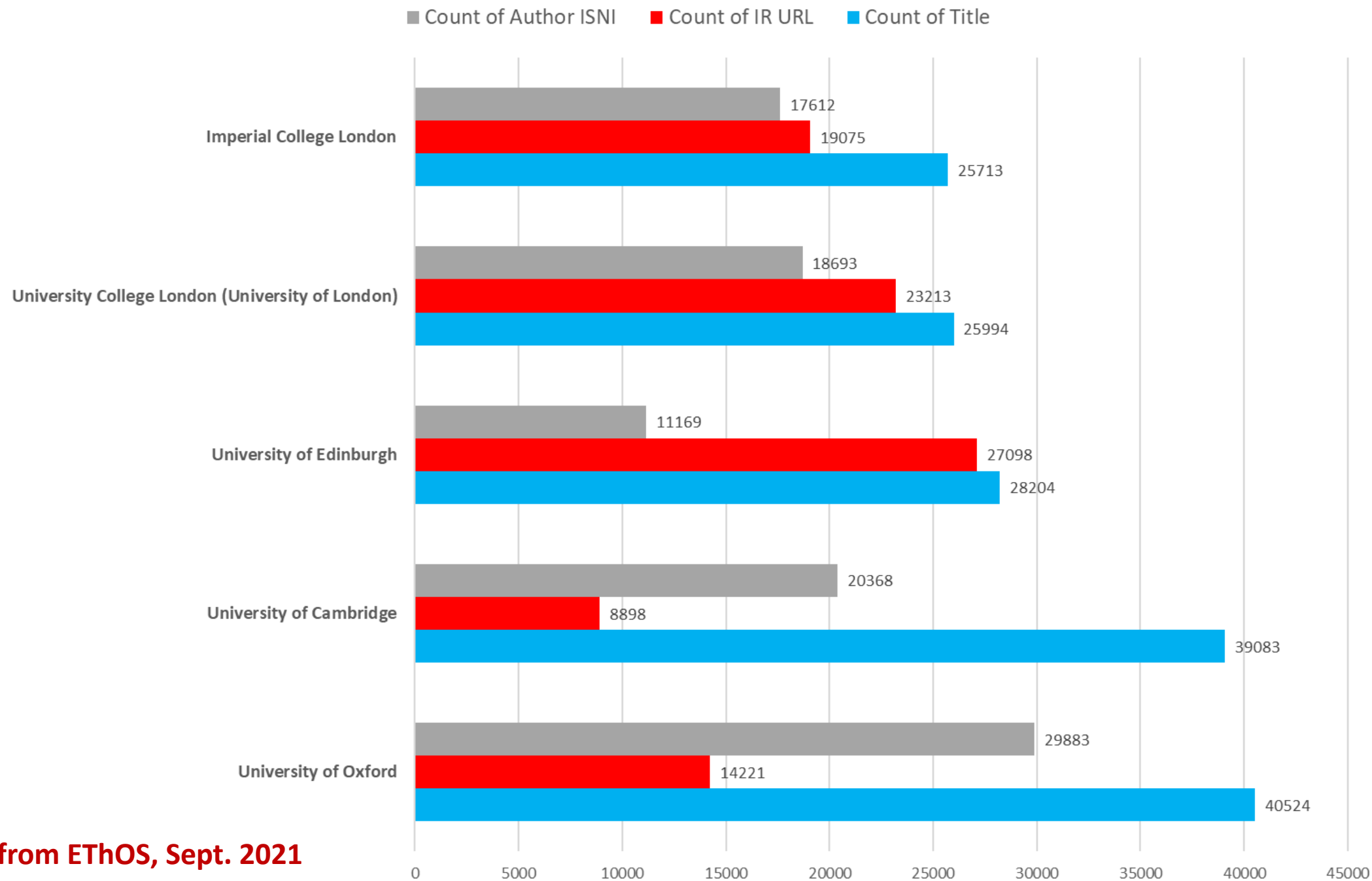
The background of the slide is a photograph of a library shelf. The shelf is made of light-colored metal and is filled with many dark-colored books. The books are arranged in rows, and the spines of some books are visible. The lighting is bright, and the overall tone is professional and academic.

# Modern Thesis Collection

- To 2005, submission of 2x typeset and bound physical copies
- 2005 – 2020 1x physical and 1x electronic copy
- Ca. 8,000 electronic theses deposited and catalogued in ERA 2008 to 2020/2021
- 2014 – cataloguing of print copies discontinued
- 2020 – deposit of physical copy no longer required

# Thesis Digitisation and Metadata Workflow, 2016 - 2018





**Figures from EThOS, Sept. 2021**





# Who Was the Author? Authority Control, Identifiers and Wikipedia Editing

- 30-40% of 20<sup>th</sup> Century PhD authors identified in LCNAF
- Use of broader range of identity management initiatives – ISNI, VIAF ORCID and WikiData
- Adopted Alma catalogue as source of canonical metadata - simple procedures for recording PIDS
- Add links to Wikipedia pages back to ERA thesis
- Upgrade stub pages and create new pages

WIKIPEDIA

The Free Encyclopedia

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# Ann Silver

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Ann Silver** (born 23 November 1929)<sup>[1]</sup> is an eminent British physiologist, known for her pioneering work on the neurotransmitter *acetylcholine*.<sup>[2]</sup> She wrote a seminal text on the *Biology of cholinesterases*<sup>[3]</sup> in 1974 and helped to lay the foundations of the *cholinergic* hypothesis by mapping cholinergic systems and helping to emphasise the importance of these pathways in brain areas central to cognitive and memory functions, leading to the use of *cholinesterase inhibitors* in the treatment of *Alzheimer's disease*.<sup>[4]</sup>

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## Family [ edit ]

Ann Silver was born at a British hospital in India where her father was serving in the Indian army. Although a baptismal certificate states that she was "said to be born" on 23 November 1929, no actual birth certificate was issued. Her father was born in Grenada, then part of the British West Indies, where his Scottish father was a Church of Scotland minister. The family returned to Britain in 1930 and settled in Suffolk. She has an older brother, Ian A. Silver, who studied zoology at Cambridge, where he then lectured on Veterinary Anatomy. He is now an emeritus professor of Comparative Pathology at *Bristol University*.

## Education [ edit ]

Silver was educated at the *University of Edinburgh*, where she studied zoology, physiology and pharmacology graduating with a BSc (Hons) in 1954. In 1961 she was awarded a PhD<sup>[5]</sup> in physiology, concerning the transport of choline acetyltransferase in nerves. Her PhD was undertaken as an external student since she was based in Cambridge at that time, carrying out research work for the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham (later *Babraham Institute*).<sup>[4]</sup>

## Career [ edit ]

Catherine Hebb, who had first stimulated Silver's interest in cholinesterases while teaching at the *University of Edinburgh*, invited Silver to join her when she moved to The Agricultural Research Council Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham. Silver's initial research was on organophosphorous compounds and their anti-cholinesterase effects. The Institute was to remain Ann's employer for most of her career, where she continued to work with Catherine Hebb, co-authoring several papers on the *acetylcholine* system.<sup>[6]</sup> While there, Silver worked on the acetylcholine system, mapping the enzymes, choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) and acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and investigating the nerve transport mechanism. She worked with several eminent scientists at Babraham, a number of whom had also come from or studied at the *University of Edinburgh*. These included the director *Sir John Gaddum*, pharmacologist and neurochemist, *Marthe Vogt*, who had previously lectured in pharmacology, and physiologist *Krešimir Krnjević*, who had also gained a PhD at the University. After many years in the lab, Silver eventually moved into the role of Information Officer, when a rise in anti-vivisection activity prompted a need for better public relations and a change in the experience of working with the Physiological Society<sup>[1]</sup> on what would or would not be licensed, made her a suitable candidate for this role. Silver then became ethical editor on the *Journal of Physiology*, where several of her own research articles were published, and that experiments in any published papers had been conducted humanely.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References [ edit ]

1.

<sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Walters, Dafydd (January 2015). "An interview with Ann Silver" (PDF). *Physiological Society site*. Retrieved 8 March 2019.

2.

<sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> R, Thomas; A, Silver; R, Thomas; EM, Tansey; L, Iversen; M, Sanders; C, Reeves; A, Yabsley (2017-06-26). "Silver, Ann: transcript of a video interview (07- and 08-Sep-2007)".

3.

<sup>^</sup> Silver, Ann (1974). *The biology of cholinesterases*. Amsterdam; New York: North-Holland Pub. Co. ; American Elsevier Pub. Co. ISBN 978-0-444-10652-0. OCLC 1302832.

4.

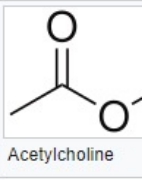
<sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> "Dr Ann Silver". *histmodbiomed.org*. Retrieved 2019-03-08.

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<sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>e</sup> <sup>f</sup> <sup>g</sup> <sup>h</sup> <sup>i</sup> <sup>j</sup> <sup>k</sup> <sup>l</sup> <sup>m</sup> <sup>n</sup> <sup>o</sup> <sup>p</sup> <sup>q</sup> <sup>r</sup> <sup>s</sup> <sup>t</sup> <sup>u</sup> <sup>v</sup> <sup>w</sup> <sup>x</sup> <sup>y</sup> <sup>z</sup> <sup>aa</sup> <sup>ab</sup> <sup>ac</sup> <sup>ad</sup> <sup>ae</sup> <sup>af</sup> <sup>ag</sup> <sup>ah</sup> <sup>ai</sup> <sup>aj</sup> <sup>ak</sup> <sup>al</sup> <sup>am</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>ao</sup> <sup>ap</sup> <sup>aq</sup> <sup>ar</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>au</sup> <sup>av</sup> <sup>aw</sup> <sup>ax</sup> <sup>ay</sup> <sup>az</sup> <sup>ba</sup> <sup>bb</sup> <sup>bc</sup> <sup>bd</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>bf</sup> <sup>bg</sup> <sup>bh</sup> <sup>bi</sup> <sup>bj</sup> <sup>bk</sup> <sup>bl</sup> <sup>bm</sup> <sup>bn</sup> <sup>bo</sup> <sup>bp</sup> <sup>bq</sup> <sup>br</sup> <sup>bs</sup> <sup>bt</sup> 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Ann Silver

<b>Born</b>	23 November 1929 <div>India</div>
<b>Nationality</b>	British
<b>Education</b>	University of Edinburgh
<b>Known<span> </span>for</b>	Cholinesterase inhibitors
<b>Relatives</b>	Ian A. Silver





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1\_ |a Watson, Mona Chalmers, |d 1872-1936, |e author. |0 https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q18819364

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12 |a A year's obstetric work at Plaistow Maternity Institute, London : |b statistics and notes on fifteen hundred and fifty cases, with observations on cases of chorea gravidarum, extra uterine gestation, rupture of the uterus, and inversion of the uterus / |c A. Mary C. Geddes, MB, CM.

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\_0 |a Labor (Obstetrics) |x Complications |v Case studies.

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\_2 |a Obstetric Labor Complications.

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\_2 |a London.

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2\_ |a University of Edinburgh, |e degree granting institution.

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\_\_ |a Thesis Digitisation

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## A year's obstetric work at Plaistow Maternity Institute, London : statistics and notes on fifteen hundred and fifty cases, with observations on cases of chorea gravidarum, extra uterine gestation, rupture of the uterus, and inversion of the uterus

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[Geddes, Alexandra Mary Campbell](#)

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I. A few words regarding the Charity and the manner in which the work is carried on.

II. A Table of the Maternity cases, with Notes on: a The Presentations. b The operative interference found necessary. c The Complications of Labour.

III. Complications of Pregnancy

IV. a Extra Uterine Gestation. b Rupture of the Uterus, c Inversion of the Uterus,.

V. Complications of the puerperium.

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Collections  
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# Future Work and Issues

- Objective of uploading data sets to Wikidata with identifiers for creators and subjects
- ERA and Alma not in alignment – options for automation and overlay?
- Better use of subject vocabularies – FAST and subject specific
- Older theses often rich in potential for graph data, but issues of Latin text and palaeography skills



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH



Online, 2021 October 4-15

# Thank you!

[Alasdair.MacDonald@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Alasdair.MacDonald@ed.ac.uk)