# Taking an audience-centred approach to presenting museum collections online

Audience Engagement: innovative digital approaches | ICOM Italia 17 October 2022

Kati Price | Head of Experience and Digital, V&A



## **The Victoria and Albert Museum**





























Title page of 'A Book of Verse', by William Morris, 1870, London, England, UK. Pressmark MSL.1953:131

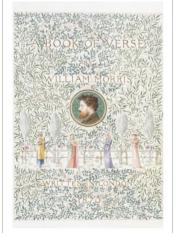












Title page of 'A Book of Verse', by William Morris, 1870, London, England, UK. Pressmark MSL.1953:131



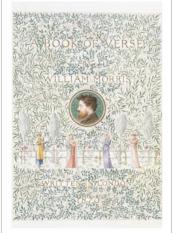












Title page of 'A Book of Verse', by William Morris, 1870, London, England, UK. Pressmark MSL.1953:131

















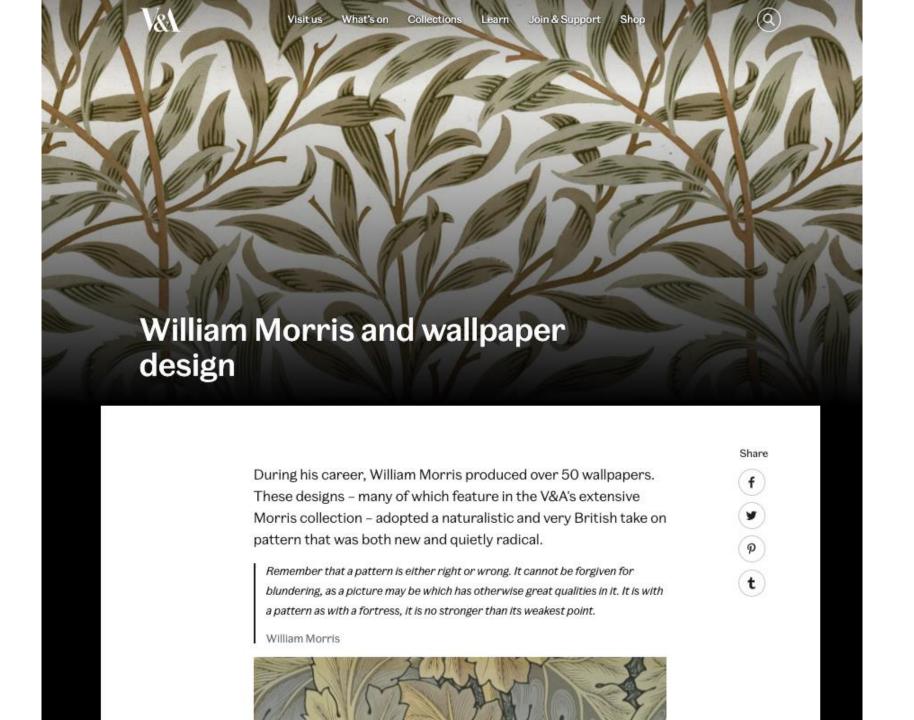
Title page of 'A Book of Verse', by William Morris, 1870, London, England, UK. Pressmark MSL.1953:131



# Google

william morris

Note: The second of the seco



Search 1,179,567 objects and 668,895 images from the V&A's collections

Last updated: 09 Jun 2017

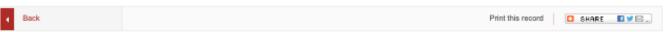
Search

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Best quality records including image and detailed description

Or are you looking for Search the Archives?





Acanthus Morris, William, born 1834 - died 1896

#### Acanthus

Object: Walipaper

Place of origin: Great Britain (made)

Date: 1875 (published)

Artist/Maker: Morris, William, born 1834 - died 1896 (designer)

Jeffrey & Co. (manufacturer)

Morris & Co. (publisher)

Materials and Techniques: colour block print on paper

Credit Line: Given by Mr Allan F. Vigers

Museum number: E.800-1915

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level C, case 2B, shelf DW, box 7

Download image

#### Explore related objects

#### Category

Wall coverings +

#### Material

printing ink >

#### Subject

foliation (pattern) > acanthus >

#### Style

Arts and Crafts (movement) >

#### Technique

block printing >

Summary

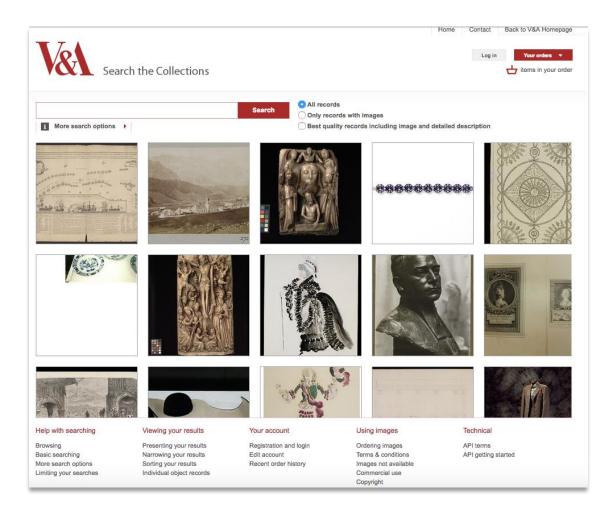
More information

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William Morris designed a number of wallpapers all with repeating patterns based on natural forms. This wallpaper was printed for Morris's company by the London firm Jeffrey & Co., who specialised in high quality 'Art' wallpapers. It required thirty wood blocks to print the full repeat, and used fifteen subtly different colours (more than any previous design by Morris). 'Acanthus' was issued in two colour combinations - one in shades of green and the other in predominantly reddish-brown tones.

'Acanthus' is a large-scale repeat which would appear to be most appropriate for large rooms. However Morris believed that a large pattern actually worked well in a small room. He explained that if it was well designed, a large pattern was more restful to look at than a small one. By the 1880s Morris wallpapers had become fashionable. When the wealthy Mander family furnished their newly built house, Wightwick Manor near Wolverhampton, they used Morris wallpapers in 13 of the rooms. 'Acanthus' was hung in one of the bedrooms.

## 



## Annually, we have over 5 million visits to our collections online

**1.7 million** sessions on *Search the Collections* 

**3.6 million** sessions for collections content on the main website

During closure, our collections content performed extremely well with a **15% increase** in page views

## Who's using our collections online?

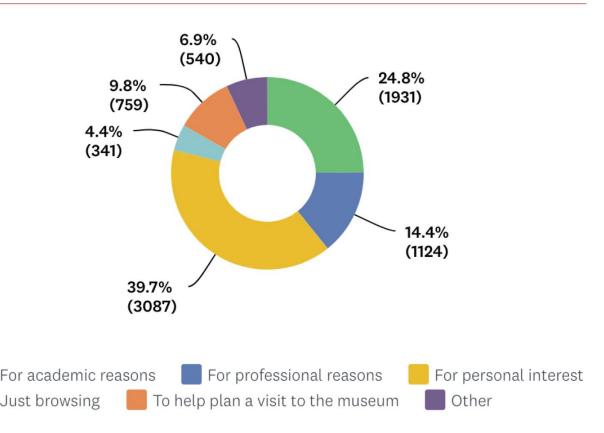
Most people accessing our collections online are coming for 'personal interest' reasons (40%).

If you combine people coming for professional and academic reasons they share a similar proportion (39%).

Though there is a relatively high proportion of people using our collections online to help plan their visit (10%) this changes according to which collections site they're using.

Relatively few users identified themselves as 'just browsing' (4%).

#### All sites.



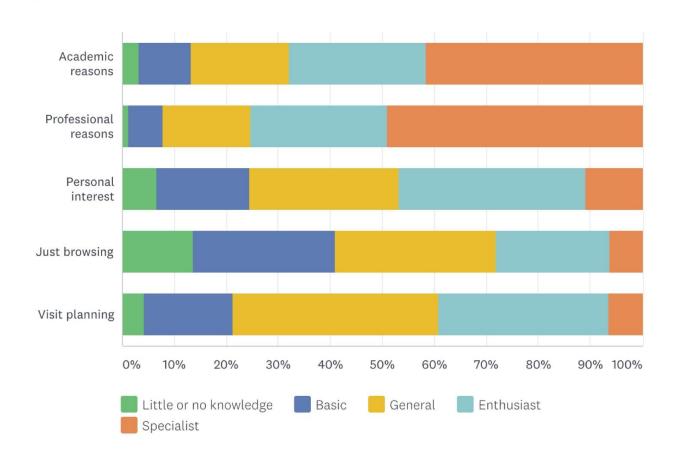
# How do users describe their level of knowledge?

When asked to identify their level of knowledge of art and design we can see those with specialist knowledge are users visiting for academic and professional reasons.

Users with less specialist knowledge but more general or 'enthusiast' knowledge about art and design are likely to be visiting for personal interest, 'just browsing' or planning a visit to the museum.

Compared to other users, those who are 'just browsing' are most likely to have little or basic knowledge of art and design.

#### All sites.

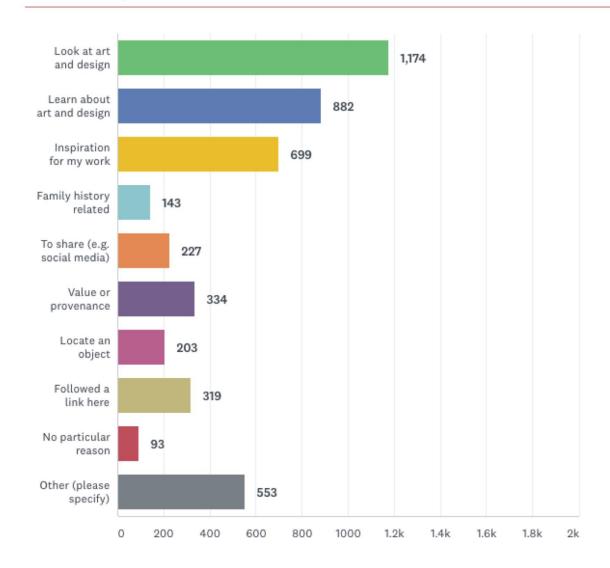


# What is the purpose of their visit: People visiting for personal interest reasons

Across all sites there is a broad and varied use for people visiting for personal interest. Most people are there to look at or learn about art and design and being inspired for their own work.

They are also more likely to have followed a link than those coming for professional or academic reasons.

#### All sites. Multiple choice.



Understand	Explore	Develop	Research
Becoming aware of the collections and the museum	Being exposed to new ideas and getting inspired	Developing an idea further by adding to existing knowledge	Looking for detailed information on specific topics



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### **Our mission**

**Explore the Collections** will bring together **V&A objects** and **stories** to **inspire** people to develop their own **creativity, understand** and **research** over 1 million eclectic objects.

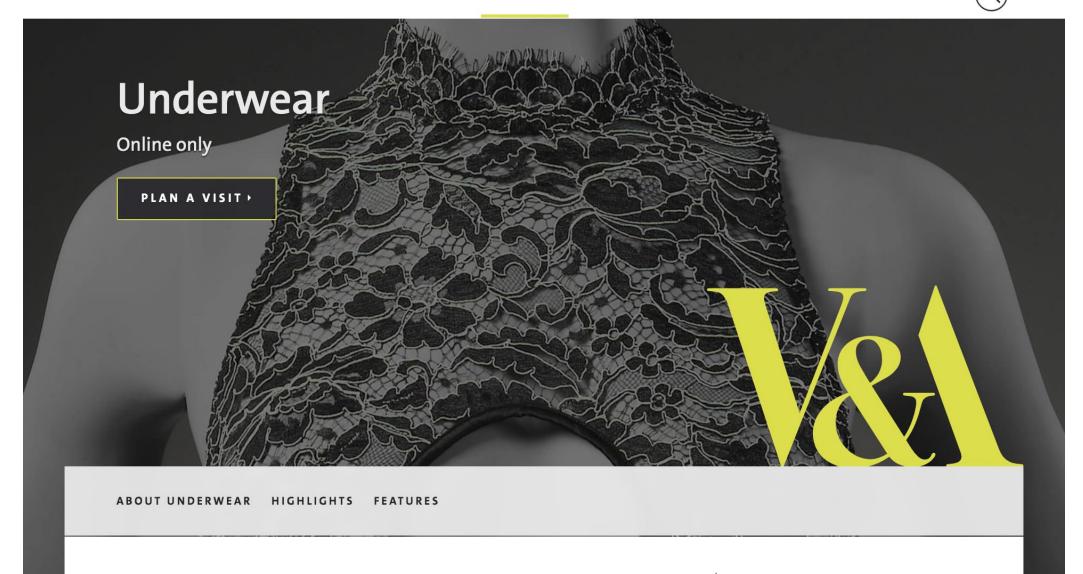
Make the collections accessible to all

Encourage **creativity** and **making** 

Present imagery in **new** and **better ways** 

Help people **discover** more objects and stories

**Grow our audience** beyond our sector



Often a hidden, secret layer, underwear can be completely functional or luxuriously sensual. Playful and provocative, washable and wearable, undergarments reflect changing attitudes to

- Where to find this collection
  Online only
- Q Search the Collections >

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#### Search the Collections

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More search options Or are you looking for Search the Archives?

4 Back



The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (Luke 5: 1- Enlarge image Q

Raphael, born 1483 - died 1520







#### Explore related objects

#### Category

Paintings ▶ Tapestry >

Biblical Imagery ▶

Drawings ▶

Christianity >

Designs >

#### Material

bodycolour ▶

#### Technique

watercolour drawing ▶

#### Name

Raphael ▶

#### Place

Italy ▶

#### Gallery

Raphael, Room 48a, The Raphael Cartoons ▶

Collection

#### The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (Luke 5: 1-11)

Object: Cartoon for a tapestry

Place of origin: Italy (made)

about 1515-1516 (made) Date:

Artist/Maker: Raphael, born 1483 - died 1520 (artist) Materials and Techniques: Bodycolour on paper laid onto canvas

ROYAL LOANS.2 Museum number:

Gallery location: Raphael, Room 48a, The Raphael Cartoons

Print this record

More information

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The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (Luke 5: 1-11)

The Raphael cartoons are designs for tapestries and were commissioned from Raphael by Pope Leo X (1513-21) in 1515. The tapestries were intended to hang in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, built by one of Leo's predecessors Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84). The Chapel was primarily intended for the use of the Pope and the Papal chapel, the body of clergy and Laity immediately surrounding him. The decoration of the chapel under Sixtus dealt largely with the theme of the Pope's authority. The tapestries continued this theme, illustrating scenes from the lives of St. Peter and St. Paul who were seen as the founders of the Christian Church, and the sources of the Pope's authority and power. They had in addition woven borders showing scenes from Leo's life, also designed by Raphael: the cartoons for these have not survived.

In this cartoon Christ tells Peter to cast his net into the water whereupon he and his fellow apostles make a miraculous catch. The story refers to Peter's role as "fisher of men", who converts others to Christianity. It also demonstrates his humility as he kneels before Christ to acknowledge His divinity, and confess his own sinfulness.

For further information on the Raphael Tapestry Cartoons please see the V&A website under : Collections, Paintings & Drawings, Paintings & Drawings Features, Raphael Cartoons.

4 Back

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The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (Luke 5: 1- Enlarge image Q

Raphael, born 1483 - died 1520







#### Explore related objects

#### Category

Paintings ▶ Tapestry >

Biblical Imagery ▶

Drawings ▶

Christianity > Designs ▶

#### Material

bodycolour ▶

#### Technique

watercolour drawing ▶

#### Name

Raphael >

#### Place

Italy ▶

#### Gallery

Raphael, Room 48a, The Raphael Cartoons ▶

Collection

BETA

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(Q)





#### The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (Luke 5: 1-11)

Cartoon for a Tapestry about 1515-1516 (made)

ARTIST/MAKER

Pope Lea X (1513-21) in 5515. The tapestries were intended to hang in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, built by one of Leo's predecessors Pope Sixtus IV (1471-84). The Chapel was

Read More 🔾



The Raphael Cartoons: The Miraculous Draught of Fishes



The story of the Raphael Cartoons







## The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (Luke 5: 1-11)

Cartoon for a Tapestry about 1515-1516 (made)



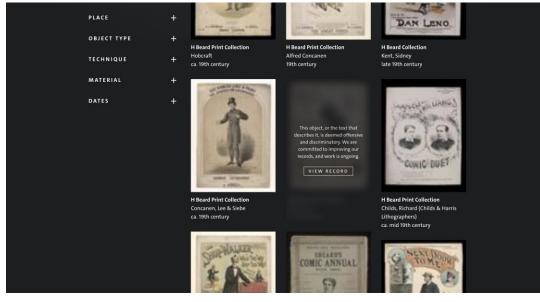


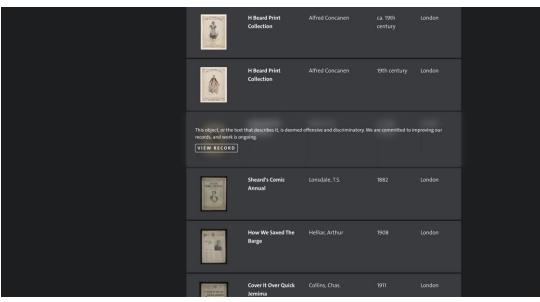
<u>+25</u> images

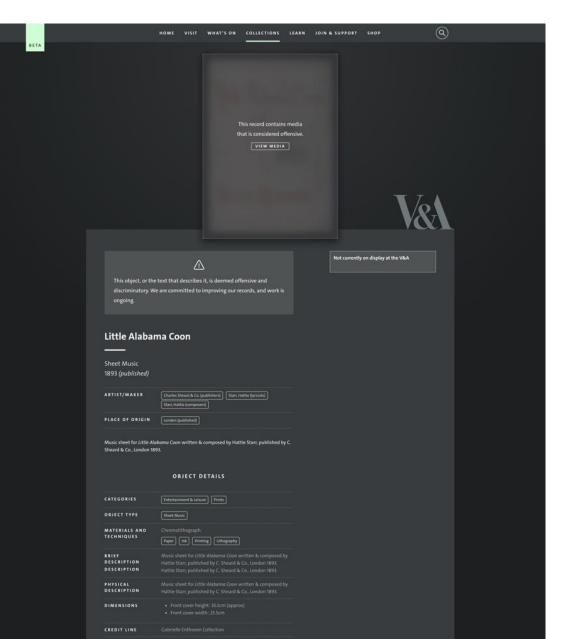


On display at V&A South Kensington

## **Content warning**

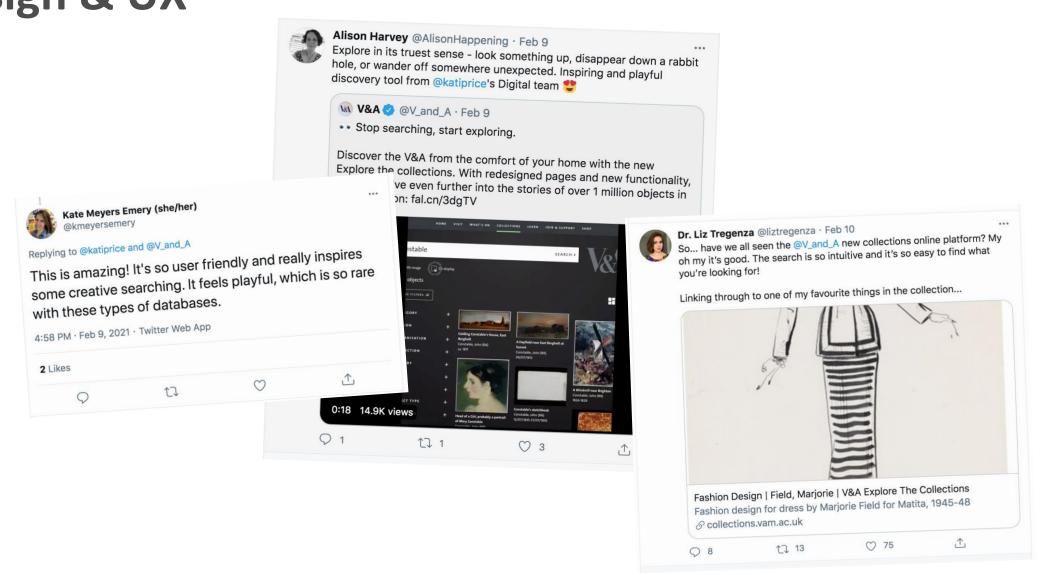






## Feedback from users

## Design & UX



## 'You May Also Like'



## A simple search for Cyprus...







## Things I discovered searching for 'casts'...



#### Abbey Ellis @abbeyinmuseums · Feb 9

Inspired by @cypriotartleeds's (most excellent!) thread earlier today, here are a few things that I discovered after searching for "casts" on the @V and A's new interface...



Introducing... Explore the Collections! Browse over 1.2 million @V\_and\_A objects via our brand new search engine vam.ac.uk/collections?ty...

Show this thread

#### From the Collections

From ancient Chinese ceramics to Alexander McQueen evening dresses, take an incredible journey through 5000 years of human creativity with our online collections.









#### Abbey Ellis @abbeyinmuseums · Feb 9

A plaster fig leaf which was once attached to the cast of Michelangelo's David. The cast was made by Domenico Brucciani in c.1857. The fig leaf was hung on the figure to protect the delicate eyes of Victorian ladies from glimpsing David's manhood.

collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O85428/fi...





#### Abbey Ellis @abbeyinmuseums · Feb 9

An obvious pick? Yes! But a very worthy one. Here is the cast of Trajan's Column, purchased in 1864. What I especially love about this record is the inclusion of historic photos, showing how the cast was constructed and displayed over its lifetime.

collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O102467/t...





#### Abbey Ellis @abbeyinmuseums · Feb 9

Now for something unexpected but wonderful, a plaster cast of a carnelian intaglio, set into the lid of a pendant case. An inscription on the cast reads 'KROMOS'. I wonder, therefore, if the two figures are Kronos and Zeus? Or maybe I'm missing something!

collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O1153363/...





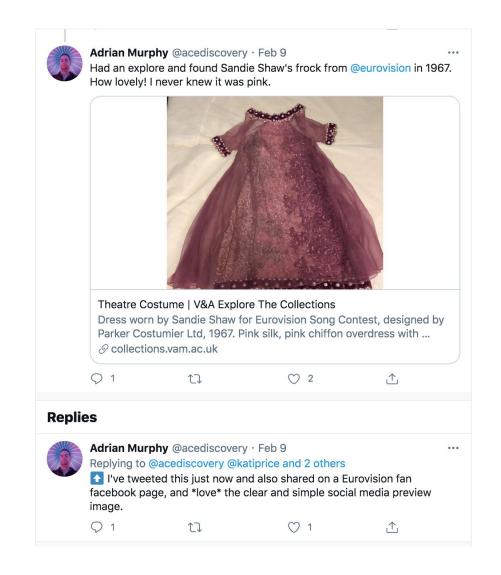
#### Abbey Ellis @abbeyinmuseums · Feb 9

And finally, an etching by Rembrandt van Rijn showing a man drawing from a cast, illuminated by candlelight. A lovely reminder of how plaster casts were used by artists to hone their skills.

collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O517036/m...



## **Eurovision fans rejoice...**

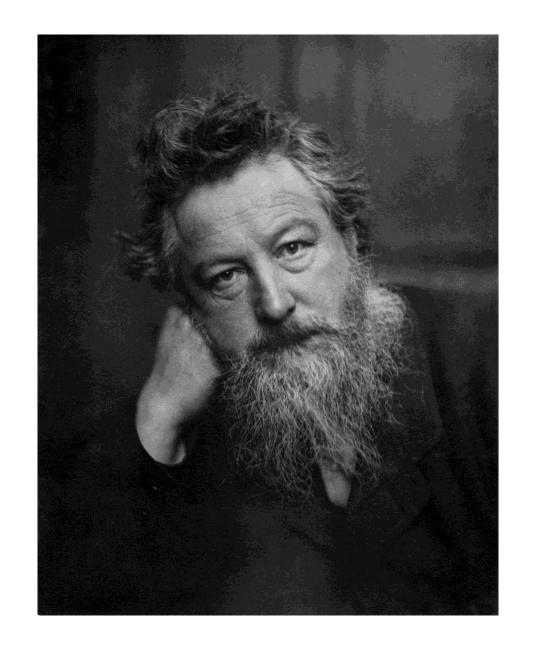


## We even got a shout out for the data work



## Impact of Explore the Collections

- Views for our object pages are **up 53% on last year** and there has been **a 15% increase** in object pages viewed per session
- People love image led experiences: on an object page 'image view', 'image carousel' and 'image download' account for **79% of the interactions**. In the first two weeks after launch we saw image views double from 134.0K to 274.3K
- People are navigating through the collections using data tags we have more functional 'object tags' on an object pages and we saw a **31% increase** in people clicking on tags on object pages from 6100 to 8000 (again, the first two weeks after launch)



## Thank you

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Twitter: @katiprice

