

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY COLLECTIONS ONLINE:

From Gardening Flowers to the International Balance of Power

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1. Introduction

This report investigates post-2008 academic research publications that cite documents in Gale's *Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)*, as of September 2024. The post-2008 period is after the release dates of both parts of *ECCO*. Digitisation and indexing of these eighteenth-century documents have allowed academics and students to exploit them more easily (desktop access) and comprehensively (through search: Hill, et al., 2019), giving unprecedented ease of access to old books. This online availability represents a substantial evolution from the need in previous decades to visit libraries or to manually check microfiche copies. *ECCO* is now "the primary digital source for the study of printed eighteenth-century texts in the English language" (Tolonen et al., 2022; see also: Burkert, 2023) and has been described as having "an enormous impact of the study of the eighteenth century" (Gregg, 2020). This report investigates a source of evidence about who has used this collection and the topics that it has been used for.

This report summarises the main subject areas citing documents in *Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)* from the *Part II* release date at the end of 2008 up to September 2024. It also covers the types of citing academic documents, the most frequently citing academic journals, and the most frequently citing academic institutions. In addition, it reports some broad themes that are common to many citing publications and gives examples of a range of different contexts in which academic researchers have found *ECCO* sources to be useful. This information has been extracted from Scopus, which allows searches of the reference sections of the academic documents in its index. The analysis is restricted to the 7,312 citations from 4,440 different documents in Scopus (e.g., books, book chapters, journal articles) to the 3,732 *ECCO* documents with under 10 citations in Scopus (excluding the 29,085 citations to the 383 *ECCO* documents with 10 or more citations). For convenience, these will be termed "rare *ECCO* documents". Citations to highly cited documents are excluded since the more commonly cited documents are more likely to be in many physical libraries outside *ECCO*. An important limitation is that the results include few dissertations, which may include more citations than the other document types analysed here.

2. Main subject areas citing ECCO documents since 2009

In terms of subject areas (as defined and classified by the Scopus database, often based on the publishing journal), Arts and Humanities are the heaviest citers of *ECCO*, accounting for 61.6% of all citing academic works (Figure 1). The Social Sciences are a distant second. Surprisingly, nearly all (25 out of 27) of the Scopus broad subject areas cited a rare *ECCO* document at least once, even including a single citation from Decision Sciences and Energy.

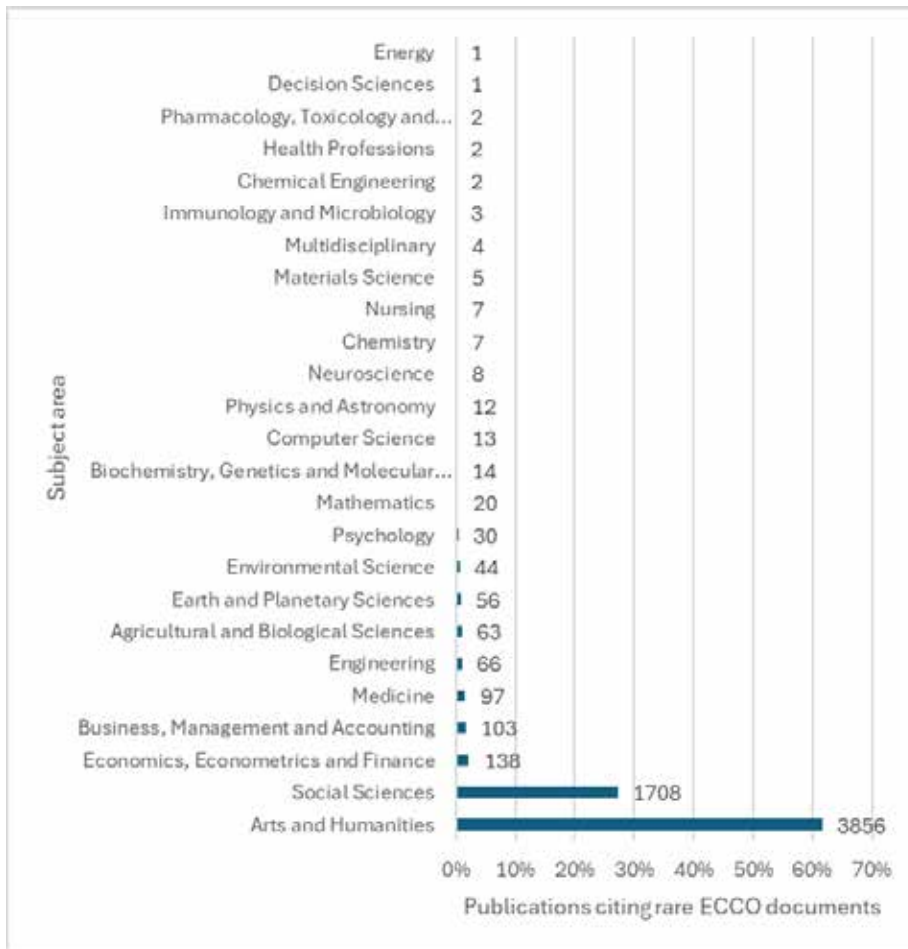


Figure 1. The 25 broad subject areas most citing rare *ECCO* documents since 2009.

Within the broad Arts and Humanities field, the most represented subjects are History and Literature and Literary Theory, although all the Scopus narrow Arts and Humanities fields have at least 18 citations to rare *ECCO* documents (Figure 1a).

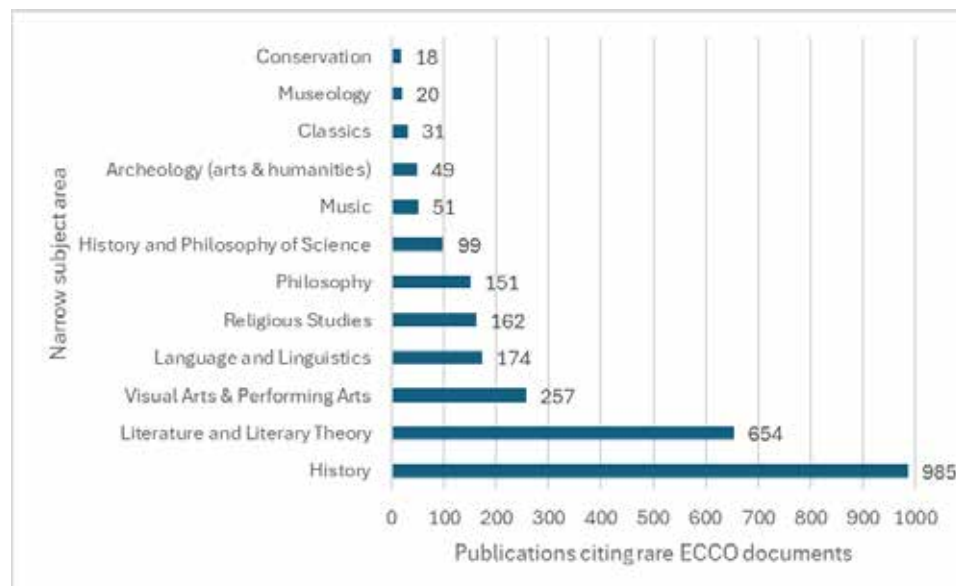


Figure 1a. The narrow Arts and Humanities subject areas most citing rare *ECCO* documents since 2009.

Nearly all narrow fields within the Scopus Social Sciences category cite at least one rare *ECCO* document. Cultural Studies is the dominant field because the Scopus definition of Cultural Studies encompasses eighteenth-century culture, as shown by the main cited journals in this subject area (*Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Eighteenth Century*, *Past and Present*, *Eighteenth-Century Ireland*, *Historical Research*, *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, *Palgrave Studies in the Enlightenment*, *Romanticism and Cultures of Print*, *ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews*, *Church History*, *European Romantic Review*, *Seventeenth Century*, *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*). There is a similar explanation for Social and Political Science, which includes journals relevant to historical politics as well as current politics (*History of European Ideas*, *Eighteenth-Century Ireland*, *Historical Research*, *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, *Parliamentary History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Journal of Social History*, *Cultural and Social History*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Studies in Church History*, *Studies in the History of Political Thought*).

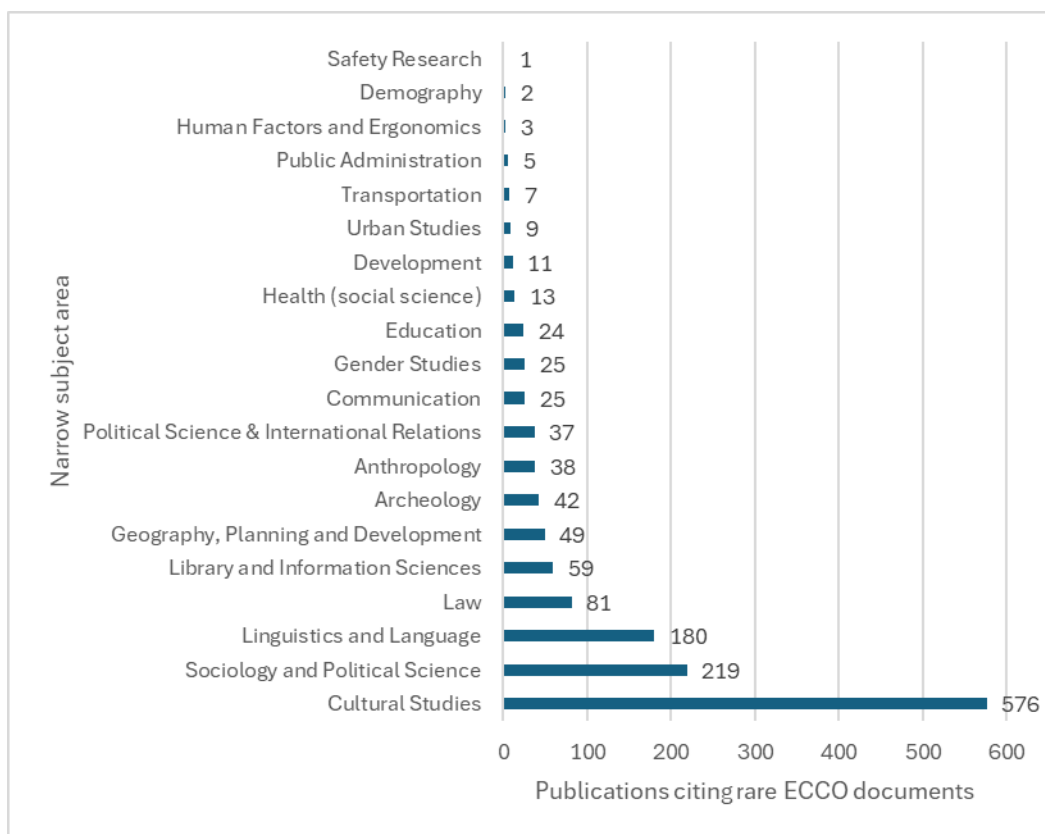


Figure 1b. The narrow Social Sciences subject areas most citing rare *ECCO* documents since 2009.

3. Reasons for citing rare ECCO documents

This section illustrates why *ECCO* has been cited in academic research with illustrative examples, split into clusters of similar reasons. Sometimes *ECCO* is a source of evidence for a fact that is not available elsewhere, and sometimes it is cited for its opinion or as a reflection of public opinion. The cited academic works listed below can be found by a title search in an academic search engine, such as Google Scholar. Countries or regions are highlighted below in **bold** in relevant examples, and when women are mentioned, the text is **bold and blue**.

3.1 Culture/arts

Studies of culture or the arts may cite *ECCO* for direct evidence of critical reactions or for indirect evidence of interest, such as lists of artworks (Table 1). The artworks covered in the examples below include paintings, musical pieces, plays, and sculpture.

Table 1. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research relating to culture or the arts.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic context
Performing history: Harlequinades of the French revolution on the Popular London Stage	Robert Merry, The airs, duetts, and chorusses, arrangement of scenery, and sketch of the pantomime, entitled The picture of Paris. Taken in the year 1790. As performed at the Theatre-Royal, Covent Garden (London, 1790).	How the French revolution was presented on the London stage in the Harlequinade English comic theatrical genre.
The influence of Caribbean colonies on European women 's fashion at the end of the XVIII century and beginnings of XIX	Samuel Jackson Pratt, The New Cosmetic, Or the Triumph of Beauty, a Comedy by C. Melmonth, Esq. Inscribed to Mrs. Hodges (London, 1790).	Racist attitudes in an English play.
The 'barbarous old English jig': The 'Black Joke' in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries	An Epistle to the Bishop of London, Occasiond by his Lordship's Letter to the Clergy and Inhabitants of London and Westminster, on the Subject of the Two Late Earthquakes, by a Foreigner (London, 1750).	Complaints about a bawdy theatre song.
To "fill Up, completely, the whole capacity of the mind": Listening with attention in late eighteenth-century Scotland	Anonymous. 1772. Review of An Essay Towards a Rational System of Music, by John Holden.	A discussion of consonance and dissonance in music.
Siddons's ghost: Celebrity and gender in Sheridan's Pizarro	Anonymous, A critique on the tragedy of Pizarro, as represented at Drury Lane Theatre with Such Uncommon Applause, to which is added, a new prologue, that has not yet been spoken, 2nd (London, 1799).	Contemporary dislike of Sheridan's play Pizarro.
From chronography to liberal imperialism: Greek inscriptions, the history of Greece , and historiography from Selden to Grote	R. Gough, Observations in Vindication of the Authenticity of the Parian Chronicle (London, 1789).	Recognition of the importance of an ancient Greek marble.

From the worship of God to the worship of beauty? The reception of Italian Catholic religious paintings in the private chapels of English country houses, c. 1660–c. 1768	John Horn, A History or Description, General and Circumstantial, of Burghley House, the Seat of the Right Honorable the Earl of Exeter (Shrewsbury, 1797).	List of religious paintings at a stately home, as evidence of religious ideology of some.
Variations on a reflexive theme: The musical adaptations of A Midsummer Night's Dream (1692–1763)	Garrick, David, ed. A Midsummer Night's Dream, Written by Shakespeare. With Alterations and Additions and Several New Songs. London, 1763.	Transcript of a musical version of a Shakespeare play.

3.2 The Economy

Very many studies have discussed aspects of the economy and trade in the eighteenth century, either as a focus or as background to a wider analysis (Table 2). These have tended to focus on English-speaking countries but have also related to the wider world in some cases.

Table 2. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research related to the economy.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Paper money and national distress: William Huskisson and the early theories of credit, speculation and crises	Anonymous (1796). A Few Reflections upon the Present State of Commerce and Public Credit: With Some Remarks upon the Late Conduct of the Bank of England, by an old merchant. London.	Argument against credit being used in trade.
Calico Madams and South Sea cheats: Global Trade, Finance, and Popular Protest in Early Hanoverian England	A Letter to the Author of the London Journal; Containing Objections against the present Scheme, to empower the Three Great Companies to take in Part of the Publick Debts (London, 1721).	Criticism of government policy about debts.
The Irish famine of 1740–1741: Famine vulnerability and “climate migration”	Smith, C.: The ancient and present state of the county and city of Waterford , Containing a natural, civil, ecclesiastical, historical and topographical description thereof, 1774.	Evidence of 1739 potato crop failure leading to 1740–41 famine in Ireland .
Scottish nationalism and Stuart unionism: The Edinburgh Council, 1745	An Antidote against the Infectious Contagion: An Answer to the Pretender's Declaration Or a Calm Address to all Parties in religion, Whether Protestant or Catholick, on the Score of the Present Rebellion (Dublin, 1745).	Evidence of contemporary Scottish fears circa 1745 that the Stuarts would disadvantage British trade.
Legitimate commerce in the eighteenth century: The Royal African Company of England under the Duke of Chandos, 1720–1726	Davenant, Charles. A clear demonstration, from points of fact, that the recovery, preservation and improvement of Britain's share of the trade to Africa , Is wholly owing to the industry, care and application of the Royal African Company. London, 1709.	Evidence of the commercial rationale for setting up a national slave trade monopoly company.

'So Manly and Ornamental': Shoe Buckles and Britain's Eighteenth Century	Appeal from the Buckle Trade of London and Westminster, to the Royal Conductors of Fashion (London, 1792).	Evidence that buckle makers appealed to the royal household to promote shoe buckles as fashionable.
The Levant company under attack in parliament, 1720–53	Reflections on the Expediency of Opening the Trade to Turkey . Humbly Offer'd to Publick Consideration (1753).	Evidence that provincial companies resented the London monopoly of Levant trade.
Mathematicians and the early English life insurance industry	Amicable Society, An account of the amicable society for a perpetual assurance office, as now established and incorporated by Her Majesty's Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England, John Matthews, 1706.	Financial plans of an early life insurance society.
The spread of bottom trawling in the British Isles, c. 1700–1860	F. Vesey, An Appendix to the Abridgement of the Statutes of Ireland; Containing an Abridgement of the Several Acts Passed in this Kingdom, in the Seventh Year of the Reign of ... George the Third, to the Eleventh and Twelfth Years inclusive (Dublin, 1773).	Laws against trawling (fishing) in Dublin.
Early American commercial property marks reading according to code, and beyond	An Act to Regulate the Price and Assize of Bread, 1720.	Legal bread prices in Massachusetts .
Portfolio choice and longevity risk in the late seventeenth century: A reexamination of the first English tontine	Huntington (1792). A list of the nominees appointed by the contributors to the tontine of the year 1789, in pursuance of an act of parliament made and passed in the twenty ninth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign King George the Third. Exchequer: Tontine Office.	Number of Tontine nominees and deaths.
Defoe and China	Reflections on the Prohibition Act: wherein the necessity, usefulness and value of that law, are evinced and demonstrated (1708).	Opposition to trade with China from novelist Daniel Defoe.

3.3 Employment

Different types of employments have been frequently mentioned, including rope dancers, prize agents, street singers, steelworkers and market traders, with eighteenth century books cited for evidence of various aspects of their roles or crafts (Table 3).

Table 3. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about employment.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Edward Robinson: A Forgotten English Performer on the Continent in 1711	Steele, Richard, and Joseph Addison. The Tatlers. By Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq. H. Hills, 1710.	Rope dancers' wages in Holland (tightrope walker).
Frank Clifford Rose Memorial Lecture: The tale of three trephines: Surgeons and their surgical-instrument makers in Britain, France , and America in the nineteenth century	An Essay on the mystery of tempering steel, wherein the effects of that Operation are fully considered. Extracted from the works of the celebrated Mons. Reaumur. By J. Savigny. London, 1771.	The skill of a steel device maker.

Making money from the royal navy in the late eighteenth century: Charles Kerr on Antigua 'breathing the True Spirit of a West India agent'	Kerr, Before the Most Noble and Right Honourable the Lord Commissioners of Appeals in Prize Causes.	The work of a prize agent in Antigua .
Street ballad singers and sellers, c. 1730–1780	The Ballad Singer, a New Song.	Street ballad singers sold songs.
"Free Trade and Hucksters' Rights!" envisioning economic democracy in the early republic	Benjamin Davies, Some Account of the City of Philadelphia , the Capital of Pennsylvania , and Seat of the Federal Congress (Philadelphia, 1794).	Women market vendors in Philadelphia were common.

3.4 Geography

The eighteenth century saw extensive publishing of travel fiction, presumably for a literate section of the public that would not be able to visit exotic far-off places. These books now form a repository of documentary evidence about English speakers' perceptions of foreign countries, including their customs and sights. These have been mentioned in academic research with a geographic component (Table 4). *ECCO*'s search feature might be particularly helpful for this, since it might reveal mentions of place names of interest in previously unknown literature.

Table 4. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in research about geographic places.

Citing document	<i>ECCO</i> document	Academic citation context
City-ports in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean from the mid-sixteenth to the nineteenth century: Urban and social aspects	Tournefort, M., A Voyage into the Levant : Perform'd by Command of the Late French King. Containing The Antient and Modern State of the Islands of the Archipelago ; as also of Constantinople , the Coasts of the Black Sea , Armenia , Georgia , the Frontiers of Persia , and Asia Minor ..., vol. II, London 1718 (trans. from French).	Praise for the city of Smyrna, Turkey .
Reserved abundance: State granaries of early modern Istanbul	A Compendium of the Travels of Frederick Lewis Norden through Egypt and Nubia (Dublin).	The architecture of storehouses in Damascus .
Name and scale matter: Clarifying the geography of Tibetan Plateau and adjacent mountain regions	Chevreau, 1703 U. Chevreau D. Brown, T. Benskin, J. Walthoe, J. Hartley, F. Coggan (Eds.), The history of the world, ecclesiastical and civil: from the creation to this present time. With chronological remarks (1703) London, UK.	The coining of the term " High Asia " for high areas around Tibet .
Liberty Dreamt in Stone: The (Neo)Medieval City of San Marino	Joseph Addison, Remarks on Several Parts of Italy , &c. in the Years 1701, 1702, 1703 (London, 1705).	Interest in San Marino in Italy .

3.5 Health

Health-related issues have been discussed in eighteenth-century works, from fiction to hospital records, and these have been useful to discuss public health issues at the time or the historical origins of current practices (Table 5).

Table 5. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about health.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Falling from horses: Medical controversy in early eighteenth-century England	John Gray, A further answer, Being a true representation of Mr. WORGER's case, in confutation of Dr. PACKE's written paper (Canterbury, 1726).	Physicians blamed for the death of someone after falling off his horse and hitting his head.
The first cataract surgeons in the British Isles	A list of the Governours of St. Thomas's Hospital in Southwark, 1725 (London, 1725).	The identity of a hospital governor.
The medico-legalization of [biological] sex in the nineteenth-century United States	Samuel Farr, Elements of medical jurisprudence: or, A succinct and compendious description of such tokens in the human body as are requisite to determine the judgment of a coroner, and of courts of law, in cases of divorce, rape, murder (London, 1788).	Guidance for medical experts being legal witnesses.
The pox in Boswell's London: An estimate of the extent of syphilis infection in the metropolis in the 1770	Hanway, Account of the Misericordia Hospital.	Institutionalized patients represent a minority of those treated for venereal diseases.
Knowledge transfer and the complex story of scurvy	The annual register, or a view of the history, politics, and literature, for the year 1763. (London, 1790).	Disease killed far more than battle in the Seven Years War navy.
Investigating the determinants of vaccine hesitancy within undergraduate students' social sphere	Wagstaffe W (1722). A letter to Dr. Freind: shewing the danger and uncertainty of inoculating the small pox.	Opposition to variolation (like vaccination) has a long historical pedigree.
Patronage and health care in eighteenth-century Irish county infirmaries	Edward Ward, The parish gutt'lers: or, the humours of a select vestry (Dublin, 1725).	Poem criticizing corruption in hospitals.

3.6 Interpersonal relationships

Fiction, sermons, diaries, trial transcripts, and treatises have been used as evidence of personal and (in one case) work relationships and attitudes towards them (Table 6).

Table 6. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about human relationships.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Pamela's wedding night	The history of the gay Bellario, and the fair Isabella, founded on facts, and illustrated with adventures in real life (London, 1763).	Novels hinting at wedding-night activities.
Did soldiers really enlist to desert their wives? Revisiting the martial character of marital desertion in eighteenth-century London	Agar, William, Military devotion: or, the soldier's duty to God, his prince and his country. Containing fourteen sermons preached at the camps near Blandford (London, 1758).	Wives no longer accompanied soldiers on campaign.
Marital conflict, ethnicity, and legal hybridity in postconquest Quebec	An old bachelor's reflection on matrimony, 1780.	Marital affection celebrated by some in Quebec, Canada .
'Losing him in a labyrinth of his own cloth': Beau Feilding's 1706 bigamy trial reprints and the politics of male fashion criticism	The poor beau's petition for a new suit, to his mistress that had lately cast him off (London, 1709).	Men cast off by rich wives/mistresses sometimes could not afford nice clothes.
Academic Collaboration in the Early Enlightenment: Daniel Waterland (1683–1740) and his Cambridge Tyros	John Chapman, Remarks on a book intitled, Christianity as old as the creation, with regard to ecclesiastical antiquity (Cambridge, 1732).	Some humanities scholars coordinated their work in the early 18th century.

3.7 Language changes

The language in eighteenth-century print sources is clearly evidence of the words and phrases used, but also of early meanings of words that have different uses or connotations today (Table 7). For example, recipes used to be called "experiments", and "gaming" used to mean gambling, especially with cards and dice.

Table 7. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about language and meaning.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Political engines: The emotional politics of bells in eighteenth-century England	A journal of first thoughts, observations, characters, and anecdotes, which occurred in a journey from London to Scarborough in MDCCLXXIX (London, 1781).	The difference between "happiness" and "joy".
Food, thrift, and experiment in Early Modern England	Maclver, Susanna. Cookery, and Pastry. As Taught and Practised by Mrs. Maciver, Teacher of Those Arts in Edinburgh . Edinburgh, 1774.	Cooking recipes used to be called "experiments".
Previously unknown early examples of y'all in British literature	A collection of poems, by the author of a poem on the Cambridge Ladies . Cambridge, 1733.	Evidence of y'all in 1733.
Legacies of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century gaming in modern attitudes towards gambling	Anonymous. An account of the endeavours that have been used to suppress gaminghouses, and of the discouragements that have been met with in a letter to a noble lord. London, 1722.	The meaning of the term "gaming".

3.8 Law and crime

Many academic sources have cited eighteenth-century laws either to track legal changes or as part of an analysis of the phenomenon that a law covered (Table 8).

Table 8. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to law and crime.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
The poetics of penal transportation: Robert Southey's Botany-bay eclogues	John Howard, <i>An Account of the Present State of the Prisons and Houses of Correction in the Midland Circuit</i> (London, 1789).	Transportation to Australia could be seen as positive in contrast to England's terrible prisons.
Compulsion, compensation and property rights in Britain, 1688–1833	P. Turnbull, <i>A Cursory View, of the Ancient and Present State of the Fieffs, or Tenures, in both Parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain</i> (London, 1747).	Contemporary perceptions of the importance of heritable jurisdictions in Scotland (by clan chiefs?).
A 1748 "petition of negro slaves" and the local politics of slavery in Jamaica	"An Act for making free Negroes, Indians, and Mulattoes Evidence in all Causes against one another, in all the Courts of this Island," <i>Acts of Assembly, Passed in the Island of Jamaica; From 1681, to 1754, inclusive</i> (London, 1756).	Evidence that "Christian free blacks and people of colour" could testify against each other in Jamaican courts.
Prison writing, writing prison during the 1640s and 1650s	No jest like a true jest being a compendious record of the merry life, and mad exploits of Capt. James Hind, the Great Robber of England (London, 1652).	Evidence that a highwayman was a celebrity after his arrest.
Suicide notes and popular sensibility in the eighteenth-century British press	A dialogue of the dead: betwixt Lord Eglinton and Mungo Campbell. To which is added genuine abstract of the trial of Mungo Campbell (London, 1770).	Evidence that a trial leading to the suicide of the defendant was a high-profile event.
Prisoners writing home: The functions of their letters c	A letter from a clergyman to Miss Mary Blandy, now a prisoner in Oxford Castle; with her answer thereto (London, 1752).	Condemned prisoners sometimes wanted their words read after death.
Music and punishment in the British Army in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries	<i>The Cadet: A Military Treatise</i> . By an Officer. London, 1756.	French military punishment was harsher than British.
A "wicked commerce": Consent, coercion, and kidnapping in Aberdeen's servant trade	State of the Process, Poor Peter Williamson, Against Alexander Cushnie, and others (Edinburgh, 1761).	Someone claiming to have been abducted from Scotland to America gave unreliable testimony.
The last bankrupt hanged: Balancing incentives in the development of bankruptcy law	<i>Considerations upon commissions of bankrupts</i> (London, 1727).	The purpose of early English bankruptcy law was to aid creditors.
The King's pirates? Naval enforcement of imperial authority, 1740–76	A collection of all the statutes now in force, relating to the duties of excise in England (London, 1764).	Under law, the Navy should police colonial trade .

3.9 Literature

ECCO contains many works of fiction which may be studied for their own sake, whether for now little-known authors, or for minor works of well-known authors (Table 9). Letters have also been researched and are included in this section. Travel by hot air balloon began in France in 1783 and seems to have spawned much written discussion and flights of imagination.

Table 9. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about Literature.

Citing document	<i>ECCO</i> document	Academic citation context
'The book of maybes is very braid': Ramsay's collection of Scots proverbs and enlightenment print culture	Allan Ramsay, A collection of Scots proverbs, more complete and correct than any heretofore published (Edinburgh, 1737).	Analysis of document—book of Scots proverbs.
"I will carry you with me on the wings of imagination": Aerial letters and eighteenth-century ballooning	Vincent Lunardi, An Account of Five Aerial Voyages in Scotland, in a Series of Letters to his Guardian, Chevalier Gerardo Compagni, Written under the Impression of the Various Events that Affected the Undertaking (London, 1786).	Balloon flights added to the imaginative repertoire of letter writers.
Believing 18th-century fiction: Reading novelism and theology in Thomas Amory's <i>The life of John Buncle</i> , <i>ESQ</i> (1756)	A catalogue of a very choice and curious collection of books in all arts, sciences, and languages (London, 1762).	Evidence of how contemporary book readers categorised a fiction/theology book.
Eccentricity, impartiality and sentimental travel in George Carey's <i>The Balnea</i> (1799–1801)	A sentimental diary, kept in an excursion to Little Hampton, near Arundel, and to Brighthelmstone, in Sussex. (London, 1778).	Sentimentality in eighteenth-century travel fiction.
Reviews as database: Reading the review periodical in eighteenth-century England	Edward Jeffery, A catalogue of a large, extensive, and valuable parcel of books, in every science, and in most languages; being the genuine library of George Galwey Mills, Esq. (London, 1800).	The contents of personal libraries from a sale catalogue.
Mary Scott, Sarah Froud, and the Steele literary circle: A revealing annotation to the female advocate	Lessons in Reading: or, Miscellaneous Pieces in Prose and Verse, Selected from the best English Authors (Aberdeen, 1780).	The origins (prior publication) of a poem and different versions of it published.
The American hermit and the British castaway: Voluntary retreat and deliberative democracy in early American culture	Goldsmith, Oliver. <i>Edwin and Angelina: A Ballad</i> ; by Mr. Goldsmith; Printed for the Amusement of the Countess of Northumberland. London, 1775.	American popularity of poems about hermits.
Analogies from the vegetable creation: The botanical logic of Edgeworth's <i>Belinda</i>	John Huddleston Wynne, <i>Fables of flowers, for the female sex</i> . With <i>Zephyrus and Flora</i> , a vision. Written for the amusement of Her Highness the Princess Royal. By the author of the choice emblems, &c. &c. (London, 1773).	Plants speaking in pedagogical texts to advocate for themselves.
Atrocity in mid eighteenth-century war literature	<i>French Dragooning: Or Popish Persecution, As it was practised and executed upon the French Protestants, by Lewis XIV, in the Year 1686</i> (London, 1715).	Use of [enemy] atrocity in fiction to motivate soldiers before battle.

3.10 International connections in literature

Many academic analyses of eighteenth-century fiction have discussed international influences and connections (Table 10), such as the influence of English translations of the classic Persian work *Gulistan*.

Table 10. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about miscellaneous topics related to international connections in literature.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
'A national unity of interests and affections': frameworks of the union in the early Brazilian novel	The Anchoret: a Moral Tale, in a Series of Letters. London, 1773.	English novels that may have influenced early Brazilian fiction.
Persian Monshi, Persian Jones: English Translations of Sa'di's <i>Golestān</i> from the Late Eighteenth to the Mid-Nineteenth Centuries	Select Fables from <i>Gulistan</i> or the Bed of Roses, published by Stephen Sullivan [d. 1786].	English translation of the classic Persian book <i>Gulistan</i> (The rose garden).
Johann Wilhelm von Archenholtz's <i>England und Italien</i> (1785) and its British Travellee-Rewriters	Anon. 1790, A picture of England: containing a description of the laws, customs, and manners of England. By M. D'Archenholz, formerly a captain in the service of the King of Prussia . Translated from the French .	Evidence that a French translator was suspected of being the real author.
The <i>burāq</i> : Views from the East and West	Madeleine de Scudéry, <i>Almahide; or, the captive queen</i> . An excellent new romance, never before in English. The whole work written in French by the accurate pen of Monsieur de Scudery Governour of Nostre Dame. Done into English by J. Phillips Gent, London, 1702.	Evidence that the <i>burāq</i> , "the beast on which the Prophet Muhammad is said to have ridden on his night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem " was mentioned in Western fiction.

3.11 Philosophical issues

This section lists some very loosely philosophical or theoretical issues (Table 11).

Table 11. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about miscellaneous loosely philosophical issues.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Raising the dead: Sermons, suicide, and transnational exchange in the eighteenth century	Brooks, A discourse delivered before the humane society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts .	Contemporary belief that humane societies spread genius throughout the world.
Enlightenment Ireland and the Concept of World Peace	Murphy, Henry (1792). <i>A Complete System of Poetical Ethicks, comprehending a Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God</i> . Dublin.	Enlightenment thinking and perspectives in Ireland .
Achievement of very low low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels: is it time to unlearn concern for hemorrhagic stroke?	The <i>Odyssey</i> of Homer Translated by Alexander Pope.	Quote from a Homer translation on the importance of skepticism.
'An age of infidelity': Secularization in eighteenth-century England	Anon. [T. Williams], <i>The Age of Infidelity, in Answer to Thomas Paine's Age of Reason: By a Layman</i> (London, 1796).	Widespread "infidelity" (free-thinking, skepticism, atheism, denial of God) was a concern.

3.12 Politics

There seem to be extensive academic discussions of politics, and foreign policy in particular, that draw on sources from the eighteenth century or focus on a political issue within this time (Table 12). This period included the French and American revolutions, of course.

Table 12. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about political topics.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
The Emergence of Foreign Policy	Lover of his Country. 1742. A Modest Enquiry into the Present State of Foreign Affairs: Founded on Facts, and Intended to open the Eyes of the Nation to their True Interest. London: M. Cooper.	Argument that foreign policy should be public so an informed population can challenge statesmen.
Vattel, Britain and Peace in Europe	Anon. The present measures proved to be the only means of securing the balance of power in Europe , as well as the liberty and independency of Great-Britain (London, 1743).	Balancing great powers against each other was sometimes believed to promote peace.
Murder on the Margins: The Paxton Massacre and the Remaking of Sovereignty in Colonial Pennsylvania	Benjamin Franklin, Cool thoughts on the present situation of our public affairs: In a letter to a friend in the country (Philadelphia, 1764).	Benjamin Franklin using new political language to describe [racist] rioters.
Feofan Prokopovich's Pravda Voli Monarshei as fundamental law of the Russian Empire	The prerogative of primogeniture: shewing that the right of succession to an hereditary empire, depends not upon grace, etc., but only upon birth-right: in addition, that the chief cause of all, or most rebellions in Christendom, is a papistical and fanatical belief, that temporal dominion is founded on grace: written on occasion of the Czar of Muscovys reasons in his late manifesto for the disherison of his eldest son, from the succession of the crown (London, 1718).	English outrage at Russian interference in the succession of the Russian monarchy.
War manifestos	A manifesto: Containing the reasons which have induced the Lords States General of the United Netherlands , to declare war against the Kings of France and Spain (1702).	Evidence of a religious reason for war in a war manifesto (legal basis for war).
Mary Steele, Mary Hays and the convergence of women's literary circles in the 1790s	Bicheno's a word in season: or, a call to the inhabitants of Great Britain, to Stand Prepared for the Consequences of the Present War (1795) and The probable progress and issue of the commotions which have agitated Europe since the French Revolution , argued from the aspect of things, and the writings of the Prophets (1797).	Evidence of arguments against the ongoing war with France .

3.13 Rebellion

Rebellions in the USA, Haiti, Scotland, and Ireland are discussed in eighteenth-century sources (Table 13). These sources include treatises, biographies, and parliamentary reports.

Table 13. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about rebellions.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Presbyterian moral economy: The Covenanting tradition and popular protest in lowland Scotland , 1707–c. 1746	J. Madden, A Memorial for the People of Scotland Or Some brief Animadversions on the Infamous Act of the British Parliament Unjustly imposed on the Ministers and People in the land, on the seventh of August 1737 (Dublin, 1737).	Clergymen accused of supporting a riot.
The development of the discourse surrounding ‘social improvement’ during the Anglo- Irish trade dispute, 1695–1800	Cooke, Edward (1798) Arguments for and against an Union between Great Britain and Ireland , Considered; to which is prefixed, Proposal on the Same Subject, by Josiah Tucker, D.D., London.	Contemporary belief by some Unionists that union would bring equality with England.
“Our fellow-creatures”: Women narrating political violence in the 1798 Irish rebellion	Report from the Committee of Secrecy, of the House of Lords in Ireland, as Reported by the Right Honourable John Earl of Clare, Lord High Chancellor (London, 1798).	Evidence of English government fear of the United Irishmen .
Atlantic Patriotism The Seven Years’ War and the Transformation of American , British, and French Political Culture	Quoted in John Almon, Anecdotes of the Life of the Right Hon. William Pitt, Earl of Chatham and of the Principal Events of his Time with his Speeches in Parliament, from the Year 1736 to the Year 177, (Dublin, 1792).	Evidence of some UK parliamentary sympathy for American rebellion against disliked UK parliamentary acts.
“Sons of white fathers”: Mulatto vengeance and the Haitian revolution in Victor Séjour’s “The Mulatto”	J. P. Garran de Coulon, An Inquiry into the Causes of the Insurrection of the Negroes in the Island of St. Domingo , to Which are added Various Observations of M. Garran de Coulon (London, 1792).	Evidence of contemporary French opinions about mixed-race people with respect to slavery.

3.14 Religion

Religion was a popular topic in eighteenth-century writing. Historical analyses of the arguments, opinions, and movements are subjects for modern religious studies research, often with an international dimension (Table 14).

Table 14. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about religion and religious thought.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Translating the Jansenist controversy in Britain and Ireland	A brief abstract of the memorial concerning the state and progress of Jansenism in Holland (London, 1703).	Contemporary perspectives about the 17th-18th century Jansenist Catholic religious movement.
Devotion and polemic in eighteenth-century England: William Mason and the literature of lay evangelical Anglicanism	John Wesley. A blow at the root: Or, Christ stabbed in the house of his friends (Bristol, 1762).	Cites Wesley document/ book as evidence of attitude to another preacher.

Tasting Lichfield, touching China : Sir John Floyer's senses	J. Floyer, An exposition of the Revelations, by shewing the agreement of the prophetick symbols with the history of the Roman, Saracen and Ottoman empires, and of the Popedom (1719).	Evidence of the religious writing of a person interested in human senses.
Sir Isaac Newton's enlightened chronology and inter-denominational discourse in eighteenth-century Ireland	Robert Clayton. A replication to the rejoinder: being a state of the case, together with the history of Popery; containing an account of its rise, progress and decay (Dublin, 1743).	Isaac Newton's arguments cited in anti-Catholic argument.
The Psalms in Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman England	A critical history of the Athanasian Creed: Representing the opinions of antients and moderns concerning it: with an account of the manuscripts, versions, and comments, and such other particulars as are of moment for the determining the age, and author, and value of it, and the time of its reception in the Christian churches. Cambridge University Press, 1724.	The Athanasian Creed (a Christian statement of belief focused on Trinitarian doctrine and Christology) was commonly regarded as a psalm in Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman England.
Modes of individualisation at cemeteries	Cuppé P. (1745) Heaven open to all men: or, a theological treatise, in which, without unsettling the practice of religion, is solidly prov'd, by scripture and reason, that all men shall be saved, or, made finally happy. London.	The disappearance of frightening images of hell from Christian theology.

3.15 Science

Although there have been some academic papers related to eighteenth-century science that have drawn on academic books from the period (Table 15), this seems to be a relatively under-explored area.

Table 15. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about science.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Moons are planets: Scientific usefulness versus cultural teleology in the taxonomy of planetary science	Astronomy improved: or, a new theory of the harmonious regularity observable in the mechanism or movements of the planetary system. (New Haven, 1784.)	Discussion about whether moons should be classed as planets.
GenealogyVis: A system for visual analysis of multidimensional genealogical data	J. Priestley, A description of a chart of biography. Warrington, U.K., 1764.	Example of chart type.
Thinking with crocodiles: an iconic animal at the intersection of early-modern religion and natural philosophy	Thomas Boreman, A description of three hundred animals; viz. beasts, birds, fishes, serpents, and insects, with a particular account of the whalefishery (London, 1730).	Understandings of the difference between crocodiles and alligators.

3.16 Society

A wide variety of aspects of human life and society are present in various eighteenth-century documents, including fiction and documentary records (Table 16).

Table 16. Examples of rare *ECCO* documents cited in academic research about various aspects of society.

Citing document	ECCO document	Academic citation context
Gendering the globe: The political and imperial thought of Philip Francis	Philip Francis, Draught of a resolution and plan, intended to be proposed to the society of the friends of the people (London, 1794).	An influential public servant's belief that plain clothes were important.
Creole Identity in the Enlightenment	Charles Leslie, A new and exact account of Jamaica , wherein the antient and present state of that colony, its importance to Great Britain, laws, trade, manners ... (Edinburgh, 1740).	British travelers to the West Indies were alarmed at the society they found there.
The Secret of Castle Rackrent	Mount Cashell, Margaret. A hint to the inhabitants of Ireland by a native. Dublin, 1800.	The importance of Irish print culture in 1800.
Satisfaktion in nineteenth-century German dueling violence and its relevance for literary analysis	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Clavidgo, a Tragedy, in Five Acts, Translated from the German of Goethe, Author of the Sorrows of Werter, &c (London, 1798).	The requirements of Satisfaktion in nineteenth-century German dueling.
Female liberty? Sentimental gallantry, republican womanhood, and rights feminism in the age of revolutions	Charles Pigott, The Jockey Club; or, A sketch of the manners of the age: part the second (London, 1792).	Evidence that an author attacked aristocratic vices.
Fielding's bill of fare and Cookery books	Elizabeth Moxon, English housewifery. exemplified in above four hundred and fifty receipts, giving directions in most parts of cookery (Leeds, 1749).	Fielding's meal descriptions were authentic.
A systemic approach to eliciting and gathering the expertise of a 'knowledge guardian': an application of the appreciative inquiry method to the study of classical dressage	Claude Bourgelat, A New system of horsemanship: from the French of Monsieur Bourgelat by Richard Berenger, Esq. (1754).	Classical equitation is not just about riding horses but also about "the rider themselves, their character, philosophy, judgments and action".
The reformation of manners societies, the monarchy, and the English state, 1696–1714	Josiah Woodward, A disswasive from gaming. By a minister of the Church of England (London, 1718).	Example of a middleclass attack on the vices of the upper classes.

4. Commonly citing journals

The journals publishing the most articles citing documents in *ECCO* give additional insights into the most common topics of *ECCO*-related scholarship. Unsurprisingly, four of the top five journals focus on the Eighteenth Century and most of the others are general historical journals, historical journals with a specialty, or historical journals with overlapping periods (Table 17).

Perhaps surprisingly, *Seventeenth Century* is in the list despite explicitly covering the wrong period. This anomaly can be explained by the journal covering topics that overlap with the eighteenth century or that have repercussions in the eighteenth century.

Table 17. The 30 journals publishing the most academic articles citing rare *ECCO* documents.

Journal title	Citing publications
Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies	49
Eighteenth-Century Life	42
Eighteenth-Century Studies	36
William and Mary Quarterly [early American history and culture]	29
Eighteenth-Century Fiction	21
Historical Journal	21
History of European Ideas	20
Huntington Library Quarterly	20
Journal of British Studies	20
Review of English Studies	17
Eighteenth Century	16
Past and Present	16
Notes and Queries	15
Scottish Historical Review	15
SEL Studies in English Literature	15
Eighteenth-Century Ireland	14
ELH English Literary History	14
Historical Research	14
Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century	14
Early American Literature	13
English Historical Review	13
Palgrave Studies in the Enlightenment, Romanticism and Cultures of Print	13
ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews	12
Church History	11
Early American History Series	11
European Romantic Review	11
Intellectual History Review	11
Seventeenth Century	11
Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture	11
Studies in Romanticism	11

In addition, there is a “long tail” of 1,284 journals that have cited *ECCO* at least once, such as *Theory in Biosciences*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, *Malaria Journal*, and even *Ultrasonics Sonochemistry*.

5. Common themes amongst citing articles, books, and chapter titles

The most frequent words in journal articles citing *ECCO* documents (Figure 3, Table 18) tend to echo the themes found in the reasons for citing *ECCO* documents section above. The terms “Public”, “War”, and “Reading” suggest additional perspectives, however. The absence of terms related to women and slavery are perhaps surprising and these might be missed opportunities for research?

Table 18. The 30 terms most found in the titles of journal articles citing rare *ECCO* documents since 2009. Table 19. The 30 terms most found in the titles of book articles citing rare *ECCO* books since 2009. Table 20. The 30 terms most found in the titles of journal chapters citing rare *ECCO* documents since 2009.

Article title term	Articles	Book title term	Books	Chapter title term	Chapters
Eighteenth century	208	British	402	Eighteenth century	84
Early	172	Revolution	332	History	79
English	132	England	315	British	77
England	131	Britain	308	Century	70
Century	126	Eighteenth century	304	Early	56
British	110	History	255	Eighteenth	53
American	98	Culture	252	American	53
Political	88	Early	249	Political	49
John	83	American	222	England	45
History	82	English	212	Thought	40
William	81	Empire	183	Enlightenment	39
Eighteenth	80	Century	175	English	38
Britain	76	Age	163	Public	36
Modern	73	America	162	Age	35
Politics	72	Politics	158	Introduction	35
Revolution	61	Literature	157	Scottish	33
New	60	Religion	148	Literature	33
War	57	Modern	145	Empire	31
London	54	Enlightenment	145	Studies	30
Enlightenment	52	Political	131	Popular	29
Late	51	Eighteenth	128	Modern	28
Empire	47	War	120	Revolution	27
Law	47	World	119	London	26
Religious	43	Ireland	116	New	25
Culture	41	Life	115	Women	24
Scottish	41	Identity	100	Politics	24
Case	40	Revolutionary	98	Poetry	24
Scotland	39	Women	94	Democracy	24
Public	38	France	91	War	23
Reading	37	Trade	91	Life	23

Book scholarship is not the same as article-based research and the terms most found in book titles citing *ECCO* documents (Figure 4, Table 19) are somewhat different to those for articles. Perhaps of most interest in this list are the terms “women” and “Empire”, suggesting that book-length works are more willing or able to engage these topics in relation to the Eighteenth Century (e.g., “Women Write Back: Strategies of Response and the Dynamics of European Literary Culture, 1790-1805”, “Empire of hell: Religion and the campaign to end convict transportation in the British Empire, 1788-1875”).

Book chapters are a different genre again from books and journal articles (Figure 5, Table 20). Poetry and Democracy suggest new themes here, although both are implicit in themes already discussed above.

6. Commonly citing countries and institutions

ECCO is primarily cited by academics in predominantly English-speaking countries (Table 21).

Other commonly citing countries are mainly from Europe or were formerly part of the British Empire. In addition, there is some interest from countries that historically traded with English-speaking countries or that had mutual cultural influences with them.

Table 21. The 31 countries/territories most citing rare *ECCO* documents.

Connection to ECCO	Author country	Publications citing rare ECCO documents
English speaking	United States	1306
English speaking	United Kingdom	1195
English speaking	Canada	213
English speaking	Australia	134
Europe	Germany	91
English speaking	Ireland	78
Europe	France	65
Europe	Italy	56
Europe	Netherlands	51
Europe	Spain	41
Europe	Switzerland	32
Europe	Belgium	31
British Empire	Israel	24
British Empire	New Zealand	24
Europe	Norway	20
	China	17
Europe	Finland	17
Europe	Poland	17
	Japan	16
Europe	Denmark	15
Europe	Russian Federation	15
Europe	Sweden	13
Europe	Austria	12

British Empire	India	10
	South Korea	10
Europe	Czech Republic	9
Europe	Portugal	9
British Empire	Singapore	9
	Brazil	8
British Empire	South Africa	8
	Turkey	8

The universities most citing rare *ECCO* documents are almost all from primarily English-speaking countries and primarily the UK, the USA, and Ireland (Table 22).

Table 22. The 30 institutions most citing rare *ECCO* documents.

Author institution	Publications citing rare <i>ECCO</i> documents
University of Oxford	105
University of Cambridge	74
University of Exeter	46
The University of Edinburgh	43
King's College London	36
University of Warwick	36
Queen's University Belfast	35
University College London	34
The University of Manchester	31
University of Glasgow	29
Yale University	28
University of Nottingham	28
University of St Andrews	28
University of York	27
Queen Mary University of London	26
The Open University	25
University of Toronto	25
The City University of New York	24
Harvard University	24
Trinity College Dublin	23
University of Liverpool	23
Durham University	23
University of Melbourne	23
University of Leicester	23
Universiteit Gent	20

University of Birmingham	19
New York University	19
University of California, Los Angeles	19
Princeton University	18
University of Virginia	18

Outside of primarily English-speaking countries, the highest citer of rare *ECCO* documents is Universiteit Gent (Belgium), presumably because of its Institute for Early Modern History (Table 23). Nevertheless, the top citing countries come from a wide range of countries, including two in Asia.

Table 23. The 29 institutions most citing rare *ECCO* documents, excluding English-speaking countries.

Author institution	Publications citing rare <i>ECCO</i> documents
Universiteit Gent	20
CNRS Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	8
National University of Singapore	8
Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna	8
Københavns Universitet	8
University of Haifa	7
Universiteit Leiden	7
Universität Basel	7
Université de Lausanne UNIL	6
Universiteit Utrecht	6
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	6
Universität Heidelberg	6
Sorbonne Université	5
Helsingin Yliopisto	5
Universitetet i Oslo	5
Università degli Studi di Torino	5
Seoul National University	5
Universidade da Coruña	5
Universität Wien	5
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	4
Universitat de Barcelona	4
Universiteit van Amsterdam	4
Bar-Ilan University	4
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	4
Universität Bamberg	4
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	4

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München	4
Masaryk University	4
Universitetet i Bergen	4

Some non-university institutions, such as museums, also cite *ECCO* documents. These include Museum Voor de Geschiedenis der Geneeskunde, Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, and Museu de Saúde Pública Emílio Ribas.

7. Citing document types and years

Most Scopus-indexed publications citing rare *ECCO* documents are books (39%) or book chapters (16%), with 26% being journal articles, and 17% being journal reviews (similar to articles, so 42% article-type contributions overall) (Figure 6). Although no data is available, citations from BA, MA, and PhD dissertations seem likely to greatly exceed the numbers reported here.

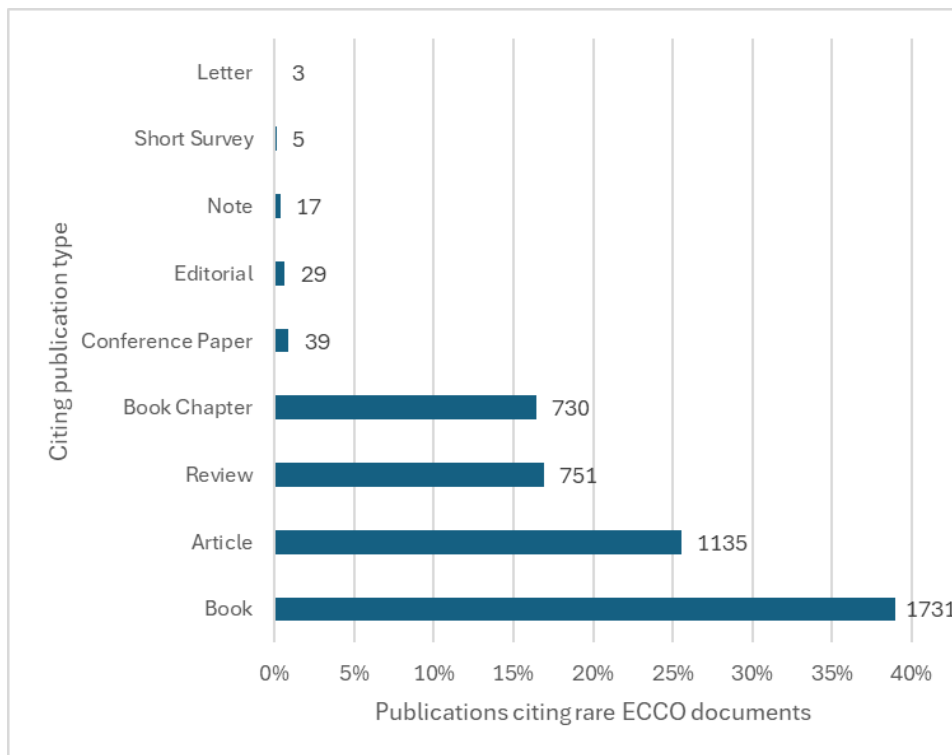


Figure 6. The nine publication types most citing rare *ECCO* documents since 2009–2024.

The annual number of citations per year from Scopus-indexed documents to rare *ECCO* documents seems to be stable (Figure 7).

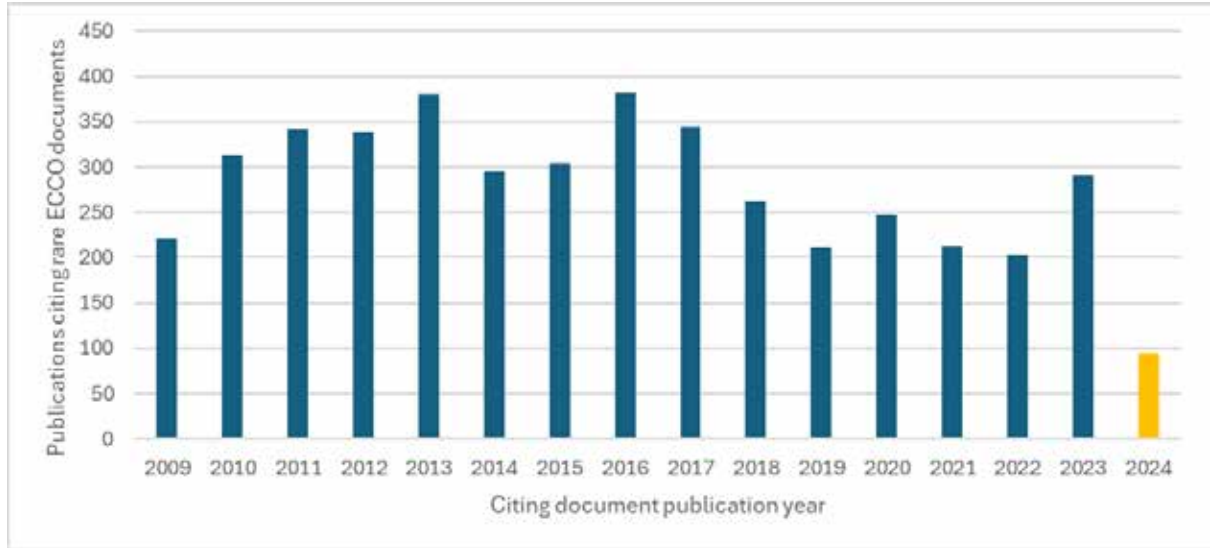


Figure 7. The number of publications in Scopus citing rare *ECCO* documents 2009–2024 (2024 is partial), broken down by citing work publication year. The data was collected in September 2024.

8. Summary

This report has identified some themes in the peer-reviewed academic documents citing rare *ECCO* documents (fewer than 10 citations in Scopus). *ECCO* has a wide international user base, albeit with the greatest use in English-speaking countries. It is also primarily used in the Arts and Humanities and perhaps also humanities-oriented Social Sciences, but also finds occasional uses in a wide range of disciplines. It seems particularly useful for the following.

- Culture/arts
- The economy/trade
- Employment conditions
- Geographical information
- Health
- Interpersonal relationships
- Language changes
- Law, crime, and punishment
- Literature, including international connections
- Politics
- Rebellions/revolutions
- Philosophical perspectives
- Religion
- Science
- Society

In addition, scholars have reasonably often used rare documents in *ECCO* to discuss women and empire.

9. References

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