



What EDINA Does: A Community Report



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Introduction

Introduction

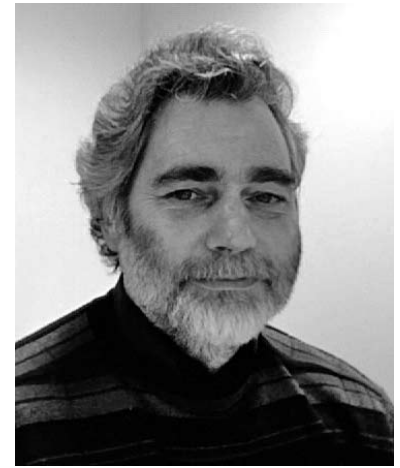
March 2009

This booklet describes what EDINA does to support research and education in the UK and beyond. Less formal than a glossy Annual Report, it is more a large-size calling card. To find out more, go to our website at <http://edina.ac.uk> where you can access a number of services that are free-to-the-Web, browse good quality documentation and case studies and, with the right credentials, you can log in and get full value from the services to which your organisation may already subscribe.

Our main activity is to develop and deliver a wide range of cost-effective online services, free at the point of use. Our mission, simply stated, is to enhance the productivity of research, learning and teaching in the UK. We do this as a national academic data centre, based at the University of Edinburgh, working in partnership with the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) who act on behalf of the UK funding bodies for research and education.

Our online service provision has grown considerably over the past six years, both in terms of the number of services and of the number of institutions that take out subscriptions or have students and staff using our services. Since its launch as a world first in January 2000, Digimap has become a must-have in research and course work, with new data on coastal waters and geology as well as old data providing access to change over time. We are now making this true for audio-visual materials: news and documentary film/video, and working (with our sister organisation Mimas) to support sharing of learning and teaching materials through the Jorum service, as well as investigating how to pool expertise and access to services that support use of published scholarly works.

Not so obvious to end-users are the middleware services EDINA provides: the national OpenURL Router, GeoCrossWalk and our essential technical support for the UK Access Management Federation.



The growing number of project activities we carry out help the JISC community and ourselves understand how we can add value as 'network-level' organisations: preparing new services and helping to assist interoperability across all online services for UK research and education.

Up to a third of staff effort at EDINA can go into externally-funded research and development. Rather than just build and expect users to arrive, as they always have before, Web 2.0/3.0 developments help us reach out in new ways, including ensuring that EDINA is regarded as part of the mobile internet. In all this we aim to develop the web services that we are best placed to deliver, as well as judging how to get leverage from what others provide as reliable and trusted web services.

Underpinning our success in meeting our mission is effective inter-working with the support staff and academics - this is my opportunity to say a public "thank you". It is also a good place to acknowledge the value we place on our principal partners, including our colleagues in Information Services at the University of Edinburgh, who allow leverage of value for the wider UK academic community.

On behalf of all at EDINA, we hope the contents of this booklet makes for a good read, and we welcome your feedback, in person, by email, by phone or some other form of social networking ...

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 four staff.

Our main activity 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. Our Annual Report and Strategy Plan can be found at:

<http://edina.ac.uk/about/docs.html>

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

Uptake of EDINA Online Services

EDINA provides national online services for universities and colleges to offer to their academic staff and students.

With market coverage of over 90% of universities and two thirds of all colleges, EDINA is an established part of the UK digital library. As of February 2009, 490 institutions were licensed to use EDINA services, a slight reduction from the 521 institutions in August 2008 due to ongoing licence renewals for Jorum, the national repository for learning materials run jointly with Mimas, our sister national data centre. This represents more than a three-fold increase compared to 2002/03. The total number of licences for all EDINA services continues to rise: currently the total is 1740, an increase from August 2008, in large part due to the successful launch of the NewsFilm Online service in

October 2008 and rapid uptake thereafter.

Most of these licences are managed by JISC Collections requiring institutional subscription, with some services provided without charge, e.g. Film & Sound Online, NewsFilm Online and Jorum. UKBORDERS, also a free service, is financed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of its Census Programme. For a small number of services, such as CAB Abstracts, EDINA collects the subscriptions for what are JISC-Approved rather than JISC-Funded services. But the general model remains – the online services are 'free at the point of use', given the right credentials.

Over the past five years, the steady increase in uptake of EDINA services by universities and colleges partly reflects the embedding of

successful services into teaching and research activity. With some services such as Digimap, which gives access to Ordnance Survey mapping (and now historic, geological and hydrographic mapping), regarded as near-essential for almost all universities, across nearly all disciplines. The biggest institutional uptake, as well as increase, across universities and colleges is for the multimedia and education services, such as Film & Sound Online, NewsFilm Online and Education Image Gallery.

EDINA also hosts services that offer 'open access' to all across the Internet. These include SUNCAT, the national union catalogue of serials, and the Depot, a key deposit facility for JISC RepositoryNet. This type of service is expected to grow, alongside the 'privilege of membership' services for the UK academic sector.

EDINA Services

UK federation Support



The UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research (known more briefly as 'the UK federation') has been managed by JANET(UK) since its inception on 30 November 2006. The design and infrastructure of this national federation, which is on course to provide web-delivered service access to all UK education sectors and to the UK research sector, is based on the pilot SDSS federation developed at EDINA.

JISC and Becta have provided funding to enable EDINA to continue to contribute technical and operational support to JANET(UK) in their management of the UK federation.

EDINA also hosts an Expert Group on Access Management to advise JISC (see page 15).

For more information see:
<http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/>

Multimedia & Education Services

Film & Sound Online



Image © Jupiterimages 2006

Launched in 2003, the Film & Sound Online service delivers hundreds of hours of copyright-cleared, downloadable film, video and audio from 17 collections, including the first titles in the recently added Wellcome Film collection licensed from the world-famous Wellcome Trust archives.

The film and video content covers a broad range of subjects, from medicine and the life sciences through archaeology, media studies, performing arts and music to philosophy, history and the social sciences. There is also a significant classical music audio collection.

All material is available by progressive download which is more manageable over slower bandwidths and effectively the same as streaming when local connectivity is high speed. Titles are mostly available either in full or in segments, and users may browse by subject or collection, or use free-text searching.

The service also includes case studies, reviews, film trails and a user forum. Film & Sound Online is free to subscribing institutions, of which there are now 370.

For more information see:
<http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk/>

Education Image Gallery



Image © Getty Images

Launched in 2004 and with its user interface refreshed again in January 2009, the Education Image Gallery service offers access to 55,000 downloadable images licensed from the world-famous Getty Images archives. A further 5,000 images are being added in monthly batches until 2010.

The images in the service cover a diverse range of subject areas such as sport, fashion, major events, buildings, politics, social history, key

personalities, transport, industry, work, leisure and music. The images are copyright-cleared and can be downloaded for use in learning, teaching and research. Users can continue to use images embedded in learning materials even after the current licence ends. Institutional subscriptions currently stand at 118.

For more information see:
<http://edina.ac.uk/eig/>

NewsFilm Online



Image © Getty Images 2008

Available since August 2008 and launched officially in October 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 of which there are 277.

Non-subscribers may search and browse the service but may not play or download.

For more information, see:

<http://www.nfo.ac.uk/>

For project information:

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/programme_digitisation/project_bufvc.aspx

Jorum



Image © Jupiter Images 2008

Jorum is a national online repository service for teaching and support staff in UK HE and FE. It is helping to build a community for the sharing, reuse and repurposing of learning and teaching materials. Jorum supports two services: Jorum Contributor, enabling content to be deposited for sharing with others; and Jorum User, providing user access to those resources. Jorum is run jointly between the EDINA and Mimas national data centres.

By February 2009, 306 institutions were registered for Jorum User, with more expected to renew shortly and 97 for Jorum Contributor; over 5,500 users had registered for the service, there were nearly 3,000 resources in the repository, and just over 10,000 resources had been downloaded.

EDINA and Mimas have now been funded by JISC to engage with the open access agenda in order to promote and enable a greater level of sharing of learning and teaching resources across the sector. To do this Jorum will support three different licensing regimes –

- JorumOpen
- JorumEducationUK
- JorumPlus.

JorumOpen will be the main and preferred option and will support depositors who wish to release materials open for anyone to use under Creative Commons licences. JorumOpen will support the JISC Open Educational Resources Programme.

For more information see:

<http://www.jorum.ac.uk/>

Maps & Data Services

Go-Geo!

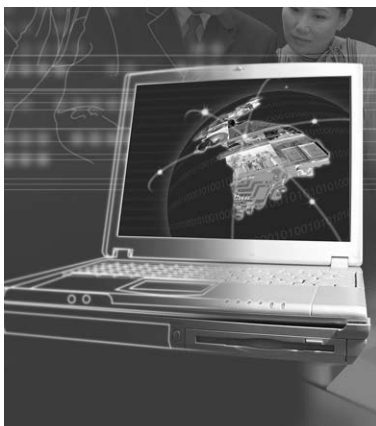


Image © Jupiterimages 2006

Go-Geo! is the place to start to discover geospatial information and services for education and research. Go-Geo! enables users to find data, geospatial services and resources, learn about geospatial metadata and access tools to create and publish standards-compliant geospatial metadata.

Go-Geo!'s portal simultaneously searches across many geospatial catalogues. Searching functionality includes cross-searching, map-based searching, geographic searching (through the use of GeoCrossWalk), and search by a range of different criteria. Users can find other

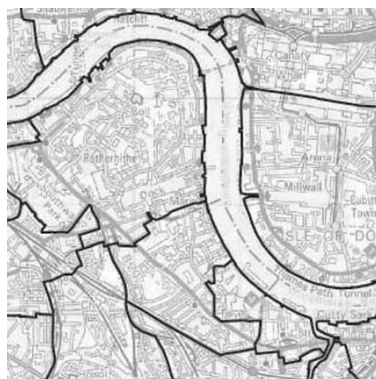
related resources such as books, photographs, projects, maps, training courses, learning materials, news, events, organisations, journals and software.

Go-Geo! also hosts GeoDoc which enables users to create geospatial metadata compliant with the UK academic geospatial metadata application profile (AGMAP) of ISO19115.

Go-Geo! is a key component of the UK academic Spatial Data Infrastructure.

For more information see:
<http://www.gogeo.ac.uk/>

UKBORDERS



OS map © Crown copyright, Boundary material © the Crown, Post Office and the EDINA consortium

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 350 digital boundary datasets for past and present geographic areas as well as associated geographic lookup tables.

A recent addition to the service, the Postcode Data Selector offers the ability to download user defined subsets from large national postcode directories. In 2007/08 users from 156 institutions registered with the Census Registration Service and used UKBORDERS. The total number of dataset extractions over this period was 23,351.

For more information see:
<http://edina.ac.uk/ukborders/>

Digimap Collections



© Crown copyright 2006.

The Digimap Collections have become an essential part of the UK education and research landscape. They have significance across many disciplines as key reference resources. 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. 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 hydrographic map data provided through Marine Digimap.

A total of 156 universities and colleges subscribed so far to the Digimap Collections in 2008/09.

ShareGeo is a new facility within Digimap Collections, providing a place for our users to deposit research-generated content for sharing with other Digimap users.

For more information on all the Digimap Collections, see:
<http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/>

Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection



Image © Getty Images

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. 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: in 2007/08 there were 36,000 active users; an average of more than 20,000 sessions per month and users created nearly 2.7 million maps.

The OS MasterMap® product has now completely replaced its predecessor, Land-Line.Plus®, which was withdrawn by Ordnance Survey. Digimap ceased to deliver Land-Line.Plus in August 2008. OS MasterMap includes the Topographic and the Integrated Transport Network (ITN) Layers. One of EDINA's biggest challenges has been to help users and institutions move from using the highly detailed Land-Line.Plus product to OS MasterMap, which while a complex product, brings significant benefits. There are currently 156 institutions subscribing to Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection.

Historic Digimap



Image © 2006 Jupiterimages Corporation

Historic Digimap provides access to digital images of historical Ordnance Survey paper maps of Great Britain for the period 1843 to 1996. JISC purchased images digitised by Landmark Information Group, and made them available under a subscription arrangement.

Users can view maps through web browsers, save maps for printing and download the historical map data for use in Geographical Information Systems. There are currently 65 institutions subscribing to Historic Digimap and during 2007/08 users viewed nearly 850,000 maps.

Geology Digimap



Image © Courtesy Colin Palmer

Launched in January 2007, 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 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 42 subscribing institutions.

Marine Digimap



Image © 2006 Jupiterimages Corporation

Launched in January 2008, 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, and 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 Geographical Information Systems. There are 14 institutions subscribing to Marine Digimap for the 2008/09 session.

GeoCrossWalk

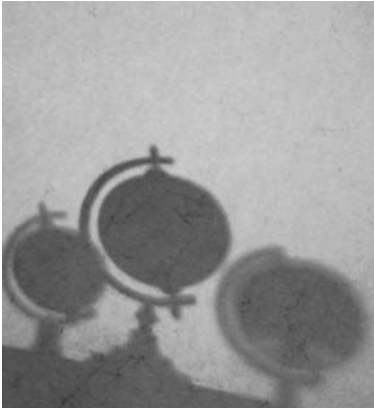


Image © Jupiterimages 2006

GeoCrossWalk is a middleware, shared service providing a range of services for support of geographic referencing and searching within the JISC Information Environment (IE). It aims to assist other applications, such as portals, virtual learning applications or research services, to discover and exploit materials which have a spatial reference (e.g. place names, postcodes) by supporting geo-tagging of resources. The objective is to make access to resources by searching on 'where' as effective as searching by 'what',

'who' and 'when'. At its heart is an enhanced gazetteer built from pre-existing JISC licensed data sources (JISC OS/Digimap collections). GeoCrossWalk is referred to as a terminology service within the IE technical architecture. Assistance is being given to JISC services to make use of GeoCrossWalk. Information about the service is also available within the Digimap Collections interface.

For more information see:
<http://www.geoxwalk.ac.uk>

agcensus



Image © Getty Images 2008

The agcensus service provides online access to grid-square Agricultural Census 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 Geographical Information Systems

(GIS) or spreadsheets. Currently the service has 19 subscribing institutions.

Data can now be downloaded in OGC Standard KML (Keyhole Markup Language) format which will allow registered users to visualise the distribution of chosen census variables using open geo-browsers.

For more information see:
<http://edina.ac.uk/agcensus/>

Continuing Access and Digital Preservation Services

CLOCKSS Pilot Program



CLOCKSS is an international digital preservation scheme for scholarly publications, initially journal articles. It has been built by and is being supported by a partnership of the world's largest scholarly publishers and the library community, accounting for over 60% of such digital journal content. There is a concern that this digital content may not always be available.

Central to the operation of CLOCKSS is a distributed long term archive network, with routine ingest of publishers' current (and past) content into secure LOCKSS-managed storage under the stewardship of internationally-recognised and globally-distributed research and university libraries.

LOCKSS, Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe, is the technology developed at Stanford University, using replication and automatic

cross-checking of content to ensure integrity over time.

CLOCKSS began as a project in 2005 to investigate how to create such a not-for-profit, community-governed, secure, and multi-sited archive of web-published content. The University of Edinburgh was one of the seven founding libraries, with EDINA acting as a designated host for delivery of the triggered journal content.

The decision has been taken to move to full service and currently, agreements for publishers, archive nodes and hosts are being finalised. Then the push will be on to ensure the financial sustainability of CLOCKSS through fund-raising.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/clockss_summary.html

The UK LOCKSS Alliance



LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) is an international community initiative that provides libraries with digital preservation tools and support so that they can easily and inexpensively collect and preserve their own copies of online journal titles. LOCKSS, now in its tenth year, provides libraries with the open-source software and support to preserve today's web-published materials for tomorrow's readers while building their own collections and acquiring a copy of the assets they pay for, instead of simply leasing them.

Following a successful two-year JISC and CURL-funded pilot

involving 30 UK HE libraries, the UK LOCKSS Alliance is moving forward in 2008/09 as a membership organisation with endorsement from an independent evaluation report and from JISC

The UK LOCKSS Alliance is led by EDINA in conjunction with the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) and will include the provision of support, software development, content negotiation, and strategic development. Membership in the UK LOCKSS Alliance is open to all UK HE institutions.

For more information on the UK LOCKSS Alliance see:

<http://edina.ac.uk/lockss/>

Reading & Reference Services

SUNCAT



Image © Getty Images

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). The aim now is to integrate this facility as a functional component within a broader UK digital library.

The coverage of SUNCAT is growing over time, now having information on the serials held in 68 of the largest research and university libraries in the UK. This includes the 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.

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. SUNCAT has regular updates from the ISSN Register and the Conser Database to assist upgrading of records. SUNCAT is one of the services being linked as part of the Discovery to Delivery project being carried out jointly with Mimas (see page 12).

For more information see:
<http://www.suncat.ac.uk/>

SALSER



Image © 2008 iStock International Inc.

Established as long ago as 1994/95 as one of the first web-based union catalogue of serials and an initiative of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL), SALSER coverage includes 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.

For more information see:
<http://edina.ac.uk/salser/>

Statistical Accounts of Scotland



Image © National Library of Scotland

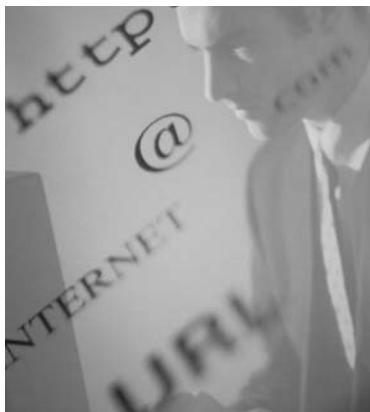
The Statistical Accounts of Scotland is arguably the best source of contemporary comment on Britain's experience of the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

There is 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 the parishes of Dumfries and Stow, 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.

For more information see:
<http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/>

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. Over 90 institutions have registered with the Router.

There is development work to assist those colleges and universities that do not have a resolver service. See GetCopy on page 11 and the Low Cost Resolver project on page 12.

For more information see: <http://www.openurl.ac.uk/doc/>

CAB Abstracts



CAB Abstracts is a bibliographic database compiled by CAB International 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 five million records from 1973 to date. Each year 150,000 records are added from over 10,000 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 linking was added to CABI content and weekly database updates were added in January 2009.

For more information see: <http://edina.ac.uk/cab/>

Land, Life & Leisure



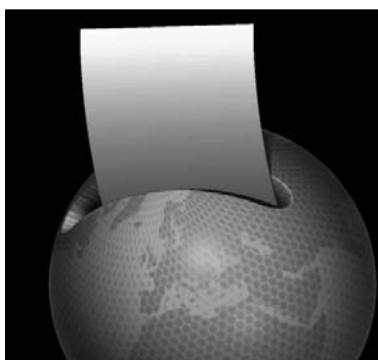
Land, Life & Leisure provides a weekly index of current practice and developments in temperate agriculture and all rural topics – conservation, estate management, forestry, horticulture, organic husbandry, rural planning, recreation, tourism, and environmental issues

The database originates from the academic and research community, mainly Aberystwyth University, with on-going contributions from its

Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) and five other land-based colleges. A recent interface upgrade added new links within the service and streamlined certain other features. The content continues to expand at a rate of over 15,000 records a year. The archive back to 1990 now exceeds 500,000 entries.

For more information see: <http://edina.ac.uk/landlifeleisure/>

the Depot



'Put it in the Depot' is the simple message to give to UK researchers. The Depot is the online repository sponsored by the JISC to enable all UK researchers to share the benefits of open access exposure for their research outputs, also allowing them to comply with mandates from funders.

The Depot provides a re-direct service (commonly known as UK

Repository Junction) that routes potential depositors to their local institutional repository; where one is lacking the Depot acts as the default alternative, both being a 'keep safe' and allowing its content to be harvested, via OAI-PMH, and searched through Intute Repository Search and other facilities.

For more information see: <http://depot.edina.ac.uk/>

Project Activity

The importance and significance of project activity at EDINA has grown in recent years, largely due to the demands of devising and implementing new types of service, expansion of the JISC development programme and

the key role that EDINA must play as a UK national data centre in building the infrastructure for the JISC Information Environment. Not featured here, but of major significance, is EDINA's contribution to projects to establish the UK

academic Spatial Data Infrastructure, integrating geospatial data with e-science on an international basis.

For more details on EDINA projects see:

<http://edina.ac.uk/projects/>

Services in development supported by JISC

EDINA is engaged in a number of services in development, largely begun with funding made available

by JISC. Projects suitable for deployment as services include GetRef and GetCopy.

These are described below, each at a stage of test, trial and deployment.

GetRef



Image © Jupiterimages 2006

The purpose of GetRef is to help staff and students take full advantage of the bibliographic products bought for them by their library. GetRef is a tool for cross-searching (or 'federated searching') abstracting and indexing services and electronic tables of contents services. It was developed in the Xgrain Project, to carry out the 'discover' part of the JISC-funded JOIN-UP cluster of projects on journal articles.

GetRef is now fully tested and available for use. The user interface can be customised to include institutional badging and links to local resources, and to group databases into categories (e.g. based on subject areas).

For more information see:

<http://edina.ac.uk/getref/>

GetCopy



Image © iStock-Photos 2008

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. In 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.

For more information see:

<http://edina.ac.uk/getcopy/>

Bibliographic Projects

Discovery to Delivery



Image © iStock Photos 2008

This is a short, one year project being carried out collaboratively by the two national data centres, Mimas and EDINA. This follows on from discussion with JISC, Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and the British Library to bring national bibliographic discovery services closer together as part of the UK e-infrastructure.

The purpose is to link Zetoc, SUNCAT and Copac in ways that assist researchers' move from discovery of scholarly works to location of services for access and document delivery, including use of Interlibrary Lending.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/d2d_summary.html

Shared OpenURL data infrastructure investigation

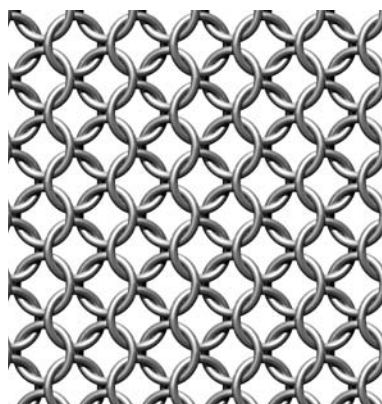


Image © iStock Photos 2008

Many UK universities and colleges maintain OpenURL link servers, which direct users to potential sources of scholarly content. These transactions can be logged and then have the potential to be used in various ways.

The aim of this short project is to scope a UK architecture for the analysis of OpenURL linking data, with the architecture intended to provide a basis for ongoing services based on aggregations of such data.

The project will be identifying the main challenges and opportunities with respect to sharing and using OpenURL link server data, including an assessment of the legal framework within which such sharing and use would take place. It will be considering using both the OpenURL Router as a data source and OpenURL linking data provided by UK institutions.

For more information see:

http://www.edina.ac.uk/projects/Shared_OpenURL_Data_Infrastructure_Investigation_summary.html

Low Cost OpenURL Resolver



Image © iStock Photos 2008

As a development of GetCopy, JISC invited EDINA to review the requirement and means of delivering a low-cost 'appropriate copy' OpenURL resolver service which would provide means for staff and students at all UK universities and colleges to locate the 'appropriate

copy' for a given bibliographic reference. This facility would also be deployable from subject and other thematic portals in the JISC IE as well as from library portals.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/LowCostOpenURL_summary.html

EM-Loader



Image © iStock Photos 2008

Extracting Metadata to Load for Open Access Deposit (EM-Loader) is a one-year JISC funded project, in partnership with Textensor Limited, to demonstrate easier deposit of research papers through the batch upload of extant bibliographic metadata. It contributes to the provision of shared infrastructure for digital repositories and makes use of the SWORD lightweight protocol for deposit.

It will also have immediate practical value, as the middleware developed can be employed to assist deposit into the Depot (see page 8) as well as offer a facility for repositories more generally, with the potential to enhance metadata deposit through transfers and re-directs to institutional repositories.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/EMLoader_summary.html

HILT



HILT aims to ensure that FE and HE users of the JISC Information Environment (IE) can find appropriate learning, research and information resources by subject search and browse in a distributed services environment, where most service providers use different subject schemes to describe their resources, the details of which are largely unknown to most users.

This project is led by the Centre for Digital Library Research (CDLR) at the University of Strathclyde, with EDINA testing developments, providing programming support and technical advice, and demonstrating embedding of functionality utilising HILT in an EDINA service.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/HILT_summary.html

Personalisation



Image © iStock Photos 2009

JISC are funding the development of two rapid demonstrators following on from activity under their Developing Personalisation for the Information Environment (IE). The two work areas, which are about to get underway, are:

Location-based searching for the JISC IE services – which will build a demonstrator that takes location information on resources (and services) and uses these to

sort and rank the results of searches on the basis of geographic proximity to a user-defined location.

A shared middleware service for the management and use of service-content references – which will investigate and demonstrate a reference linking knowledge-base, with a focus on multimedia resources, that would act as middleware for personalisation actions by services into the JISC IE.

Piloting an E-journals Preservation Registry Service (PEPRS)



Image © iStock Photos 2008

The purpose of this two-year project, which runs through to July 2010, is to scope, build and test a pilot e-journals preservation registry service. This will provide information about arrangements in place for digital preservation of electronic journals. The intention is to produce a demonstrator system for evaluation as the basis of a production service.

Key features in the methodology are leverage from an authority register of over 60,000 e-journals, sourced directly from the ISSN Register and network interoperability with systematic statement by preservation agencies

on policies and coverage. EDINA and the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) International Centre are partners in this project.

An e-journals preservation registry service will bring together information about continuing access to journal content over the long term, providing easily accessible information about preservation arrangements and highlighting those e-journals for which no preservation arrangements exist.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/peprs_summary.html

Multimedia Projects

Visual and Sound Materials Portal Demonstrator

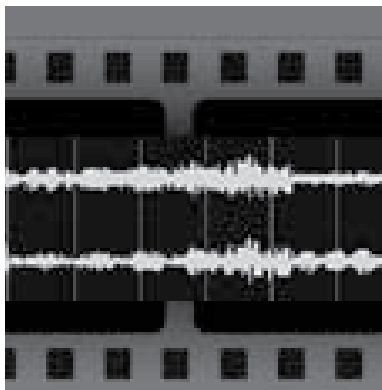


Image © iStock Photos 2008

The VSM portal scoping study and demonstrator project is funded under the JISC Portals Programme. It has investigated the value and feasibility of a JISC-designated national portal for both time-based media and image collections.

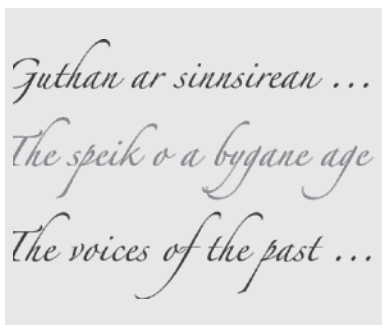
The portal demonstrator provides a discovery tool for a range of visual and sound materials, including those that are licensed and those offered free. A number of supporting policies were produced, and delivery of the portal search functionality as a portlet

was developed using the JSR 168 framework. The outcomes of the project, and how such a media-specific portal might form part of the presentation layer in the standards-based technical architecture for the JISC Information Environment, were considered by JISC, who are funding further development of the portal through to July 2009.

For the scoping study report, access to the demonstrator and further information see:

<http://edina.ac.uk/projects/vsmportal/>

Tobar an Dualchais



EDINA and the University of Edinburgh Information Services have implemented a Production Control Application and a Cataloguing Application (for web-based input of metadata) for the Tobar an Dualchais project.

Launched in 2006, the multi-million pound Heritage Lottery-funded project will preserve, digitise and make available online more than 12,000 hours of recordings from the archives of BBC Scotland,

the National Trust for Scotland and the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

The Tobar an Dualchais project is based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic-language college on Skye. Digitisation is now well underway, and EDINA has begun developing the Tobar an Dualchais Online Service and Searchable Catalogue.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/Tobar_an_Dualchais_summary.html

Infrastructure Projects

SDSS: Expert Group in Identity Management



Image © Jupiterimages 2006

The EDINA SDSS team has been designated by the JISC as an Expert Group in Identity Management in recognition of their successful work in the development of the UK federation. This project has been awarded initial funding until 31 July 2010.

The main task of the group is to develop the technical base underpinning the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research. The UK federation makes use of Shibboleth technology to provide an access management framework intended for use across the whole education and research sector. The technology is thus of key strategic importance

for UK education and research – but is also leading-edge and therefore in need of careful risk management.

Shibboleth is a development originating from the Internet2 consortium in the US and it is essential that the UK maintains its own expertise in the technology to guarantee the security of service provision and maintenance. There is also a need for a broadly-based identity management technology watch, to keep the community informed of middleware trends and to inform the JISC by reporting and assessing initiatives elsewhere.

For more information see:

<http://edina.ac.uk/projects/UKFedTechSupport.html>

Maps & Data Projects

DlaD



Image © Jupiter Images 2008

Data Integration and Dissemination (DlaD), a 12-month project funded by the ESRC Census Programme, is investigating the potential of using international open-standards-based techniques to perform data linkage between two of the most heavily used census outputs – the aggregate statistical data and the output geographies

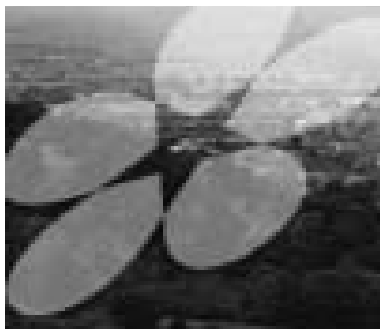
The primary objective of this work is to develop a data dissemination model which demonstrates a more generic capability – that of 'geo-linking'. Geo-linking allows for distributed, multi-source datasets to be seamlessly linked in a fashion that facilitates data separation for

management and administration purposes. In essence, the approach proposed will provide an extensible infrastructure applicable not only to the immediate needs of the Census Programme but also to the broader requirements emerging from the e-Social Science programme, especially its e-Infrastructure strand and also the ESRC's National Data Strategy. Additionally, using the same standards-based approach, the project will aim to demonstrate how further value-added data processing can be invoked by transforming the geo-linked outputs through a series of ancillary web processing services.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/DlaD_summary.html

ESDIN



The ESDIN (European Spatial Data Infrastructure Network) project started in September 2008 and runs until March 2011.

This Eurogeographics led project aims to help member states prepare their data for compliance with the INSPIRE directive data themes. ESDIN will test INSPIRE as it is rolled out by implementing web services on top of a selection of European National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies data. It will demonstrate interoperability across

borders and across themes, eg, by combining hydrological data with administration units.

EDINA's role is to act as the main point of contact to the European academic sector and we are using ESDIN to engage more with European developments and improve the geospatial services we provide.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/ESDIN_summary.html

GeoDigRef



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GeoDigRef is a six month funded JISC project investigating the advantages of metadata enrichment across three diverse resource collections funded under the JISC Digitisation programme.

Using natural language processing technology, existing metadata for Histpop (a collection of British historical Population Reports, BOPCRIS (British official publications Collaborative Reader Information Service) and the British

Library Archival Sound Recordings collections, will be enriched with explicit georeferencing information

In the case of Histpop and BOPCRIS, a unified cross collections geo-search demonstrator showcasing collection browsing by an innovative map based interface will be produced.

Evaluation reports on the merits and wider applicability of this approach to other collections will also be produced.

Geospatial Application Profile (GAP)



Image © Jupiterimages 2006

This short project aims to develop a Geospatial Application Profile (GAP) analogous to the ePrints (SWAP) Profile for the purposes of describing geospatial resources held in repositories to assist in their discovery and reuse.

The project is part of the wider JISC repository Application Profile development activity work and

continues as part of that overarching work with the aim of providing content specific, community accepted metadata profiles to assist in resource description and discovery.

For more information see:

http://edina.ac.uk/projects/GAP_summary.html

COMPASS

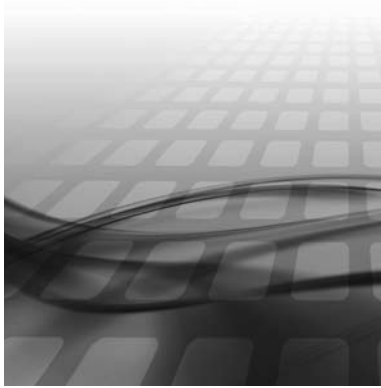


Image © Shutterstock

The Coastal Marine Perception Application for Scientific Scholarship (COMPASS) project is investigating the development of semantic tools for assisting those conducting research into coastal marine environments. COMPASS is funded under the Knowledge Organisation and Semantic Services strand of the JISC Capital Programme.

Academic groups with an interest in coastal marine environments are wide-ranging and include: Coastal Planning, Oceanography, Biology/Ecology, Fisheries, Maritime and Intermodal Transport, Geology and Archaeology. By assigning semantic information to descriptions of books, data, articles, pictures and sound, intelligent web applications can collect and combine information from many different sources, and present it to researchers in a way that is more meaningful than the same

information in its original scattered form. However, two resources may use different labels to describe the same concept, such as coastline. To compare or combine information from two resources, computers have to know that these two terms are being used to mean the same thing. This knowledge is provided by collections of information called ontologies. Through a series of coordinated Work Packages, COMPASS plans to demonstrate the benefits of developing an ontologically-driven infrastructure within the marine domain to address issues of discovery, access and use of scientific resources including data (specifically geospatial data) citations, journals and metadata.

For more information see:
http://edina.ac.uk/projects/COMPASS_summary.html

DISC-UK Datashare

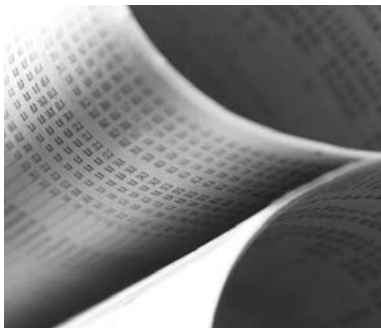


Image © Jupiter Images 2008

DISC-UK (Data Information Specialists Committee - United Kingdom) is a forum for data professionals working in UK Higher Education who specialise in supporting their institution's staff and students in the use of numeric and geo-spatial data.

This partnership, led by EDINA, is carrying out a JISC repository enhancement project (March 2007 - March 2009) that aims to explore new pathways to assist academics wishing to share their data over the Internet.

With three institutions taking part – the Universities of Edinburgh, Oxford and Southampton – a range of exemplars will emerge from the establishment of institutional data repositories and related services.

For more information see:
http://edina.ac.uk/projects/datashare_summary.html

Project publications, deliverables, and a 'tag cloud' bibliography are available on the project website, at:
<http://www.disc-uk.org/datashare.html>

Outreach & Support

EDINA's services are available free at the point of use 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Surpassing the annual requirement for JISC of 99% availability, the services are in use around the clock.

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.

A visit to the EDINA website will reveal online help, FAQs and document support to rival any other online service, with the opportunity for subscribing universities and colleges to reuse our documentation for their own (local) services.

In addition to our online presence, we also get out and about and listen to our users and to their support staff, find out what others are providing, and think and plan. To do this 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.

Help

The EDINA Helpdesk is the first port of call for all enquiries about EDINA services and projects, for 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 Newline, a print and online bulletin to assist

academic support staff and others with an interest in our services to keep abreast of developments.

For more information see: <http://edina.ac.uk/support/>

Engaging with Users

Workshops covering many of our services are run throughout the country during the year. But in addition to 'training the trainers', they serve as our opportunity to listen and learn.

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 has worked particularly well, and earlier engagements with the LTSN subject centres has helped

engagement with the HE Academy, and we are keen to extend this to other support networks. The JIBS User Group is used as an established forum for consultation, with those who represent end-users of the geospatial, bibliographic and multimedia services we offer. The Group's JISCmail list acts as complementary communication.



Delegates at a workshop. Photo by Emma Sutton.

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