

# Newsline from EDINA

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## About EDINA

EDINA, based at Edinburgh University Data Library, is a JISC-funded national datacentre. It offers a library of data, information and research resources. All EDINA services are free of charge at the point of use. For information on institutional subscription fees, visit the EDINA web site, or contact us (details below).

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## Digimap goes underground

Digimap will be broadening its mapping portfolio with the addition of data from the **British Geological Survey** in early January 2007. The geological maps will be augmented by the Lexicon of Named Rock Units, a database of information about all geological units displayed on the maps. The new service will be called **Geology Digimap**.

Following an agreement made between the Higher Education Funding Councils and the British Geological Survey (BGS), JISC have funded EDINA to provide through an online service some of the Digital Geological Map of Great Britain (DiGMapGB) data to the Further and Higher Education community.

The BGS data available are:

- **Onshore 1:625,000 scale themes (UK coverage)**
  - Bedrock geology
  - Superficial deposits
- **Onshore 1:250,000 scale themes (GB coverage)**
  - Bedrock geology
  - Superficial deposits
- **Onshore 1:50,000 scale themes (GB coverage)**
  - Bedrock geology
  - Superficial deposits
  - Mass movement
  - Artificial ground
- **The BGS Lexicon of Named Rock Units**

Geology Digimap will be part of the Digimap Collections; its look and feel will be familiar to existing Digimap users, and intuitive to all, regardless of their level of experience with maps. Users will be able to view maps through their web browser, save maps for printing, and download the geological map data for use in geographical information systems. Access will be through

the normal **Digimap Collections** login page (<http://edina.ac.uk/digimap>). Once your institution subscribes, just pick the Geology Digimap link from the Digimap Collections page after the login.

Geology Digimap will be available under licence from JISC; subscription fees are given on the Collections pages of the JISC web site: [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=coll\\_geol\\_digimap&src=alpha](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=coll_geol_digimap&src=alpha). Note that the BGS maps and data are available

under a separate licence and subscription to other Digimap Collections.

A **preview service** will be made available during November 2006. If you would like to be an early adopter, and take part in associated workshops and usability testing, or just need more information, please contact EDINA ([edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk)).

- <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/description/geology.html>



photo © 2006 Tom Armitage

# More Digimap news

## Data update

The **annual update** to the **contemporary Ordnance Survey data** took place on Thursday 31 August. The update dates of the new data are within the Digimap Help pages. Note that Boundary Line data will not be updated until 2007 when the new data is supplied by Ordnance Survey.

## Postcode boundaries now in Carto

By popular demand, Carto now contains **postcode boundary data**. You can view postcode boundaries with a **Land-Line** or **1:10,000 Scale Raster** backdrop.

Two layers are available: postcode boundaries and postcode labels. Each of these can be switched on or off independently and can be displayed at scales between 1:500 and around 1:25,000.

These scales may change depending on feedback from users and the impact of this addition on the speed of other Digimap facilities.

## Changing names

As part of a "re-branding" exercise, there have been some minor alterations to the names of various services and facilities.

The login page is now called the **Digimap Collections** login page. This is the same login page as before (see web address below).

The Collections page now hosts two collections: **Digimap – Ordnance Survey Collection** and **Historic Digimap** (formerly known as Digimap Historic). You will only be able to access both collections if your institution subscribes to both collections. A third collection, **Geology Digimap**, is detailed on page 1 of this edition of *Newsline*. More information on subscriptions is in the Access area, available from the Digimap Collections login page.

The names of the following facilities available within Digimap have also changed:

- Digimap Classic is now known as **Classic**
- Digimap Carto is now known as **Carto**
- Digimap Download is now known as **Data Download**

All other names of facilities remain unchanged.

## Historic Digimap

Improvements have been made to the **Historic Digimap** collection service. Alterations to the underlying technology mean that the interface is now easier and faster to use. There is no need to wait for the screen to refresh each time you change tools. The "holes" in data coverage, most obviously Perthshire and the Isle of Man, have been filled and the additional data is now available.

Annual subscription rates for FE Colleges have been reduced, and a trial access period of three months is now available.

- <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/>

## OS MasterMap - Early adopters required

EDINA is currently engaged in work to replace the Land-Line® data available through Digimap with **Ordnance Survey MasterMap® data**.

As part of this programme of work we are looking for institutions to be "early adopters" of the MasterMap data. This will involve **early access to the MasterMap Download delivery mechanism** to enable MasterMap data to be rolled out across the institution to **replace Land-Line data** at all levels for research and teaching.

In return EDINA will ask for feedback relating to the delivery mechanism itself, and to the onward use of the MasterMap data, its ease of use and any difficulties encountered.

If you would like your institution to be an early adopter, please see:

- [http://edina.ac.uk/mastermap/early/early\\_faq.shtml](http://edina.ac.uk/mastermap/early/early_faq.shtml)

# Jorum delivers valuable resources

Jorum continues to build its contributor and user services. Since launch of the user service in January 2006, **239 UK Education Institutions have signed up for the user (resource discovery) service**, with 1,000 users having registered. Currently on average there are approximately 700 logins per month, and to date over 1,500 downloads have been performed by the user community.

Since the contributor service launched in November 2005, **44 UK educational institutions have made a commitment to contribute and share their resources through Jorum** with the wider community. Over 1,200 resources have been contributed during this period, with a further 400 to be published soon.

Jorum continues with its research and development work and has released two reports this year, one on preservation of learning materials and another on automated metadata. A further report on workflow will be released in the near future. Service development work continues on a metadata search facility (coming in mid-October) providing web site visitors with the option to discover "information" about resources in Jorum without needing to register, as well as a rich client tool for packaging resources for Jorum.

Examples of the most frequently downloaded resources include:

**Trussing a chicken** (77 downloads). A video with text that shows how to truss a chicken. (catering)

**Out of darkness** (55 downloads). A Flash-based learning object which puts you in the role of a fictional detective in 1930s Hollywood. (arts)

**Measuring the distances to stars** (41 downloads). Explaining absolute and apparent magnitude. With a short Flash activity, a spreadsheet to complete and a star map linked to further information and questions. (astronomy)

**Letter Writing** (30 downloads). Explanation of the process of responding to business letters with pointers for formal letter-writing style. (communications)

**Cell activity** (23 downloads). An introduction to cell activity covering the basics of animal cells, plant cells, transport across boundaries and cell division. (biology)

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

*Everything you always wanted to know about trussing a chicken, but were afraid to ask - courtesy of Jorum. Clip from resource "Chicken Preparation [SBC - X4L the Learning Bank]"*



# Film & Sound Online now in service

On 1 September 2006, the Education Media OnLine (EMOL) service became **Film & Sound Online**.

Film & Sound Online not only has a new, updated user interface but also has important new functionality. The key improvement is that users of Film & Sound Online are now able to **browse by subject**.

Other new features include a **Lucky Dip**, which offers users a random selection of the service content; a **Showcase**, which gives a brief, visual demonstration of the range of content available in the service; and a **view or create learning materials page**, which enables users both to view case studies and reviews and to offer to create learning materials.

In the coming academic year EDINA will also explore other ways of improving Film & Sound Online, such as a forum where Film & Sound Online users can exchange ideas and information about their experience of the service and its content.

There is no need for existing EMOL subscribers to take any action now, as Film & Sound Online is available under the current EMOL licensing terms, remaining free of charge to licensed institutions until 31 July 2007. Subscription details for non-subscribing institutions can be found by following the "Access to Service" on the login page (see link below).

• <http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk>

## Education Image Gallery refreshed

The **look-and-feel** of the user interface for the **Education Image Gallery (EIG)** service has been refreshed for the start of the academic year 2006/2007, including **improvements to the service's functionality**:

- Some colours changed for better usability.
- More sets of images to appear as thumbnails and larger images on the Standard Search page; categories for these are listed in the online help.
- Monthly updates now browsable by subject as well as displayed as a single set; users can now search the monthly updates over a range of months.
- Replacement of over 1,000 images removed for copyright reasons; replacement images viewable via the "View list of over 1,000 new images" link on the Standard Search page.
- Drop-down menu on the Standard Search page to allow for searching of specific fields.
- Search results displayed in reverse-chronological order, ie the most recent results are displayed first.
- <http://edina.ac.uk/eig>



Education Image Gallery: showing new drop-down menu to allow field selection for more specific search results



Film & Sound Online: Film details and download page

## Shibboleth developments

The **Shibboleth Development and Support Services (SDSS)** team at EDINA has been a major part of a JISC initiative to introduce **'federated access management'** into UK higher and further education, specifically through the deployment of the technology known as **Shibboleth**.

A number of early-adopter projects and support projects have been funded to explore the implications of switching to this way of managing access to web-delivered services.

The move to federated access management is an essential part of JISC's work, according to JISC's Head of Development, Sarah Porter, who delivered the keynote address at the Access Management showcase event held in central London in mid-July.

Outlining why the change of approach was needed, Ms Porter suggested that **federated access management offered a number of advantages**, including the support of **more complex and dynamic collaborations** in e-research and e-learning, **access to third party e-resources** and the increasing **adoption of such technologies internationally**.

In addition, with the strategies of both the Department for Education and Skills and The Higher Education Funding Council for England emphasising the importance of links between sectors, there was the need to work with partners such as Becta (the schools IT organisation) and the National Health Service to support a co-ordinated approach to access management across all education and other sectors.

The SDSS Federation has been operational for over two years. Its development work will come to fruition with the launch on 30 November 2006 of **"The UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research"** (the "UK Federation"), and its subsequent expansion and development.

The UK Federation will be hosted by UKERNA, on behalf of JISC and Becta, with continuing technical support from the SDSS team.

While HE and FE institutions will be able to join the UK Federation from 30 November, JISC has recommended that in order to gain experience in this new way of working, **institutions should consider joining the SDSS Federation now**.

- <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk>
- <http://www.sdss.ac.uk>

## SUNCAT workshops – September 2006

SUNCAT, the Serials Union Catalogue for the UK, ran a number of **workshops** in September to promote **its move from project phase to fully fledged service.**

Relevant for library staff who regularly manage or seek serials-related information, including reference inquiry staff, serials librarians, inter-library loan staff, cataloguing staff and liaison librarians, the workshops covered:

- The background, scope and structure of SUNCAT

- How SUNCAT can benefit librarians
- How SUNCAT can benefit end-users
- The perspective of a library contributing to SUNCAT
- How SUNCAT fits into the wider information environment
- Future developments for SUNCAT

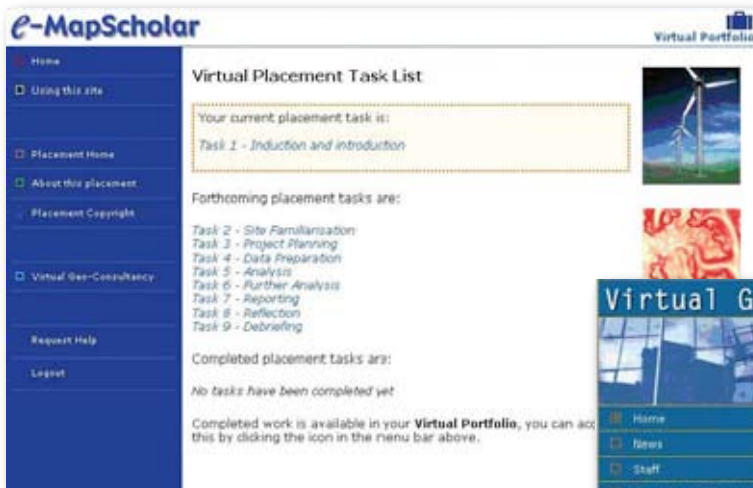
160 people attended the workshops which took place at the British Library, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Manchester.

- <http://www.suncat.ac.uk>

## e-MapScholar Virtual Placement project needs case studies

The e-MapScholar team are **looking for case studies** to be used in the new **Virtual Placement project.**

The project provides **real-life problems** that can be addressed using **geo-information**, including data from the Digimap service. To solve these problems **learners work on case studies in the context of a simulated virtual organisation.** They use online resources, geo-information handling software and data provided via a web site. Learners develop work-related skills such as data handling, problem solving, time management and effective communication and presentation of information.



Virtual Placement Task List page



Virtual Geo-Consultancy page: a simulated virtual organisation

## Forthcoming events

### Training Events:

#### Film & Sound Online and Education Image Gallery training

**Location:** Netskills, University of Newcastle, Herschel Building, Small training room  
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/travel/maps/navigator.php?bldg=herschel>  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23rd, 2006

**Location:** ISC Regional Support Centre, Scotland (South & West), 1 Todd Campus, West of Scotland Science Park, Acre Road, Glasgow  
[http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/contact\\_details.htm](http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/contact_details.htm)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12th, 2006

**Location:** University of Manchester, Manchester Computing, Oxford Road, Kilburn Building, Lascelles Williams Training Room (Room G41) (39 on map)  
<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/visitors/travel/maps/numerical/>  
**Date:** Thursday, December 14th, 2006

### Conferences and Exhibitions:

#### Internet Librarian

16-17 October, Cophorne Tara Hotel, London  
<http://www.internet-librarian.com/>

#### SLIC members in the further education sector conference

27 November, Glasgow  
<http://www.slainte.org.uk/events/EvtShow.cfm?uEventID=408>

See the latest events and training information at:

- <http://edina.ac.uk/events>

If you have a data set or scenario that could be used, please contact the EDINA Helpdesk at [edina@ed.ac.uk](mailto:edina@ed.ac.uk).

The Virtual Placement project was initiated with funding from JISC, and a pilot case study developed: the **Nant Carfan Wind Farm Visualisation Case Study.** Following evaluation of this pilot, a updated version has been produced for free use within UK HE and FE. This has been developed by the universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen and with support from the Higher Education Academy for Geography, Earth and Environmental Science (GEES).

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