What EDINA Does: A Community Report
Introduction

October 2009

This report highlights what EDINA does. It complements our Annual Report which we produce for our principal funding body, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

As the national academic data centre based at the University of Edinburgh, our mission is to enhance the productivity of research, learning and teaching in the UK. We fulfill that mission through the development and delivery of a wide range of cost-effective online services, for use by researchers, students, teachers and academic support staff – free at the point of use.

EDINA has been delivering network-level services for almost 15 years, with experience of online services across the Internet. In today’s climate of financial uncertainty we aim to show how this experience and the innovative service and project work we do at EDINA has positive impact on the productivity of our users and the strategies being pursued by their institutions.

Online service provision has grown considerably over the past five years, with over 97% of universities and two thirds of colleges within the UK using one or more of our services. The number of services and their usage has also grown. Key to this success is effective collaboration with librarians and other academic support staff who work in the colleges, universities and research institutions, to whom we take this opportunity to say a public “thank you.” To continue this success we need your feedback, in person, by email, by phone or by some other form of social networking.

Digimap has become a must-have in research and coursework, with new data on coastal waters and geology joining the well-established Ordnance Survey data and maps. We have a similar ambition for our multimedia services, such as NewsFilm Online.

Not so obvious to end-users are the middleware services EDINA provides, such as the new Unlock services (to help geo-enable the UK’s digital library) and our essential technical support for the UK Access Management Federation.

Part of the remit of SUNCAT, the national union catalogue of journals and other serials, and the OpenURL Router middleware is to help provide infrastructure for services providing instant and continuous access to scholarly articles.

We commit a third of staff effort at EDINA to externally-funded research and development, working in project activities with others, including our sister organisation Mimas, and with UK and, increasingly, international researchers.

However, no longer can we just build and expect users to arrive. Web 2.0/3.0 is about social media and sharing in new ways. We must learn how to get leverage out of what others provide, identifying and developing innovative services that assist interoperability (e.g. web services), as well as playing our part in the mobile internet. All of this work helps us understand how to add value at the network level for research and education.

The best way to appreciate the value of our work is to go to our website, http://edina.ac.uk, where you can browse good quality documentation and case studies and, with the right credentials, you can log in and get full value. But this report – our “calling card” – should give you a flavour.

Finally, I’d like to acknowledge our colleagues in Information Services at the University of Edinburgh, from whom we leverage value for the wider UK academic community, and all our principal partners, including JISC and JISC Collections, who arrange funding and licensing for much of what we do.

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 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 Report and Strategy and Business Development Plans can be found at http://edina.ac.uk/about/docs.html

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

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

EDINA hosts 22 national services. Currently a total of 518 institutions are licensed to use at least one EDINA service, representing market coverage of over 97% of universities and two thirds of colleges within the UK. The total number of institutional subscriptions to EDINA services has risen to 1,565, due mainly to the launch of the popular NewsFilm Online service in October 2008.

These subscriptions are mainly managed by JISC Collections. Some services are provided without charge, such as 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 subscription charges 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 such as digital map data like Digimap. The increase in university and college uptake also reflects interest in multimedia and education services, such as Film & Sound Online, NewsFilm Online, Education Image Gallery and Jorum, the national repository for learning materials run jointly with Mimas, our sister national data centre.

EDINA also hosts several 'open' services. These include SUNCAT, the national union catalogue of serials; the Depot, a key deposit facility for international researchers worldwide without an institutional repository; and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland, an essential resource for the study of Scottish life in the 18th and 19th centuries. This type of service is expected to grow, alongside the ‘privilege of membership’ services for the UK academic sector.
EDINA Services

UK federation Support

EDINA provides technical and operational support to members of the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research (the UK federation) through the federation operator JANET(UK). 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 through to March 2007, is one of the largest in the world and is still growing. It now has around 750 member organisations and comprises around 900 entities (Identity providers and Service providers). A significant ongoing task is assisting members in the migration of their entities from version 1.3 of the underlying Shibboleth software to version 2.

The SDSS team also host and maintain the federation website which contains full details of the federation and its operation.

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

Multimedia & Education Services

Education Image Gallery

Launched in 2004, with its user interface refreshed in January 2009, the Education Image Gallery (EIG) 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. Available through JISC Collections, institutional subscriptions for EIG currently stand at 121.

EIG is one of over 20 resources available for subscription by UK schools until July 2010 as part of the JISC Collections for Schools project.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/eig/ http://www.jcs.nen.gov.uk/index.html

Film & Sound Online

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 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 speed is high. 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. Available through JISC Collections, Film & Sound Online is free to subscribing institutions, of which there are now 382.

For more information see: http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk/
**Jorum**

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.

At the end of September 2009, 332 UK FE and HE institutions were signed up for Jorum User and 99 signed up for Jorum Contributor. There were over 3,000 published resources in the repository and nearly 7,000 users were registered.

EDINA and Mimas have 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. Jorum has devised three enabling licensing schemes to support the new service options. These are JorumOpen, through which learning materials can be shared for anyone to use under Creative Commons licences; JorumEducationUK where there is a need to restrict availability of materials to members of UK Further and Higher Education Institutions; and JorumPlus for sharing content with more restrictive terms of licence.

JorumOpen, to be introduced in January 2010, will be the main and preferred option. It will also support the JISC Open Educational Resources Programme.

For more information see: [http://www.jorum.ac.uk/](http://www.jorum.ac.uk/)

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**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. Available through JISC Collections, NewsFilm Online is free to subscribing institutions of which there are 306.

In September 2009 a new feature was added to allow users to comment directly on items in the service.

For more information, see: [http://www.nfo.ac.uk/](http://www.nfo.ac.uk/)
Maps & Data Services

Go-Geo!

Go-Geo! is the place to discover geospatial data and resources 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 national geospatial catalogues. Search functionality includes cross-searching of research and data, map-based searching, geographic searching (through the use of Unlock places, see page 7), and searching 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 as well as export metadata in a number of popular geospatial metadata formats.

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

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

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 (DIDaD) – has recently been completed. This investigated the use of web services for data linkage and data delivery and produced a number of outputs that will now be integrated into UKBORDERS as trial services.

UKBORDERS was accessed by users from 110 institutions during 2008/09.

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

Digimap Collections

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. 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. 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.

As well as downloading copies of data for research and teaching, Digimap now includes a facility called ShareGeo, a place for our users to deposit research-generated geospatial datasets to share with other Digimap users.

A total of 148 universities and colleges have subscribed to the Digimap Collections for 2009/10.

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

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 72 subscribing institutions subscribing to Historic Digimap and during 2008/09 users viewed nearly 1.4 million maps.

In 2010 EDINA will be launching a new data download facility as well as making improvements to the map viewer and adding digital images of historical town plans.

Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection

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 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, year on year. In 2008/09 there were 39,000 active users, an average of more than 20,000 sessions per month and nearly 3.8 million maps created by users. There are currently 147 institutions subscribing to Digimap Ordnance Survey Collection.

A new Digimap map production system was implemented in October 2009, which has improved the speed of map and print file generation to create a noticeably faster service. At the same time, a new mapping facility called ROAM was launched with a brand new user interface with improved map navigation tools.

Historic Digimap

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 online, save them for printing and download the historical map data for use in Geographical Information Systems.
Marine Digimap

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, 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 16 institutions subscribing to Marine Digimap with nearly 5,500 registered users.

During 2009/10 work will be underway to create a new map viewer application for Charted Raster as well as a completely new mapping tool to view data from the SeaZone Hydrospatial dataset.

Unlock places

Unlock places is a service for georeferencing placenames and geographic data searching. It provides middleware for use by other services within the JISC Information Environment (IE) and beyond. It is part of a set of web-services-based tools to extract data from documents, such as “Unlock text”, which extracts placenames from text and attempts to georeference them with a gazetteer.

These tools are provided to help portals, virtual learning applications or research services to discover and exploit materials with an implicit geographic reference. The objective is to make access to resources by searching on ‘where’ as effective as searching by ‘what’, ‘who’ and ‘when’.

Access to an enhanced gazetteer built from pre-existing JISC licensed data sources is available through Digimap Collections. The intention is to work with JISC services to unlock the hidden potential in their data.

Recently, the Ordnance Survey Land-Line product was withdrawn, and the original GeoCrossWalk database was rebuilt using data from Ordnance Survey’s MasterMap product. An open data gazetteer, based on geonames.org has been added which permits the use of Unlock tools for non-OS-registered users/developers.

For more information see: http://unlock.edina.ac.uk

agcensus

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. A recent addition is the ability to download data in OGC Standard KML (Keyhole Markup Language) format. This allows registered users to visualise the distribution of chosen census variables using open geo-browsers.

Currently the service has 17 subscriptions.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/agcensus/
Reading & Reference Services

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).

The coverage of SUNCAT continues to grow, now having information on the serials held in 70 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 and the Conser Database and from the Contributing Libraries.

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.

As part of the Discovery to Delivery project, (see page 12) 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.

For more information see: http://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 are also loaded into SALSER.

For more information see: http://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.

These include, among others, digitised images and an annotated transcript of the manuscripts for three parishes; and the 1801 census return for the parish of Stow.

An online payment system has been introduced to allow users to subscribe to the Statistical Accounts of Scotland service for periods of two, six or 12 months.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/
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 content from CABI is now included to supplement the many full-text links in the service 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.

The content continues to expand at a rate of over 13,000 records a year. The archive back to 1990 now exceeds 300,000 entries. The subscription base to the service remained at around 40 university, college and non-academic organisations including the consortium of public libraries in West Wales.

A rebranding exercise took place early in 2009 which resulted in a change to the service name (from Land, Life & Leisure to Land Life Leisure).

Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) have also recently been added to over 10% of peer-reviewed journal records in the database and will continue to be added for new content.

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

the Depot

The Depot is an assured gateway for research material to be made available on an Open Access basis with two main features: a deposit service for researchers worldwide without an institutional repository in which to deposit their papers, articles and book chapters (e-prints); and a re-direct service which alerts depositors to more appropriate local services if they exist.

The Depot is OAI-compliant, allowing deposited e-prints to be ‘harvested’ by search engines, and other repositories, giving them instant global visibility. The service has about 1,000 unique visitors per month.

The Depot was re-launched internationally during Open Access week in October 2009.

For more information see: http://depot.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.

94 institutions have registered with the Router.

The development work to assist those colleges and universities that do not have a resolver service is described in the GetCopy section below.

For more information see: http://www.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. 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/
Continuing Access & Digital Preservation Services

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.

Launched in August 2008, the UK LOCKSS Alliance is a cooperative movement of UK academic libraries that are committed to identify, negotiate, and build local archives of material that librarians and academic scholars deem significant. By ensuring that the library is involved in rights negotiation, collection decisions, and ownership of infrastructure it reinforces the role of the library as custodian of scholarly content.

The UK LOCKSS Alliance also acts as a focal point for discussion on the issues of journal preservation and rights management, providing a forum to discuss current developments. The goal is to assist the UK library community in making a collective and considered response to changing environments.

Currently, 16 institutions are participating in the UK LOCKSS Alliance.

A UK LOCKSS Alliance steering committee is being established to provide a vision for how the service should develop.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/lockss/

CLOCKSS

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 between the library community and some of the world’s largest scholarly publishers who, account for over 60% of digital journal content. As more and more content moves online, 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.

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. To date three sets of content have been released, both testing the readiness of the CLOCKSS system and making available under Open Access journal articles that might otherwise have been lost to global scholarship.

CLOCKSS has now moved to full service, with Edinburgh becoming the Archive Node in Europe among a global network of eleven steward libraries. Fund-raising for endowment continues as a means to provide the necessary financial sustainability of CLOCKSS, a not-for-profit, community-governed, secure, and multi-sited archive of web-published content.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/clockss_summary.html
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 all EDINA projects see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/

Reading & Reference Projects

Discovery to Delivery

This was a short, one year project from 1 August 2008 – 31 July 2009, carried out collaboratively by the two national data centres, Mimas and EDINA. It arose from discussion with JISC, Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and the British Library about bringing national bibliographic discovery services closer together as part of the UK e-infrastructure.

The overall aim was to improve the quality of the user experience for UK researchers and students in their tasks of finding and gaining access to scholarly publications.

One of the key developments was the creation of a Scholarly Communications website which was created using feedback garnered from stakeholders. A significant feature of the site is a cross-search facility which provides for simultaneous searching of COPAC and Zetoc, Mimas services and SUNCAT. A scoping document for a portal was also prepared.

Another key development was the linking of SUNCAT and Zetoc, enabling SUNCAT users to display all the articles in the latest issue of journals available on Zetoc and, if appropriately licensed, view the full text.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/d2d_summary.html

Shared OpenURL data infrastructure investigation

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, completed July 2009, was to scope a UK architecture for the analysis of OpenURL linking data that could provide a basis for ongoing services based on aggregations of such data.

The project identified 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 considered using both the OpenURL Router as a data source and OpenURL linking data provided by UK institutions.

The project report made a number of recommendations including exploring how OpenURL usage data may be released for use by third parties, further dialogue with resolver vendors on the potential for release of suitable usage data, and development of a prototype based on data from the OpenURL router service for a Recommender and to provide a facility for enhancing metadata for institutional services.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/Shared_OpenURL_Data_Infrastructure_Investigation_summary.html
EM-Loader

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

The EM-Loader project demonstrated a new workflow for batch deposit of a researcher’s publications to an institutional repository using the SWORD interface, with a sample implementation connecting PublicationsList to the Depot’s installation of ePrints.

EM-Loader also has immediate practical value, as the middleware developed can be employed to assist deposit into the Depot (see page 9) as well as offer a facility for repositories more generally, with the potential to enhance metadata deposit through transfers and redirects to institutional repositories.

The project final report is available online at http://publicationslist.org/em-loader/emloader-report-intro.html

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

Open Access Repository Junction (OA-RJ)

The aim of OA-RJ project is to assist open access deposit into, and interoperability between, existing repository services by developing a deposit broker system.

The project will develop the Repository Junction from its current simple form contained within the Depot, (see page 9) into a stand-alone broker mechanism which can be easily adopted and integrated by services or projects run by other institutions or organisations.

This 18 month project is due to finish in March 2011.

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

Project Blog: http://oarepojunction.wordpress.com/

Personalisation

JISC has funded the development of two rapid demonstrators following on from activity under their Developing Personalisation for the Information Environment (IE).

There are two work areas. One is a location-based searching for the JISC IE services, which has built 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. The other is a shared middleware service for the management and use of service-content references, which has investigated and demonstrated a reference linking knowledge-base, with a focus on multimedia resources, which would act as middleware for personalisation actions by services into the JISC IE.

For more information: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/Personalisation_summary.html
Piloting an E-journals Preservation Registry Service (PEPRS)

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. The agencies involved are Portico, CLOCKSS, LOCKSS, British Library and Koninklijke Bibliotheek.

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/

Pilot for Ensuring Continuity of Access via NESLi2 - PECAN

The Pilot for Ensuring Continuity of Access via NESLi2 (PECAN) project is a short scoping study to investigate whether the NESLi2 Model Licence framework can be extended to provide the basis for more robust post-cancellation access arrangements between publishers and consumers of e-journal material.

The project aims to investigate two facilities: a registry of entitlement, including the policies and procedures needed to gather reliable information on the journal content that has been subscribed to by libraries via NESLi2; and a secure virtual archive, which provides the technical infrastructure for a central UK journal archive with appropriate controlled access to licensed material.

The project will assess the feasibility of a pilot scheme to create and run an exemplar registry and explore the potential technical requirements and functionality of the central archive.

For more information: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/pecan/
Maps & Data Projects

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 European 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 e.g. by combining hydrological data with administration units.

EDINA’s role is to act as the main point of contact for the European academic sector and we are using ESDIN to engage more with European developments and improve the geospatial services we provide. Working with the likes of Ordnance Survey, Registers of Scotland and Land Registry, EDINA has been involved in setting up web services for testing data harmonisation compliance with respect to core UK geospatial data sets. EDINA is also involved in aspects of the project relating to access management and quality metadata.

For more information see: http://www.esdin.eu/ http://www.eurogeographics.org/

Geospatial Application Profile (GAP)

This 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 over-arching 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

Digimap – Alternative Access

This seven-month Scoping Study project is funded under the JISC Services Improvements Programme. Digimap has to date provided data and maps to users through web browser-based applications. Increasingly, however, users are looking to access maps and data through alternative routes. The study is focusing on two of these: Production Web Services and Support for Mobile Devices.

The implications associated with providing production web services for direct use by end users, including GIS clients, will be assessed. A key issue is the scaling up of the Digimap platform to support the request-intensive nature of web services access. Technologies such as the Grid and Cloud computing style architectures might help deal with the scalability, reliability and performance issues arising from supporting web services.

A revolution in mobile technology is occurring, with handheld computers, mobile phones, PDAs and cameras converging into multimedia communicators. These devices have built-in geographic positioning, orientation sensors, high speed data connections and even compasses which together provide a platform for a new generation of Location Based Services to reach a wide audience. The scoping study will seek to identify how EDINA can exploit the developments in mobile technology to deliver location based services to the HE and FE communities.
Multimedia Projects

Visual and Sound Materials Portal Demonstrator

The VSM portal project is funded under the JISC Portals Programme. The project started in September 2005 over two phases, with a scoping study followed by the implementation of a portal demonstrator. The project is developing a national UK portal for both time-based media and image collections dedicated to the needs of the Further and Higher Education communities. Phase 3 of the project now runs until Autumn 2009. The portal provides a discovery tool for a range of visual and sound materials, including those that are licensed and those offered free. It searches metadata held locally for such assets from a growing number of collections and services.

Recent activity has included the incorporation of additional content such as Wellcome Images and the British Library Archival Sound Recordings, and interacting with YouTube. A new brand identity for the portal is currently being developed.

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 thousands of 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 and cataloguing are now well underway, and EDINA is on schedule to complete a new Tobar an Dualchais website, for launch in Spring 2010.

For more information see: http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/dualchas/
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 Access Management Federation for Education and Research (the federation) and its predecessor, the SDSS federation.

The task of the group is twofold: to advise and inform the JISC on matters related to Access and Identity Management and to contribute to the development of the technical base (Shibboleth) underpinning the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research.

Shibboleth is a technological development originating from the Internet2 consortium in the US, and members of the SDSS Expert Group are active in the Shibboleth development team, meeting and working with their colleagues from the US and Europe to improve and enhance the Shibboleth code base and the underlying Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) protocols.

The SDSS team are involved in the development of a new Discovery Service (the successor of the WAYF – “Where are you from” – service), the revision of the Quick IdP Installer for Windows to Shibboleth version 2 and the development of the technical architecture for metadata interchange to facilitate collaboration between federations.

For more information see: http://edina.ac.uk/projects/UKFedTechSupport.html
Outreach & Support

EDINA’s services are in use around the clock with 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 first port of call 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.

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.

For more information see: http://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, was recently introduced. These sessions allow User Support 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 extends to joint workshops. We also collaborate with the HE Academy, and we are keen to extend this to other support networks.

Engaging with Users

Social Media has become an increasingly important part of EDINA communications with a Social Media Officer appointed in May 2009. This role contributes to the social media element of service and project development and outreach. 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.

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.

Delegates at a workshop.

Photo by Emma Sutton