

# ncse



# nineteenth-century serials edition



## Sources and Digitisation

ncse is primarily sourced from the British Library, but has supplemented these holdings with material from:

- ▶ The Bodleian Library
- ▶ The National Archives
- ▶ National Portrait Gallery
- ▶ Private collections
- ▶ Women's Library

The six titles were selected on the basis that together they could indicate the diversity of form in the period. Each run is as complete as possible, and includes wrappers, supplements and advertisements where we have been able to locate them. This makes the runs within ncse some of the most complete in the world.

From almost 100,000 pages the ncse team has created 55,000 preservation grade tiff images. Most of this material was digitised from microfilm, but some has been digitised from hard copy in order to retain original colours.

## Processing

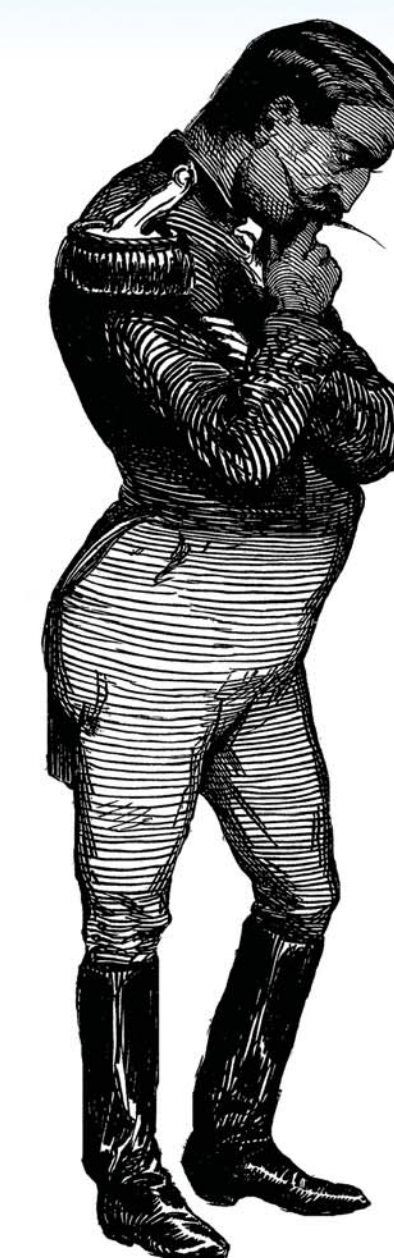
- ▶ Tiff images 'bound' into pdf documents corresponding to individual numbers
- ▶ Page items delineated by Olive software according to segmentation profiles provided for each title by the ncse team.
- ▶ Insertion of page numbers that match with those printed on each page.
- ▶ Identification of types of content (advertisements, images, articles)

ncse is a digital edition of six nineteenth-century serials, in complete a form as possible, with advanced indexing and critical and contextual materials.

- ▶ ncse is available free and online from 2008.
- ▶ ncse is an edition that foregrounds both the form of the serial and the interconnected nature of nineteenth-century print culture.
- ▶ ncse is a diagnostic project that explores how to design, implement, and deliver large digital corpora of nineteenth-century serials.
- ▶ ncse is intended to be a critical edition of nineteenth-century serials that will also appeal to a broader audience.
- ▶ ncse is an AHRC supported collaborative partnership of Birkbeck College, Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London, Olive Software and the British Library.



The Tomahawk (1867-1870), The Northern Star (1837-1852)  
The Leader (1850-1860), The Publishers' Circular (1880-1890)  
Monthly Repository (1806-1838), English Woman's Journal (1858-1864)



## Preparing for publication

- ▶ The ncse team has developed appropriate interfaces for the Olive application and the project as a whole. These have been tested in a series of user testing events, with participants that included representatives from our International Advisory Board.
- ▶ Throughout the project the ncse team has engaged in extensive outreach in conference papers, regular newsletters and published research in books, journals, and on the project website.
- ▶ Work has also begun to prepare ncse for aggregation with NINES. For further details see [www.nines.org](http://www.nines.org).



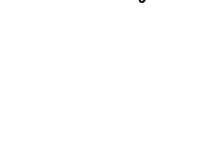
## Editing

Editing was a crucial component of every stage of production:

- ▶ A hierarchy was designed to accommodate all levels of content within ncse from the edition as a whole to the individual items on each page: Edition > title > volume > number > department > item
- ▶ A segmentation profile was designed for each title that delineated items on the page, and identified which items marked the beginnings of departments. These were tested through a series of pilots produced in collaboration with Olive Software.
- ▶ In selectively collecting, binding and preserving the serials, nineteenth-century librarians were the first editors of the ncse corpus. The ncse team made decisions about whether to maintain its condition as found or to impose new edition-wide standards in the digital edition.
- ▶ The tiff images were checked for quality, orientation and completeness; the pdfs were also edited, and then arranged in folders according to their location in the edition hierarchy.
- ▶ The edition as a whole was designed so that the Olive application could interact with the content and tools created in London.

## Digital Tools for Analysis and Mark-up

The Centre for Computing in the Humanities has explored text mining technologies in order to create new indexes that can assist with browsing. This activity has focused on the creation of indices of names, places, events, subjects, and genres of content. The team have drawn on the extensive indices of the Waterloo Directory in order to structure their own indices derived from the edition.



The ncse project team: Professor Isobel Armstrong, Professor Laurel Brake, Gerhard Brey, Dr Arianna Ciula, Dr Marilyn Deegan, Ed King, Dr Jim Mussell, Dr Suzanne Paylor, Paul Spence, Professor Harold Short, Simon Tanner, Dr Mark Turner, Paul Vetch.

[www.ncse.kcl.ac.uk](http://www.ncse.kcl.ac.uk)

