

Britain's original home for abandoned children and London's first ever public art gallery



The Foundling Museum

The Gerald Coke Handel Collection

The Foundling Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for abandoned children and of three major figures in British history: its campaigning founder the philanthropist Thomas Coram, the artist William Hogarth and the composer George Frideric Handel. This remarkable collection of art and social history is now housed in a restored and refurbished building adjacent to the original site of the Hospital, demolished in 1926. The art collection includes works by Hogarth, Reynolds and Gainsborough.

In 2005 Soutron was selected to supply a library system to provide cataloguing facilities for the extensive historical collection of materials that have been placed in the care of the Museum. The demands for a catalogue that includes books, art and music means that the database has to be very flexible to allow fields to be defined to cover the detail that is needed for such a collection. The need for thesaurus control is also an important aspect of the work of the library staff Katharine Hogg, Barbara Diana, and Colin Coleman.



School of Thomas Hudson (1701-79)
Portrait of George Frideric Handel,
c.1736 © The Foundling Museum

"We recognise that some organisations, whilst small in staff numbers, have the same quality demands as much larger organisations. Clients such as The Foundling Museum are very important to us and we try to help and support them the same as if they were one of our Global library clients" says Graham Partridge, Research & Development Director, Soutron Limited.

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Katharine Hogg, Librarian

The system supplied is based on Inmagic®'s DB/Text®. Soutron hosts the catalogue for access across the web and supports the system for the Museum. The size of the catalogue is not as great as say that of Random House Archives but the depth of cataloguing is equally thorough. A typical library system is unable to cope with the extra demands to add and define new fields as necessary. DB/Text manages this without the need for lots of IT Support and indeed does not require any specialist IT support to run.

Katharine Hogg, Librarian, The Foundling Museum said "We chose this software because of its flexibility, which allows us to customise all our databases to suit the items in the collection, and allows in-depth, or even 'extreme' cataloguing which our users require".

The catalogue can be seen at: <http://foundling.soutron.com/web/>

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