

Editorial

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Research is on the rise within the Science Museum Group. At a time when scholarship seems under threat, we are *strengthening* our commitment to a deeper understanding of our world class collections, conservation challenges and the most successful ways of engaging the wider public with the history of science and the technological and scientific challenges facing modern society.

Yet up to now that research has been missing a public voice. We have been quietly leveraging innovation in our own work and, quite absurdly, missing the opportunity for this to be heard and debated with wider research communities. With the launch of this journal we hope to change that. We are proud of our growing body of research and here we will freely share it, but we also invite original work from others working in museums and universities across the world, knowing that new thinking, discussion and debate will nudge us all into greater creativity.

Academic publishing is going through a period of extraordinary change and its future is somewhat uncertain, but the Science Museum Group Journal takes advantage of being born in a digital age, with all the opportunities that this offers. One of the greatest of these, perhaps, is the ability to share our extraordinary library of images, film and multi-media, not just as wallpaper but as an important and often beautiful primary source in its own right. We hope you will find this first issue as exciting and interesting to read as it has been for us to produce.



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Author information



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Director, Science Museum Group

Sir Ian Blatchford was appointed Director and Chief Executive of the Science Museum Group from 1 November 2010 and

combined this with the role of Director of the Science Museum from December 2010. Sir Ian was Chairman of the National Museum Directors' Council (2017–2021) and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He became President of the Royal Literary Fund in 2020. Previously he was Chairman of the Governors of De Montfort University from 2011 to 2018. He was awarded the Pushkin Medal in 2015. Sir Ian was awarded a Knighthood in the 2019 New Year's Honours for services to Cultural Education