

## **Livingstone Online Fact Sheet 2015**

New Website: <http://livingstoneonline.org>

Complete Press Pack: <http://www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk/materials>

### ***Livingstone Online***

- largest collection of manuscript images on the internet related to any nineteenth-century British explorer of Africa -- over 12,000 by 2016
- manuscript images, transcriptions, and historical images that bring Livingstone and his times to life for modern audiences and scholars
- new website is a testament to this colorful, vibrant, and thrilling period in Victorian history and its fascinating characters

### **David Livingstone (1813-1873) is recognized around the world as one of the most important Victorian explorers of Africa.**

- worked for the Royal Geographical Society and the London Missionary Society
- was a traveller, medical expert, abolitionist, missionary, geographer, and scientist
- the first European to cross Africa coast to coast, to see Victorian Falls and other African geographical features
- spent more than thirty years of his adult life in Africa (1841-1873)
- during his final travels (1866-1873) was obsessed with finding the "source" of the Nile – and died in the attempt

### **Treasures from the *Livingstone Online* collection:**

- the entire manuscript of *Missionary Travels* (1857), Livingstone's first book, that established him with the public
- Livingstone's last field diaries (1866-1873), the largest collection of such manuscripts related to any Victorian expedition to Africa (coming in 2016)
- Livingstone's *1871 Field Diary*, describes a horrific slave trading massacre in Central Africa – Livingstone's report was instrumental in the British closure of the East African slave trade. The text is almost invisible to the naked eye. Its recovery, using spectral imaging technology, made international headlines in 2011

### ***Livingstone Online* started in 2004 with a small team at University College London**

- is now an international project, with project teams of more than 20 experts
- collaborates with an international group of historians, scientists, librarians, computer programmers, and other specialists
- funded by National Endowment for the Humanities (USA), Wellcome Trust
- partners with over 40 global institutions that hold original Livingstone manuscripts
- collaborators: David Livingstone Centre (near Glasgow); National Library of Scotland; Royal Geographical Society; SOAS; Smithsonian Library (USA)

### **Livingstone Online leadership**

- Adrian S. Wisnicki, Director (University of Nebraska-Lincoln; also Honorary Research Fellow, University of Glasgow)
- Chris Lawrence, Director Emeritus (University College London)
- Megan Ward, Associate Director (Oregon State University)
- Kate Simpson, Project Scholar & Director of Outreach (Edinburgh Napier University)