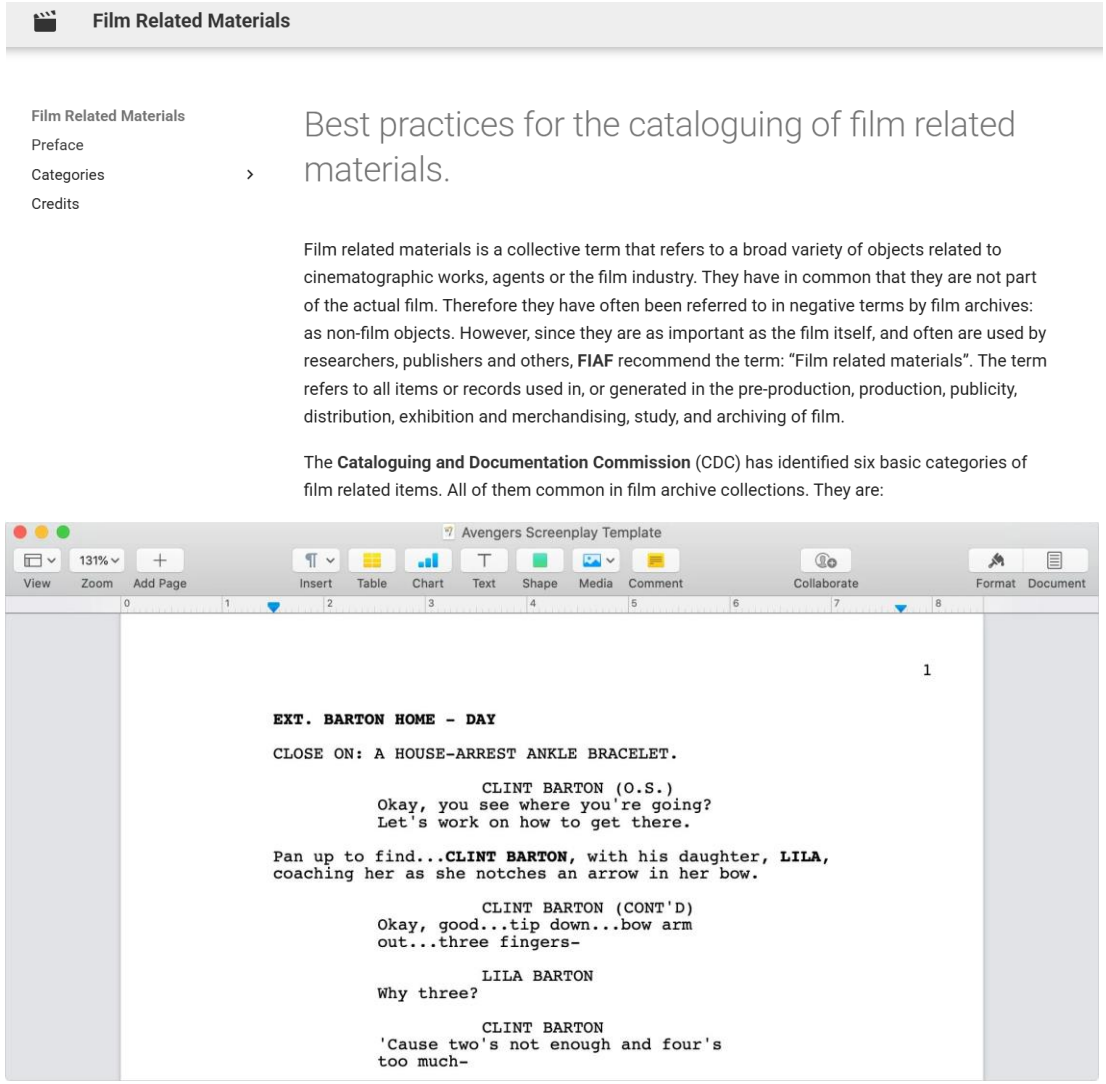
Born-digital film related material

Supported by the BFI Screen Heritage Fund, awarding National Lottery funding

What is meant by born-digital film related material?

Born-digital refers to **materials that originate in a digital form**.

- Filmmakers' archives
- Designs
- Documents
- Ephemera
- Posters
- Scripts
- Stills



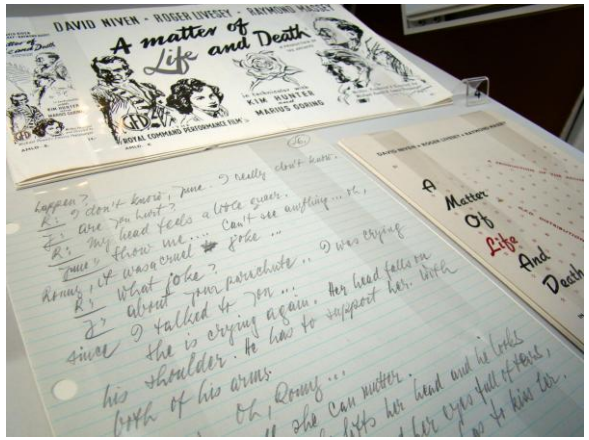
Our Screen Heritage

UK National Heritage Lottery funded project.

Creating a ‘Screen Archive of the Future’ is a key tenet of Screen Culture 2033, the BFI’s 10-year strategy for film and the moving image, with the ambition to make the BFI National Archive ‘the most open moving image collection in the world’, reframing the public’s relationship with our shared screen culture and embracing wider screen stories and voices.

Surfacing the contemporary stories of now, sharing stories of the past, coming together to be enablers of change & create the stories of the future towards a **Screen Archive of the Future**.

Screen Culture /2033



New Voices in the Archive: Script to Screen

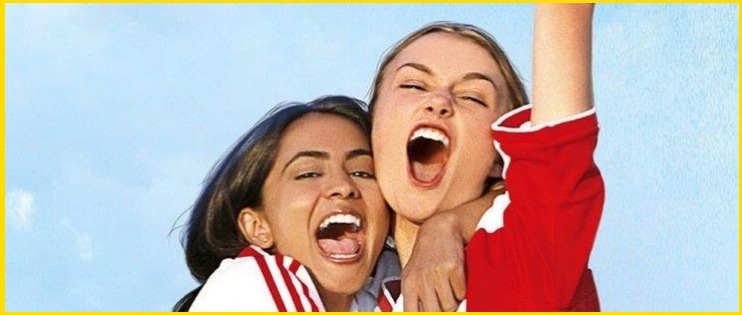
This project will allow the opportunity for the BFI National Archive to work with and acquire the contemporary born-digital archives of the UK's leading filmmakers and screen craft practitioners.

The project will create the infrastructure, methodology and workflow for acquiring, cataloguing and preserving born-digital document archives, establishing policies for public access.

We are currently working with the acclaimed British director, producer and writer, **Gurinder Chadha**.

Gurinder Chadha's born-digital archive is made up of an array of material, including digital stills, scripts using Final Draft software, production notes and artistic assets, such as digital posters and designs.

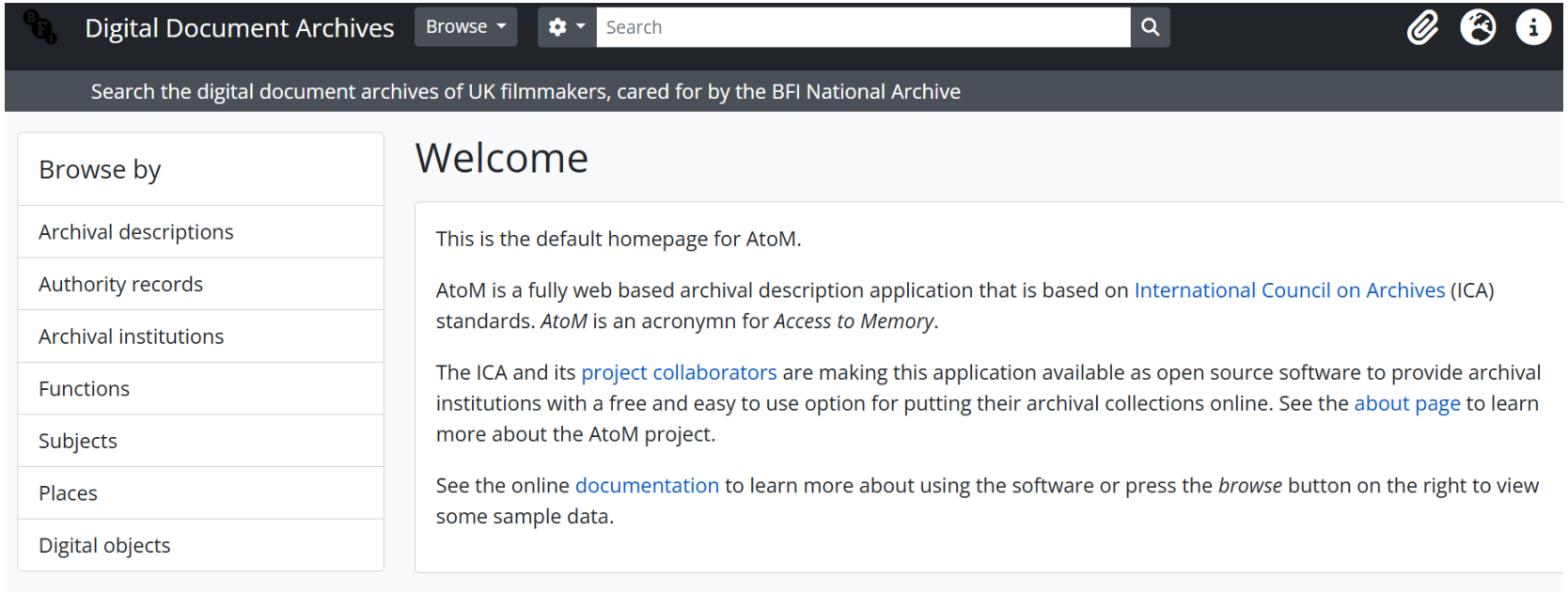
Director, producer and writer, Gurinder Chadha.



Still from Gurinder Chadha's feature film *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002)

Progress so far...

- Google Drive transfer
- Merging of transfers
- Legacy formats
- Different application software, Microsoft & Apple
- Duplicates
- Sensitivity review
- Cataloguing standard for better metadata capture



Network initiative

Questions...

- Communication with donors
- Appraisal
- Sensitivity reviews
- Hierarchy
- Metadata
- Closure periods
- Accessibility

Network initiative

International network for archival professionals working with born-digital film related materials.

Aims: Foster a collaborative space to share our experiences, discuss challenges, and celebrate successes in managing born-digital film related materials.

Building on the CDC Film Related Materials Cataloguing Principles, we hope to contribute to the development of guidance specifically for born-digital film related materials, expanding the available literature in this field.

Focus: donor relationship, acquisitions, appraisal, cataloguing, and accessibility—addressing questions such as what to collect in the vast landscape of digital archives, how to best capture metadata, and effective strategies for making these materials accessible.

Structure: Our first network meeting is in early April, with quarterly meetings planned. In late 2025, the BFI will host a symposium to share outcomes, run workshops, and support archives working with, or hoping to work with born-digital film related material.

Contact us

Network chairs

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