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**Kevin Lambert\***, Klambert@fullerton.edu. *The Malthus Library: The Library as Cognitive Instrument in the Making of the Malthusian Population Principle*. Preliminary report.

Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834) is infamous for his argument, made in the first edition of his *An Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798) that population growth would always outstrip food production. In this paper, I will investigate how Malthus justified his population principle as a universal bio-mathematical law in the larger and more complex later editions of the *Essay*. Most of the materials Malthus assembled to write the second 1803 edition of the *Essay* are preserved at the Old Library, Jesus College, Cambridge. Malthus used that assembly of books and maps as an instrument with which to look across the early nineteenth European, American and Pacific worlds. Malthus' close friends, William Otter and Edward Daniel Clarke were key figures in the founding of the first lasting Cambridge scientific society, the Cambridge Philosophical Society (CPS). George Peacock, a fellow CPS founding member, would justify his principle of equivalent forms as the foundation for English algebra through the collection of materials and reports from around the world. I will argue that when Malthus assembled his library of materials, he was employing a characteristically eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Cambridge mixed-mathematical practice. (Received September 02, 2020)