



Livingstone Online Goes Live (5 May 2006)

Livingstone Online is a new scholarly resource that provides unique insights into the medical and scientific work of the missionary doctor and African explorer David Livingstone (1813-1873). Our aim is to make fully searchable transcriptions and high quality digital images of Livingstone's original medical and scientific correspondence as well as other relevant writings freely available online.

Our project is sponsored by The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL and has been further facilitated by a pilot grant from the Wellcome Trust. We are delighted to be able to offer the initial results of our work, namely detailed XML encoded transcriptions and images of 69 of the Livingstone letters held in the Wellcome Library, London. Our materials are accompanied by essays on [Victorian Science & Medicine](#) and [Expeditions in the Nineteenth Century](#).

In order to demonstrate our broader vision of providing a highly contextualised resource for understanding the medical and scientific content of Livingstone's works, we also offer enhanced versions of several documents, such as [his letter of 1841 to Professor Richard Owen about the collection of scientific specimens](#). These documents contain detailed content markup in order to demonstrate the potential of the electronic medium to provide an easy-to-use and valuable academic resource. In the near future, we intend to add a search facility to our site.

While editorial work expanding our site and enhancing our current transcriptions will continue under the aegis of our pilot grant until the end of 2006, Livingstone Online will need to obtain further funding to complete the comprehensive corpus of Livingstone's medical and scientific writings.

With the acquisition of further funding, we aim to:

- transform [G.W. Clendennen & I.C. Cunningham's published catalogues of David Livingstone's manuscripts](#) into a fully searchable online database (having already received the necessary permission from the copyright holders).
- continue transcribing the medical and scientific letters held in other collections. Indeed, a large number of letters in the [National Library of Scotland](#) and [The David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre](#) have already been identified for future inclusion on our site.
- progressively develop the breadth and scope of the contextual information provided on the site in order to understand and explain the medical and scientific aspects of the

correspondence.

Contact us. We hope you find our materials useful and would greatly value any comments or suggestions you might have. Please contact us at livingstoneonline@ucl.ac.uk.

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