

Setting up a

Virtual Reading Room

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

@ The John Rylands Research
Institute and Library

ENABLING REMOTE ACCESS TO
OUR COLLECTIONS DURING THE
PANDEMIC AND BEYOND



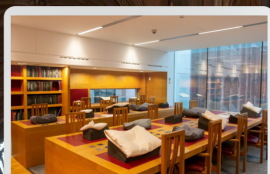
Engage

- During the pandemic, we invited readers to continue engaging with our collections by browsing the library catalogue and identifying resources suitable for their research.



Connect

Readers emailed the reading room to arrange a one-hour long digital appointment via Zoom. The team assessed the material requested (size, condition etc.) and confirmed its suitability for online viewing.



uml.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk



Enable

They can then instruct us to move the item as required. We can zoom in and out, turn pages and provide visual access to any areas of interest

Running the session requires connecting the visualiser to a laptop, placing the item on the viewing area and switching cameras so the reader can see the item on their screen



Inspire

Notes and screen-shots taken during the session allowed over 250 readers to access material remotely during 2020-21. Thanks to the setting up of this virtual reading room our collections continue to inspire the world!