



## Encountering Ken Saro-Wiwa: Integrating a library collection into an undergraduate programme

### Letters as the basis of learning

#### Overview

- 2011 Library receives the death row correspondence of Nigerian writer and activist Ken Saro Wiwa
- Used within the BA module *Development Theories* as part of a case study exploring the impact of the petrochemical industry on the Niger Delta

Handover of Ken Saro Wiwa archive November 2011



“ The opportunity to actually see, hold and read original letters allowed for a real sense of his beliefs and passion to social and economic inequalities.” Student quote

#### How it worked

- Library identifies specific content for the moodle VLE relating to Ken Saro Wiwa – YouTube videos, newspaper and journal articles and relevant websites
- Visit to the Russell Library to see the letters
- Lecturer provides the content which created the development studies context
- Students also work in small groups analysing and discussing newspaper coverage of the period from different countries, different sources and different perspectives.
- In the final assignment students required to draw on the letters and course material and apply the case study to development theories

#### Impact

- Fosters a deeper level of collaboration between the Library and the academic community
- Develops an awareness of unique and distinctive collections as a source of course material
- Creates a vibrant and engaging learning experience for undergraduate students

#### Contacts

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