

# 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:

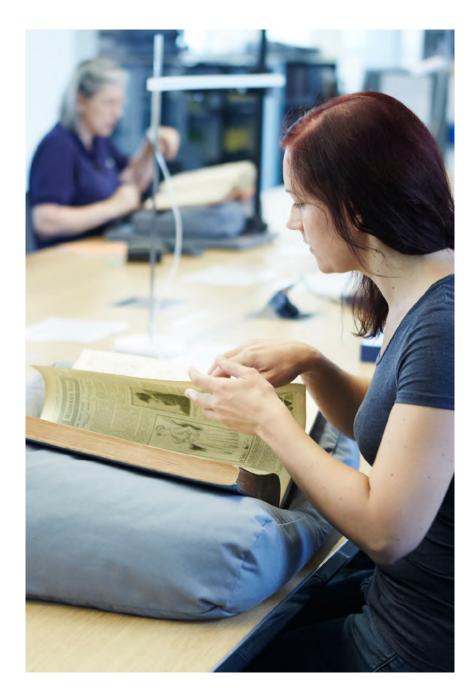
- RMG generates and facilitates innovative, impactful and engaging research
- Research strengthens RMG's capacity to deliver against its strategic priorities
- The value of research is recognised and seen as a shared endeavour is supported across the whole organisation.

### 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 AHRCfunded 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
- <u>Concordat to Support the Career Development of</u> <u>Researchers</u> (Universities UK, 2019)
- <u>Concordat to Support Research Integrity</u> (Universities UK, 2019)