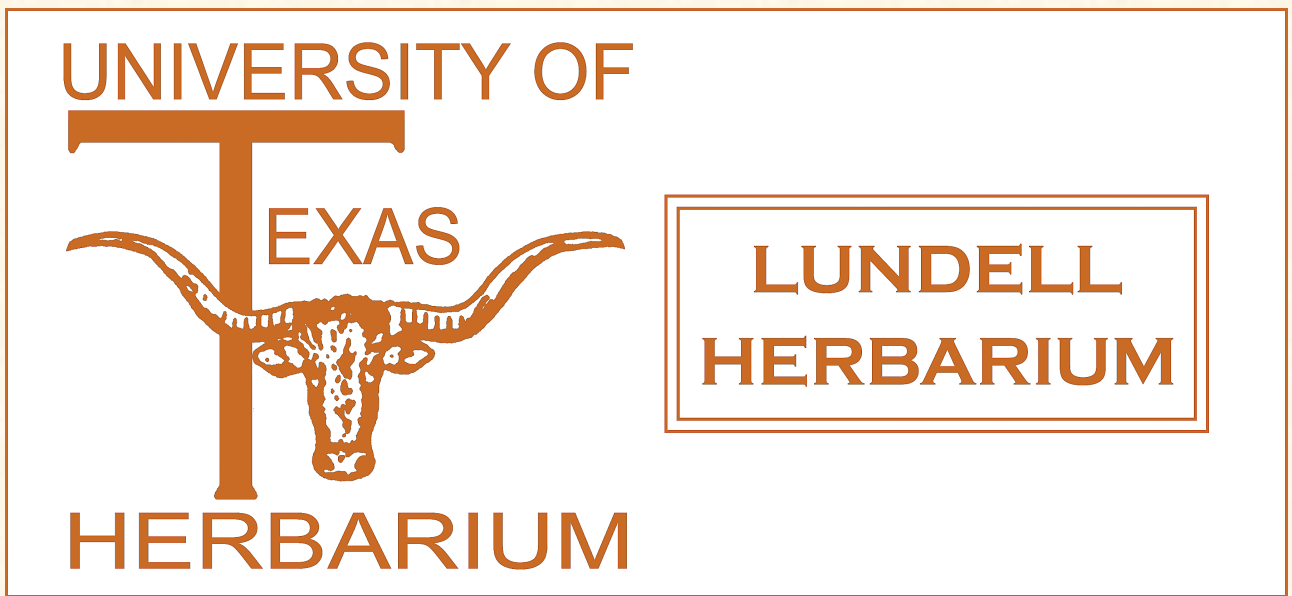
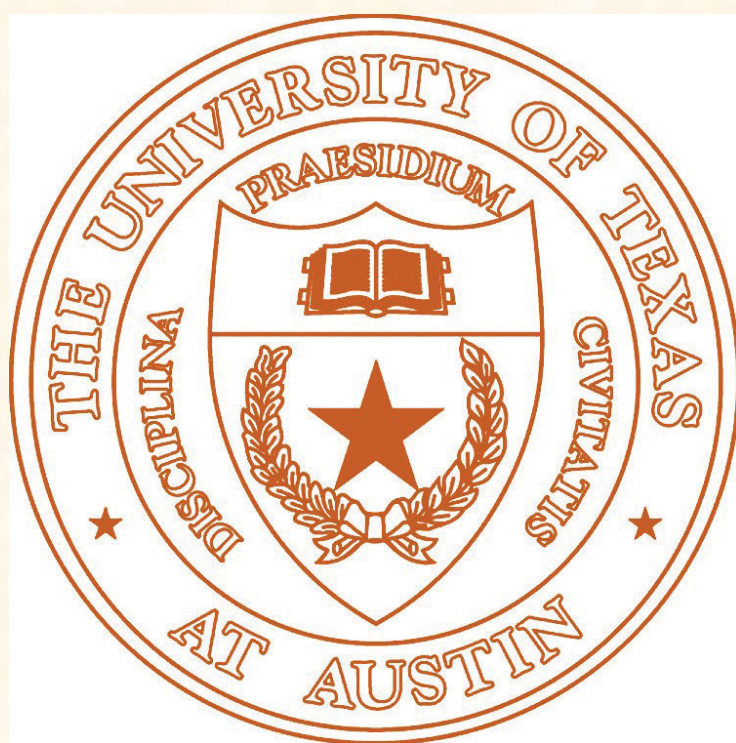


# Integrating a historical and botanical work into modern collections and public platforms: The Flora of Forfarshire.



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## Introduction

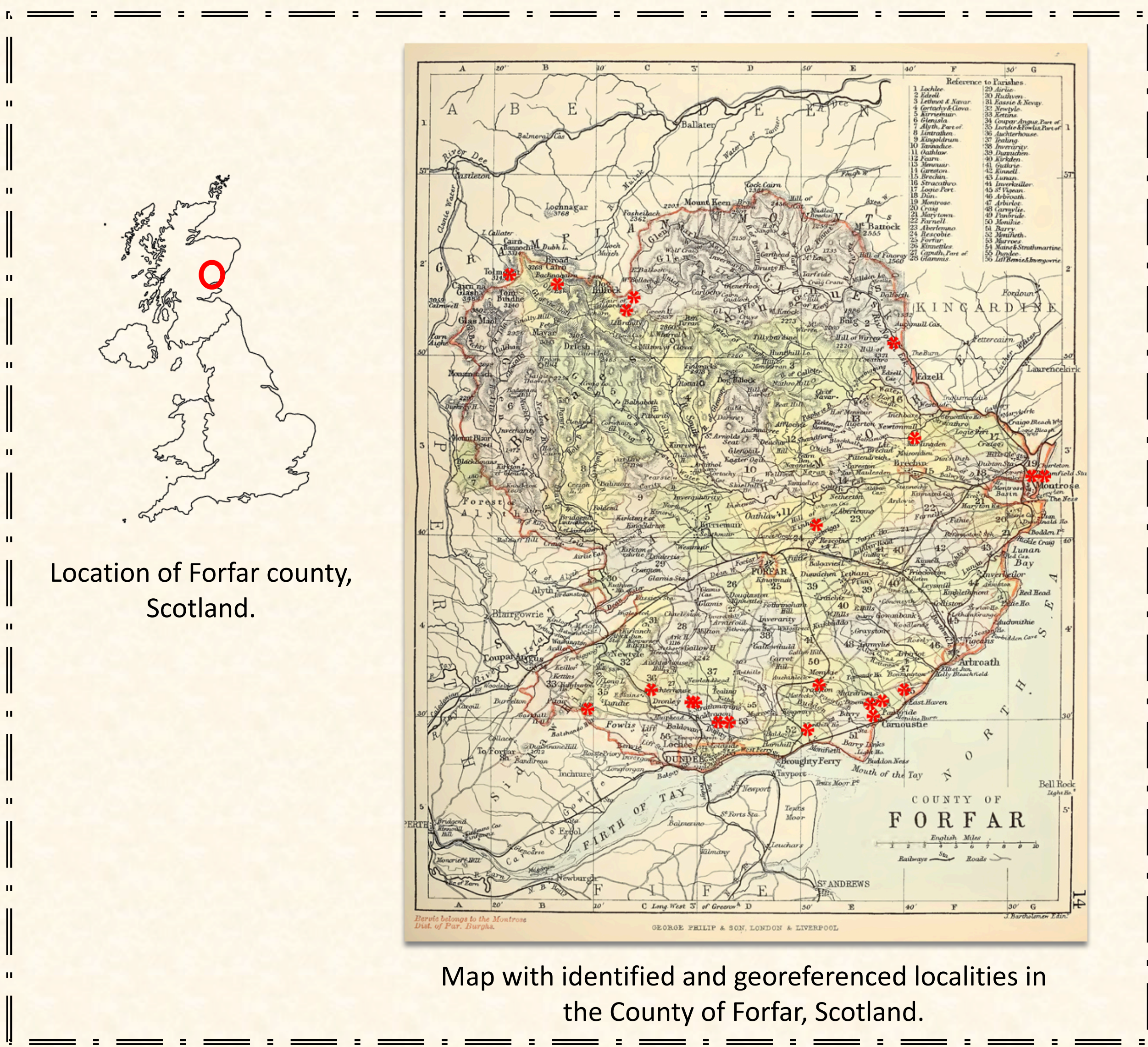
The Flora of Forfarshire (Scotland) is an emblematic botanical work by the Scottish botanist, William Gardiner (1809-1852), a poet and botanist, well known among the botanical establishment in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. Born into a poor family with little schooling as a child and being an umbrella maker for a big part of his life, Gardiner pursued his passion for plants fostered by his father and uncle, which led him to take classes by night and to do extensive readings. Despite his humble pedigree, he eventually became so well regarded that by 1849 he was enrolled as an associate in the Linnaean Society of London. He developed a reputation as an expert field botanist and supplemented his income by collecting sets of plant on commission for numerous patrons. This proved so successful that in 1841 he became a full-time plant collector and later was able to publish three books, all of which were well received. The Flora of Forfarshire was published in 1848 and comprises 300+ pages of plants, fungi, lichens, and algae growing in Forfar (Angus) County, Scotland. To fund this project, Gardiner recruited patrons who were rewarded with folios of pressed samples of representative species, each with taxonomic and locality information. Most of these volumes no longer exist, but one of them is accessioned at the University of Texas Libraries, where it has been preserved in collaboration with the UT Plant Resources Center.



Given the historical and botanical value of the Flora of Forfarshire, the present project was designed to curate and interpret this rare and wonderful book.

## Specific goals and methods

1. **To digitize the book and the accompanying specimen folio.**
2. **To update the taxonomy and nomenclature of the plants** by using nomenclatural databases and taxonomic treatments.
3. **To compile all the resulting information (images, taxonomy, nomenclature) and include it in the herbarium collection and database.** Each image was photocopied and a barcode was assigned to each of the individual plants in order to be added to the database.
4. **To provide a map with updated information on localities of plant collections.** Locality names were checked, corrected, and georeferenced by using a gazetteer of Forfar County and other resources.
5. **To make the book content, localities, and images available to the public** through the Texas Scholar Works repository in collaboration with the University of Texas Libraries.



Flora of Forfarshire contents at the Texas ScholarWorks portal.



## Results

135 species (60 species of angiosperms, 17 ferns and lycophytes, 37 bryophytes, 11 algae, and 10 lichens) were digitized, barcoded, and included in the herbarium database.



135 plants, algae, and lichens in the supplementary volume, were digitized, barcoded, and included in the herbarium database.

Out of these 135 species, 74 required a taxonomic or nomenclatural update, or redetermination.

	Flowering Plants	Ferns and Lycophytes	Bryophytes	Algae	Lichens	TOTAL
Digitized and barcoded	60	17	37	11	10	135
Required taxonomy update	22	8	30	7	7	74
Localities	28	5	15		6	

Project statistics itemized by plant group.

38 total localities were identified and georeferenced, and those with coordinates confirmed from at least two different sources were plotted onto a map of the Forfar county.

All of the information derived from this project, including images, maps, and taxonomic updates, are being uploaded into the Texas ScholarWorks Program website in collaboration with University of Texas libraries and can be accessed here: <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/47236>