What EDINA does:
A Community Report
Introduction

September 2011

EDINA delivers shared services for UK higher and further education with a mission to enhance the productivity of researchers, students and their teachers. In today’s uncertain climate we must re-interpret this to include both a reduction in costs as well as an increase in outcome and impact.

As we engage with the strategic objectives of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the leadership within institutions we must listen and reflect. But we must also re-affirm our sense of purpose to develop and deliver online services for researchers, lecturers and students at universities and colleges in the UK, and beyond – based upon innovation and a commitment to knowledge and understanding.

This booklet sets out what EDINA does. It complements our Annual Review, which we publish on our website where you can also browse across the range of online services we offer: edina.ac.uk

Many services follow open access principles; others are free at the point of use given the right credentials. All have good quality documentation and many have helpful case studies. This booklet provides a summary of those services and our project activities – check our website for the products of past activity and for copies of presentations.

There are some obvious flagship services in Digimap, SUNCAT and now JISC MediaHub. Over 90% of universities and almost two thirds of colleges within the UK make use of one or more of our services. Key to this success is effective collaboration with librarians and other academic support staff who work in colleges, universities, research institutions and schools. This is also an opportunity to say a public “thank you” to them, and for their valuable feedback. The uptake and usage of EDINA services has grown considerably since we began in our role as the JISC-designated national academic data centre, leveraging value for the wider UK academic community from both the infrastructure and our colleagues in Information Services at the University of Edinburgh.

Not so obvious to the casual observer are our research and development project activities, often working with researchers in the UK and internationally – including with our sister organisation Mimas, the national data centre based at the University of Manchester.

So too the essential middleware services that EDINA provides: technical support for the UK Access Management Federation, value enhancing geo-enabling tools, and interoperability facilities for the UK’s digital library. To these we also add innovation to help ensure continuity of access as well as digital preservation of key scholarly resources, and now the UK RepositoryNet+ initiative.

Finally, I’d like to acknowledge our principal partners who entrust EDINA to develop and deliver value-added shared services for research and education.

Peter Burnhill
Director
About EDINA

EDINA is the JISC national academic data centre based at the University of Edinburgh. We also have an office in Cheshire with three additional staff. Our main focus is the delivery of online services to staff and students in UK universities and colleges. We also undertake a range of research projects to inform future service developments and directions. This Community Report, our Annual Review and Strategy and Business Development Plans can be found at:

edina.ac.uk/about/docs.html

The structure of the Community Report reflects the home page of the EDINA website.

Uptake of EDINA Online Services

EDINA hosts over 20 national services; these are listed on the home page of our website (shown below). About 400 institutions are licensed to use at least one EDINA service, a market coverage of over 90% of universities and about 60% of colleges within the UK. The total number of institutional licences for EDINA services is currently just under 840; of which just over 300 subscriptions are managed by JISC Collections covering the suite of Digimap Collection services and the new MediaHub service. UKBORDERS, a free service requiring individuals to register, is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of its Census Programme. For a small number of services, such as Land Life Leisure, the Statistical Accounts of Scotland and agcensus, EDINA collects the subscriptions for what are JISC-Approved rather than JISC-Funded services. All of our online services are “free at the point of use”, given the right credentials.

EDINA also hosts services which are openly available:

- the GoGeo portal, the place to discover geospatial information
- SUNCAT, the national union catalogue of serials
- OpenDepot.org, a key deposit facility for researchers worldwide without an institutional repository
Mission Statement

EDINA seeks to enhance the productivity, quality and cost-effectiveness of research and education in the UK and beyond.

EDINA is a UK national academic data centre, designated by JISC on behalf of UK funding bodies to support the activity of universities, colleges and research institutes in the UK, by delivering access to a range of online data services through a UK academic infrastructure, as well as supporting knowledge exchange and ICT capacity building, nationally and internationally.

EDINA innovates, generating knowledge, expertise and trust through a focus on ease and continuity of access to scholarly resources and tools.

Strategy & Business Development


The most significant change in the external landscape for EDINA since the publication of its last Strategy has been the Wilson Review of JISC, coinciding with the Government response to public debt, a renewed focus upon the impact of funded research, and changed institutional financing.

EDINA will concentrate on supporting the strategic objectives of JISC and the sector, providing shared services that enable institutions to save money, as well as on managing any reductions in core funding. This includes recognising areas where it no longer needs to act or cannot secure revenue, but also involves building capacity for the long-term.

Operational Priorities

The following are priority areas for activity in line with JISC strategic objectives:

- Ease and continuity of access to scholarly resources
  - Mobile Internet & preservation
  - Contributing to Discovery, the metadata ecology for research and education in the UK
  - Initiating and managing infrastructure in the UK for research literature repositories
- Leadership in the creation of the UK Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), with the UK Location Council and towards an academic SDI in Europe;
  - “Geo-enabling” services across the JISC Information Environment and developing the international E-Framework for Education and Research
  - Assisting UK universities to understand their obligations under the EU INSPIRE regulations
- Support for the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research, with authoritative middleware, providing technical support and tools for members, including schools
- Consolidate and improve upon existing collaborations, and build new partnerships
Reference & Multimedia Services

JISC MediaHub

JISC MediaHub is part of the new JISC eCollections service, a world-class collection of journal archives, historical books and multimedia content licensed by JISC Collections on behalf of its member institutions.

JISC MediaHub succeeds three JISC-funded EDINA services: Film & Sound Online, Education Image Gallery and NewsFilm Online, and includes the collections licensed under the JISC-funded Digital Images for Education initiative, the still-image collections which made up the Education Image Gallery. JISC MediaHub also searches an increasing range of other third-party collections hosted elsewhere and relevant to UK Further and Higher Education, such as Culture Grid, Wellcome Images and The First World War Poetry Archive.

JISC MediaHub now gives users a single point-of-access searching a total of over half a million records in image, moving image and sound collections. The JISC funded collections are:

- **News Film Online**
  Over 3,000 hours of digitised news stories from the ITN/Reuters archives, comprising some 60,000 stories. The sources include the complete Gaumont and Paramount newsreels, from 1910 and 1934 respectively. Many ITN broadcasts also include scripts and rushes, enabling comparison of the raw material and the edited footage that was broadcast.

- **Film & Sound Online**
  Over 2,000 items, comprising 17 separate collections of digitised film and sound, including Imperial War Museum film footage, the Royal Mail Film collection, and scientific content from the Wellcome Library and the Biochemical Society. The service also includes over 50 hours of classical music recording from the Culverhouse collection.

- **Digital Images for Education**
  The result of a £2.75 million worth of procurement during 2009-10, this resource comprises over 56,000 images and 600 hours of film selected by the education community to capture local, UK and world events during the last 25 years. Sources include the AP Archive, Getty Images, ITN, Design Council Archives, Imperial War Museum, Royal Geographical Society, Fitzwilliam Museum and PYMCA.

NewsFilm Online

Available since August 2008, NewsFilm Online is a collection of some 3,000 hours of downloadable television news, cinema newsreels and associated materials, selected from the ITN/Reuters archives and digitised by the British Universities Film & Video Council (BUFVC) as a three-year project in the JISC Digitisation programme.

Suitable for all academic levels, NewsFilm Online is relevant to many subject areas, including arts and culture, conflicts, crime and justice, disasters, education, environment, health, labour, lifestyle, money, politics, religion and faith, science, society, sports and weather.

Users at subscribing institutions can download over 50,000 copyright-cleared, segmented video encodings and 24,000 programme scripts, all supported by extensive background documentation. NewsFilm Online is free to subscribing institutions. Content from NewsFilm Online is also available from within JISC MediaHub (see above).

www.nfo.ac.uk
Tobar an Dualchais

The Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o’ Riches website was formally launched in December 2010. The website is a result of a multi-million-pound Heritage Lottery-funded collaborative project which was set up to preserve, digitise, catalogue and make available online several thousand hours of Gaelic and Scots recordings from the archives of BBC Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland and the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

The service contains a wealth of material such as folklore, songs, music, history, poetry, traditions, stories and other information. The material has been collected from all over Scotland and beyond from the 1930s onwards and will ensure that Scotland’s rich oral heritage is safeguarded and made widely available for educational and personal use for future generations.

EDINA and the University of Edinburgh Information Services department contributed a cataloguing and production control and a cataloguing application for the web-based input of metadata and EDINA developed and hosts the website.

www.tobarandualchais.co.uk

Carmichael Watson

The recently launched Carmichael Watson collection is a major Scottish folklore website resulting from a project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project digitised the papers of the pioneering folklorist Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912), and is the foremost collection of its kind in the country: a treasure-chest of stories, songs, customs, and beliefs from the Gaelic-speaking areas of Scotland.

Through cataloguing, indexing, transcribing, translating, digitisation, and conservation, the project aimed to open up and make accessible this important collection to the academic and broader community. EDINA designed and developed the website to showcase the papers and related materials, in liaison with the Centre for Research Collections at the University of Edinburgh,

www.carmichaelwatson.lib.ed.ac.uk/cwatson/

SUNCAT

As the UK national catalogue of serials, SUNCAT is both the key online resource for locating serials in UK research libraries and a source of high quality records to help libraries upgrade local catalogues (OPACs).

At the time of publication, SUNCAT holds information on the serials held in 81 of the largest research and university libraries in the UK. These include the three national libraries and a growing number of smaller libraries with specialist collections. The intention is to achieve comprehensive coverage of UK universities and important research collections. SUNCAT receives regular updates for the ISSN Register, the Conser database and from the contributing libraries, and acquires monthly updates for the Directory of Open Access Journals.

Funded by JISC, and developed in partnership with Ex Libris, the success of SUNCAT depends upon collaborative effort by the contributing libraries, with attention having had to be paid to the variable quality of serials data in local OPACs.

Zetoc table-of-content linking has been added to SUNCAT enabling users to display article titles from the latest issues of selected journals with further links to full text.

The downloading service was considerably enhanced during the year by making available records from 17 Contributing Libraries, including all the UK legal deposit libraries, other major research libraries in the UK, as well as a selection of specialist libraries.

www.suncat.ac.uk

SALSER

Established in 1994 as one of the first web-based union catalogues of serials and as an initiative of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL), SALSER includes up-to-date coverage of journals available at Scottish universities, the municipal research libraries of Edinburgh and Glasgow, a number of smaller Scottish research libraries and the National Library of Scotland. SALSER also provides links to local OPACs and information on opening hours, visitor access and borrowing requirements.

Records contributed by Scottish libraries to SUNCAT (see above) are also loaded into SALSER.

The service interface has been redesigned was launched in September 2011.

edina.ac.uk/salser
Statistical Accounts of Scotland

The Statistical Accounts of Scotland is arguably the best source of contemporary comment on Britain’s experience of the agricultural and industrial revolutions. It has both a free service and a value-added service, accessible by institutional or individual subscription.

The value-added service has advanced searching, a transcript of the text, and a number of additional texts that lend historical context, such as a transcription of the questions asked of ministers by Sir John Sinclair, digitised images and an annotated transcript of the manuscripts for three parishes, Sir John Sinclair’s Specimens of Statistical Reports and Analysis of the Statistical Account of Scotland published in 1793 and 1826 respectively, and the 1801 census return for the parish of Stow.

During 2010, an Index of Compilers which lists the names of the people responsible for compiling the accounts of parishes that form the First and Second Statistical Accounts of Scotland, a list of the location of maps within both the First and Second Accounts and a brief guide to key information sources on parish boundaries in Scotland were made available.

edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/

CAB Abstracts

CAB Abstracts is a weekly updated bibliographic database compiled by CAB International (CABI) and offered by EDINA since 1999. It covers the significant research and development literature in the fields of agriculture, forestry, aspects of human and animal health, conservation and leisure and tourism. It now contains over 6.3 million records from 1973 to date. Each year 300,000 records are added from over 7,500 serial titles, books, monographs, technical reports, proceedings, patents and published theses.

In addition to the contemporary service, an archive is offered by separate subscription covering the period 1910-1972.

Full-text content from CABI, with over 100,000 items is now included to supplement the many full-text links in the service.

edina.ac.uk/cab/

Land Life Leisure

Land Life Leisure provides a weekly index of current practice and developments in temperate agriculture and many rural topics – conservation, estate management, forestry, horticulture, organic husbandry, rural planning, recreation, tourism, and environmental issues.

The database originated from the academic and research community, mainly Aberystwyth University. The current contributing indexers are Coleg Sir Gâr, Bicton, Harper Adams, Pershore, Myerscough, and the Royal Agricultural Colleges.

The content continues to expand, and the archive back to 1990 now exceeds 400,000 entries. 25 university, college and non-academic organisations continue to access the service.

edina.ac.uk/landlifeleisure/

OpenDepot.org

The OpenDepot.org service supports researchers worldwide who wish to make their work available on an Open Access basis. They do so either by being redirected to their institutional repository by the Open Access Repository Junction (OA-RJ) discovery tool (see page 12), or by direct deposit into OpenDepot. The latter is especially valuable for authors who do not have access to local repository services in which to deposit their papers, articles, and book chapters (e-prints).

The Depot was originally commissioned by JISC to support its RepositoryNet Initiative with the objective of ensuring that there was a national open access repository during the interim period while all universities set up their own institutional repository. That project funding ended but consultations within the Open Access movement indicated that there was a comparable need on a global stage.

OpenDepot.org is OAI-compliant, allowing deposited e-prints to be “harvested” by search engines and other repositories, giving them instant global visibility.

opendepot.org
Digimap Collections

The Digimap Collections are an essential part of the UK education and research landscape. They have significance across many disciplines as key reference resources. Available through JISC Collections, the Digimap Collections include maps and map data of various types available on a subscription basis. Originally, Digimap provided online access to national mapping from Ordnance Survey; this Collection celebrated 10 years of service in 2010. In April 2005, a second Collection, Historic Digimap, was created to provide access to earlier Ordnance Survey maps from Landmark Information Group. Two further Collections have since been launched. In January 2007 mapping from the British Geological Survey (BGS) was made available as Geology Digimap and in January 2008 Digimap was further extended to include marine and coastal zone mapping provided through Marine Digimap. This academic year has seen consolidation and rationalisation of the services offered from the Digimap platform. Building on the introduction of the “Roam”-based mapping services last year, there has been much harmonization of the source code so that service enhancements that can be applied across collections.

The main enhancements introduced this year were the Annotation and Measurement tools for Digimap Roam; these were then quickly deployed into the other three Roam services (Geology Roam, Ancient Roam and Marine Roam) before the end of the academic year.

All services have also benefited from a new help system which has made it much easier to create and update information to support users.

A total of 144 universities and colleges subscribed to the Digimap Collections for 2010-2011, with a total of over 193,500 registered users over the past 11 years.

edina.ac.uk/digimap

Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection

The Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection includes digital map data and high quality cartographic products based on selected Ordnance Survey map products, with full coverage of Great Britain for all of those datasets. Using a variety of different applications, users can choose their own scale, control the feature content of their maps, print maps up to A0 in size and download spatial data for use in GIS and CAD desktop applications.

The use of Digimap’s Ordnance Survey Collection continues to rise, year on year. In 2010-2011 there were 46,000 active users, accessing the service over 282,000 times. Digimap Roam has continued to provide a huge number of maps to the users along with Digimap Carto. 6.5 million screen maps were viewed in this period.

Users downloaded 762,000 km$^2$ of OS MasterMap Topography Layer data, 15.1 million km$^2$ of OS Integrated Transport Network (ITN) data, and over 440,000 data files from other OS data products.

There are currently 147 institutions subscribing to the Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection.

Historic Digimap

Historic Digimap provides access to digital images of historical Ordnance Survey paper maps of Great Britain for the period 1843 to 1996, digitised by Landmark Information Group. Users can view maps online, save them for printing and download map images for use in Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

There are currently 75 institutions subscribing to Historic Digimap and during 2010-2011 there were nearly 70,000 sessions. (Continued on next page)
The introduction of Ancient Roam and Historic Download has meant that there has been a great increase in the amount of data that users are viewing and downloading. Over 3.5 million maps were viewed and nearly 460,000 files were downloaded, a significant increase on the previous year.

The results of a metadata capture project with the NLS were also added into the service allowing our users to access the survey dates for Scottish historic maps.

**Geology Digimap**

Geology Digimap delivers geological maps and data from the British Geological Survey (BGS). Users are able to view maps through a web browser, click on the map to get information on the rock units and save maps for printing. There is also a download interface where users can take the geological map data to use in their own Geographical Information Systems. The service currently contains the DIGMapGB-50, DIGMapGB-250, DIGMapGB-250 Offshore and DIGMapGB-625 datasets which contain not only information about the rock type but also superficial deposits, faults and, in the largest scale product, many other features such as artificial ground and mineral veins. There are also textual descriptions of the rocks provided by the Lexicon of Named Rock Units.

There are currently 50 subscribing institutions. The number of sessions rose to over 30,000 in 2010-2011. There are now almost 58,000 registered users, of which around 20,000 are active.

Geology Roam, with an enhanced backdrop of Ordnance Survey mapping, was launched in June 2010 and more recently offers photographs of geological features taken from the JIDI Image Collections. The photographs are associated with particular rock types and are mapped as clickable “hotspots” within the mapping interface. Geology Roam has produced over 650,000 maps so far.

The interface has been updated to include an improved rock information map query tool and enhanced functionality to interact with the map and the legend.

**Marine Digimap**

Marine Digimap provides access to hydrographic maps and data from SeaZone Solutions Ltd. Two data products are available:

- Hydrospatial, a vector dataset providing information in topic layers, ranging from bathymetry and elevation, to climate and oceanography
- Charted Raster product, which are scanned images of Admiralty Charts

Users are able to view maps through their web browser, save them locally for printing and download the marine and coastal data for use in GIS software.

There are 16 institutions subscribing to Marine Digimap with a total of over 15,000 registered users, of which over 6,000 are currently active, showing that it has appeal beyond those studying marine and the coastal environment.

The new Marine Roam interface, which uses the Hydrospatial data, provides a convenient and simple means of viewing this complex dataset. So far it has produced nearly 30,000 screen maps since it was launched in October 2010.

**Digimap for Schools**

Launched in August 2010, Digimap for Schools is an online mapping service for use by teachers and pupils in schools throughout the United Kingdom. The new service is a collaborative venture with Ordnance Survey and JISC Collections for Schools.

Based upon the existing Roam framework available through Digimap’s Ordnance Survey Collection, Digimap for Schools offers easy access to a range of current Ordnance Survey maps, including the most detailed mapping available for Great Britain – OS MasterMap – as well as digital versions of Ordnance Survey’s famous paper maps, the Landranger and Explorer series. This is the first time that schools have had easy access to national coverage of these datasets. During 2011 the service has been enhanced with annotation and measurement tools.

Digimap for Schools is a subscription service, although under an introductory scheme arranged and organised by Ordnance Survey around 8,000 schools across Great Britain have received vouchers to enable free access to the service until December 2011. This voucher scheme forms part of a transition phase to encourage schools to move from print to digital maps.

In April 2011 the service was presented the Gold Geographical Association Publishers’ Award in recognition of its significant contribution to geographical education.

digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk
**agcensus**

The agcensus service provides online access to grid-square Agricultural Census and Survey data for England, Scotland and Wales. The data ranges from 1969 to present and provides realistic estimates of what was produced, how much was produced and where it was produced. Users can visualise or download data for use in software packages, such as GIS or spreadsheets. A recent addition is the ability to download data in the Open Geospatial Consortium Standard Keyhole Markup Language (KML) format. This allows registered users to visualise the distribution of chosen census variables using open geo-browsers.

During 2010-11, the 2009 and 2010 small area data for Scotland, and 2008, 2009, 2010 data for Wales was brought into service.

Currently the service has 23 subscriptions.

[edina.ac.uk/agcensus](http://edina.ac.uk/agcensus)

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**ShareGeo Open**

ShareGeo allows users to share and re-use derived geospatial datasets within the Digimap service under the JISC Collections licensing arrangements. It allows data sharing to take place that would otherwise not be possible due to restrictions on re-use of licensed data.

In April 2010 a suite of core geospatial data products belonging to the Ordnance Survey were made available under new OS OpenData Licence Terms and Conditions. The terms and conditions of the OS OpenData Licence are conducive to the sharing and re-use of derived data products in open repositories. JISC’s funding of ShareGeo Open is a timely addition to the UK academic Spatial Data Infrastructure, enabling UK researchers, students and lecturers creating geospatial data to deposit their research and operational data in a repository that will be open to all to search and download.

Recently a plugin was implemented to allow direct data deposit into ShareGeo Open from within desktop mapping software via the SWORD protocol; the plugin has been downloaded over 660 times.

Since ShareGeo Open went live in June 2010 there have been over 6,400 data downloads of the 160 datasets.

[www.sharegeo.ac.uk](http://www.sharegeo.ac.uk)

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**UKBORDERS**

This is the longest-running service offered by EDINA; in fact it slightly predates the launch of EDINA as a JISC national data centre in 1996. An integral part of the ESRC Census Programme, for which EDINA acts as the Geography Data Unit, UKBORDERS offers access to more than 400 digital boundary datasets for past and present geographic areas as well as associated geographic lookup tables.

A census demonstrator project – Data Integration and Dissemination (DIA) – was completed in 2009. This investigated the use of web services for data linkage and data delivery and produced a number of outputs that will be integrated into UKBORDERS as trial services.

The EDINA User Support team have created a suite of learning objects for UKBORDERS, which have been deposited in JorumOpen. Together these materials cover aspects of UK geography that users may come across when working with data from UKBORDERS and the wider ESRC census programme. Eight user-supplied Case Studies are now available within the service.

Two new interfaces have been made available: a Thematic Mapping Wizard allowing users to generate their own choropleth maps, and a Dynamic Lookup Table service allowing users to create bespoke geography reference tables.

UKBORDERS was accessed by just over 3,600 users from 144 institutions with nearly 28,500 sessions during 2010-2011.

[edina.ac.uk/ukborders](http://edina.ac.uk/ukborders)

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**GoGeo**

The GoGeo portal enables users to discover geospatial information and services for education and research and is regarded as a critical component of the UK Spatial Data Infrastructure.

GoGeo enables users to find data, geospatial services and resources, learn about geospatial metadata and access tools to create and publish standards-compliant geospatial metadata.

GoGeo searches across many national geospatial catalogues. Search functionality includes keywords, map-based searching and place-name searching (through the use of Unlock Places – see p. 10). Users can find other related resources such as books, training courses, learning materials, news, events, organisations, journals and software.

GoGeo also hosts Geodoc, an online geospatial metadata creation tool. Geodoc enables creators of geospatial data to document them to a variety of standards-compliant schemas.

Together, GoGeo and Geodoc ensure the UK HE sector can engage with the UK Location Programme and the INSPIRE Directive at the EU level.

A new interface with improved usability, functionality and visual design went live in May 2011.

[www.gogeo.ac.uk](http://www.gogeo.ac.uk)
Middleware & Infrastructure Projects

Support for the UK Access Management Federation

Since August 1st 2011 the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research (the UK federation) has been operated on behalf of JISC by a partnership of JISC Collections and EDINA, assuming the role of federation operator from JANET(UK).

EDINA provides technical and operational support to members of the UK federation. The key task is responsibility for the management and integrity of the metadata that underpins the federation.

The UK federation, which had its origin in the SDSS federation developed at EDINA from April 2004 to March 2007 (see below), is the largest academic federation in the world and is still growing. It now has almost 850 member organisations and comprises over 1250 entities (Identity providers and Service providers). The SDSS team also host and maintain the federation website which contains full details of the federation and its operation.

The UK federation Support Team at EDINA manages the metadata that underpins it and supplies technical support to its members. In August 2011, a new centralised Discovery Service (WAYF) was implemented, based on user testing. This should improve the login experience for users throughout the UK education sector.

www.ukfederation.org.uk  
edina.ac.uk/projects/UKFedTechSupport.html

Shibboleth Development and Support Services: Access Management Expert Group

The EDINA SDSS team has been designated by the JISC as an Expert Group in Access Management in recognition of their successful work in the development of the UK federation (see above) and its predecessor, the SDSS federation.

The task of the group is two-fold: to advise and inform the JISC on matters related to access and identity management and to contribute to the development the technical base (Shibboleth) underpinning the UK federation.

A contract has been agreed between EDINA and SWITCH, the Swiss academic network, to form the Shibboleth Consortium to provide coordination and a means to engage the personnel to develop the Shibboleth federated access management software. The Consortium will ensure development of the Shibboleth codebase upon which the UK federation depends. EDINA, through its SDSS Expert Group activity, is the lead member of the Consortium and is responsible for the distribution of funding from JISC and SWITCH.

The SDSS Expert Group contributes, nationally and internationally, to the development and maintenance of the Shibboleth infrastructure and codebase. Nationally, the federation operator refers technical issues related to the operation of the UK federation to the SDSS Expert Group.

edina.ac.uk/projects/SDSS_Expertgroup_summary.html  
www.switch.ch/

Unlock

Unlock is a gazetteer and geo-referencing infrastructure service that provides two sets of web services; one is a “gazetteer cross-search”, comparing different sources of geographic data for information about place-names. The other is a “geo-parsing” service, using text mining techniques to extract place-names from resources (text or metadata) to allow collections to be searched by location.

Unlock Places offers search across licensed OS data sources for subscribers to Digimap OS Collection. Last year Unlock was adapted to include an open data gazetteer, which provides world-wide coverage and includes the OS Open Data products.

In terms of the JISC Information Environment, Unlock is a shared terminology service that can underpin geographic searching and geo-referencing for other services. Unlock can help with data and resource linking and improving the metadata describing scholarly work.

unlock.edina.ac.uk
Digimap OpenStream

Launched in October 2010, Digimap OpenStream now has over 1,700 registered users. OpenStream enables users of desktop GIS to have the most current up-to-date Ordnance Survey streamed live to their desktop without the need of storing and managing data. For those creating web mash-ups the service delivers up-to-date mapping in a fast, interoperable manner.

EDINA aims to provide the latest version of OS OpenData via the OpenStream service. This means that datasets may be updated part way through an academic year.

openstream.edina.ac.uk

OpenURL Router

This facility is generally hidden from end users, operating as “middleware” that helps online service providers locate the appropriate copy of the full text of a journal article for its users. The OpenURL is a form of query used to send requests from one service to another using bibliographic references and the institutional affiliation of the user. Typically, institutional libraries make use of commercial OpenURL resolvers; the OpenURL Router operates a central registry of these and forwards requests onto the appropriate OpenURL resolver service.

The OpenURL Router showed continuing high levels of use over 2010-2011, with 97 institutions registered. The development work to assist those colleges and universities that do not have a resolver service is described in the GetCopy section below.

openurl.ac.uk/doc

GetCopy

GetCopy is an appropriate copy resolver, less well-featured than the several OpenURL resolvers that are offered commercially, but with its own distinctive approach and at a low operational cost.

A linking tool that connects a reference to a journal article with offers of full-text copy in printed or electronic form, GetCopy has been designed to be a lightweight and business-neutral tool, operating on existing permissions. As a consequence, GetCopy defers the authorisation or authentication required for document delivery transactions: it simply determines the location of appropriate copies, and directs the end-user accordingly. GetCopy was developed to carry out the “locate” part of the JISC-funded JOIN-UP cluster of projects on journal articles.

edina.ac.uk/getcopy
Repositories & Preservation Projects

The Keepers Registry

The Keepers Registry (Beta Release) is the online record of global stewardship by organisations that have taken responsibility for ensuring long-term continuity of access to international scholarship: the British Library, CLOCKSS Archive, e-Depot – National Library of the Netherlands (KB), Global LOCKSS Network, HathiTrust and Portico.

Each of these archiving organisations has provided a description of their approach to ingest and digital preservation, as well as information on access conditions to the journal content they hold. For the volumes it is ingesting the archiving organisation supplies metadata, which is normalised and checked against the ISSN Register (an authoritative source for the identification of serial publications worldwide) to produce a record of what journal titles each is preserving, together with a statement of the extent of the journal content that is held.

The Keepers Registry Beta service is a development of the PEPRS Beta service, which it has replaced and which was created by the JISC-funded PEPRS project – “Piloting an E-journal Preservation Registry Service” (see page 13).

thekeepers.org

The UK LOCKSS Alliance

Lots Of Copies Keep Stuff Safe (LOCKSS) is an international initiative to ensure libraries remain central to the process of scholarly information management.

EDINA supports the UK LOCKSS Alliance by providing technical support to members and coordinating the development of the operation as a self-governing co-operative organisation. Maintenance funding comes from its 16 members, and the first of a three-year grant from JISC for development and community engagement has just been completed.

The goal is to build capacity and collaborative action to ensure continuing access to scholarly work that universities regard as important and at risk. This includes taking advantage of what is done nationally and internationally.

The UK LOCKSS Alliance works with JISC Collections to build upon NESLi2 and NESLi2-SMP negotiation activity, and is a member of the Digital Preservation Coalition to engage with broader UK policy issues.

edina.ac.uk/lockss/

CLOCKSS

As more and more content moves online, there is a concern that this digital content may not always be available. Controlled LOCKSS (CLOCKSS) is an international digital preservation scheme for scholarly publications, initially for journal articles, that has been built by and is being supported by a partnership between the library community and some of the world’s largest scholarly publishers, who account for over 60% of digital journal content.

EDINA provides a support role for the initiative taken by the University of Edinburgh as one of seven founding libraries in CLOCKSS. Edinburgh is one of the 12 steward libraries in a global network of Archive Nodes. Together with Stanford University Libraries, EDINA acts as a designated Open Access host for “orphaned” journal content when a trigger event is confirmed by the CLOCKSS Boards. To date four sets of content have been released, to test the readiness of the CLOCKSS system and to make journal articles available under Open Access that might otherwise have been lost to global scholarship.

edina.ac.uk/projects/clockss_summary.html

Open Access Repository Junction

The aim of the OA-RJ project is to assist Open Access deposit into, and interoperability between, existing repository services by developing a discovery tool and proof-of-concept deposit broker service. It is a practical investigation into the problems of repository deposit and interoperability currently faced by researchers writing multi-authored journal articles from multiple institutions and grant funding bodies.

The Repository Junction discovery tool is a database with over 13,000 institutions, 2,000 repositories and network ranges, which when queried allows institutions or authors to be matched to appropriate repositories. The data can be accessed by third party developers through a suite of APIs and is also available as four-star linked data.

edina.ac.uk/projects/Open_Access_Repository_Junction_summary.html

UK RepositoryNet+

JISC has recently announced funding for EDINA to lead the development and management of shared infrastructure and curation services for repositories in the UK. The aim over the next 20 months is to create and foster social and technical shared infrastructure that will enable deposit, curation and dissemination of research literature. This will be carried out in line with JISC advocacy for Open Access and visibility of research at universities, including preparation for the research excellence framework.

A central task for the project is to assist universities and colleges as they embed repositories within institutional processes at an economic cost and demonstrate value for researchers and their funders.
Project Activity

Reference & Multimedia Projects

Piloting an E-Journals Preservation Registry Service - PEPRS

PEPRS Phase 2 is a JISC funded project running from August 2010 to July 2012. The project builds upon the work of PEPRS Phase 1, which created a working demonstrator to establish the form of a registry service for preservation information about e-journals and was based on known user requirements.

PEPRS launched a well-received public Beta service, based on the original demonstrator, in April 2011. The aim was to provide librarians and policy makers with information on who is doing what to preserve e-journal content. Working in partnership with the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) International Centre in Paris, PEPRS can check the actions of archival agencies against details of over 66,000 electronic serials held in the ISSN Register. The archival agencies involved in PEPRS thus far include CLOCKSS, e-Depot/KB (National Library of the Netherlands), Global LOCKSS Network, Portico, and the British Library. EDINA is now in discussion with other international agencies to include their holding information.

This Beta service will be relaunched in early October as the Keepers Registry (see page 12). The PEPRS project activity will continue to provide enhancements to this service.

edina.ac.uk/projects/peprs/

Pilot for Ensuring Continuity of Access via NESLi2

Phase 2 of the Pilot for Ensuring Continuity of Access via NESLi2 (PECAN) project builds on work carried out jointly by EDINA and JISC Collections that identified the need to develop a shared service to record each higher education institution’s archival access to journal titles. Central to supplying this need is an “Entitlement Registry” which would provide an authoritative record of access entitlement, increasingly important when institutions cancel journal deals as a result of budget pressures and when titles move from one publisher to another.

EDINA has been awarded short-term funding to take the first step towards developing a potential service for use by higher education institutions and publishers alike by implementing a prototype demonstrator of the software needed to store, manage and access the entitlement information. The project runs from May to September 2011.

edina.ac.uk/projects/pecan2_summary.html

Digital Monograph Technical Landscape study (#jiscPUB)

This project was a short six month landscape study looking at the issues surrounding the adoption of e-book reader technology to assist with the publishing of scholarly literature, in particular monographs.

Recently the marketplace has exploded with a proliferation of e-book devices and demand for content to read on them. There is currently a great opportunity for readers and authors of scholarly materials to write, publish and read their works in new ways, taking advantage of the benefits that the network and new e-book reader devices will deliver.

The project created working demonstrators of tools for authors to use to create and publish their works in e-book device accessible formats. By working with active authors we hoped to gain insight on the technical implications that the project discovers and to provide commentary on the tools that the project creates.

Finally, the project carried out independent research into the current landscape of digital monograph publishing in Higher Education and Further Education in both the UK and internationally, and will provide recommendations to JISC on future activities in this area.

The project finished at the end of July 2011.

jiscpub.blogs.edina.ac.uk

Using OpenURL Activity Data

EDINA has recently undertaken a project funded by JISC to explore how OpenURL Router activity data could be made available as an aggregation on which services could be built for the good of the academic community. The project started in November 2010 with an initial investigation into the institutional, organisational and legal issues relating to the holding and processing of IP addresses as potential personal data, and the steps needed to develop a quality service within the bounds of the law.

Following a successful initial investigation with clear next steps, the project focused on developing an aggregation based on anonymised activity data from the OpenURL Router, and if possible an institution’s OpenURL resolver data, that other projects may use. An award winning article recommender prototype was built to demonstrate exploitation of the aggregated OpenURL data. The data aggregation is now available from OpenURL Router Data under an open data licence.

The final report for the project can be found at the link below. See page 11 for information about the Open URL Router service.

edina.ac.uk/projects/Using_OpenURL_Activity_data_summary.html

openurl.ac.uk/doc/data/data.html
**SUNCAT: exploring open metadata - UK Discovery project**

The vision articulated by UK Discovery has emphasised the importance of metadata being open, reliable, sustainable and suitable for reuse. The scale, nature and comprehensiveness of the SUNCAT metadata, covering as it does the serials records of many major research libraries in the UK and Ireland, means that it is a priceless resource and potentially of great value for reuse.

Work has been carried out in the SUNCAT: exploring open metadata project to explore the issues of making the data open, both a technical and legal challenge. Many of the records provided to SUNCAT have not been provided by the staff in the contributing libraries, but rather acquired from third parties who can and do claim some degree of ownership over the records. Accordingly it has been necessary to ask the librarians to sign agreements with EDINA for the release of their data. It is planned to implement an API to allow access to the data. The first outcomes of this work will be made available in Autumn 2011.

[edina.ac.uk/projects/ukdiscovery_summary.html](http://edina.ac.uk/projects/ukdiscovery_summary.html)

**Maps & Data Projects**

**AddressingHistory**

The six month AddressingHistory project, funded by JISC, ended in September 2010. The project created an online tool, enabling a broad spectrum of users, both within and outwith academia (particularly local history groups and genealogists), to combine data from digitised historical Scottish Post Office Directories with contemporaneous historical maps.

The project focussed on three eras of Edinburgh mapping and Post Office Directories (1784-5, 1865, 1905-6); however the technologies demonstrated were designed to be scalable to the full collection of digitised materials, which include 400 directories and associated maps covering the whole of Scotland.

The second phase of this project is being led by EDINA with in-kind support from the National Library of Scotland. Development is concentrating upon the sustainability and interoperability of the AddressingHistory tool and API, thus resonating with JISC’s vision to build sustainable and durable deliverables. The interface has been refined and a number of features and functionality implemented. All development code is open and available under a GNU General Public Licence.

[edina.ac.uk/projects/addressinghistory_summary.html](http://edina.ac.uk/projects/addressinghistory_summary.html)

**Scottish Spatial Data Infrastructure**

EDINA has renewed a partnership with the Scottish Government to develop a pilot discovery metadata service as a key component of a Scottish Spatial Data Infrastructure. This pilot addresses obligations under the INSPIRE regulations for public bodies to produce, maintain and manage metadata about their geospatial resources. Built using open source software, this enables the creation and discovery of UK standards-compliant GEMINI2 dataset, series and service metadata records.

This project runs from March 2011 to March 2012.

[edina.ac.uk/projects/scottishsdi_summary.html](http://edina.ac.uk/projects/scottishsdi_summary.html)

**Geospatial Engagement and Community Outreach (GECO)**

The over-arching purpose of GECO is to foster communities of users of geospatial resources. Geospatial taken in its broadest sense underpins a vast array of academic endeavour - geography represents a fundamental organising axis for information. Space (and time) are fundamental aspects of most resources and activities, and the purpose of GECO is to increase the use of geospatial tools, infrastructure and information; collate exemplars of use; identify and promote best practice; assist with the maturation of the UK academic Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI); promote the JISC Geospatial Working Group’s (GWG) Vision for geospatial resources; champion awareness raising of INSPIRE, ensuring that the sector is cognisant of the obligations and opportunities; and promote good data management principles including data curation and stewardship ensuring transparency and reuse where practicable.

GECO is a JISC funded project running from February 2011 to February 2012.

[edina.ac.uk/projects/geco_summary.html](http://edina.ac.uk/projects/geco_summary.html)

**Spatio-Temporal Energy Efficiency Visualisation - STEEV**

STEEV is a JISC funded project running from March 2011 to October 2011. This project will build a stakeholder engagement tool visualising historic, current and future energy efficiency estimates at the level of individual buildings. Researchers exploring and investigating policy options on possible future states of the built environment need a simple mechanism to visually analyse and compare outcomes of different scenarios of urban energy reduction policy. STEEV will produce modelled estimates of building energy use for the period 2000-2050 for a sample geographic area in Cardiff, South Wales and provide a web-based application that allows researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders the facility to explore varying spatio-temporal patterns of energy efficiency outcomes.

STEEV will also explore a novel usage of the Memento framework by enabling “time-travel” both backwards (“web-time”) and forwards (“content-time”).

Further work will provide insights into aspects of temporal modelling of the Ordnance Survey large scale geographic database, MasterMap. The latter will inform how adaptations to the JISC Digimap service might be best optimised to provide access
to historic versions of this and similar resources. A range of outputs are envisaged, e.g. a demonstrator web client aimed at the stakeholder research group needs, an experimental Memento geo-Timegate allowing issues related to “content-time” to be unearthed and a schema and delivery mechanism for future delivery of temporal snapshots of large-scale mapping databases.

edina.ac.uk/projects/steev_summary.html

Interoperable Geographic Information for Biosphere Study - IGIBS

IGIBS is a JISC funded project running from April 2011 – October 2011. IGIBS will create a tool that enables users to upload and instantiate an Open Geospatial Consortium Web Service (OWS) allowing users to view and analyse their data in combination with a range of other interoperable distributed data sources. To enable a broader range of use cases, Shibboleth will be used to secure the OWS where appropriate. End user requirements will be met by localising the project and focussing on real geographic information needs emerging from the UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere reserve. This is a collaboration project between EDINA, Aberystwyth University and the Welsh Assembly Government. To achieve mutual benefits, the aim is to strengthen and develop the level of integration between the UK academic Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and the national SDI as expressed through the UK Location Programme. This project aims to bring long term benefits and contribute to more data being available in an interoperable form to a wider range of disciplines so they can engage in addressing research and education based upon real world needs.

edina.ac.uk/projects/igibs_summary.html

Usability Service Enhancements to Digimap

The JISC funded USED project is looking at ways of improving the Digimap Data Download facility. The aim is to ensure that the new interface being developed for 2011-2012 is more intuitive and meets the needs of all of our users.

The complexity of the underlying data, the heterogeneous nature of the user base and the broad range of digital literacy across this user base poses both significant usability and learning challenges. We propose to address this “spatial literacy” gap by conducting user focused research to develop stereotypical “Personas” across the spectrum from novice to expert. A “Persona” is a hypothetical individual representing a discernible character facet of real users. The “Personas” are being used to steer the redesign of the interface. Further usability testing will be carried out on the new interface prior to the launch of the new facility.

USED is a nine month project which started in July 2011.

used.blogs.edina.ac.uk/

Linked Data Focus

The Linked Data Focus project team will work with both the Geo-data and Bibliographic & Multimedia teams in EDINA to produce Linked Open Data output from several EDINA projects and services. Workshops will be held to present and discuss the work in progress, and people from outside EDINA will be invited to present their related work.

The work should support the Resource Discovery Task Force and will follow its guidelines for metadata. After the development phase the project will produce an “infokit” documenting the potential re-use value for other institutions.

edina.ac.uk/projects/ldfocus_summary.html

GoGeo Linked Data (GOLD) - UK Discovery project

Conventional approaches to building Spatial Data Infrastructures presuppose some form of “discovery” service providing potential users with metadata that describes datasets and services, to expedite access and minimise duplication of effort. The widely adopted Open Geospatial Consortium Catalogue Services for the Web (CSW) specification defines a set of abstract interfaces and a protocol binding for the discovery, access, maintenance and organisation of metadata repositories of geospatial information and related resources. CSW underpins the UK Location Programmes metadata infrastructure.

This six-month JISC-funded project exposed the GoGeo Catalogue and the Scottish Government Spatial Discovery Portal CSW content as a Linked Data triple store, to improve the “discoverability” of metadata records.

edina.ac.uk/projects/ukdiscovery_summary.html

Research Data MANTRA

This one-year JISC-funded project developed online learning materials which reflect best practice in research data management grounded in three disciplinary contexts: social science, clinical psychology, and geoscience.

The resulting materials are about to be made available generally through an open licence.

In addition to web-based “chapters” that students can work through at their own pace, the course includes video interviews with leading academics about data management challenges, and practical exercises in handling data in four software analysis environments: PASW, also known as SPSS, NVivo, R and ArcGIS.

The project is a partnership between the Data Library in Information Services based at EDINA and the Institute for Academic Development, at the University of Edinburgh.

datalib.edina.ac.uk/mantra/
Outreach & Support

EDINA’s services are in use around the clock with an annual target for JISC of 99% availability. Credit for the high level of availability is shared with the University of Edinburgh’s Information Services, particularly the Infrastructure Group who manage EDINA hardware and networking. This underlines the leverage gained for the UK academic community of placing national data centres in well-founded IT environments.

All EDINA services have a range of supporting documentation including online help, animated demonstrations and user guides. Subscribing universities and colleges are encouraged to reuse our material for their own local services.

Help

The EDINA Helpdesk is the stop for all enquiries about EDINA services and projects, for both end-users and their support staff. Queries by email or telephone are handled promptly by the helpdesk staff, with onward referral to experts inside and outside EDINA as needed. All queries are classified, logged and then used to update and extend the online FAQs; they are a vital part of our user feedback for future developments.

We receive positive feedback on our quarterly newsletter Newsline, a print and online bulletin to assist academic support staff and others with an interest in our services to keep abreast of developments.

edina.ac.uk/support/

Training

Workshops covering many of our services, aimed at “training the trainers”, are run throughout the country during the year. Additionally a programme of short online training sessions, using web conferencing software has been introduced. These sessions allow EDINA’s User Support team to have more frequent interaction with site representatives across the UK than is possible with face-to-face training alone.

We welcome invitations to hold our workshops at other events, especially those organised by other JISC-sponsored organisations; this gives us more opportunities to consult and to promote services offered by others, in the same way that others promote EDINA services as quality resources.

The collaboration with the JISC Regional Support Centres continues and now includes joint workshops. We also collaborate with the HE Academy, and we are keen to extend this to other support networks.

edina.ac.uk/events/

Engaging with Users

Social media has become an increasingly important part of EDINA communications. Our Social Media Officer contributes to the social media element of service and project development and outreach and has recently published EDINA’s Social Media Guidelines. In addition to our online presence, we also get out and about and listen to our users and their support staff. The JIBS User Group is also used as an established forum for consultation with those who represent end-users of the services we offer.

edina.ac.uk/news/news_socialmedia.html
edina.ac.uk/about/social_media/social_media_guidelines.html

To continue to engage successfully, we need your feedback, so please do not hesitate to get in touch via edina@ed.ac.uk or by using the feedback facility on our website.