JISC

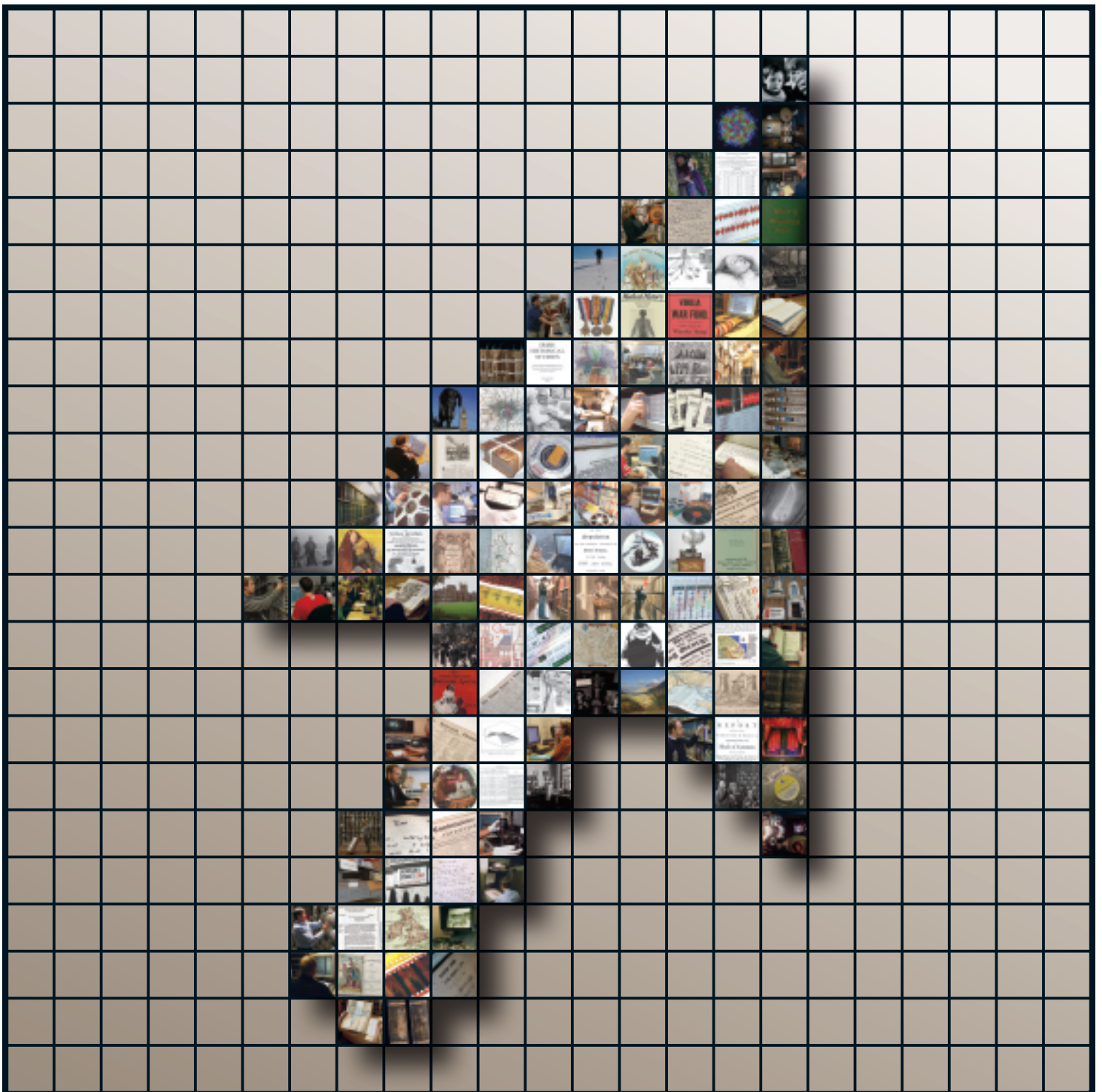## e-Resources

The JISC Digitisation Programme

Five centuries of unique resources for learning, teaching & research

The JISC Digitisation Programme is funded with a £22 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Councils for England and Wales in recognition that a series of large-scale digitisation projects would bring significant benefits to the UK academic sector.

www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation

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Foreword

'By bringing some of the UK's greatest scholarly collections to the desktops of all in further and higher education and research, JISC's Digitisation Programme is beginning to realise some of the enormous potential of online resources in a wide variety of formats ...'

Creating online resources that inspire and motivate is crucial to the use of ICT across all education sectors, and central to the Department for Education and Skills' (DfES) e-strategy. By bringing some of the UK's greatest scholarly collections to the desktops of all in further and higher education and research, JISC's Digitisation Programme is beginning to realise some of the enormous potential of online resources in a wide variety of formats – sound, images, journals, moving pictures, census data and newspapers.

The programme is not only about digitising resources, but also about fostering new collaborations as we have seen with the innovative and productive partnership between JISC, the Wellcome Trust and the National Library of Medicine to make journal articles freely and openly available to the education sector. Collaborations across the programme are also establishing new business models that provide the education community with groundbreaking and sustainable online resources.

The success of JISC's current digitisation projects, which have already made available sound resources, population data and medical journals and will soon deliver further important resources, has been crucial in raising the profile of digitised resources and attracting further investment for 16 new projects. JISC is delighted that this success has been recognised and that the programme will continue its important work.

Professor Sir Ron Cooke
JISC Chair

Introduction

JISC is changing the world of authoritative e-resources through its investment in digitising content from some of the UK's greatest collections representing a wide range of rich and vivid perspectives on the history, culture and landscape of the UK and beyond.

Spanning centuries, disciplines and sources, the JISC series of pioneering digitisation projects is unlocking a wealth of unique, hard-to-access material from the 16th century to the present day, creating a critical mass of rich, permanent digital resources for the benefit of the widest user base possible within UK further and higher education.

The first phase of six projects began in 2004 and all of these new and innovative e-resources will be available by September 2007. The second phase of 16 equally ambitious projects, funded through a further £12 million, was announced in January 2007. This phase features projects that will enable all users, regardless of location and time, online access to a range of authoritative digitised e-resources that are of broad disciplinary interest and together form a coherent theme from previously difficult or impossible to access material. The 16 new projects represent a wide range of rich and vivid perspectives on the history, culture and landscape of the UK and beyond. The successful consortia include nearly 60 organisations from education and other sectors, including the British Film Institute, The National Archive, the BBC, ITN, the British Library, the National Library of Wales and the Bodleian Library, alongside nearly 30 universities. The projects capture a wide variety of aspects of UK life, from Cabinet papers to First World War poetry, radio news to East End music hall, political cartoons to British borders, and in a wide range of media, including sound, film, images, journals, newspapers, maps, theses, pamphlets and cartoons.

"The JISC Digitisation Programme has been leading the way in making more widely available resources which are either inaccessible or hard to access, something that is quietly but rapidly transforming education and research in this country. I look forward to seeing the results of these projects in the coming years and the uses to which these important resources will be put."

Professor David Eastwood, CEO of HEFCE

18th Century Parliamentary Papers

Bringing all existing records of Britain's 18th-century Parliament to users across the UK

Access to resource:
Free access to UK FE/HE Institutions

Lead site:
University of Southampton

Launch date:
March 2007

Web site:
www.bopcris.ac.uk/18c

Overview:

The project will allow users to browse, search and download the texts from documents of all surviving 18th-century Parliamentary Papers, Bills, Journals and Reports. By making previously obscure materials accessible, it will release potential to reassess the role of the 18th-century parliaments at a critical time of change.

The Project

Search the complete run of documentation generated by Parliament's Papers and Bills, and its day-to-day workings, including House of Commons and House of Lords Journals and Reports. BOPCRIS will offer unprecedented access and flexibility to search, question and analyse 18th-century Parliamentary Papers, Bills and Journals in a completely new way. The century that bore witness to the Industrial Revolution and the American War of Independence (1775–83) is recorded at the highest level in the Parliamentary Papers of the era.

Momentous stories are included, such as an in-depth account of the scandal-ridden tenure of Britain's 'first prime minister', Sir Robert Walpole (1721–42). You can get a feel for Anglo-American relations in the 18th century, as you can for the early days of British rule in India during the Raj. Many others are included as well, such as Nicholas Hawksmoor's churches and John Harrison's longitude clocks.

The paper copies of this material that still exist are not generally held on libraries' open shelves and are poorly indexed, but this electronic resource will allow universal access to high-quality, fully searchable digital surrogates of the complete records.

"I hope that, by providing easy-to-use access to the historical records of Parliament, this project encourages more people to study and understand the way in which our country was governed"

Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Michael Martin

The Content

House of Commons and House of Lords Bills, Papers and Command Papers: estimated number of documents:

House of Commons Papers:	11,380
House of Commons Bills:	917
House of Lords Papers & House of Lords Bills:	1,311

Further information is available at:
**www.bopcris.ac.uk/18c**

The Process

Revolutionary technology is bringing the project to life. For the first time ever in the UK, a Swiss-built 1 tonne robotic scanner is being used. It is capable of working its way extremely fast and delicately

through up to 1,000 pages an hour of original historical documents. The pages are turned with vacuum technology, their edges pinpointed by lasers. This output rate has freed up staff time, so that they can devote more attention to indexing and classification, enhancing the eventual resource.

> *BOPCRIS is applying 21st-century classification and search-and-retrieval methods to 18th-century material.*

BOPCRIS is applying 21st-century classification and search-and-retrieval methods to 18th-century material. The team has re-organised the access points for all 14,000 documents under Library of Congress subject headings. The end-user will benefit from the familiarity and comprehensiveness of this international standard. Full-text searching will be possible using an innovative approach: while the screen displays individual page scans, a hidden full-text version resides in the background to facilitate keyword searching. Material will also be browsed through traditional tools such as tables of contents. Portable Document Format (PDF) versions of
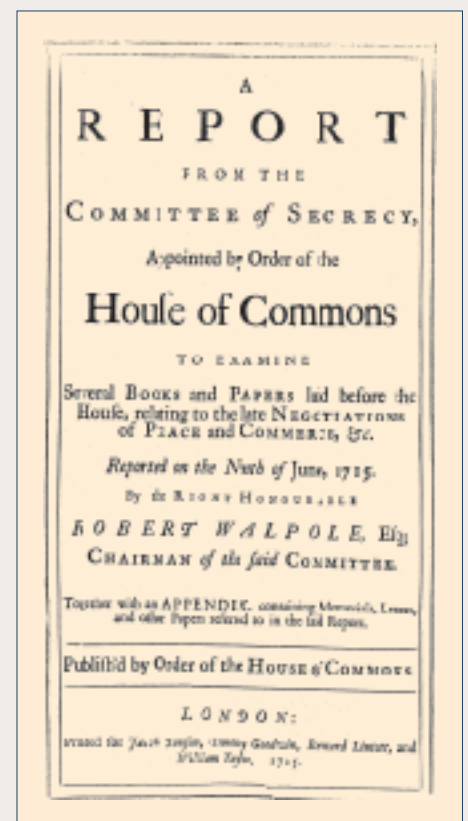
individual pages will be available for download.

The Future

The project delivered a pilot demonstrator in Summer 2005, which was accompanied by lab-based user testing to refine the User Interface and Resource Discovery tool development. Full service commences in Spring 2007. The robotic scanner itself is a long-term investment and there is ample scope for its application to other national projects.
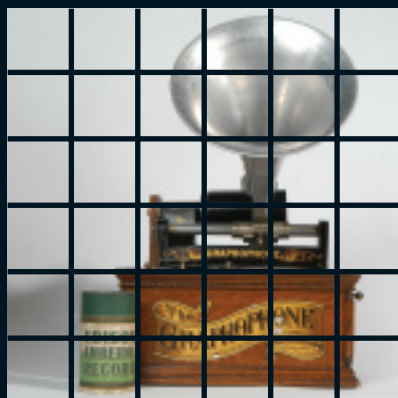
Archival Sound Recordings

A slice of the world's rich audio heritage at your fingertips

Access to resource:
Free access to UK FE/HE Institutions

Lead site:
British Library Sound Archive

Launch date:
September 2006

Web site:
www.bl.uk/sounds

Overview:

This ground-breaking project will offer users an online fully-searchable digital library of sound recordings from one of the world's treasure houses of audio heritage.

Users will be able to integrate some of the most evocative recordings to transform learning, teaching and research. Up to 12,000 recordings, totalling 3,900 hours of segmented encodings will represent the expansive range and diversity of the British Library Sound Archive.

The Project

The British Library Archival Sound Recordings project is drawing its material from 12,000 individual recordings selected from the Archive's broad and eclectic holdings. These reflect its strengths in oral history, popular and classical music, soundscapes and spoken word recordings.

The digitisation process conforms to the British Library's policies of preserving its fragile and difficult to play recordings, by creating sound-perfect copies from original source formats.

The collections selected for inclusion in this new and innovative e-resource represent the British Library Sound Archive's broad remit, which includes field recordings, musical recordings and oral history to name a few. This seemingly diverse material is united by the emotional charge attached to the sounds themselves, which makes the resource so distinct from the printed word

The Content

Beethoven String Quartets: includes the whole cycle of Beethoven string quartets and presents the evidence of the succession of historic and more recent recordings as a package

for study of changing performance values for that particular corpus. As an example, it amounts to around 600 audio products which will have comprehensive metadata to enable resource discovery and playback access.

Popular Music: the British Library is developing a teaching set of popular music from the last 50 years. Our popular-music curator has selected 400 tracks that will support the growing study of popular music in this country.

The African Writers Club: in the 1960s and 1970s, this was a regular programme on the BBC World Service on Africa. It included current affairs, arts and heritage programmes, which included people reading their own work, panel discussions and so on. It is an important spoken word package.

"Sound recordings represent a massively untapped resource in the field of education. They are relevant to all subjects and we are delighted that this programme will bring wide access to rare, historic and hugely valuable sound resources"

Lynne Brindley, *Chief Executive of the British Library*

The Oral History of Jazz in Britain: this includes recordings by the key figures in the British jazz scene, talking about their life experience, what has happened to them and reflections upon their careers and the development of jazz in the UK.

Visual Arts Interviews: as with the jazz interviews, each interview could be up to six or seven hours, and all of the key figures in painting, sculpture and photography have participated in this programme. The British Library has a very rich archive of what has been happening in the visual arts in the UK since the Second World War.

David Rycroft South Africa Recordings: Rycroft was a linguist and musicologist who worked in the 1960s and 1970s in South African towns, documenting and recording daily life and music.

The Klaus Wachsmann Uganda Recordings: these are field recordings of traditional music in Uganda. This unique material will be digitised from so-called 'acetate' discs. There is a preservation issue here too, as acetate discs disintegrate over a period of time.

What distinguishes the last two collections is that unlike the others they are unpublished. This is the first time the British Library is making this material available to a broad audience.

Soundscapes: the British Library has a collection of sounds that reflect the broad environment around us. This collection will include material from the vast archive of wildlife sounds, and also some interesting collections of actuality, such as foghorns and other 'industrial' noise.

Records and Record Players: this audio-visual presentation is designed to show the technological development of the audio industry and also its social and commercial impacts. This will enable the material to be placed in a context for the teaching and learning environment. Whilst many users will be interested in the clips of material, there are others who will want to understand the origins and contexts of the recordings in order to make the most appropriate use of the material to which we are providing them access.

Sony Radio Awards: a selection from the Sound Archive's holdings of the best of UK radio programming as entered for this annual competition in the 1980s and 1990s.

Further information is available at: **www.bl.uk/sounds**

The Process

In the course of the project the Sound Archive will provide and develop applications that allow download, storage and manipulation of these audio clips in order to embed them in learning and teaching materials. This work will be driven by the recommendations of a user panel. The methodology of the project is as innovative as the material. Exposure to the more unusual collections will be made more accessible by the provision of clear resource discovery metadata.

The Future

The Sound Archive anticipates collaboration with British Library Learning (the British Library's education department) and JISC, to develop the applications of the project for a variety of potential users. A pilot demonstrator to test user need's analysis on the user interface and resource discovery tools has been available since Autumn 2005. The full service launch was scheduled for Autumn 2006.

With over 3 million separate recordings held in the Sound Archive, totalling 550,000 hours, there is clearly scope for additional online resources.

British Newspapers 1800–1900

Read all about Britain and the world from the Industrial Revolution to the Boxer Rebellion

Access to resource:
Free access to UK FE/HE Institutions

Lead site:
British Library

Launch date:
October 2007

Web site:
www.bl.uk/collections/
britishnewspapers1800to1900.html

Overview:

10 billion words and 2 million pages are being digitised from complete runs of 19th-century local, regional and national British newspapers.

Iconic historical events from the Battle of Waterloo, the Great Exhibition of 1851 to the opening of the Suez Canal. Read and repurpose the factual reporting of the Battle of Trafalgar in the *Examiner* and the gory details of the Whitechapel murders in the melodramatic *Illustrated Police News*. Also famous authors of the 19th-century period who wrote for newspapers, including Dickens and Thackeray.

The Project

Titles have been selected to reflect both the full chronological span of the era and the geographical spread of the UK and include the *Examiner*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Chartist* and many others. These will be made available to further and higher education in a form that allows an unprecedented degree of cross-referencing across almost every imaginable discipline.

Until now, researchers wishing to consult this material have had to journey to the British Library's newspaper collection at Colindale, London, and search by manually turning pages or poring over microfilm frame by frame. This project will revolutionise scholarly research, bringing richer results with precision and speed at the click of a mouse.

Users can choose to limit their searches to specific newspapers or search across the entire range, allowing immediate like-for-like comparisons of the same subject's treatment by different titles. The retrieved articles can be viewed in a text version or in the context of its original page layout. Captions and advertisements will also be searchable.

Users will be able to examine the minutiae of daily life in Victorian Britain through columns packed full of source material for the histories of popular culture, including sport, fashion, politics, war and advertising. Typographical trends and developments in design and publishing can be tracked in the primary material itself as layouts change due to technical developments during the century.

The Content

The list of titles below is only a small part of a much wider selection.

Belfast Newsletter	1828–1900
The Examiner	1808–1881
Glasgow Herald	1800–1900
Jackson's Oxford Journal	1800–1900
Liverpool Mercury	1811–1900
Morning Chronicle	1801–1862
Newcastle Courant	1803–1900
Pall Mall Gazette	1865–1900
Reynolds's Newspaper	1850–1900
Trewman's Exeter Flying Post	1807–1900
Welsh Language Package (Baner, Genedl Cymreig & Goleuad)	1837–1900 (varying dates)
Western Mail (Cardiff)	1869–1900

This is only a small selection from the many titles to be included.
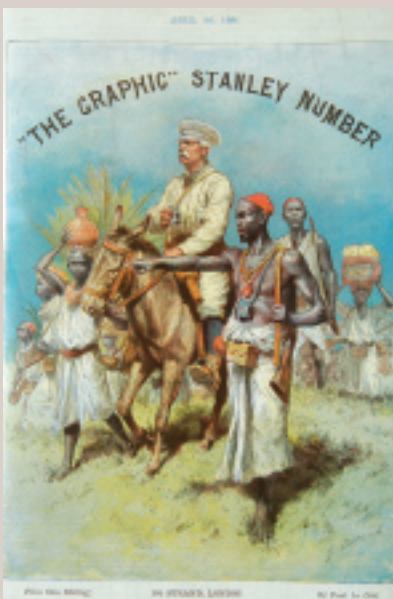
Further information about the full list of titles that have been available since Autumn 2006, is available at: **www.bl.uk/collections/britishnewspapers1800to1900.html**

The Process

The content and design of the eventual interface is being guided by a user panel with significant research experience in the field of 19th-century newspapers.

The team is striving to create microfilm of the highest quality possible for digitisation, and is using state-of-the-art German-made cameras to ensure consistency of lighting and resolution. The British Library aims for compliance with internationally recognised standards and the British Newspapers project will follow these conventions.

The Future

British Newspapers will launch a pilot demonstrator in Summer 2007. The full service will be available from October 2007.

Sustainability has been addressed on two levels: not only will the British Library ensure the future availability of the newspapers project online, but a copy of all the files being produced will be housed in the Library's digital store for permanent preservation.

"It's almost like giving people a virtual key to the stacks at the British Library. It is the sheer range of material which will be a completely new experience for the user"

Jane Shaw, British Library

Medical Journals Backfiles Digitisation Project

Free access to the best in medical publications – past, present and future

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
Wellcome Trust (UK) and National Library of Medicine (USA)

Launch date:
Progressive roll-out from April 2005

Web site:
http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/ backfiles/

Partners:
National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Overview:

This project delivers over 2 million pages of text, derived by digitising the complete backfiles from a number of historically significant medical journals. All digitised content is freely available through PubMed Central (**www.pubmedcentral.gov**).

Not only is the archive available, but also current and future issues published by participating publishers will be included.

The Project

A selection of medical journals, some dating back to the early 19th century, will be made available online. Over 1 million articles from 2 million pages will eventually be accessible to everyone through standard search engines such as Google and, for the specialist researcher, the PubMed database.

World-changing finds and life-changing discoveries are included, from Sir Alexander Fleming's discovery of the use of penicillin to fight bacterial infections to Thomas Hodgkin's classic description of lymphadenoma (later termed Hodgkin's disease). Many of the articles in Medical Journals Backfiles fall outside the year range for PubMed, which does not have online indexing and citation information before 1965. For those articles, new xml citations are being created and added to PubMed Central.

Just as significant is the decision for the resource to operate on the Open Access model, whereby participating publishers deposit current issues of their journals, after a short embargo period, into the archive for permanent, free access.

Open access is supported by JISC, the Wellcome Trust and participating publishers as a viable and ethical
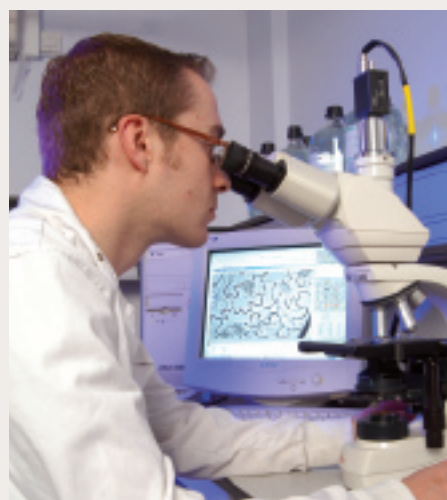
way to disseminate research findings, and the model adopted means Medical Journals Backfiles will run in perpetuity as current issues of an increasing number of publications are added to grow the resource and bring it constantly up to date.

"The archive doesn't run from, say, 1809 to 1970; it runs from 1809 for ever"

Robert Kiley, Wellcome Trust

Some journals in this selection were first published in the 19th century; indeed, the first edition of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* appeared in 1809. Moreover, the milestones recorded over these two centuries have

"The story of medical history in the 19th and 20th centuries is told through medical journals. Before that it was books, but for the 19th and 20th centuries, it's journals. So providing online access to these is a way of providing a resource that medical historians, clinicians and others can make use of"

Robert Kiley, Wellcome Trust

not necessarily been eclipsed by subsequent and current research; for example, in order to understand the recent MMR scare, researchers can turn to the literature of the 1940s and 1950s, which contains a wealth of discussion surrounding autism.

The Content

This will deliver the complete backfiles of high impact UK and US medical journals. Journals committed to the project include:

Annals of Surgery (USA)	1885–
Biochemical Journal (UK)	1906–
British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology (UK)	1974–
British Journal of General Practice (UK)	1952
British Journal of Pharmacology (UK)	1946
International Journal of Experimental Pathology (UK)	1920–
Journal of Anatomy (UK)	1866–
Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine (UK)	1809–
Journal of Physiology (UK)	1878–
Medical History (UK)	1957–

Further information is available at:
http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/ backfiles/

The Process

The digitisation aspect is being managed in the USA by the NLM. The project aims for 'faithful digitisation' whereby journals are scanned from cover to cover, including tables of contents, 'prelims' and advertisements. Paper copies are de-spined and fed through a sheet-feeder, and the process results in the creation of Portable Document Format (PDF) versions of articles (for display) and XML citations (to ensure consistency of presentation and indexing). A stringent quality assurance process of random checks ensures a high degree of accuracy. The NLM's archiving template for XML documents – its 'Document Type Definition (DTD)' – is effectively becoming the

standard for medical publishing (see **http://dtd.nlm.nih.gov/publishing/**), with publishers preparing new material in a format that conforms automatically to the requirements of the digital resource.

The Future

Several journals, spanning a range of sub-disciplines, were digitised by November 2005 when the project received its official launch. Beyond this date, journals will be added progressively as more sign up to the project and each is subsequently scanned. The model is effectively self-sustaining with NLM taking responsibility for its maintenance beyond the official completion in 2007. These resources will be fully available through PubMed Central.

Newsfilm Online

See and hear the events that shaped the 20th and 21st centuries, online

Access to resource:
Free access to FE/HE Institutions (TBC)

Lead site:
British Universities Film and Video Council

Launch date:
August 2007

Web site:
www.bufvc.ac.uk/newsfilmonline

Overview:

Delivery of 60,000 segmented encodings, totalling some 3,000 hours from the archives of ITN and Reuters Television – including some of the most significant events of the past century, such as the Crystal Palace fire (1936) to the first interview with Nelson Mandela (1961), from the battle of Newport Bridge (1975) to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales (1997). The rationale is to digitise the broadest possible range of material to ensure relevance across a whole range of academic disciplines.

Users will be able to process, search and download news clips and some scripts.

The Project

The 20th and 21st centuries will be represented in 3,000 hours of newsreel footage, digitised by the British Universities Film & Video Council (BUFVC). Drawn from the archives of ITN (1955 to date) and Reuters (1896 to date) Television, both of whom are partners in the project, an enormous range of news stories will be made available online to UK further and higher education, enhancing and enriching opportunities for learning and teaching. Newsfilm Online not only represents a unique grouping of material but delivers innovative clear and comprehensible searching.

Newsfilm Online will allow users to download and manipulate news broadcasts on a wide range of themes, reflecting epochal events through contemporaneous media reports. Although the material clearly benefits historians and media students, the project's rationale has been to digitise the broadest possible range to ensure relevance across a whole range of academic disciplines. Footage of 'vox pops' and football matches, for example, allow analysis of changing fashions or the behaviour of crowds. The resource will also be conducive to adoption of new methodologies for research and citation. Users will be able to embed clips in virtual learning environments or PowerPoint presentations and can 'quote' from the source material in essays just as they would quote from a printed resource.

"Newsfilm Online is a ground-breaking example of a creative partnership between higher education and a leading commercial news archive. It is set to move the agenda forwards in the appreciation of the long-term educational and scholarly value of broadcast news"
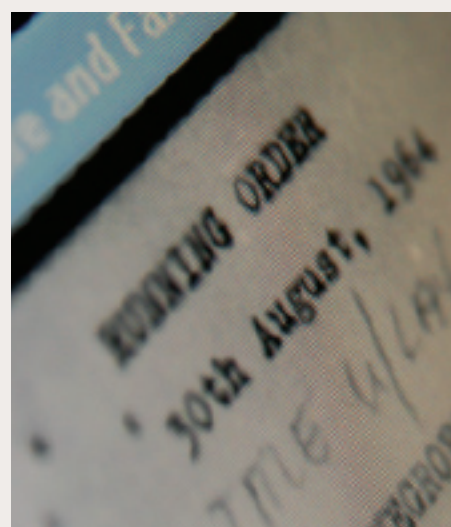
Stewart Purvis, Professor of Television Journalism at City University and former Chief Executive and Editor in Chief at ITN

The Content

Source	Date Range	Hours	Segments*
Channel 4 News and News at Ten (Av. 10 min per day)	1982–Present	650	29,000
News at Ten (Av. 10 min per day)	1968–1982	400	incl. above
ITN News Reports (Av. 10 min per day)	1955–1967	400	incl. above
Roving Report (News documentary series)	1957–1967	100	2,000
Gaumont Newsreels (bi-weekly, 9 min per issue)	1920–1959	600	12,000
Reuters/Visnews News Agency Material	1950–Present	225	4,000
Unreleased Footage (library footage, specials etc)	1910–Present	125	3,000
Additional material selected by request from further/higher education	1898–Present	500	10,000

* Indicative

Further information is available at: **www.bufvc.ac.uk/newsfilmonline**

The Process

Underscoring the digitisation process is the need to create digital sub-masters at the highest practical level in terms of bit-rate encoding. Newsfilm Online is using a rate of 8 megabits per second (Mbps), comfortably into commercial DVD quality. The aim has been to make the digital surrogates future-proof by achieving the highest rates possible within the project's timeframe. The BUFVC is also using a process known as 'video fuzzing', which masks copyright-protected material in order to sidestep potentially difficult rights issues. Metadata vocabularies, taken from

"I see a vast tapestry of potential linkages!"

Jeff Hulbert, British Universities Film and Video Council

the NewsCodes designed by the IPTC (International Press Telecommunications Council), are being used to provide commonsense subject codes and keywords as a finding aid to the material. Nevertheless, Jeff Hulbert of the BUFVC is keen to promote the 'broad-brush' nature of the material and the unpredictable types of learning the interface will support: "None of this (metadata) will replace what I think is an essential

requirement for anybody looking at this material, which is to be curious and develop flights of fancy as much as finely targeted search mechanisms."

The Future

The first thousand hours of encoded broadcasts were delivered and ready for testing by the summer of 2006, with more arriving periodically until the launch in February 2007. The contextual metadata will also be delivered in stages. Feedback will help determine future enrichment. The project's Education Officer will work increasingly with the academic community to bring Newsfilm Online to the widest possible audience and to encourage its use across a range of disciplines throughout further and higher education.

One of the new projects to be funded through the Digitisation Programme is the World War One Poetry Digital Archive at the University of Oxford. *Olga Wojtas*, Scottish editor of the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, looks at how JISC funding will allow an established archive to develop and grow into an impressive and invaluable resource.

Sharing treasures, preserving memory

The 90th anniversary of the Armistice is in November 2008. And that date will also see the launch of the final collection of a remarkable archive, giving new insights into the Great War.

The World War One Poetry Digital Archive is rooted in a project that began a decade ago. Wilfred Owen, who died in combat in France a week before the Armistice, wrote some of the conflict's most poignant poetry. His manuscripts, letters, medical and war service records – material previously scattered across a range of archives – are now available through the Wilfred Owen Multimedia Digital Archive, developed by Oxford University Computing Services with JISC funding.

From the beginning, Stuart Lee, manager of the Wilfred Owen project, wanted to encourage anyone accessing the archive to be proactive and understand the context of the work. Users are urged, for example, to note their initial reactions to a poem, then to investigate the web site further, accessing audio and video clips before re-reading the poem and re-analysing it. There has been huge enthusiasm for the site which has had more than 1 million hits.

The archive broke new ground as one of the first multimedia collections designed specifically as a teaching resource. It is now part of a broader, award-winning site on World War One poetry at:
www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/projects/jtap

"Often poets go through many iterations. It's very interesting to see what's crossed out and which words are used instead."

This offers a series of seminars, ranging from an introduction to poets such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon to comparing the work of the British war poets with that of soldiers from other nations. One seminar uses Owen's haunting poem, 'Dulce et Decorum Est', (see picture opposite) to look at the various stages in creating an edition of a work, examining different manuscript versions, and determining which will be the basis of the published work. Current project manager Kate Lindsay says: "Often poets go through many iterations. It's very interesting to see what's crossed out and which words are used instead."

The seminars are proving popular at both GCSE and college and university level. "Teachers use them and clearly direct their students to them: you can see a whole class turning up," says Dr Lee.

When JISC's recent digitisation call went out, the Oxford team proposed building on their success, and have now secured around £500,000 for the World War One Poetry Digital Archive. The two-year project will create digital images of primary source material, such as manuscripts and letters, from major poets, alongside images and audio and video clips from the Imperial War Museum. Members of the Oxford team have travelled to Flanders to film the trenches of the Somme.

The researchers have also embarked on detective work to discover where all the relevant material is housed, and have already fixed on two of the poets to be featured, Isaac Rosenberg and Edward Thomas. Vivien Noakes, a project board member, and editor of the first scholarly edition of Rosenberg's poetry, believes that digitising his work will offer users a new understanding of wartime conditions. Rosenberg, from a Jewish emigre family, enlisted in 1916 and was killed in action in 1918, and wrote most of his

work during active service in France or Flanders. He would write on YMCA paper supplied for writing home, scribbled on scraps and gradually assembling poems, which he sent home for his sister to type.
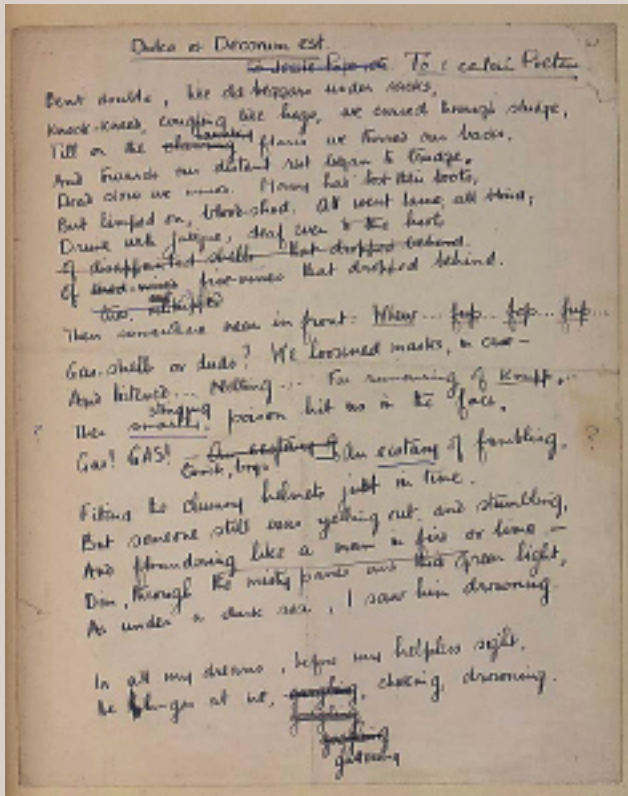
The manuscripts reveal the grimness of life in the trenches. "He wasn't at home, cosy, with a desk and lamp and armchair, but in the wet and the mud," says Dr Noakes.

Richard Emeny, another project board member, is an expert on Edward Thomas, whose work he believes has been seriously underestimated. Thomas volunteered for service overseas in 1916, and was killed the following year during the first hour of the Arras offensive. He was a prose writer who took up poetry only in 1913 following a meeting with Robert Frost. Mr Emeny believes the new archive will introduce Thomas to a wider public, and reveal his influence on Auden, Larkin, and the development of 20th-century English poetry. "He was a very detached person, a bit of an onlooker. He wrote sophisticated, extremely complex poems, which I think strike a chord with people today."

The new archive will build on the ethos of the existing one in showing teachers how they can use its multimedia resources in the curriculum. It will offer teachers and researchers easy ways to personalise their pathways through the site. But it also aims to attract the broadest possible audience. "The interest in World War One is going on and on and on. There's no sign of it peaking," says Dr Noakes.

On the original web site, users were able to post comments to be read by others, but Dr Lee has hopes of even greater interaction. "In the old days, the only system was to fill in a form, but I think the easiest thing will be a discussion board now," he says. And, in a radical move, a 'Community Collection' will open the archive up to the public to share their own treasures of the period, using the Internet's ability to tap into amateur digitisation through scanned letters, photographs, memoirs and poems. "This will not only help to make established poets better known, but bring out all sorts of things that are hidden away, going beyond the established canon to the poetry of the ordinary soldier," Dr Noakes says.

> *"The interest in World War One is going on and on and on. There's no sign of it peaking"*

The Oxford team is frequently contacted by people accessing the site, offering family memorabilia from World War One for inclusion in the archive. The community collection is likely to be launched in summer 2008, before the Armistice anniversary. "It's really exciting. People still have lot of things in their attics, such as photos and diaries," says Ms Lindsay.

"It's not just a focus on literature. We're going to be building a national collection, which will give a lot of contextual information. We think it's very important: World War One is still very prevalent in modern memory, but there are only a few veterans left. This is a resource that everybody can use, and that's why it was so successful first time round."

For further information, please go to:
www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg/projects/jtap

Online Historical Population Reports

Putting you in touch with historical population data

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
Arts and Humanities Data Service History

Launch date:
February 2007

Web site:
www.histpop.org

Overview:

600 volumes of Census reports representing over 200,000 pages and 100 years of population growth – from 9 million people in 1801 to more than 40 million by 1901. The project will give users free access to historical material that is currently widely dispersed in books and microforms across the UK. Reports relate to the demography, economy and sociology of the British Isles between 1801 and 1937.

The Project

Delivering a significant new resource to the entire collection of published census reports for the British Isles, all registration reports for England, Scotland and Wales and a selection of ancillary material published before the Second World War are included. These statistical tables and associated enriched metadata will allow users to browse, search and download new primary e-resources. The material exists in over 600 volumes, many of which are brittle or disintegrating, or on poorly indexed microfiche. This has resulted in significant under-use. There is enormous potential for the resource to be used in the teaching of local history, and to encourage the development of new lines of historical enquiry and methodologies. Seemingly insignificant material can give clues to wider trends in rural depopulation or the development of certain geographical areas, while the records of births, marriages and deaths, aggregated for each administrative unit of the UK, reflect the ebb and flow of human lives.

A hundred years of extraordinary population growth in the British Isles – from around 15.8 million in 1801 to 47 million in 1921 – is reflected in the census statistics of the 19th century
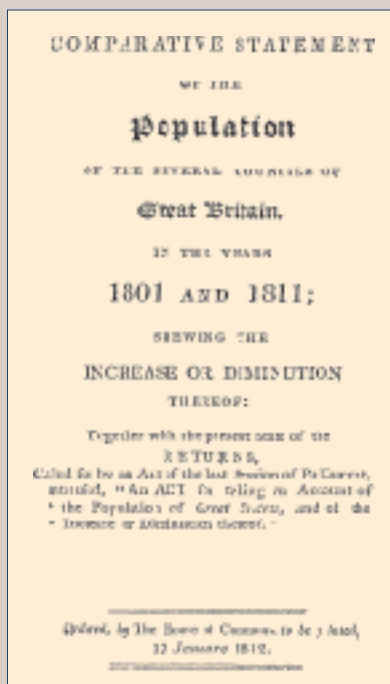
The Census prefaces, which offer insight into the social construction of statistics and their contemporaneous interpretation, are also being digitised. Researchers will be able to search these texts and many of the tabular statistics will be available in machine-readable form for download and manipulation. The Arts and Humanities Data Service

"The registration material has been significantly underused, and having an understanding of the main drivers of mortality and fertility throughout the 19th century gives local and regional historians a much better handle on their locality"

Matthew Woollard, AHDS History

History is also collaborating with the National Archives to enhance the resource with many thousands of images of administrative material, maps and other archival sources.

AHDS History will also produce 100 historical essays, which will be mounted on the web site to provide an easy introduction to the use of population statistics in research. These articles include both historical and interpretative material, tracing some of the main themes in the resource, explaining the terminology and supplying the biographical background of the key figures from history involved in the collation of these data, including the Registrar General and his statistical superintendents.

The Content

The project will include the digitisation of approximately 600 volumes of census reports relating to the whole of the British Isles as well as the reports of the Registrars-General of England and Scotland, covering the period from 1801 through to 1933, along with a selection of associated material in The National Archives (TNA) giving insight into the administrative procedure followed in the taking of the census, and the collection of registration material. Additional historical essays and related legislative material will also be included within the final resource.

Further information is available at: **www.histpop.org**

The Process

All textual material in the reports is undergoing optical character recognition (OCR) in order to provide immediate access to any page through search terms. The database behind the site is being designed to allow users to pull discrete sections of information from a substantial body of material. Considerable volumes of metadata created for each report will allow for flexibility of access points and will support both browsing and precision searching.

The Future

AHDS History is inviting feedback to their demonstrator site (**www. histpop.org**) in order to incorporate recommendations into the next phase of the development cycle. The project ends officially in February 2007 after which it will be hosted by AHDS.
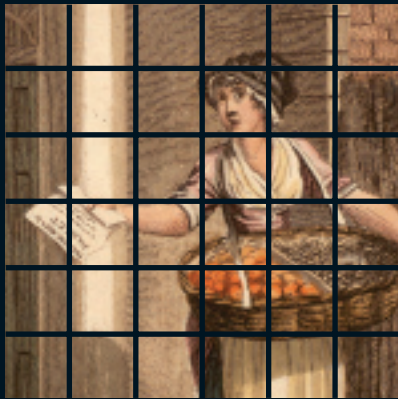
Electronic Ephemera – Digitised Selections from the John Johnson Collection

Discover hidden treasures of everyday life from the 16th century to the 20th

Access to resource:
Free access to Public Libraries, Schools, Colleges and Universities in the UK

Lead site:
University of Oxford

Launch date:
December 2008

Web site:
Not yet available

Partners:
Bodleian Library (Oxford University Library Services); ProQuest Information and Learning

Overview:

The John Johnson Collection, one of the most important collections of printed ephemera in the world. Containing 1.5 million items ranging in date from 1508 to 1939, it spans the entire range of printing and social history. It contains a high proportion of unique material that has remained hidden to researchers up until now.

The Project

By their very nature, many of the items contained in the John Johnson collection were intended to be short-lived and disposable, and it was only because of the vision and dedication of John de Monins Johnson and his supporters that so many have been preserved to provide the unique record that survives today. This innovative joint enterprise between the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford and ProQuest Information and Learning will result in the digitisation of more than 65,000 complete items (well in excess of 150,000 images) from the John Johnson Collection and so provide a unique insight into our nation's past. The collection offers direct access to rare primary source materials and evidence of our cultural, social, industrial and technological histories. It is particularly valuable to anyone interested in the everyday lives of ordinary citizens.

These lost treasures of everyday life will be digitised to the highest standards and made freely available to all teachers and researchers working in the UK's HE and FE sectors, schools, and to the general population via the 32,000 supported terminals in the UK's 4,200 public libraries. Moreover, the rigorous and extensive metadata that will

be specially created to accompany these digital objects will be searchable by anyone with access to the Internet. Until now, it has only been possible to make these materials available to a relatively small number of scholars owing to both geographical and physical constraints and the fragility of many of the materials themselves which makes browsing the material a slow and often unwieldy process. The creation of expertly described, high-quality digital surrogates will expose these hidden resources to a far wider audience than could ever be achieved via any other means, and enable readers to find what they are looking for much more quickly and to work simultaneously on the same items.
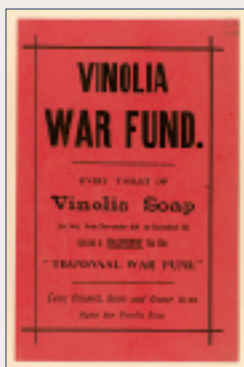
This innovative joint enterprise between the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford and ProQuest Information and Learning will result in the digitisation of more than 65,000 complete items (well in excess of 150,000 images) from the John Johnson Collection and so provide a unique insight into our nation's past.

The Content

In excess of 65,000 items will be expertly digitised in their entirety as a result of this project, which will result in more than 150,000 images and associated OCR data. Five major areas of the collection will become freely available to the UK HE and FE sectors, namely:

19th-century entertainment material which falls into two distinct groups: theatre material and non-theatrical entertainment material. Both categories of material provide a wealth of insights into 19th-century leisure activities, popular and high culture (especially the performing arts) and the development of different types of entertainment.

Booktrade material: examples include publishing material (eg prospectuses of books and journals) and bookplates. The former items will be of interest to anyone studying the history of the publishing industry; the latter will prove invaluable to those interested in the provenance of books, or in design history.

Noteheadings and Popular prints: these items provide a record of locations and landscapes, architecture, and popular tastes for artistic works and humour.

Crime, Murders and Executions: these resources give insights into the judicial system and its punishments, notably the application of the death penalty and of transportation. The Murders and Executions broadsides are currently much used for a variety of research.

Advertising: social and economic historians, historians of popular culture, trades and industries, students of typographic design and many others will find that these items provide an invaluable insight into the past.

The Process

Digitisation will be carried out by a dedicated production company, Capita Micromedia Solutions, in collaboration with ProQuest Information and Learning, who have extensive experience of delivering scholarly historical resources over the web. Cataloguing of the digital surrogates will be undertaken by the specialist staff based at the Bodleian Library. They can draw on the extensive network of expertise, training and systems support that forms a fundamental component of the library's role as both a Library of Legal Deposit, and the UK HE sector's largest and most sophisticated library service. Metadata will initially be captured in a dedicated bibliographic database that has been specifically configured to support the complex requirements of the John Johnson Collection, while offering full support for the extensive and detailed description of digital objects. The web-based application that will allow users full access to the metadata and enable the display and download of the images will be developed and hosted by ProQuest Information and Learning.

The Future

Any user, anywhere, will have unimpeded access to the high-quality cataloguing information and descriptive metadata that will be created during the course of this project. Members of UK HE and FE institutions, and anyone with access to a public library, will also be given full no-cost access to the entirety of the digital collection.

Oxford has already made a commitment to ensuring that any digital collections resulting from the institution's own collections must remain viable and accessible in perpetuity – and we view this commitment as being on a par with our responsibility for preserving the wealth of print publications that we are fortunate enough to have acquired, and to continue to acquire, over a period of more than four centuries.

First World War Poetry Digital Archive

Building on the Wilfred Owen archive by digitising primary source material from five First World War poets

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
University of Oxford

Launch date:
Armistice Day, November 2008

Web site:
Not yet available

Overview:

Building on the success of Oxford's Wilfred Owen archive, this multimedia digital archive contains images, text, audio and video of primary material from a selection of major British poets of the First World War.

The collection brings together highly valued material, currently dispersed across the UK and the USA, including the poets Edward Thomas, Robert Graves, Isaac Rosenberg and Roland Leighton. 2,200 digital images and multimedia objects including drafts of Robert Graves' poems for *Over the Brazier* and *Fairies and Fusiliers*, Edward Thomas's war poems and diary and a selection of verse from women poets.

The Project

There can be no doubt about the widespread popularity of war poetry, and First World War poetry in particular, in literature and history courses across the country. It is taught in most universities, FE colleges and, of course, at school level. It also continues to attract considerable public attention due to the cultural importance of the period for modern-day Britain, and the way it shaped attitudes to warfare. The original Wilfred Owen archive has attracted over 1.2 million hits and is referenced by teachers and researchers worldwide. This project will open up access to five other British poets of the First World War to build on that interest.

> *The original Wilfred Owen archive has attracted over 1.2 million hits and is referenced by teachers and researchers worldwide.*

The multimedia online database of primary source material (manuscripts of poems, letters, diaries, etc) plus contextual information (images, audio and film

material from the Imperial War Museum) will be browseable and searchable, and freely available online. The archive will also include instructional material for students to train them in editorial and research skills using primary source material. Users will be able to create their own annotated trails through the archive for others to use, and to submit new digital material to the Community Collection.

The Content

The collection will consist of around 2,000 digital images (mainly of rare primary source material for the study of literature, plus 200 multimedia objects for contextual information) in its initial phase prior to the launch of the Community Collection. Included will be:
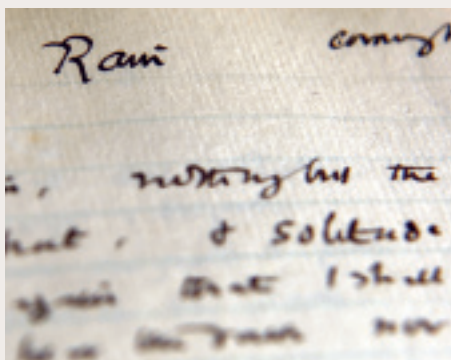
Users will be able to create their own annotated trails through the archive for others to use, and to submit new digital material to the Community Collection.

Edward Thomas: drafts of all his war poems and war diary, and a selection of letters and prose articles.

Roland Leighton: war poems and letters, plus his war diary. Leighton's material is very hard to obtain in printed form. *c.* 100 items, all digital images.

Isaac Rosenberg: drafts of his poems and letters written during active service. *c.*800 items, all digital images.

Robert Graves: drafts of his poems for 'Over the Brazier' and 'Fairies and Fusiliers', as well as an important extract from 'Goodbye to All That'. *c.*100 items, all digital images.

Contextual material: photographs, audio and film material from the Imperial War Museum with particular emphasis on Women in War, AHDS Visual Arts, military hospitals, to supplement existing collections. Trench newspapers containing soldier poetry (relatively unknown) will also be included. *c.*400 items. *c.*200 digital images, 100 audio clips, 100 video clips.

Full text of poems: an online corpora of the full-texts of the poems contained in the collection.
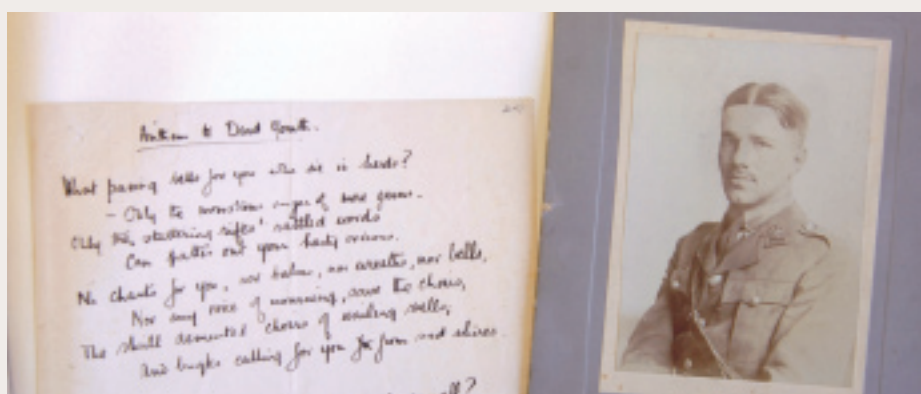
The Process

Images will be captured wherever possible at 24-bit colour 600dpi resolution (for archiving only), and stored as uncompressed TIFFs. For video and audio we will be using the Quicktime Codec for delivery, but stored as MPEG4. For the audio we will be using Quicktime again, but storing as MP3 files (and possibly FLAC). Audio and video will be offered for download. We will provide transcripts of the audio material and text descriptions of the video (all silent) to assist accessibility. Due to the fact that we are dealing with only 2,000 images, each file will be checked on a one-to-one resolution to ensure completeness of collection, legibility, correct cropping and rotation.

The Future

The development of the Community Collection will allow remote contributions of digital objects to the collection, thus releasing material that up to now has been stored by individuals and inaccessible to scholars. Because of the chronological proximity of the First World War, many people hold personal items to do with the war that they would be interested in sharing via a straightforward Creative Commons licence. The focus will be primarily on the poetry from the war (eg poems written by soldiers hitherto unpublished), and all submissions will require basic metadata, copyright clearance, be limited in file size, and will be vetted before release. We will also invite users to submit digital objects to increase the contextual information (eg photographs from the period, postcards, letters and typed memoirs). We see this as a powerful means of building the archive and making use of the Internet's ability to tap into amateur digitisation and bring together unknown collections.

British Governance in the 20th century: Cabinet Papers, 1914–1975

In its own words: the British government at peace and war

Access to resource:
Free to Schools, Colleges & Universities in the UK

Lead site:
The National Archive

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ documentsonline

Overview:

Over half a million images create an online resource allowing access to the full-text Cabinet papers from 1914–1975. These collections of minutes and memoranda, which cover both peace and wartime, constitute a fascinating record of the way in which the British government grappled with events of the 20th century.

Users will be able to access and browse the online archive, opening up research opportunities that paper- and microform-based search aids cannot deliver.

The Project

Two world wars, unprecedented social change and rapid advances in technology had a radical transformative effect on both British society and the international community and, consequently, on the very governance of British life. All the core issues that faced the government of the day, all the various facets of British life, are documented in the minutes and memoranda of the Cabinet. Any study of Britain in the 20th century would be incomplete without reference to them, but usage of this immensely important resource has been limited, up until now, to those who have the opportunity to visit the National Archive.

This project will digitise the records so that they can be accessed online by a large number of simultaneous users, searched electronically, and used in undergraduate and other taught courses. It will open up access to primary source material on the outbreak and events of the First and Second World Wars, the post-war division of Europe, the creation of the welfare state and the end of empire. The records of Cabinet meetings, chaired by the prime minister, constitute the most valuable single collection of modern British material that can be obtained from official sources. For the first time, the full text of them will be available online for researchers, learners and teachers.

All the core issues that faced the government of the day, all the various facets of British life, are documented in the minutes and memoranda of the Cabinet
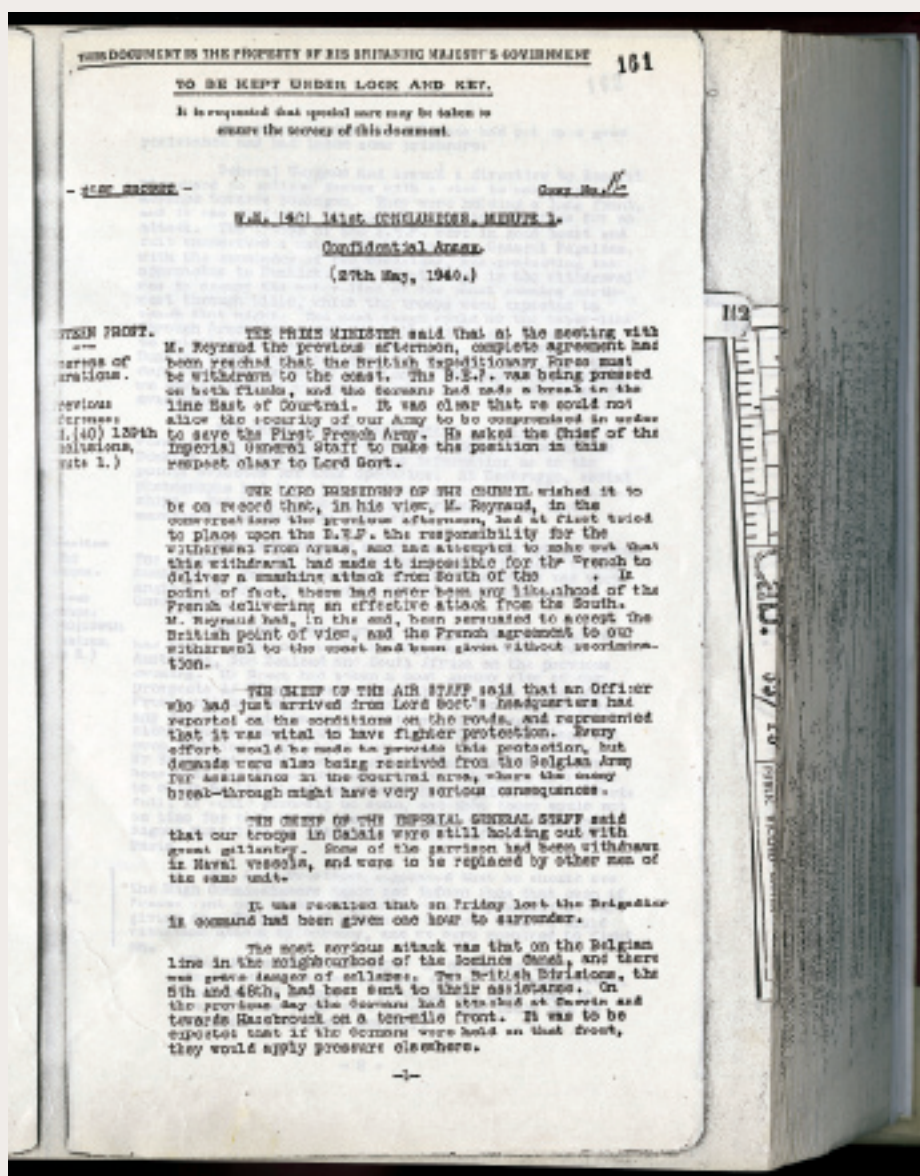
The Content

The content will include the minutes and conclusions of wartime and peacetime cabinets, and the papers presented to them, from the start of systematic regular minute-taking during the First World War to the most recently publicly available minutes. This will total nearly 800 volumes.

The Process

The project will use the National Archive's world-class digital preservation facility, which, together with PRONOM technical registry, provides the necessary facilities for secure storage and active preservation. The documents will be digitised from the existing microfilms using automated processes and then mounted, with a contextualisation package, on the National Archive web site. Access will be offered through two established routes: via ATHENS, allowing free access at the point of use for the UK academic sector, and via pay-per-view payment for other users.

The Future

This project will provide a sustainable and proven infrastructure for future digitisation initiatives. The Chiefs of Staff and Defence Committee Papers, in particular, which detail the formulation of military strategy and the development and organisation of British armed forces throughout the 20th century, are a vital source of information for the study of military and political history and therefore an essential adjunct to the cabinet papers included in this project.

19th-Century Pamphlets Online – phase 1

Polemical voices from the past on the great debates of the 19th century

Access to resource:
Free to Schools, Colleges &
Universities in the UK

Lead site:
University of Southampton

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.curl.ac.uk/projects/
NineteenOnline.htm

Partners:
BOPCRIS/University of Southampton;
University of Bristol; CURL; Durham
University; JSTOR; University
of Liverpool; LSE; University of
Manchester; MIMAS; University of
Newcastle; UCL

Overview:

Some of the most significant
collections of 19th-century pamphlets
held in UK research libraries. 23,000
paper-copy pamphlets, which
focus on the political, economic
and social issues that fuelled the
great Parliamentary debates and
controversies of the 19th-century,
provide an immensely rich and
coherent corpus of primary sources
with which to study the socio-political
and economic landscape of 19th
century Britain.

The Project

Pamphlets played an important
role within the great debates of the
19th century and are a valuable but
underused primary resource. This is
largely due to their scarcity and the
difficulties in accessing them – they
are often bound together in large
numbers or otherwise hard to find
within the few research libraries that
hold them. Exposing this material
to a wider audience to support both
learning and research is of particular
value, as their interest lies not only
in their content but in the format
itself: as a medium for academic
or other discourse, expressing
personal beliefs, or responding to
major societal issues. Understanding
why they were produced and
acquired adds an extra dimension to
the study of a fascinating period.

This project will capture several
entire collections that belonged
to individual politicians or political
families. Although they have a
political emphasis, these collections
represent the wide interests of their
collectors. Selections of items from
larger collections will address areas
not represented by the smaller,
complete collections in order to
provide a broad representation of
19th-century pamphlet literature.

Users will be able to access the
digitised pamphlets via a special
JSTOR/JISC collection. They will
encounter this digitised pamphlet
collection alongside journals they
are using from JSTOR – or via the
Google Scholar search service and
other public search engines. JSTOR
has established a crawl site, which
will allow public search engines
such as Google to index the full
text of the pamphlets, enabling
polemical voices from the past to
be discovered alongside today's
outspoken blogs. The pamphlets will
also be accessible via research tools
such as Copac and the collection
level descriptions in the RSLP/CURL
'Guide to 19th Century Pamphlets'.*

Pamphlets played an important role within the great debates of the 19th century and are a valuable but underused primary resource.

The Content

The project will create more than 1 million OCR-ed and metadata-enriched digitised images from the paper copy of some 23,000 pamphlets.

Collection and source	No of items	No of pages (est)
Hume tracts: UCL	3,528	148,881
Early Grey pamphlets: University of Durham	1,160	75,478
Knowsley pamphlet collection, University of Liverpool	1,209	51,745
Cowen tracts: University of Newcastle	1,579	45,796
The National Liberal Club pamphlets: University of Bristol	6,250	284,375
Selected pamphlets: LSE	6,250	285,000
Foreign and Commonwealth pamphlets: University of Manchester	3,149	109,281
Total	**23,125**	**1,000,556**

* Further information on these collections is available at: **www.curl.ac.uk/ rslpguide/guidehp.htm**
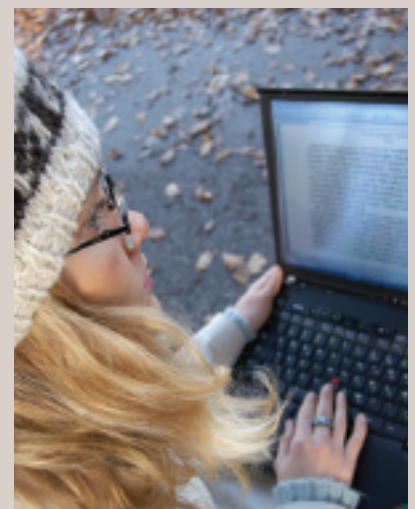
...this project expects to be delivering digital content to users within its first year.

The Process

A rich and experienced partnership has been put together to facilitate the creation, delivery, discovery and preservation of this digital content. A key aspect of this project is its use of existing infrastructure, including production systems, preservation and delivery systems, and discovery services. This avoids the considerable expense and delay in developing new systems and also means that the collection can be quickly made available to users. JSTOR will release the collection in batches as the content is ready. As

a result, this project expects to be delivering digital content to users *within* its first year. This will provide an opportunity to gain information from users to help inform some of the later selection of pamphlets being undertaken by the LSE and Bristol University.

The Future

In addition to opening up a neglected resource to wide discovery and use, the project will enable connections to be made with the other important literature recording the controversies of the

day, in particular newspapers and parliamentary records. Other projects underway which will complement this collection and are likely to offer opportunities for collaboration, include the British Library's newspaper digitisation project and the House of Commons' Hansard digitisation project.

Sound recordings have long been overlooked as an educational resource. *Philip Pothen* looks at how a major new digitised resource is set to change all that.

Prick up your ears

At a recent conference an anecdote was told about how in the 1990s, when the British National Corpus of Speech came to be digitised, this meant not the encoding of any sound recordings in the corpus but the digitisation of the *transcripts* of those recordings. The recordings themselves were not considered important enough to be preserved and made available in digital form.

How times have changed, was the moral of the story. How indeed, given the launch late in 2006 of a major archive, which for the first time offers a significant body of sound recordings to further and higher education entirely free of charge and in doing so is breaking new ground in the delivery of digitised sound for education and research.

The archive, drawn from the British Library's world-famous sound archives, contains 12,000 recordings, totalling 3,900 hours of listening, all now freely available to colleges, universities and users of the British Library's reading rooms. It includes major holdings of classical music, jazz, popular music, unique musical and cultural recordings from Africa, interviews with some of the leading lights of post-war British art, architecture and design, the history of recording technology, and much more.

Celia Duffy is Head of Research at the National Centre for Research in the Performing Arts, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. She also headed the user panel of academic experts, which helped select the collections. "Our job was not only

advising the British Library on content selection," she says, "but also to think about the ways in which the content was going to be used, the real-life situations which will make the recordings come alive to students and researchers."

How does she feel the archive will be used? "From my point of view as a musician," she replies, "it's primary material. With the Beethoven quartets – one of 11 collections in the archive – you can get all sorts of recordings these days."

> *"From my point of view as a musician," she replies, "it's primary material …"*

"But items come and go from record company catalogues and to have sustained access to these recordings – some of which have huge historical value – and to be able to know they will be available for the foreseeable future, makes a real difference to users in both teaching and research. They'll support not only music history but the teaching of performance too. The potential is immense."

Project Manager Peter Findlay agrees, pointing to the Klaus Wachsmann Uganda Recordings as an example of what the archive is helping to preserve. "Many of Wachsmann's recordings when he was curator of the museum in Kampala were made on acetate disks, which are both unique and highly fragile," he says. "They were of music and cultural activities in Uganda. In many cases those cultures are disappearing and all we will have of them will be these extraordinary recordings."

> "The archive is about access to relatively inaccessible resources ... but it's also about the creative use of those resources."

He suggests that the Soundscapes collection, of sounds reflecting the cultural and economic life of communities, including natural and environmental sounds, will have wider resonance too, tapping into the growing interest in the environment both in education and beyond. "The archive is about access to relatively inaccessible resources," he says, "but it's also about the creative use of those resources. I think we'll be surprised at the creative ways in which the recordings get used."

Like other projects in JISC's Digitisation Programme, Archival Sound Recordings has broken new ground not only in terms of its technical innovations but also in its approach to rights issues, particularly complex as far as sound resources are concerned.

"Many of the recordings already had rights waivers in place," says Peter Findlay, "but for others we had to contact rights owners, to negotiate with them, with record companies, or with rights organisations. The Sony Radio Awards collection, for example, contains complete broadcast plays, but permission for even the background music had to be negotiated, too. Previously the music industry had always felt uncomfortable with the notion of downloads, even for educational purposes, but the project has achieved a lot by opening up a dialogue with them."

But the archive will perhaps become best known for its realising of some of the potential of sound recordings in education and research and its raising of their status.

"To hear actual performances, oral history, people's testimonies," suggests Celia Duffy, "is immensely important. If you're a western researcher looking at African music, history or cultural studies, for example, there would be a serious question if you *didn't* use primary sound materials such as these in your research."

For Peter Findlay too, sound has been a neglected and under-used resource. "Sound is just as important as the visual," he says. "It gives us another dimension to our understanding of the world. The archive will hopefully show people what a rich and dynamic view of the world sound can give us."

> "Sound is just as important as the visual ... it gives us another dimension to our understanding of the world."

For further information, please go to:
www.bl.uk/sounds

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Discovering the Poles – Historic Polar Images 1845–1960

Making historic Polar exploration resources accessible to all

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
Scott Polar Research Institute

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.spri.cam.ac.uk

Overview:

The archival collections held by the Scott Polar Research Institute are among the richest in the world for the study of polar environments. The photographic negatives recording historic polar expeditions are a unique and extremely fragile resource. Without this digitisation project the collection ran a very real risk of extinction.

The project will develop a repository of freely available visual and textual resources to support learning, teaching and research into topics relating to the history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration and science, providing access to hidden collections.

The Project

The International Polar Year 2007–08 is the first of its kind for 50 years. The timing of the IPY, coupled with growing interest in climate change, provides a unique opportunity for the Scott Polar Research Institute's resources to reach a wider learning community than ever before.

Over 20,000 photographic negatives from 1845–1960 will be digitised, representing some of the most important visual resources for research into British and international polar exploration. Digitisation of related documentary resources, giving information from the personal journals of expedition members and official reports from the expeditions on which these photographs were taken, will provide historical and cultural context for the images. To ensure that the most important archival resources are available to coincide with the centenaries of their attempts on the South Pole, the manuscript reports and personal papers of the members of the Antarctic expeditions led by Captain RF Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton will also be made available.

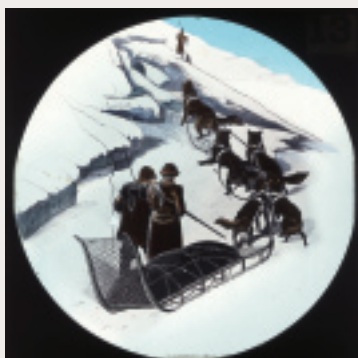Almost all these resources have, until now, been inaccessible to the educational community via any electronic means. With the polar regions as a geographical focus, the subject range will be of value to many audiences, for cultural as well as educational use. Through a series of interpretative web pages, e-learning and online learning resources, the project will encourage discovery of the resources by users from a range of educational contexts.

The Content

The project aims to produce at least 20,000 images through new digitisation. To this base collection some 3,000–5,000 historic polar images (of art works as well as photographs) will be added through the aggregation of existing digital image collections.

The major focus of the digitisation programme will be on the collection of photographic negatives, as these are unique, are in highest demand as research tools and are in most urgent need of protection as the facilities for reproduction are disappearing.

Among the most well-known of these are the 1700 glass plate negatives produced by Herbert Ponting during the British Antarctic Expedition 1910–13, led by Captain Robert Falcon Scott. However, SPRI also holds the negatives from other members of this expedition, Frank

... some 3,000–5,000 historic polar images (of art works as well as photographs) will be added through the aggregation of existing digital image collections.

Debenham, George Murray Levick and Charles Wright, providing an unparalleled record of the living conditions and scientific efforts of the men involved.

The Institute will also digitise key items from their archival and historic printed collections, such as photographs, letters, expedition reports and tables of observational data.

The range of subjects represents the history of British exploration and science in the Arctic and Antarctic during the period 1845–1960. It also covers early European and international collaborative ventures in the polar regions, portraiture, shipping and aerial reconnaissance.

The Process

The method of digitisation is dictated by the nature of the material selected. Scanning will be the preferred method of image capture for the negatives, photographs, private papers or correspondence. A small proportion of fragile or tightly bound documentary resources or artefacts may be digitised only via copy stand photography, but the Institute has already developed expertise in this area.

Metadata-rich catalogue records will be produced for each digital image by specialist cataloguers.

An Open Source system for the delivery, discovery and long-term storage of high-quality digital images and their associated metadata records will be provided by DSpace@Cambridge.

The Future

A dedicated education outreach officer will be employed during the second year of the project to produce a range of learning and teaching materials. These will include teaching and learning packs in several formats (web and DVD-based as well as print), focusing on specific topics, such as the conquest of the South Pole, polar technologies or the impact of climate change. Resources will include timelines of key dates in the history of British polar exploration, linked to relevant images.

Portsmouth University: Historic Boundaries of Britain

Mapping the past: a digital library of Britain's borders

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
University of Portsmouth

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.visionofbritain.org.uk

Partners:
No financial partners, dissemination via EDINA and AHDS History

Overview:

Administrative boundaries provide a framework for many of the activities of the state, from welfare provision via poor law unions in the past to elections held in constituencies today. This project will create a comprehensive digital library of historic administrative boundaries for Britain through a combination of scanning historical maps and creating vector boundaries for selected geographies.

The Project

From 1994 to 2000 the Great Britain Historical GIS Project mapped many of these administrative boundaries and, more recently, National Lottery funds helped to create the Vision of Britain through Time web site. Three major gaps remain in the boundary mapping which is the foundation of the whole structure, and this project will fill these gaps by:

- Scanning a comprehensive library of original historic boundary maps

- Building a new sequence of digital maps showing the changing system of parliamentary constituencies

- Raising the limited coverage of Scotland up to the same standard as England and Wales

> *Not just a resource for university research and teaching ...*

The central focus is on boundaries for parliamentary constituencies, and these will be used as a framework for presenting British election statistics for 1832–1974. It will all be available on the Open Access Vision of Britain web site, where new coverage of political life will link constituency boundaries and voting statistics to deliver a systematic and accessible record of franchise reform and voting behaviour.

The Vision of Britain web site has a very large potential to contribute to university teaching and learning because it holds consistent information on a very large number of localities, and users can find which historical constituencies covered a location by typing a postcode or clicking on a map. While the system's mapping abilities may appeal mainly to geographers, this cornucopia of local material is of interest to historians, sociologists, political scientists and even literary studies: our collection of travellers' tales is unique in enabling access by location. Not just a resource for university research and teaching, Vision of Britain has already established itself as a popular site for British history, attracting about 50,000 unique users per month.

The Content

Collections to be digitised include:

- St Catharine's House Historic Map Library (553 maps)

- Scottish administrative boundaries (80 maps)

- Reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, 1832–1954 (932 pages)

While the system's mapping abilities may appeal mainly to geographers, this cornucopia of local material is of interest to historians, sociologists, political scientists and even literary studies ...

Here digitisation also means vectorisation, and election statistics are another major component of the project, which the web site will present as maps, graphs and tables. Despite the small numbers of scans, the resulting web resources will be large, as well as heavily used: the existing Vision of Britain site contains 'about 304,000 pages' according to Google and, under this project, at least 20,000 more will be added.

The Process

Maps are scanned then geo-referenced by overlaying boundary maps on an existing set of New Popular one inch sheets, which were published in the 1940s and include National Grid lines. Parish-to-constituency relationships are then added to the administrative gazetteer and used to generate an initial vector map of constituencies by merging parishes. The initial map is then exported from Oracle to GIS software and overlaid on scanned constituency maps for manual addition of those constituency boundaries that did not follow parish boundaries. These methods create digital maps in which boundaries in different administrative layers that followed identical lines on the ground exactly match in the computer.

The Future

Teaching and learning resources to be developed by the project combine a printed teachers' pack demonstrating potential use of the system by a range of disciplines, and emphasising projects large and small, with eight online tutorials. The web site is almost indefinitely extensible and possible future projects include adding similar content for the rest of Europe and incorporating the Domesday Book.

British Cartoon Archive Digitisation Project

Digitising the single most important archive of British newspaper cartoons

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
University of Kent

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
http://library.kent.ac.uk/cartoons/

Overview:

This project will digitise the Carl Giles Archive, the single most important archive of British newspaper cartoons, and a key resource for British political and social history that has never before been open to the public. The collection will become a major part of the existing British Cartoon Archive at the University of Kent, creating the largest archive of cartoons in the UK.

15,000 cartoon images and 5,000 pages of related paperwork will be made available. The current British Cartoon Archive web site will also be redeveloped to significantly increase its accessibility and usability.

The Project

The British Cartoon Archive was established at the University of Kent in 1973, and holds the national collection of British social and political cartoons. The Archive's online database is a unique resource, rich in content and fully-accessible. It already represents the work of some 250 British cartoonists and is widely used by academics.

The British Cartoon Archive Digitisation project will address the physical inaccessibility of the Carl Giles Collection, and also provide a simple approach to the time-consuming copyright permissions process of putting together teaching materials containing cartoon/visual images. The project is designed to provide the widest possible access to the most important collection of material relating to British newspaper cartooning, thereby vastly increasing the cartoon's widespread 'free view' availability. It will also provide use and re-use of the archive content for teaching and research purposes.

The Giles Collection will be cross-searchable with the 123,000 other images in the Archive's catalogue. Delivering the digital images in this information-rich environment will

Life with the Indomitable British, MAY DAY.
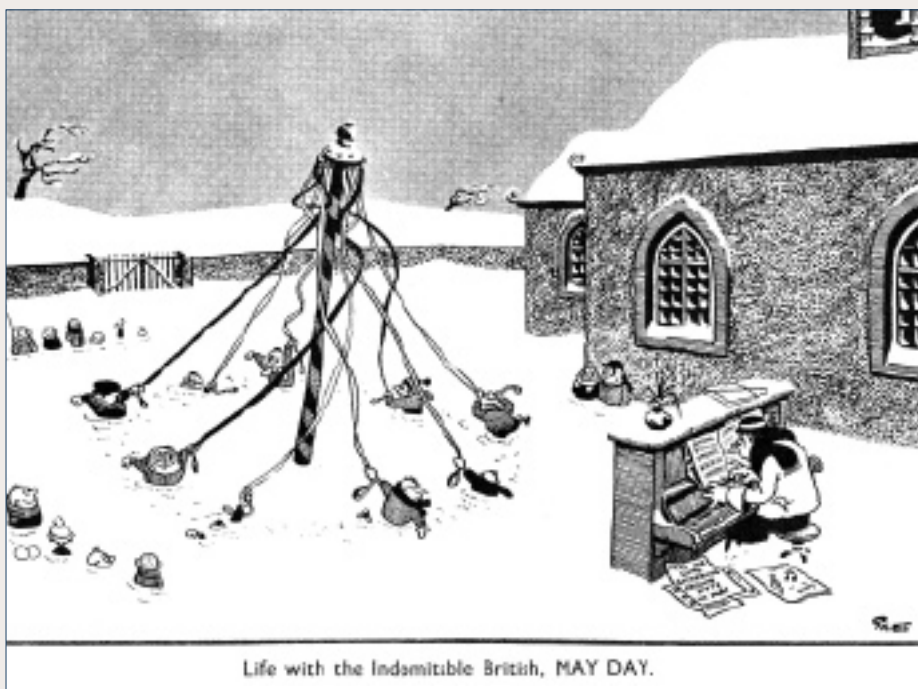
The Giles collection will be cross-searchable with the 123,000 other images in the Archive's catalogue. Delivering the digital images in this information-rich environment will ensure the Giles Collection is widely available for research, teaching and learning.

ensure the Giles Collection is widely available for research, teaching and learning. More than 75,000 cartoons already in the Archive's catalogue date from the period covered by the Giles Collection, and over 6,000 of them are by Giles's cartoonist colleagues on the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express*. As part of the project, the Archive's entire catalogue of 138,000 cartoon images will also be brought in line with the JISC standards of accessibility and opened to metadata harvesting.

During his lifetime Giles assembled a vast studio archive of his cartoon images, and some 15 linear metres of paperwork containing an estimated 75,000 separate documents.

The Content

During his lifetime Giles assembled a vast studio archive of his cartoon images, and some 15 linear metres of paperwork containing an estimated 75,000 separate documents. After his death in 1995, the studio archive went into storage with the Victoria & Albert Museum

until its move to the University of Kent in 2005.

Digitisation of the archive will create a catalogue of 7,500 cartoons in which the majority can be accessed in two versions – the original artwork, with markings for the printer, and the final published cartoon. The collection will comprise:

- An archival surrogate, in microfilm and digital form, of the 15,000 original cartoons and cartoon prints within the Giles Archive

- Metadata for the 7,500 individual published cartoons within this collection, linked to the variant images, plus additional contextual information for the published cartoons

- An estimated 5,000 digital images of important and representative paperwork from the Giles Archive, illustrating his career as a national newspaper cartoonist

- The linking of this material to over 123,000 digitised and catalogued cartoons in the Archive's database, by other British cartoonists, with biographies

The Process

Once the images have been digitised they are added to the catalogue and run through a tool that produces three image types: small, medium and large. The images are then

associated with Dublin Core metadata and stored, with the XML file produced for each image, in a hierarchical file structure, which is parsed at time intervals by an indexing tool. A tool for wiki-style editing of catalogue records allows participation from contributors worldwide.

The Future

A new design and layout for the Archive's web site will create a worldwide cartoon resource and Wikipedia-style portal, which will provide greater access and tools for the existing international academic community. The development of the site, catalogue and services will extend the use of the site to a far larger number of academics, researchers, specialists and enthusiasts, and build a considerable international community, who will use, share and contribute images, content and expertise.

Welsh Journals Online

Free online access to key periodicals from Wales – past, present and future

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
National Library of Wales

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.welshjournals.llgc.org.uk

Partners:
WHELF (Welsh Higher Education Libraries Forum), National Assembly for Wales

Overview:

All academically significant Welsh periodicals published since 1900 are being digitised by the National Library of Wales, to make them freely available in perpetuity, to readers in all parts of the world. The project will mount the first substantial corpus of material in the Welsh language online.

The Project

Modern Welsh Journals Online will provide students, teachers and researchers with free online, searchable, access to a selection of 20th- and 21st-century Welsh and Wales-related journals held at the National Library of Wales and partner institutions. These materials cover a very wide range of subject areas, including humanities, social sciences, science and technology.

> *... it is crucial to provide students who work or raise families with around-the-clock access to printed resources that are geographically disparate and often confined to a few copies with time-restricted access.*

An innovative and dynamic web delivery interface will allow the user to both browse and keyword-search a selection of the most significant journal and periodical titles published after 1900 – a resource estimated to contain 600,000 pages of text in both Welsh and English. An interactive interface will also allow readers to post comments, summaries of Welsh language materials, cross-references to related works or any other related information.

In an age that has seen a massive change in learning patterns and student profiles alike, it is crucial to provide students who work or raise families with around-the-clock access to printed resources that are geographically disparate and often confined to a few copies with time-restricted access. These materials are often used exclusively by advanced postgraduate students and researchers, but this project will enable all students to realise the full value of this enormously important collection. Such a resource will 'democratise' knowledge by allowing
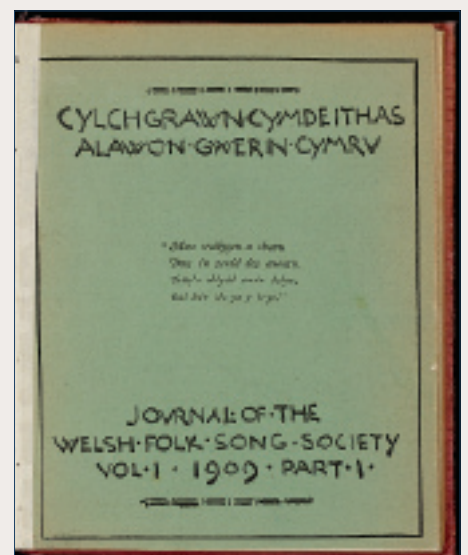
A crucial feature of this project is that the bulk of its material is in copyright. However, most publications in Wales are not produced by large organisations jealous of their intellectual property rights.

non-specialists direct access to important primary materials that have hitherto been the preserve of professional scholars.

The Content

This collection is a selection of 90 titles in both Welsh and English – 32 in Welsh, 56 in English, 2 bilingual – including learned publications, literary journals, science and social science titles, the transactions of county historical societies and denominational publications, and popular publications discussing current affairs in Wales and beyond. The selection also includes three titles published in the USA. This amounts to an estimated 600,000

pages – 220,000 in Welsh, 380,000 in English.

The inclusion of titles in the Welsh language is deliberate and important – without them it would be impossible to offer a full range of the intellectual output of Wales in the 20th century.

The list of titles below is only a small part of a much wider selection who will be approached for permission to digitise.

|	
Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies	1 (Oct 1921) – 40 (1993)
Cymmrodor, Y	1 (Jan 1877) – 50 (1951)
Llên Cymru	1/1 (1950) – continues
Caernarvonshire Historical Society Transactions	1 (1939) – continues
Gower: journal of the Gower Society	1 (1948) – continues
Cymru	1 (1891) – 72 (1927)
Y Gen(h)inen	1 (1883) – 46 (1928)
Barddas: cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas Gerdd Dafod	1 (1976) – continues
Poetry Wales	(1965) – continues
Cyfaill o'r Hen Wlad yn America, Y	1/1 (1838) – 96 (1933)

The Process

A crucial feature of this project is that the bulk of its material is in copyright. However, most publications in Wales are not produced by large organisations jealous of their intellectual property rights. On the contrary, many are non-commercial, and many are subsidised from the public purse. This project is an important test-bed for JISC, by gathering transferable experience of digitisation rights management in a non-commercial environment.

The Future

After the project completion at the end of 2008, a community of users of the resource from all groups, including both academic and non-academic users, will be encouraged to share their experiences of using and applying the resource using technologies such as mashups, weblogs and wikis. They would also be encouraged to register (or perhaps even deposit) any learning objects developed based on the resource at the project web site. The library is also committed to the continuing upload of current or semi-current issues of ongoing periodicals.

Please note that the publishers whose images are shown on these two pages have not formally agreed to join the project at the time of publication of this document
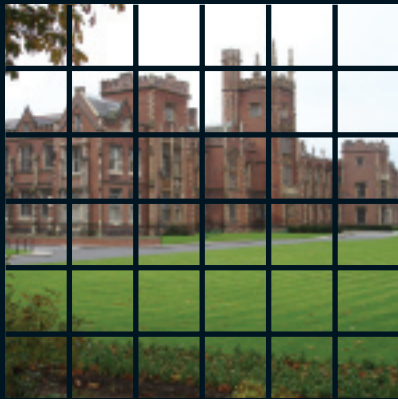
A Digital Library of Core e-Resources on Ireland

Creating a one-stop shop for Irish Studies e-resources

Access to resource:
Free to UK and Irish users

Lead site:
The Queen's University of Belfast

Launch date:
Full launch February 2009 with a progressive rollout of e-resources before this date

Web site:
Not yet available. However, the project proposal web site can be found at:
www.qub.ac.uk/cdda/dlcmi

Partners:
The Linen Hall Library; the Robinson Library; the Royal Irish Academy; CELT University College Cork; University College Dublin; JSTOR; AHDS

Overview:

The digitisation of 100 key journals, 205 monographs and 2,500 manuscript pages from core Irish Studies collections makes this comprehensive, multi-disciplinary digital library the first point of contact for scholars and students seeking convenient, comprehensive and reliable e-resources relating to Ireland.

The Project

The demand for research materials relating to Ireland cannot be overestimated, nor can the current paucity of material available either online or through UK-based academic libraries. Irish Studies is an active and developing area of scholarship, but there is a clear lack of research resources available. Analogue material is simply not held by most university libraries, and e-resources are few and far between. Methods of conducting research are changing as a result of technological developments, but Irish Studies is lacking basic online bibliographic and resource discovery tools that are now accepted as standard in other disciplines. In order to bring Irish Studies into line with other subject areas and maintain academic standards, improvements are not only important but imperative.

> *This project fills a critical gap in the provision of research and learning resources in Irish studies.*

This project fills a critical gap in the provision of research and learning resources in Irish studies. The content comes from an unparalleled grouping of collaboration – collectively the partners hold an unrivalled range of printed research materials that are simply not available to the academic community in such critical mass elsewhere. The project will make the resources in the partner institutions more accessible to a wider audience.

The demand for research materials relating to Ireland cannot be overestimated, nor can the current paucity of material available either online or through UK-based academic libraries.

The Content

We have selected a cohesive collection of material drawing on three exceptional world-leading Irish Studies collections.

Queen's University: holds the large Hibernica Collection, which has particular strengths for the period 1749 to 1814 in Irish history, politics and economics together with cultural studies and Anglo-Irish literature spanning the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

The Linen Hall Library: holds an extensive collection of journals and pamphlets, the digitisation of which will create an invaluable resource.

The Robinson Library: has a remarkable collection of manuscripts and monographs, including the world famous *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, a copy of Benjamin Motte's first edition dated 28 October 1726, with amendments and markings in Swift's own handwriting.

CELT the Corpus of Electronic Texts: brings a wealth of Irish literary and historical culture to the Internet. It has a searchable online textbase consisting of over 900 contemporary and historical documents from many areas, including literature and the other arts.

The resource will include closed runs of journals with titles published in the 18th century through to the 20th. The political titles of the late 18th century comment on the many political upheavals taking place (locally and abroad), the importance and accuracy of empirical research in the 19th century is now recognised, and equally important are the small runs of literary journals that flourished in the early part of the 20th century. Current (in copyright) journals (approximately 50% of the project's journal collection) will also feature.

The Process

Each image will be captured individually on either a flatbed or book-page scanner with a skilled operator checking the quality of each image and adjusting image scanning settings as necessary to obtain a digital surrogate of the printed page of outstanding quality. Following the successful conversion of the analogue text into a highly accurate machine-readable form, detailed metadata will be applied based on existing JSTOR standards to facilitate document searching. The project will also examine innovative ways of interrogating the material based upon context sensitive full-text retrieval, subject based searching and analysing e-resources by geographical location.

Our partnership with JSTOR will significantly promote the digital library. JSTOR is well established as the principal online archive for journal backfiles. It has many institutional users worldwide. Under our agreement JSTOR will serve the digital library and promote it to the tens of thousands of scholars already using its service.

The Future

The Irish Studies Collection will be made freely available to all users within the British Isles, whether they are members of the public, lone scholars, or institutions. Outside the British Isles, JSTOR will operate their existing subscription model. This will result in an income stream, which will be used in three ways. First, funds will be used by JSTOR to maintain and enhance their dissemination systems and associated hardware. Second, JSTOR will offer publishers a modest revenue stream to make recent issues of journals available under a 'moving wall' approach. We expect that these measures will ensure that the e-library will continue to acquire back issues of journals. Third, funds will be available annually to the Queen's team to fund further digitisation work, thus extending and enhancing the digital library. These funds will also allow an Academic Advisory Panel to be retained to provide guidance on the selection of material to augment the library and act as advocates for the resource.

A medical archive is also a living and breathing collection of articles from historically important journals, thanks to groundbreaking agreements with participating publishers. Journalist *Tracey Caldwell* reports.

Access all areas

Medical journals containing discoveries that have changed the face of medicine are becoming freely available online. A partnership between the Wellcome Trust, JISC, the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) and a number of medical journal publishers is delivering over 3 million pages of medical journals via PubMed Central (PMC), the full-text, life sciences repository.

> *"There is a huge amount of stuff here we could digitise ..."*

The Medical Journals Backfiles Digitisation Project is one of six projects in the first phase of JISC's Digitisation Programme. It was started as a result of demand from within the Wellcome Trust library, according to Robert Kiley, head of e-strategy at the Wellcome Trust. "There is a huge amount of stuff here we could digitise and we asked users what they would like to see digitised and they said they wanted access to the most significant biomedical journals," he says.

The resulting digitisation project goes well beyond the Wellcome Library walls, though, making medical journals backfiles freely available to anyone with an Internet connection. The digitised archives have already seen massive usage. The *Biochemical Journal* has had its articles live for 12 months and in that time 3.8 million papers have been downloaded from 1.3 million unique users.

"Users don't see this as a product; it is a link by PubMed or Google," says Kiley. "End-users wouldn't be able to recognise a journal we had digitised and made freely available from one a publisher had digitised and made freely available."

Journals selected for the programme had to have at least 30 years of archives. The journals also had to have some historical significance and the Wellcome Trust attempted to measure that by looking at mixture of impact and citation analysis. The journals had to be in English and the publisher had to be willing to participate.

Publisher participation proved a thorny issue. This project has been a long time in gestation and when it was first conceived digitisation was very new and publishers were approaching it for the first time: "Users asked for the top five journals by impact factor to be digitised but we had to temper their requests with publishers agreeing to put current content into a repository and some just did not want to play ball," says Kiley.

"When we began, only a small number of publishers were involved. Later, publishers started to realise the value of digitisation. Elsevier announced it was going to digitise 1,800 journals, so these are made available by Elsevier and not available for us to use. Wiley also announced a huge backfiles project."

As a result the project has focused on a number of UK-based society journals that couldn't afford to digitise their backfiles but saw the benefit of it and were prepared to make their current content available.

With 1.3 million users accessing one journal alone, the project has clearly met a need. Carole Reeves, outreach historian at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, says, "The first time I realised I could get something out of, say, *The Journal of Physiology* it was amazing.

"It is great for people from abroad who can access it from anywhere, such as universities in the developing world, that cannot afford to buy these journals. We deal a lot with people in the developing

world and for their libraries to pay for subscriptions like this would be a major outlay."

The project has benefits closer to home too: "By and large in London there is nothing that has not been available with the British Library and the Wellcome Trust library on our doorstep. But now you can do it from your desk instead of spending an afternoon getting hold of one article."
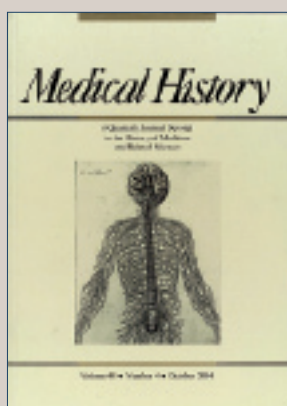
New types of users beyond the medical research community will reap the benefit of freely available digitised resources, according to Reeves. "I deal a lot with family historians and they can trace their ancestors through medical records. They can access obituaries through this – every single medical professional has an obituary in a journal."

The *Journal of Anatomy*, from its origin in 1867, is the latest title to be digitised under the auspices of this project. In her editorial introducing the new resource, Gillian Morriss-Kay, editor, describes the digitisation project as a "wonderful resource".

She highlights some of the interesting paper she has found in the archives: "The classic (July 1934) paper on development and anomalies of the external ear, still quoted in human embryology textbooks, by Wood Jones and Wen, and Frank Goldby, who gave me my first lessons in dissection of the human body in 1972, discussing the difficulties of elucidating homology in the cerebral hemispheres of reptiles when different workers had used different terminologies and investigative methods (January 1934)."

She adds, "Other readers will find items that resonate with their own and their subject's history, but if you are as prone as I am to getting sucked in, set aside plenty of time."

Anne Hardy, professor in the history of modern medicine and co-editor of the journal *Medical History*,

says she is looking forward to the full digitisation of the 'BMJ', *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* and *Epidemiology and Infection*; "When they're fully up and running, they will be very helpful."

She says it is too early to tell what the impact will be on the journal *Medical History*. We have had very positive feedback and are impressed by the number of hits the journal is getting. Subscriptions for hard copy are down though, and we are waiting to see if this trend continues."

Users should see continually improved benefits from the digitisation project with more titles being added and better access to them. Some of the first titles to be digitised negotiated long embargoes – up to three years in one case – for the release of current content into the PMC archive. Now if a new journal comes on board, because of the Wellcome Trust policy, embargo periods are down to six months.

A UK version of PubMed Central (UKPMC) is under development and resources from the digitisation programme will be made available through that. UKPMC will be developed to meet the needs of UK researchers, for example carrying CVs and services for researchers. "At the moment the user experience is dictated by the requirements of the US National Institutes of Health. When we have UKPMC we will have more latitude," says Kiley.

The Wellcome Library is developing its own digitisation strategy at the moment and the likelihood is that the medical journal digitisation programme will continue, perhaps including a project to digitise orphan journals – journals that are no longer published.

"This was an excellent partnership with JISC. It was much easier for everyone to get funding – if JISC contributes we can put funds in and vice versa. We could both use the leverage effect of the other. NLM has contributed as much as us in kind and will undoubtedly want to continue in this path," says Kiley.

For further information, please go to:
http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node280.html
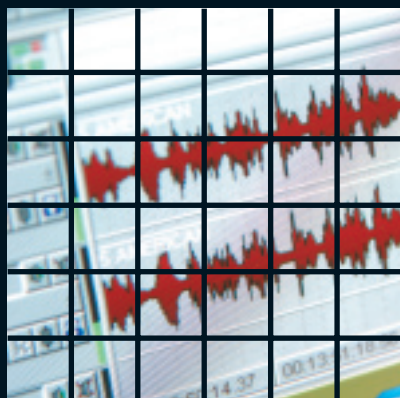
Archival Sound Recordings 2

A critical mass of rich audio material from all over the world, at your fingertips

Access to resource:
Free to Schools, Colleges & Universities in the UK

Lead site:
The British Library

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.bl.uk/sounds

Overview:

Building on the British Library's ground-breaking work in creating the first online fully-searchable digital library of sound recordings from one of the world's treasure houses of audio heritage, these nine new digital collections will make available around 4,200 hours of audio content. The recordings, which range from canonical classical repertoire to interviews with Holocaust survivors, will be supported by images and added value features to enhance the existing service and transform teaching, learning and research.

The Project

The British Library Archival Sound Recordings 2 draws once again on the wealth and diversity of the library's audio holdings. The nine collections chosen for this e-resource reflect the broad remit of the archive, covering field recordings, music recordings and oral history to name just three, but they also provide deeper tranches of content to complement the current ASR collections.

The Sony Radio Awards news and current affairs material builds on the Sony Radio Awards radio drama package included in the first ASR project to deepen the online resource documenting UK radio broadcasting. The Decca West African recordings further enrich the three Africa-related packages already available in the resource, while the historic recordings of canonical classical repertoire

complement the archive of recorded performances of Beethoven String Quartets included in the first project. Each of the collections contains material that is unique or is not easy to access elsewhere.

By deepening the critical mass of archival audio material for online access, the service meets the needs of many more users. It also increases the visibility of audio content in the digital domain and its availability for repurposing to teachers, researchers and lifelong learners.

The Content

Michael Gerzon Recordings (638 hours): represents a unique opportunity for researchers to assess both the practical work of one of the 20th-century's leading audio scientists, and one of Europe's most extensive extant collections of

The nine collections chosen for this e-resource reflect the broad remit of the archive, covering field recordings, music recordings and oral history to name just three,

unpublished contemporary music-concert recordings, documenting the music's development over a period of almost 30 years.

Recordings of Canonical Classical Repertoire 926–1956 (425 hours): includes all recordings held from the repertoire of Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Brahms on 78rpm shellac discs together with early long-playing vinyl discs. The package illustrates developments in performance styles for the period in question and will be invaluable in the analysis of performance trends and styles.

Institute of Contemporary Arts, London – Talks, 1981–1992 (850 hours): contributors to this wide range of readings and discussions covering literature, film, theatre and other cultural subjects include: Brian Aldiss, Norman Mailer, Julia Kristeva, Derek Jarman (with Ken Campbell), Richard Dawkins, Arnold Wesker, Primo Levi, James Kelman, and Salman Rushdie reading from *The Satanic Verses*.

Early Record Catalogues (7,000 images): the Sound Archive collection of record catalogues is extremely rich in data about the sale and distribution of recorded media. The collection is un-catalogued and only accessible in the reading rooms of the Library.

Decca West Africa 'Yellow Label' Series (39 hours): these recordings were made and issued during the 1940s and 1950s. The post-war period is a significant moment in the development of African popular music and these recordings document some of the first attempts at local popular musical styles from Ghana and Nigeria with early recordings of highlife and juju musicians.

Some of these are iconic, including 'In a Solemn Hour' by Winston Churchill.

Early Spoken Word Recordings (34 hours): this includes published spoken word recordings (pre-1955) held by the Sound Archive. Some of these are iconic, including 'In a Solemn Hour' by Winston Churchill, 'My Message to the World of Islam' by HH The Aga Khan and 'Conan Doyle Speaking' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Sony Radio Awards 1986 and 1997 – News and Current Affairs (850 hours): these are all high quality submissions to the award made by radio stations. Included are submissions to the following award categories: news and current affairs, specialist speech, response to a news event (outside broadcast), magazine and feature documentary.

Holocaust Survivors' Centre (380 hours): 149 interviews with Holocaust survivors, from the Holocaust Survivors' Centre in Hendon.

Traditional Music in England (1,020 hours): these collections come from all regions of England and represent a broad range of traditions and genres, from songs and children's games to folktales.

The Process

The project builds on the existing infrastructures, processes and methodologies developed as part of the ASR project. The project pioneered access to the full metadata for each recording with the recording itself being accessible only for authenticated users. Once again, metadata will be available to search engines and visible to any member of the public interacting with the service web site. Wherever possible, rights will be cleared to provide public access to recordings.

The Future

The British Library has committed to a 10-year sustainability plan for the ASR service including free-at-point-of-delivery access and re-use of materials. The British Library has a strategic commitment to widening and sustaining access to its collections, including increasing proportion of online access.

Voices: Moving Images in the Public Sphere

Watch the key social, political and economic issues of our time unfold

Access to resource:
Free to Schools, Colleges & Universities in the UK and some Open Access

Lead site:
British Film Institute

Launch date:
January 2009

Web site:
Not yet available

Partners:
The National Archives; the Parliamentary Recording Unit; the BBC; ITN; Open Media; Northern Region Film & Television Archive; South West Film and Television Archive; the Media Archive for Central England; and the East Anglian Film Archive

Overview:

600 hours of unique moving image materials and digitised contextual documents including public record films, parliamentary coverage, national news broadcasts, and campaigning films. This project will pursue a curated and thematic approach, demonstrating how the key social, political and economic issues of our time have been represented, illustrated, expressed and debated through moving image media forms and will be made available to education, research and the wider public in the UK.

The Project

The media play a critical role in our society by informing and educating citizens from a variety of perspectives. For more than 70 years the state has addressed the public on a wide range of issues using information films. Since 1978 we have been able to witness Parliament – the very core of our political system – in action first on radio and then on television. Our national public service broadcasters – ITN and BBC – in their role as part of the fourth estate, have offered mediated packages of the 'news', informing Britain's citizens about national and regional issues. Regional television has produced further perspectives and agendas.

'Voices' will be an in-depth resource, which shows, through the juxtaposition and contextualisation of a range of materials, how public issues 'play out' across the media. A thematic approach will illustrate how different producers and distributors of moving image content provide different voices and perspectives within national social, cultural and economic debates.

The user will be able not only to study each issue in chronological sequence, but also to compare its moving image representation by different participants in every national debate. The unique strength of the resource is that it will be sourced from different collections of national importance, each carrying the voice of a different section of the polity, from public record films to Parliamentary coverage, national and regional news and campaigning films.

The Content

The project will digitise collections held at the BFI and The National Archive at Kew. The online resource will be organised into two parts:

Britain: Economy and Citizenry

Films and television programming reviewing the UK economy, its industries, transport and agriculture, tracing the radical shifts each has undergone in the past 60 years with the advent and subsequent decline of the mixed economy consensus and demonstrating the social impact of these changes.

Britain: National Issues

Material concerning the health services, education, immigration, multi-culturalism and regionalism, tracking 70 years of public debate, observing both continuities and shifts in prevailing national attitudes as well as in government policies.

The unique strength of the resource is that it will be sourced from different collections of national importance, each carrying the voice of a different section of the polity ...

The project will also involve the digitisation of paper documents and other contextual materials currently held in controlled archival environments at the BFI or at The National Archives in Kew.

The National Archives holds production files relating to the majority of the films in the public records collection, often adding crucial context not only to the immediate circumstances of production, but also to the motives and methods of the government departments that initiated it.

Additionally, the BFI holds the special collections of major film-makers whose work is represented in the public records collection – notably, the papers of Basil Wright and Edgar Anstey. Papers directly relevant, and adding significant interpretive context, to the digitised films will be selected and digitised as part of the project.

The Process

This project will involve the digitisation of an envisaged 600 hours of moving image material and paper documents. These materials will originate both on film and on a variety of videotape formats. The original condition of the materials (particularly film items) will be variable, but expertise in handling and restoration, when required, is a core competence within the BFI. The majority of the paper documents, production files and other contextual materials are held at The National Archives and will be catalogued and digitised. Our technical approach will involve taking archival film and video materials through preservation-conscious steps to a stage where web-based video files are available for download. Existing descriptions and catalogue records will be amalgamated into a set of standards-compliant searchable metadata.

The Future

While this project will make research materials currently only accessible at one location widely available throughout further and higher education, the material is also clearly relevant to the citizenship curriculum in secondary and further education and the government's Lifelong Learning agenda. The BFI is already working closely with the National Education Network and they envisage a collaboration with them to develop significant additional materials for these constituencies. The BFI also intends to provide as much of this material as it can to the broader UK public under the non-commercial creative archive licence and to make it fully available via the Internet.
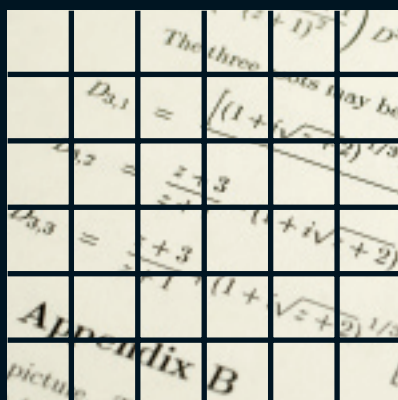
UK Theses Digitisation Project

Opening access to over 5,000 of the most popular British research theses

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
The British Library

Launch date:
July 2008

Web site:
Not yet available

Partners:
CURL; Cranfield University; University of Warwick; University of Glasgow; University of Edinburgh; Robert Gordon University; University of Birmingham

Overview:

Digitising at least 5,335 paper-borne UK theses will 'kick start' the EThOS service, which will allow Open Access to theses in electronic form. The project will deliver a fully operational, easily scaleable and financially viable prototype of a UK e-theses online service that will enable users, via one single web interface, to access the full text of electronically stored theses after selection from a database of UK theses.

The Project

UK postgraduate theses are a very important source of primary research output but, says Colin Galloway, project director of EthOs, "There are currently thousands of theses sitting on the shelves of UK academic libraries, many of which will never have been read by anyone other than the author and supervisor. Even in those cases where there is knowledge of their existence there is no easy access to their content, with the result that potentially useful information is disregarded purely because of logistic/bureaucratic impediments."

Under this project, 5,335 digitised theses will be freely supplied as Open Access, enabling all researchers regardless of location or time to search for, identify and order digitised UK theses, a resource that has had limited exposure via the British Library catalogue (metadata only minus abstract) and the commercial subscription Index To Thesis product.

The theses will be supplied to researchers as PDFs. The researcher will be able to read the thesis image on his/her computer screen but, by printing the PDF, he or she will get an exact surrogate of the original thesis. By sourcing surrogates from the electronically
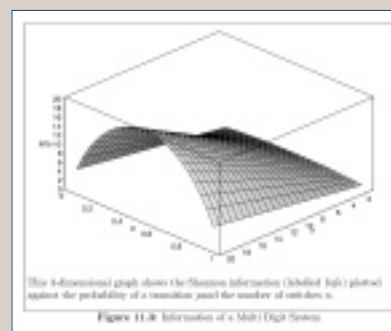
stored copies, the original paper theses will be accessed less frequently and so will be better preserved.

The Content

There are around 500,000 paper theses originating from UK Higher Education institutions and dating from 1730. Although the project is digitising only 1% of the overall total, it will target the most 'popular' – those that are most likely to be requested and supplied to researchers – so the greater impact will be to release EThOS digitisation resources to digitise further theses.

The Process

Each thesis will be digitised to TIF files (one file per page), which will be stored for preservation, and a single, multi-page PDF file with OCR'ed text for full text access and delivery. It promotes the adoption of standards-compliant digitisation

Under this project, 5,335 digitised theses will be freely supplied as Open Access, enabling all researchers regardless of location or time to search for, identify and order digitised UK theses …

by applying standards developed in the digitisation work package of the EThOS project; metadata by associating the digitised theses with UK ETD qDC standard metadata held by EthOS; interoperability by applying already developed standards; and digital preservation by storing the TIF files in state-of-the-art British Library digital preservation systems and applying emerging digital preservation techniques to the stored files.

The digitised theses from this project … will generate a critical mass to encourage future submission of theses in electronic form.

The Future

This project creates the initial content set of a large-scale collection for a service offering a viable and sustainable business model. The digitised theses from this project will 'seed' the EThOS service with theses most relevant to researchers and will generate a critical mass to encourage future submission of theses in electronic form.

Ph.D. Thesis

Underlying the drift are rocks of the Pleistocene Crag Group. The Crag consists of marine shelly sands and silty and micaceous clays. Middle to late Pleistocene deposits consist of glacial and interglacial deposits including the Kesgrave Sands, Cromer Forest Bed and Anglian glacial till deposits (Holman *et al.*, 1999).

Underlying the Crag are beds of Palaeogene Age, namely the London and Thanet Formations. These clays are mainly mudstones and siltstones with ash layers and are underlain by Cretaceous Chalk.

3.0.3   Soils

The higher areas in the river basin have coarse soils such as Gresham (0711v) and Wick (0541s) Associations. Both are non-calcareous and therefore have potential to become acid from leaching. The level of acidity is only slight except around the edges of the lowest ground (Burton, 1990). The main river valley contains a ground gley soil such as the Hanworth (0871c) Associations, with the large side valleys comprising of peat soils such as the Altcar 2 (1022b) Association. There are also sandy soils present in the river basin bordering the dunes, which belong to the Sandwich (0361) Association (Fig 3.0.3).
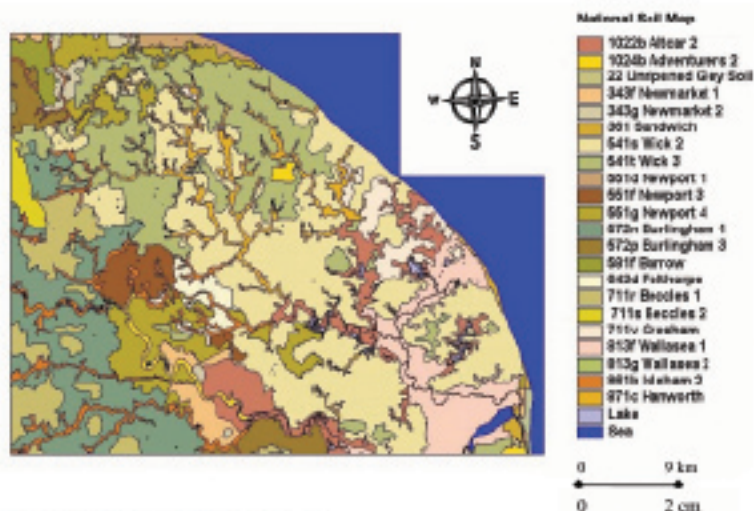
Figure 3.0.3: National soils map of the Broads

Chapter Three

- 54 -

British Newspapers 1620–1900

Read the first three centuries of newspapers from all regions of the British Isles

Access to resource:
Free to Schools, Colleges & Universities in the UK

Lead site:
The British Library

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
www.bl.uk/collections/newspapers. html

Overview:

Up to 1.25 million pages are being digitised from 18th- and 19th-century historical British newspapers held at the British Library, building on previous projects to enable access to a virtual library containing some 4 million digitised pages of important national, regional and local newspapers. It will open up to diverse communities the first three centuries of newspapers throughout the British Isles.

The Project

Newspapers constitute a unique resource for engagement with the British past at an international, national and a very local level. They provide invaluable information, often found nowhere else, for teachers and researchers at all levels, as well as for the general public. While offering rich opportunities, original newspapers are hard to locate and often survive in rare or unique copies held at the British Library, frequently far from the researcher. Once located they are difficult to consult, the required information being hard to find in the bulk of published material, and the original paper often fragile to the point of disintegration. Digitisation opens up access to this valuable resource, unique to British Library and currently unavailable except by visiting the Colindale reading room, to the widest possible audience.

The British Library has already digitised two separate collections of newspapers: British newspapers 1800–1900 and the Burney collection of British 18th-century newspapers. This project will deepen and widen the range of digitised content from both these earlier projects and bring them together to create a single, coherent and enriched resource, which fully represents of the whole range of British newspapers from 1620–1900.

Users will have the unprecedented ability to search across different newspaper titles to draw together materials relating to a wide range of research and learning topics and access to a broad range of valuable learning materials.

The Content

The project's 1.1 million pages will be taken from:

- Regional and local newspapers from the 19th (and some from the 18th) century;

- 19th-century continuations of 18th-century London newspapers in the Burney collection;

- Specialist newspapers on themes of Reform and Politics, Religion, and Satire.

Users will have the unprecedented ability to search across different newspaper titles to draw together materials relating to a wide range of research and learning topics and access to a broad range of valuable learning materials.

The primary focus, some 75% of the project, will be on regional and local titles predominantly from the 19th century, but also including some 18th-century titles. This will complete the geographic coverage of areas that were under-represented in the earlier projects.

The Process

The British Library's approach is based upon the experience and expertise they have gained from their previous newspaper digitisation projects. A solid infrastructure is in place, including formalised digitisation standards, a signed framework agreement with the main supplier, a web site platform already planned to be tested and launched in early 2007, documented workflows and procedures that have been proven in practice and learning which can be applied to streamline and improve future initiatives.

The British Library's approach is based upon the experience and expertise they have gained from their previous newspaper digitisation projects.

Pages will be microfilmed in-house (or copied from existing microfilms) then digitised, divided into articles and OCR-scanned in order to extract the text contents.

The resulting images and XML data will be added to a web site already being planned for the Burney and JISC Phase 1 projects, to be hosted by a commercial partner.

The Future

The British Library believes that the corpus of Burney and the two JISC projects will lead to a step change within scholarly communities, vastly expanding the range and variety of what can be used in research, at all levels of education.

In order to develop specific examples of this, and to enhance our expertise in making the digitised newspapers accessible to be used in the teaching environment, the British Library has obtained the support of the MA Course Director and PGCE History Course Leader at Keele University. With next year's PGCE students, he will pilot actual use of the British Newspapers web site and digitised collections in preparing and in using teaching materials in school history classes.

Digitisation of the LBC/IRN Archive

From Callaghan to Thatcher, a contemporary audio archive from the only UK radio news archive outside the BBC

Access to resource:
'Cost recovery' subscription to Schools, Colleges & Universities in the UK

Lead site:
Bournemouth University

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
Not yet available

Partners:
British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC)

Overview:

The LBC/IRN radio archive is the most important commercial radio archive in the UK and provides a unique audio history of the period. It consists of 7,000 reel-to-reel tapes in a collection that runs from 1973 to the mid-1990s.

This project focuses on the most noteworthy content – 4,000 hours of recordings relating to news and current affairs. From the Falklands war, the miners' strike, Northern Ireland and the whole of the Thatcher period of government. Users will be able to access the recordings via a web site which combines access to the archive catalogue and digital audio files.

The Project

Commercial radio in Britain was launched in October 1973 when the London Broadcasting Company (LBC) and its sister organisation, Independent Radio News (IRN), were granted their licences. A joint LBC/IRN archive of programmes and news items was established and this, together with its catalogue, constitutes the archive in its current form. It forms an important part of the history of radio broadcasting since it provides an alternative source of radio journalism and news and current affairs broadcasts to the BBC's own collection, but in its current form the archive is inaccessible for research.

> *the LBC/IRN Archive ... forms an important part of the history of radio broadcasting ...*

This project will conserve in digital form as much of the news and current affairs in the archive as possible and place the material within a teaching and research environment where it can be exploited for future knowledge. One of the most significant developments in the field of media and communications studies (including journalism, broadcasting and cultural studies) has been the growing interest in history

One of the most significant developments in the field of media and communications studies … has been the growing interest in history and archives.

and archives. Making archived programme material, together with searchable databases, available online has major implications for learning, teaching and research across the humanities curriculum.

The Content

The archive comprises approximately 7,000 mainly reel-to-reel audio tapes covering the period 1973 to 1995 (when digital storage was introduced).

Examples of archived programmes to be digitised include:

- The live reporting of UK election results from five general elections, giving a unique sense of the political shaping of the country, in particular the Thatcher years

- Extraordinary material relating to the conduct of the Falklands war

- The whole of the Decision Makers series 1974–86: weekly 30-minute programmes of political and current affairs analysis, which provide a unique insight into politics and its reportage within the UK at the time

- Significant material relating to the ending of apartheid in South Africa, including State President PW Botha's speech at the opening of the South African parliament in

which he announced that the era of apartheid was over. There is also accompanying political and journalistic analysis of this event

The Process

The project will transfer approximately 4,000 hours of the news and current affairs contents of 7,000 quarter-inch reel-to-reel audio tapes to a digital format.

The profiling of content for delivery over the web to UK HE will be managed and implemented by BUFVC, which has extensive experience in working with digital moving image and sound and associated metadata. The project will be supported by a catalogue containing metadata taken from

the packaging of the tapes and, if necessary, by listening to tapes, and from the card and computer indexes saved by Bournemouth University. The catalogue metadata will be profiled and delivered by the BUFVC.

An initial lead web site will deal with learning and teaching issues and will include a blog, exemplars of good practice, advice on using audio in teaching and learning, tools and innovative applications.

The Future

LBC/IRN have offered access to the current digital archive and broadcast feed. If this project is successful in building a robust infrastructure we have the option of feeding into it other broadcast material.

The project also has two allied areas of content in digital form, the Independent Local Radio Programme Sharing Archive and the South Central Local Radio Project. A further project would be to implement a federated search interface that was capable of cross-searching these resources, including the LBC/IRN material, to create an augmented resource covering independent radio in the whole of the UK.

A newly launched project from the JISC Digitisation Programme has delivered a rich and vivid picture of British population changes in the 19th and early 20th centuries, writes journalist *Harriet Swain*.

The changing face of Britain

Chris Galley once had to wait until term ended at the college where he lectures before accessing data central to his research into 19th-century infant mortality. His nearest information sources were in London – too far to travel from Barnsley College, where he teaches geography. Now, he can access it all without leaving his desk.

This is thanks to work funded by JISC and carried out by AHDS History at the University of Essex to put online nearly 200,000 pages of population data from between 1801 and 1937. The project, launched in February 2007, is one of six that make up JISC's £10 million digitisation programme. This aims to put online primary research material that has previously been difficult to access, and also covers 18th-century Parliamentary papers, archival sound recordings, 19th-century British newspapers, medical journals, and news film.

The new population resource will make a wealth of information related to population figures in the British Isles easily available to the general public, as well as to demographic and local historians. Researchers will be able to study, at their leisure, and on their own computer, data relating to gender, and in most cases age, of the UK's population, and how it varied from parish to parish, county to county and year to year throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. They will also be able to study fluctuations in employment and migration patterns,

in the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses, in the number of children born, in the depopulation or development of different areas of the country and how healthy – or not – places were to live. The relatively simple statistics offer a complex insight into the ebb and flow of human lives.

> *"We are trying to explain to people how a number or series of numbers is created ... It helps to engender a bit of faith in the number itself."*

This is all information already available in hardcopy – somewhere. The problem for researchers has been finding out which university library, government department or local institution holds it, and then carefully leafing through the often crumbling pages of a report to find what they need.

The project has now done this work for them. "We have had to do some detective work to track reports down so we can find copies we can use," says Matthew Woollard, Head of Digital Preservation and Systems at the UK Data Archive and Project Director for the Online Historical Population Reports Project. He says that while the project isn't about preservation, it is about making an increasingly scarce resource easily available for future academic researchers.

The material falls into two main categories: first, nearly 600 volumes of census reports, containing basic population snapshots for all geographical areas taken at 10-yearly intervals; then, Registrar General reports, recording annual births, deaths and marriages in each place along with a myriad of medical and contextual information.

But the project also involves digitising a substantial amount of additional information to help users negotiate their way through these statistics. This includes the census prefaces, which help to explain how the statistics were gathered and interpreted at

the time. It also includes full texts of all contemporary Parliamentary legislation applying to census taking and registration, which show some of the politics behind the administrative process behind the statistics.

"We are trying to explain to people how a number or series of numbers is created," says Woollard. "It helps to engender a bit of faith in the number itself."

For example, in every census before 1841 it was laid down by an Act of Parliament that the people collecting the information should be overseers of the poor, which, Woollard says, meant they had knowledge of the locality and the confidence of people at every level of society. After 1841, people were expected to fill out forms themselves, in an effort to improve accuracy still further.

The National Archives has also supplied material, including maps and images, relating to how the data were collected, showing what census forms looked like and what kind of problems those collecting the census or registrar material faced, all of which will be available to users of the online resource.

All the textual material is electronically searchable, and a large number of the tables can be downloaded so that researchers will be able to create their own spreadsheets and analyses. In addition, a large quantity of metadata has been created for each report to help users either to browse effectively in their general area of interest or to find the precise piece of information they want quickly.

Finally, the project is to include about 200 short essays, mainly written by Edward Higgs, a reader in history at the University of Essex and expert in the history of censuses and surveys. These will explain the historical, rather than statistical, context of why census and registration information was deemed important in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It will include biographies of the key people involved, and should help those with relatively little experience of dealing with this kind of data to understand what it is all about.

Woollard says the site has been designed to encourage browsing and to make people think about the statistics rather than look for a quick fix of figures. For this reason, it should prove useful for teachers and lecturers, by helping students not only to find out information about changes in population in the areas they are studying, but also to interpret demographic information. He says it has already been used at Essex to help students understand the reasons for statistical blips. "Students can see why these figures cannot be taken at face value," he says. "They need to use some form of historical reasoning to work out why there are changes."

> "Students can see why these figures cannot be taken at face value … They need to use some form of historical reasoning to work out why there are changes"

Sir Tony Wrigley, professor of geography at the University of Cambridge, says it is the kind of resource that could eventually form the basis of a sixth-form or university project.

But, as a researcher, he sees its primary value in what it offers for geographic and demographic historians, and to genealogists too. "An exercise of this sort enables people who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford the time to make use of the data," he says – people just like Galley.

For further information, please go to:
www.histpop.org

Pre-Raphaelite Resource Site

Trace a movement that changed the face of English art

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery

Launch date:
January 2009

Web site:
Not yet available

Overview:

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (BM&AG) has a large and important holding of Pre-Raphaelite drawings, which has never before been comprehensively documented and accessed as a collection. It includes work by the renowned artists Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Everett Millais and Edward Burne Jones, among others. With the digitisation of these works, this project will create a unique research source for the study of the Pre-Raphaelites and British 19th-century art. It will be available Open Access to all users via the Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery web site.

The Project

Pre-Raphaelitism was Britain's most significant and influential 19th-century art movement. Founded in 1848, it centred on a group of three young artists: William Holman Hunt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and John Everett Millais. These artists sought to revive English art by radically turning away from the old studio tradition and bringing painting into direct contact with nature. With an eye for absolute accuracy, every detail was now to have intense realist as well as symbolic meaning. Literary subjects, landscape and modern-life and medieval scenes were just some of the themes promoted by the Pre-Raphaelites and their extensive number of associates during the 1850s.

BM&AG's collection is unique in representing each phase of the movement in depth. The range of work spans painting on canvas, works on paper, sculpture, designs for stained glass, textiles and tiles, as well as printed books.

> *The creation of a Pre-Raphaelite online resource allows for both an extraordinary overview and an in-depth analysis of the subject area by crossing media boundaries and collating new visual and metadata material.*

The creation of a Pre-Raphaelite online resource allows for both an extraordinary overview and an in-depth analysis of the subject area by crossing media boundaries and collating new visual and metadata material. The project will provide unique links to artists and art works that might not have been discovered previously, and will allow users to go into further points of study and enquiry. It will also provide the education community with images relevant to their needs, easy to find, easy to use and customisable.

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery's collection is unique in representing each phase of the movement in depth. The range of work spans painting on canvas, works on paper, sculpture, designs for stained glass, textiles and tiles, as well as printed books.

The Content

The project will digitise BM&AG's entire Pre-Raphaelite collection, including paintings on canvas, works on paper, sculpture, designs for stained glass, textiles and tiles, printed books, unpublished artists' and associates' letters, notebooks relating to major patrons of the BM&AG collection, and associated photographic material. It will create over 3,000 files with new metadata and over 3,000 high quality images.

Artist	No of items
Edward Burne-Jones	1,187
Ford Madox Brown	187
John Everett Millais	237
Dante Gabriel Rossetti	350
William Holman Hunt	47
Arthur Hughes	20
Frederick Sandys	322
Simeon Solomon	50

The Process

The proposed selection of artists and scope of material reflects the strength of the BM&AG collection. The BM&AG's curators have an extensive knowledge of the collections, which will contribute to making this an information-rich resource. At the same time, an advisory group of academics is on hand to support and strengthen the digitisation project. Membership is drawn from throughout the UK as well as Birmingham, with the aims of: helping to scope the project; monitoring and contributing to the development of the resource site; advising on the application of a controlled vocabulary; interpreting the material under thematic/ modular headings as teaching and research tools; and helping to ensure sustainability.

> *There will be a strong focus on producing good metadata for the images ...*

There will be a strong focus on producing good metadata for the images, information and the educational resources as it is essential that they can be easily found and used.

The Future

The Pre-Raphaelite collection will be fully accessible to the education community. The general public will also have access to the site but the intended audience is students, lecturers, historians, researchers, librarians and other members of the education community. The web site will offer teaching exemplars, and this may be expanded in the future as users of content will be encouraged to share what they produce with other people online.

The resource will also experiment with offering users the opportunity to 'self-tag' images with their own key words in the way that has been popularised on web sites such as Flickr and YouTube. This will allow people who have used an image or images in a different way or in a different subject area than was envisaged to flag this up to other users. This has the potential to encourage both a greater and a wider use of the resource.
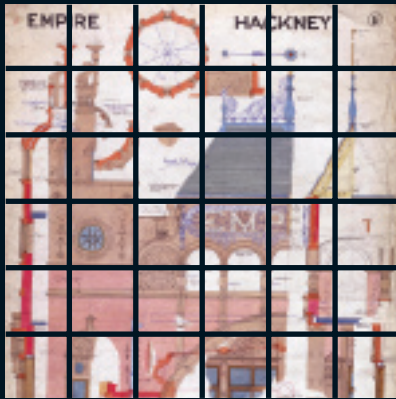
The East London Theatre Archive

Putting the spotlight on East End music hall heritage

Access to resource:
Open Access

Lead site:
University of East London

Launch date:
March 2009

Web site:
Not yet available

Partners:
V&A Theatre Collections; Arts and Humanities Data Service, London; International Festival of Theatre; Theatre Royal Stratford East; Hoxton Hall; Hackney Empire; Half Moon Young People's Theatre; Wilton's Music Hall

Overview:

The East London Theatre Archive will create an invaluable database of performing arts resources, from playbills and programmes to press cuttings and photographs. By creating around 15,000 digital objects, taken from East London theatres, the project will preserve unique endangered collections and make them accessible to an academic audience. The outcome will be a digitised collection full of rich potential for students and researchers across the country.

The Project

East London has made a unique contribution to the development of theatre and theatre studies – it was the East End of London that first brought musical hall and variety to the world, which grew into vaudeville and burlesque with their multifarious European and American incarnations. These theatrical forms later evolved into what became known as the 'alternative comedy' of the 1980s.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, East London had more music hall theatres than any other part of the country. Many of these buildings were bombed in the war, were cleared away for the onset of social housing, became cinemas or fell into disrepair. From the ashes of its past, from its many forgotten lost theatres, a diverse and dynamic resource remains.

This project will celebrate and facilitate research into East London theatres and their history by making the precious archives of these buildings available to researchers and students with an academic interest in charting the influence and power of the area's contribution to theatre today.

The history of theatre in the East End has been a comparatively under-researched subject area, partly due to the inaccessibility of primary research materials. Overshadowed by the focus on the West End theatre, the theatre of the East End offers rich potential for researchers. This resource will address the lack of digital resources available in the performing arts sector.

This project will celebrate and facilitate research into East London theatres and their history by making the precious archives of these buildings available to researchers and students with an academic interest in charting the influence and power of the area's contribution to theatre today.

The Content

Around 15,000 digital objects will be created, mainly comprising images and papers, but also photographs, artefacts and media clips. It will be sourced from:

V&A Theatre Collections: *c.*10,000 items, including rare 19th-century playbills, modern programmes, contemporary press cuttings, prints, posters and architects' plans

Lift Living Archive: more than 300 boxes of documents, 4,000 photographs, 100 Festival programmes and leaflets, 700 hours of video documentation and 60 hours of audio recordings.

Theatre Royal Stratford East: includes important collections of Joan Littlewood's letters as well as material on the emergence of the black musical.

Hoxton Hall: includes photographs, Victorian ephemera and architectural items from the late 1800s to the present day.

Wilton's Music Hall: photos and papers from mainly modern performances.

Half Moon Young People's Theatre: an archive collection of papers, which tell the story of the rise of bilingual theatre within East London's transient immigrant populations.

Hackney Empire: an archive that charts the theatre's history through its music hall heyday to its demise and then resurgence.

The digitisation will be for preservation as well as access, and the standards will be carefully selected accordingly.

The Process

The digitisation will be for preservation as well as access, and the standards will be carefully selected accordingly. The objects will be recorded with detailed metadata, based on existing standards, but with extensions for the specific nature of the collection. The objects will be catalogued to a high standard and enriched with authoritative contextual essays to support the collection and provide insight for the targeted higher education and research audience.

The Future

The archive will take the form of a fully accessible digital collection and web site. Access to both the metadata and the materials will be open to the higher and further

education communities and also to the wider public, as this collection is of significant cultural and artistic value beyond its immediate academic value. The Institute for Performing Arts Development at the University of East London will begin to build specific research projects around the legacy of East London theatres in the coming years. V&A Theatre Collections will provide learning packs on selected themes, to allow visitors of the site to understand and contextualise information found within primary source materials such as playbills.

Glossary

Bit rate

In digital telecommunication, the bit rate is the number of bits that pass a given point in a telecommunication network in a given amount of time, usually a second. **www.whatis.com**

Digitisation

The process of converting information into a digital format. In this format, information is organised into discrete units of data (called bits) that can be separately addressed (usually in multiple-bit groups called bytes). This is the binary data that computers and many devices with computing capacity (such as digital cameras and digital hearing aids) can process. **www.whatis.com**

Document Type Definition

A Document Type Definition (DTD) is a specific document-defining and -constraining definition or set of statements that follow the rules of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) or of the Extensible Markup Language (XML). **www.whatis.com**

Download

Downloading is the transmission of a file from one computer system to another, usually smaller, computer system. From the Internet user's point-of-view, to download a file is to request it from another computer (or from a web page on another computer) and to receive it. **www.whatis.com**

Encoding

In digital technology, an encoding is a highly compressed video or sound file that preserves the quality of a video or audio recording. **www.whatis.com**

International Press Telecommunications Council

The IPTC, based in Windsor, UK, is a consortium of the world's major news agencies and news industry vendors. It develops and maintains technical standards for improved news exchange that are used by virtually every major news organisation in the world. **www.iptc.org**

JISC Information Environment

The JISC IE Architecture specifies a set of standards and protocols designed to realise the vision of delivering digital resources and services to users in an integrated way. **www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/themes/information_environment.aspx**

Mbps

Mbps stands for *millions of bits per second* or *megabits per second* and is a measure of bandwidth (the total information flow over a given time) on a telecommunications medium. **www.whatis.com**

Metadata

Meta is a prefix that in most information technology usages means 'an underlying definition or description'. Thus, metadata is a definition or description of data. **www.whatis.com**

OCR

OCR (optical character recognition) is the recognition of printed or written text characters by a computer. **www.whatis.com**

Open Access

The Open Access research literature is composed of free, online copies of peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers as well as technical reports, theses and working papers. In most cases there are no licensing restrictions on their use by readers. They can therefore be used freely for research, teaching and other purposes. **www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=pub_openaccess**

PDF

PDF (Portable Document Format) is a file format that has captured all the elements of a printed document as an electronic image that you can view, navigate, print, or forward to someone else. **www.whatis.com**

XML

XML (Extensible Markup Language) is a flexible way to create common information formats and share both the format and the data on the world wide web, intranets, and elsewhere. **www.whatis.com**

Additional information sources and support services

JISC Collections provides a multitude of examples of good ways to deliver digital content.

www.jisc-collections.ac.uk

AHDS provides services to aid the creation, use and preservation of digital collections in the arts and humanities and is partially funded by JISC.

www.ahds.ac.uk

BUFVC – The British Universities Film and Video Council promotes the use of moving image and audio resources and provides very useful information regarding digitisation from these formats. Partially funded by JISC.

www.bufvc.ac.uk

Digital Curation Centre provides a national focus for research into curation issues and promotes expertise and good practice, both national and international, for the management of all research outputs in digital format. Partially funded by JISC.

www.dcc.ac.uk/index.html

Digital Preservation Coalition fosters joint action on preservation of digital resources in the UK to secure our global digital memory and knowledge base.

www.dpconline.org

HEDS Digitisation Services provides papers and advice on planning and costing digitisation projects along with a complete digitisation service.

www.heds-digital.com

The JISC Legal Information Service provides legal resources for further and higher education and their web site is an excellent starting point for information on copyright and intellectual property rights and is funded by JISC.

www.jisclegal.ac.uk/ipr/IntellectualProperty.htm

TASI provides advice and guidance on the management of digitisation projects and creating, delivering and using digital images across all subject areas and is funded by JISC.

www.tasi.ac.uk

TechDis provides an advice and information resource via extensive web-based databases and an email helpdesk. These resources should be the first port of call for anyone in education who has a question relating to disability and technology. Funded by JISC.

www.techdis.ac.uk

UKOLN provides information and standards on how resources can interoperate and automated tools for testing web site accessibility. Partially funded by JISC.

www.ukoln.ac.uk

The JISC Digitisation Programme

This document is available in alternative formats
For more information: www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation

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