EPS Library Catalogue

A User Guide to the Society's Photography & Art Book Collection

Version 2.10.2 · 31 August 2026

eps-library-catalogue.vercel.app

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GETTING STARTED

Welcome to the Catalogue

The EPS Library Catalogue is a searchable record of the Edinburgh Photographic Society's book collection — 1,287 titles spanning photography, art, and the history of both, built up as a bequest to the Society over many years.

It's designed to be simple: open the page, and search, filter, or browse straight away. There's no account to create and nothing to install — it runs in any modern web browser, on a computer, tablet, or phone.

> **Where to find it:** eps-library-catalogue.vercel.app — bookmark it, or ask the Society for the current link if you're reading this some time after it was written.

USING THE CATALOGUE

Searching the Collection

The search box at the top of the page looks across four things at once: title, author, publisher, and the book's description. Title, author, and publisher are **typo-tolerant** — a small misspelling still finds the right book, so "Aproaching Fotography" will still find *Approaching Photography*. The description is matched exactly as typed.

Press **Enter** or click **Search** to run a search. Click **Clear** at any point to empty the search box and any filters you've set, returning to the full collection.

> **Tip:** searching for a publisher's name (e.g. "Aperture" or "Thames") is often the fastest way to browse everything from a particular imprint.

USING THE CATALOGUE

Filtering & Sorting

Beneath the search box are three ways to narrow what you see:

- **Category** — the Society's own classification (Artist, Author, Collection, Technical, and others).
- **Publisher** — a dropdown of every publisher in the collection.
- **Has Cover Image** — tick this to show only books with a real cover photograph, rather than the plain placeholder. Handy if you're browsing visually rather than searching for something specific.

The **Sort by** control on the right of the results bar changes the order books appear in:

Option	What it does
Title (A–Z)	Alphabetical by book title
Author (A–Z)	Alphabetical by author's surname
Recently Added	The catalogue's own record order, most recent last

Results are shown 20 books to a page, with page controls beneath the grid.

USING THE CATALOGUE

Viewing a Book in Detail

Click any book's cover or title to open its full record. The detail view stays on screen while you scroll through everything it holds:

- Author and publication details — publisher and year
- ISBN-13 and ISBN-10, where the Society's records include them
- Category
- The full description, when one exists
- Contributors — co-authors, editors, and other credited names

Click the author's name or the publisher's name in the detail view to jump straight to every other book by that author, or from that publisher, in the collection.

Close the detail view by clicking the **×** in the top corner, pressing **Escape**, or clicking anywhere outside it.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Where Cover Images Come From

The Society's own records don't include cover photographs, so the catalogue looks them up automatically by each book's ISBN, trying several public sources in turn until one has a match:

1. **Open Library** — a free, open book database run by the Internet Archive.
2. **Google Books** — Google's book-search service.
3. **Wikidata** — the structured-data project behind Wikipedia, for notable or well-known titles.
4. **Amazon** — as a last resort, for books the other three don't have.

A book with no ISBN on record, or one no source has a photograph of, shows a plain dark placeholder with its title and author instead — never a broken image or an empty box.

> Not every book has a cover image yet, and that's expected — coverage grows over time as these sources add more titles. Tick **Has Cover Image** if you'd rather browse only the books that already have one.

GETTING HELP

Feedback & Reporting a Problem

Two buttons sit in the footer bar at the bottom of every page:

- **Screenshot** — saves an image of the current page to your device, useful for pointing out exactly what you're seeing.
- **Feedback** — opens a short form: pick whether it's a feature suggestion, a bug report, or general feedback, write your message, and optionally leave an email address if you'd like a reply.

Submitting feedback opens a pre-filled email addressed to the Society, ready for you to review and send from your own email account — nothing is sent automatically. If you captured a screenshot first, a note reminds you to attach it.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Accessibility

The catalogue is built to be usable regardless of vision or how you navigate:

- All text meets WCAG AA contrast standards against its background.
- The colour palette avoids placing red and green together in any way that relies on distinguishing the two — colours are chosen to remain legible for red-green colour blindness.
- Every interactive control — search, filters, buttons, book cards — can be reached and operated by keyboard, with a visible focus indicator.
- The book detail and feedback windows keep keyboard focus inside themselves while open (the Tab key cycles within the window rather than jumping to the page behind it) and return you to whatever you were on when you close them.
- Motion (page transitions, card animations) is automatically reduced for anyone whose device is set to prefer reduced motion.

GETTING HELP

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I borrow a book I find in the catalogue?

The catalogue is a record of the collection, not a borrowing system. Contact the Society directly to ask about access to a specific title.

I found a mistake in a book's details — how do I report it?

Use the Feedback button in the footer, choose "Bug report" or "General feedback", and describe what's wrong. Include the book's title so it can be found quickly.

Why does a book show the wrong cover, or someone else's cover?

Covers are matched automatically by ISBN across several external sources, and very occasionally a source has the wrong image for a given ISBN. Please report it via Feedback — it helps improve the match for everyone.

Does the catalogue work on my phone?

Yes — the layout adapts automatically to any screen size, from a phone to a widescreen monitor.

Is there a cost to use the catalogue?

No. It's a free resource for anyone interested in browsing the Society's collection.

REFERENCE

Version History

Most recent first. This guide is regenerated alongside the catalogue, so it reflects the version noted on the cover.

v2.10.2 31 August 2026 CURRENT

- Fixed the keyboard focus indicator on book cards and the author/publisher links - it was there but too faint to actually see.

v2.10.1 31 August 2026

- Deploys are now checked automatically before and after they go live, so a broken update can never reach the site unnoticed.

v2.9.0 31 August 2026

- Search now tolerates small typos in a title, author, or publisher name.
- The whole catalogue is now fully usable by keyboard, including the book detail and feedback windows.
- Added links in the book detail window to jump to more books by the same author or from the same publisher.

v2.8.0 31 August 2026

- Removed stray extra spaces that were showing up in some author names.

v2.7.0 31 August 2026

- Added this User Guide - open it any time from the User Guide button in the footer.

v2.6.1 31 August 2026

- Fixed the Publisher filter: it was only showing the first 100 publishers (out of 469) in alphabetical order, so most publishers past the letter D weren't selectable. All publishers are now listed.
- Results now show "X of Y books" so you can see the total collection size alongside how many match your current search or filters.

v2.6.0 31 August 2026

- Redesigned the look of the catalogue with more considered typography and layout.
- Fixed a display glitch where some publisher names showed extra characters (like "&" instead of "&").

v2.5.0 31 August 2026

- Added two more sources for book cover images (Wikidata and Amazon).
- The catalogue now opens sorted by "Recently Added", with cover images shown by default.

v2.4.4 31 August 2026

- The book detail window now keeps its title visible while you scroll the rest of the details.
- The Society's logo in the header is twice the size it was.

v2.4.3 31 August 2026

- Fixed a display issue that was hiding some genuine book covers.

v2.4.2 31 August 2026

- Added extra security protections behind the scenes.
- The feedback buttons moved into a slim bar fixed to the bottom of the page.

v2.4.1 31 August 2026

- Removed internal library-management information (such as pricing) from what the app sends to your browser - only the details you actually see are shared.

v2.4.0 31 August 2026

- Added the Screenshot and Feedback buttons.
- Book covers can now also be found via Google Books, not just Open Library.

v2.3.2 31 August 2026

- Fixed the catalogue not showing any books at all.
- Fixed a security issue in how book descriptions were displayed.
- Corrected the cover-image check so a missing cover isn't mistaken for a real one.
- Fixed several colour-contrast issues for better readability.

v2.2 earlier

- Book covers began loading only when you open a book, rather than all at once, so the page opens instantly.

v2.1 earlier

- Added the book detail window, with full descriptions and cover images.

v2.0 earlier

- First searchable version: 1,287 books, with search, filters, sorting, and pagination.

v1.0 earlier

- Initial version of the catalogue.