



ROYAL
MUSEUMS
GREENWICH

Royal Museums Greenwich

Research Framework

2023–2027

RMG's activities are guided by the RMG Plan (*Building Reach, Reputation and Resilience, 2022–2026*) and content development strategy (*Charting our Course*). This Research Framework sets out RMG's related ambitions for supporting research over a four-year period. It is accompanied by a Research Action Plan that sets out the practical steps needed to meet these commitments by 2027.

Our research vision:

A vibrant, inclusive and collaborative research culture which is responsive to public interests and contemporary societal challenges; builds knowledge and understanding of RMG sites, subjects and collections; provides compelling evidence to inform the development of RMG programmes, plans and policies; and which drives, strengthens and extends RMG's public offer.



Our research culture aims:

- RMG generates and facilitates innovative, impactful and engaging research
- Research strengthens RMG's capacity to deliver against its strategic priorities
- The value of research is recognised and – seen as a shared endeavour – is supported across the whole organisation.

Our research objectives:

- To increase access to, public engagement with and understanding of RMG's sites, subjects and collections
- Through investment, partnership and collaboration, to build capacity and resource for undertaking research within and beyond the organisation
- To involve a wider range of stakeholders in the development, undertaking and dissemination of research including through co-production as well as other forms of collaboration
- To nurture an inclusive, ethical, well-regulated and supportive research environment
- To grow RMG's status and credibility as an Independent Research Organisation and to generate research income
- To foster a shared research culture across the whole organisation.

Our research principles:

- **Relevance:** RMG-supported research is responsive to public interests, organisational needs and contemporary societal challenges, and drives RMG's public offer.
- **Targeted and Strategic:** RMG-supported research has clear, demonstrable outcomes and impact(s) that support the organisation's strategic aims.
- **Collaborative:** RMG-supported research builds on strong, effective and equitable partnerships.
- **Sustainable:** RMG-supported research makes efficient use of capacity and resources and works to long-term goals, even when delivering short-term outputs. It takes positive actions to reduce the impact of climate change.
- **Dissemination:** The outputs of RMG-supported research are embedded, shared, accessible and widely used.
- **Ethical:** RMG-supported research is clear about its ethical implications; researchers take steps to avoid harm and RMG supports and safeguards those engaged in research.
- **Interdisciplinary:** RMG-supported research is innovative, making use of methods and approaches which best address identified challenges, and draws on best practice from across the disciplines.





How we currently support research:

- RMG's public programme – including web content, exhibitions, displays, learning programmes, talks, tours and events – is driven by new research.
- Research underpins the cataloguing, documentation and interpretation of RMG's collections.
- RMG builds knowledge through leading and collaborating on research initiatives supported by UK Research and Innovation and other funders. Recent projects include *Observatory Sites and Networks since 1780* (funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) networks grant), *Exchange: Community-Led Collections Research* (with National Museums Scotland, and supported by AHRC funding) and *Unpath'd Waters*, a 3-year research project that aims to unite the UK's maritime collections (one of five *Towards a National Collection* projects which received funding from the AHRC).
- RMG supports emerging researchers, both undergraduate, postgraduate and those from non-traditional pathways, working on priority research topics through hosting AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award studentships, via its leadership of the REACH Collaborative Doctoral Partnership consortium.
- RMG supports early and mid-career researchers through its programme of short-term, targeted research fellowships, as well as through hosting workshops, seminars and conferences.
- RMG has an active publication programme, in print and online. Recent print publications include *A is for Atlas: Wonders of Maps and Mapping* (Megan Barford, 2022) and *The Challenger Expedition: Exploring the Ocean's Depths* (Erika Jones, 2022). Digital content which profiles new research includes *Our Ocean Our Planet*, an online space which explores ocean issues, the climate crisis and our changing relationship with the sea.

Identified challenges to be addressed through the RMG Research Action Plan:

- Research has typically been collections-based and undertaken by staff and researchers associated with RMG's Curatorial and Research department: how can it become a shared organisational endeavour and how can capacity, skills and resource for research be increased across the organisation?
- Research has tended to be responsive and undertaken on a 'need to know' basis, for a particular book, cataloguing project, event, exhibition or display: how can it be more planned and proactive to make best use of capacity and resource? How can its benefits be maximised?
- Research has been motivated by organisational or staff interests and agendas: how can it be informed by public interests and contemporary societal challenges?
- RMG's research community does not reflect the diverse demography of RMG's publics: what meaningful, long-term interventions can be put in place to effect change in this respect?

Codes of practice relating to research:

This Research Framework should be read alongside –

- RMG Research Ethics Code of Practice
- RMG Code of Practice for the Investigation of Research Misconduct
- RMG Research Data Management Policy
- RMG Safeguarding Policy
- *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers* (Universities UK, 2019)
- *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* (Universities UK, 2019)