

# JISC

## The JISC Digitisation Programme: Overview of Projects

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](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation)

This document has been edited and produced by Dicky Maidment-Otlet and the JISC Communications and Marketing team.



## Foreword

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



*“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



*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](http://www.bopcris.ac.uk/18c)

## 18th Century Parliamentary Papers

### 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.



*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:**

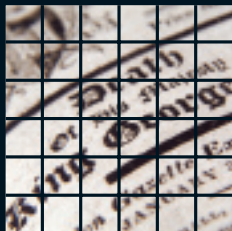
[www.bl.uk/sounds](http://www.bl.uk/sounds)

## Archival Sound Recordings

### 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.



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

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**Access to resource:**

Free access to UK FE/HE  
Institutions

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**Lead site:**

British Library

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**Launch date:**

October 2007

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**Web site:**

[www.bl.uk/collections/  
britishnewspapers1800to  
1900.html](http://www.bl.uk/collections/britishnewspapers1800to1900.html)

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## British Newspapers 1800–1900

### Overview:

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

Iconic historical events will be amply represented, 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* to name but a few. Many famous authors of the 19th-century period wrote for newspapers, and their work is represented, Dickens and Thackeray included.



*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)

## Medical Journals Backfiles Digitisation Project

### Overview:

This project will deliver around 2 million pages of text, derived by digitising the complete backfiles from a number of historically significant medical journals. All digitised content will be made freely available through PubMed Central ([www.pubmedcentral.gov](http://www.pubmedcentral.gov)). This project is jointly funded by JISC and the Wellcome Trust, who are working with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in the USA.

It isn't just the archive, however, that we intend to make freely available – but also current and future issues published by participating publishers. Wellcome and JISC have agreed to fund the backfile conversion and in return the publishers (as a condition of participation) have to deposit their current issues into the PubMed Central archive. Research articles deposited within PubMed Central must be made available for free within 24 months of publication, whilst all other content, such as editorials, letters, or reviews, must be made available within three years.





*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:**

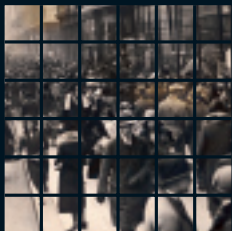
[www.bufvc.ac.uk/newsfilmonline](http://www.bufvc.ac.uk/newsfilmonline)

## Newsfilm Online

### 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.



*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

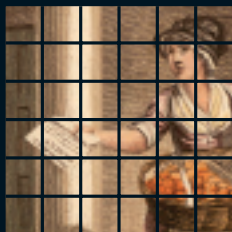
**Web site:**

[www.histpop.org](http://www.histpop.org)

## Online Historical Population Reports

### 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.



*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

## Electronic Ephemera – Digitised Selections from the John Johnson Collection

### Overview:

The John Johnson Collection is widely recognised as one of the most important collections of printed ephemera in the world and generally regarded as the most significant single collection of ephemera in the UK. 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, which has remained hidden to researchers up until now and which will surface through this innovative digitisation project.



*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

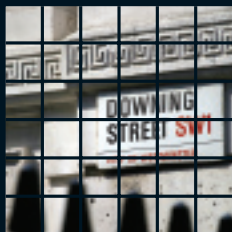
## First World War Poetry Digital Archive

### Overview:

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

The collection will bring together highly valued material, currently dispersed across the UK and the USA, including by the poets Edward Thomas, Robert Graves, Isaac Rosenberg and Roland Leighton.

Among the 2,000 digital images and 200 multimedia objects to be opened up to the public are drafts of Robert Graves' poems for 'Over the Brazier' and 'Fairies and Fusiliers', as well as an important extract from 'Goodbye to All That', drafts of Edward Thomas's war poems and diary and a selection of verse from women poets.



*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](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline)

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

### Overview:

Over half a million images to be digitised from microfilms to create an online resource with access to the full-text Cabinet papers from 1914–1975, plus a contextualisation package. 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 archive regardless of location or time, with metadata-enriched search facilities opening up research opportunities that paper- and microform-based search aids cannot deliver.



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

.....

**Access to resource:**

Free to Schools, Colleges  
& Universities in the UK

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**Lead site:**

University of Southampton

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**Launch date:**

March 2009

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**Web site:**

[www.curl.ac.uk/projects/  
NineteenOnline.htm](http://www.curl.ac.uk/projects/NineteenOnline.htm)

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**Partners:**

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

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## 19th-Century Pamphlets Online – phase 1

### Overview:

This project will provide online access to some of the most significant collections of 19th century pamphlets held in UK research libraries. The digitisation of around 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, will provide researchers, students and teachers with an immensely rich and coherent corpus of primary sources with which to study the socio-political and economic landscape of 19th-century Britain.



*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/](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/)

## Discovering the Poles – Historic Polar Images 1845–1960

### Overview:

The archival collections held by the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, 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. Until this attempt to capture and preserve the archive in digital form, the information in the collection ran a very real risk of extinction.

This 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. It will provide access to hidden collections for use at all educational levels.



*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](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

**Partners:**

No financial partners,  
dissemination via EDINA  
and AHDS History

## Portsmouth University: Historic Boundaries of Britain

### 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.





*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/>

## British Cartoon Archive Digitisation Project

### 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, thereby creating the largest archive of cartoons in the UK.

The entire collection of 15,000 cartoon images, with some 5,000 pages of related paperwork, will be made available. The current British Cartoon Archive web site and searchable catalogue will also be redeveloped to significantly increase its accessibility and usability and bring the metadata of the entire collection in line with current international standards.



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

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**Access to resource:**

Open Access  
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**Lead site:**

National Library of Wales  
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**Launch date:**

March 2009  
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**Web site:**

[www.welshjournals.llgc.org.uk](http://www.welshjournals.llgc.org.uk)  
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**Partners:**

WHELP (Welsh Higher  
Education Libraries  
Forum), National Assembly  
for Wales  
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## Welsh Journals Online

### 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.



## *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/dlcrmi](http://www.qub.ac.uk/cdda/dlcrmi)

### **Partners:**

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

## A Digital Library of Core e-Resources on Ireland

### 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.



*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  
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**Lead site:**

The British Library  
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**Launch date:**

March 2009  
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**Web site:**

[www.bl.uk/sounds](http://www.bl.uk/sounds)  
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## Archival Sound Recordings 2

### 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.



*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

## Voices: Moving Images in the Public Sphere

### Overview:

The project will deliver 600 hours of unique moving image materials and digitised contextual documents to educational communities and the public across the UK. It 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.

Material featured will include public record films, parliamentary coverage, national news broadcasts and campaigning films. This project will make research materials currently only accessible at one location widely available throughout further and higher education and to a wider public.



*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

## UK Theses Digitisation Project

### 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 an 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.



*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

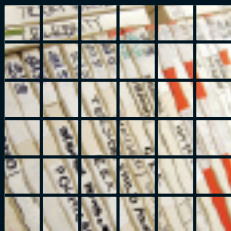
**Web site:**

[www.bl.uk/collections/  
newspapers.html](http://www.bl.uk/collections/newspapers.html)

## British Newspapers 1620–1900

### 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.



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

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**Access to resource:**

'Cost recovery' subscription to Schools, Colleges & Universities in the UK  
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**Lead site:**

Bournemouth University  
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**Launch date:**

March 2009  
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**Web site:**

Not yet available  
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**Partners:**

British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC)  
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## Digitisation of the LBC/IRN Archive

### Overview:

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

This project focuses on the most noteworthy content – 4,000 hours of recordings relating to news and current affairs. The archive to be digitised includes invaluable recordings of a wide range of broadcasts including coverage of the Falklands war, the miners' strike, Northern Ireland and the whole of the Thatcher period of government. It includes the first hours of UK commercial radio and the first commercial radio news.

Users will be able to access the recordings via a web site, which combines access to the archive catalogue and digital audio files.





*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

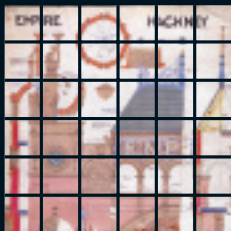
**Web site:**

Not yet available

## Pre-Raphaelite Resource Site

### 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.



## *Putting the spotlight on East End music hall heritage*

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**Access to resource:**

Open Access  
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**Lead site:**

University of East London  
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**Launch date:**

March 2009  
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**Web site:**

Not yet available  
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**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  
.....

## The East London Theatre Archive

### 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 JISC Digitisation Programme: Overview of Projects

This document is available in alternative formats

*For more information: [www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation)*

Further information about JISC:

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