

Virtual Reading Rooms

13 March 2024

RLUK definition

Virtual Reading Rooms and Virtual Teaching Spaces provide human-mediated remote digital access to collections which do not depend on digitisation. Through the use of live streaming via hi-res visualisers positioned within physical research spaces, scholars, teachers or members of the public can view and digitally engage with an institution's heritage and cultural collections, asking for these to be positioned and repositioned by a member of staff, to enable their research. These are emerging and bespoke services which provide another means of user-responsive access to collection materials.



Thank you again for helping
us with our research.

I found the process easy to use + staff were very helpful

An hour is just
right, I think --- it's
quite demanding to
examine documents
on screen for longer.

**Just that I am grateful for this service.
It makes research a lot easier when
you're not local/UK-based for long
periods of time.**

**This is an excellent and innovative
service.**

This is the most fantastic facility for those living at a
distance from Southampton.

At no point did we feel rushed into moving on to the
next documents,

and we had our questions
answered when we had them.

It has saved
me a day trip
and enabled
me to make a
quick
assessment of
archive
material.

found this to be an
excellent service + I was
shown exactly the
information that I was
looking for.

*The
archivists
were
helpful
and
professional.*

This was a really useful service

Challenges of setting up a service:

- Making the case
- Cost
- Impact on staff
- Technology
- Space
- Collections considerations
- Promotion, audience and engagement

YOUR QUESTIONS