

Opening a Window To the Past



Kirsten Mulrennan and Rachel Murphy,
University of Limerick

Aims

To encourage greater engagement with the University of Limerick's Special Collections and Archives (SC&A) by creating an open access online teaching and learning resource

Findings

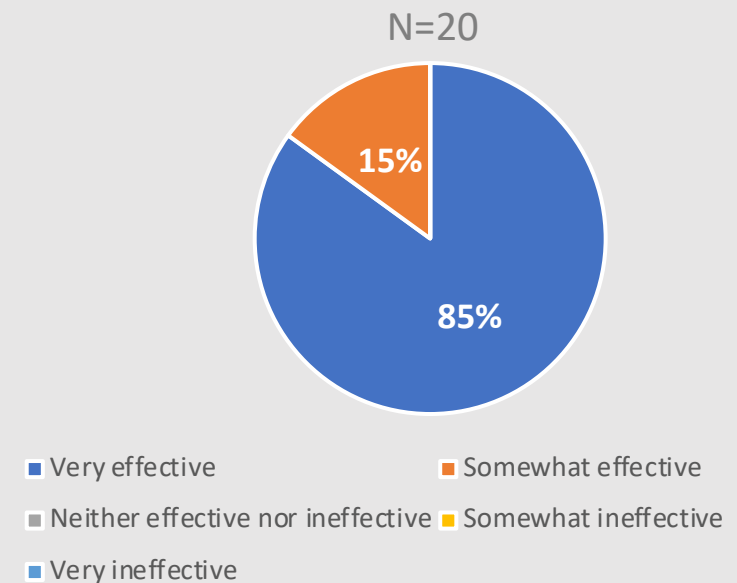
- Extremely positive reaction to content and interface from History students and lecturers
- Raises awareness of items held in SC&A at an early stage
- Using the resource before visiting SC&A in person means students are better equipped for the visit
- The online resource allows students to focus on areas they find hardest, at their own pace
- Benefits of collaboration between SC&A and History for T&L

Impact

- All students surveyed (20) found it very (85%) or somewhat effective (15%)
- Embeds SC&A into history teaching in a novel way; reinforces connections
- Students more likely to consider using items held in SC&A
- Resource means that time spent in SC&A can be used to focus on deeper T&L discussions
- Open educational resource increases awareness among general public

Visuals

Overall, how effective is 'Opening a Window to the past as a self-guided learning resource?



Student Feedback

'There's a huge amount of information in these pages - and they're excellent.' *Student 12*
'I was not familiar with this archive...Fantastic archive, look forward to using it for research.' *Student 8*

References

Kirsten Mulrennan and Rachel Murphy, 'Opening a window to the past: Researching archival diaries', University of Limerick Special Collections and Archives Department website (<https://specialcollections.ul.ie/research-diaries/>).