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About EDINA

EDINA is a JISC-funded national datacentre based at the University of Edinburgh. 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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Update on access to EDINA services

Changes will be made to the way institutions, their staff and students access EDINA services from 1 August 2008 onwards, as indicated in the previous edition of Newsline (March 2008).

We have since issued a series of alerts for EDINA support staff and on the EDINA website. What follows is a summary of the current position – for the most up-to-date information, check the web links provided at the foot of this article.

Withdrawal of Athens login buttons

From 1 August 2008, EDINA will no longer provide an Athens login button for the following services:

- agcensus
- CAB Abstracts
- the Depot
- Digimap Collections
- Education Image Gallery
- Film & Sound Online
- Go-Geo!
- Index to The Times
- Jorum Contributor
- Jorum User
- Land, Life & Leisure
- The Statistical Accounts of Scotland

Federated access

In line with JISC policy, access to its services at the JISC national data centres will be via the UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research ('the UK federation'). For its part,

EDINA is enabling federated (Shibboleth) access for all the services listed above. Most are now in place; the rest will be so by 31 July 2008, with some services providing 'campus access' via recognition of institutional IP addresses.

For Shibboleth access to EDINA services, your institution will need to join the UK federation. The common solutions are either in-house deployment, or paying for an outsourcing service such as OpenAthens.

JISC provides advice on the choice of technical solutions for joining the federation, the link for which is available at <http://edina.ac.uk/access/>

User accountability

Access to some services such as Digimap, and for some purposes Jorum, is only possible if a user's institution declares that it offers 'user accountability'. This provides assurance to a Service Provider (such as EDINA) that the end-user involved in a particular transaction can always be associated with an actual person.

Service personalisation and customisation

Some services allow each individual user to retain information across different sessions. This normally works through each user's access management account; the recent

changes have put this continuity of user personalisation at risk.

EDINA staff have been investigating ways to mitigate these risks for services which allow a user to save searches (Land, Life & Leisure and CAB Abstracts), to create a personal album (Education Image Gallery), or to use the map chest (Digimap). Guidance for users is being given on the login page for each service.

For Digimap, eg, each user is being provided with the means to link the Athens-based account to the new account created through UK federation access

If you subscribe to Digimap, you should read the Digimap access article on page 2 (overleaf).

Further information

- EDINA: <http://edina.ac.uk/supportstaff/>
- Mimas: <http://www.mimas.ac.uk/access/>
- JISC: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/shibboleth>
- UK federation: <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/>
- Eduserv (OpenAthens): <http://www.athensams.net/federations/openathens>

Enquiries should be sent to the EDINA helpdesk (edina@ed.ac.uk).



Digimap access: re-registration

Authentication methods used to gain access to Digimap can be summarised as follows:

Before 1 August 2008	From 1 August 2008
Athens	withdrawn
Shibboleth-to-Athens Gateway	withdrawn
Shibboleth (UK federation)	Shibboleth (UK federation)
Athens-to-Shibboleth Gateway (OpenAthens) available since June 2008	Athens-to-Shibboleth Gateway (OpenAthens)

As with other JISC-supported services, institutions will need to join the UK federation (either by use of an in-house Identity Provider or with OpenAthens) in order to enable their users to access Digimap.

In addition, the terms of use for the Digimap Collections (with the exception of Historic Digimap) require that each user registers individually. Users who are already accessing Digimap through the UK federation will have continuity of service and will not be required to re-register. This includes those who will be accessing Digimap using OpenAthens.

Users at institutions operating an in-house Identity Provider, but who are currently accessing Digimap with Athens logins, will be required to re-register. Users need re-register only once even if they had initially registered separately for each of

Marine Digimap, Geology Digimap and Digimap's Ordnance Survey Collection.

EDINA is providing a way for users to transfer any personalisation information saved with their previous Athens account (such as data download histories for MasterMap Download) to their new UK federation identity. This lets each user link their existing Athens registration with their new identity in a two-stage process.

The first stage collects additional information from the user. The second stage uses this information to confirm that the new and old accounts relate to the same individual. The two registration records are then linked so that any previous personalisation within Digimap Collections continues to be available to the user. Should it not be possible to link accounts, new accounts can be registered with Digimap in the usual way.

New resources for Statistical Accounts of Scotland

The *Specimens of Statistical Reports* pamphlet is one of two new resources now available online through the Statistical Accounts for Scotland service.

Sir John Sinclair MP, who instigated the first Statistical Accounts of Scotland, published the *Specimens of Statistical Reports* in 1793. Presenting selected parishes from the Statistical Accounts of Scotland to illustrate the stages of society for mankind as a whole, he dedicated his pamphlet to William Pitt, aimed at procuring a statistical account of England. Only a few of the original pamphlets are still in existence.

An index to the 1801 census return for the Parish of Stow has also been added to the service. This complements the digitised images and transcript of the census return for this Borders village.

The two Statistical Accounts of Scotland provide important source material for historians across a critical 40-50 year period during agricultural and industrial revolutions in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Accounts describe topics such as topography, climate, population, agriculture, schools and morals at an individual parish level.

• <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/>



Digimap Blog

Here at Digimap, we have been exploring alternatives to email as means of distributing information about the service. To this end, we have created the Digimap Blog.

We will use the blog to publish information relating to the availability of all Digimap Collections, forthcoming changes to services, data updates, answers to frequently asked questions, reminders of copyright and licence conditions, where to seek assistance, and suchlike. All the information will be available elsewhere, but the blog will highlight particularly topical issues and provide both reminders, answers and pointers to further information.

This will not be the sole means of disseminating important information about Digimap Collections. We will continue to send emails relating to service availability, forthcoming service changes and data updates when appropriate. The blog is an additional communication channel, aiming to reach both staff, site representatives and students, and to provide an additional source of assistance with all Digimap Collections.

The blog has an RSS feed, to which you can subscribe by following the links on the blog. You can also leave comments on each post, or contact EDINA directly (by phone or by email) about the subject of any post.

• <http://edinadigimap.blogspot.com>

Historic Digimap licence renewal

The Historic Digimap service delivers landmark historic map data to higher and further education. The licence for Historic Digimap has been renewed for a further three years until 2011. Institutions wishing to subscribe can find costs and the new sub-licence at:

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

Improved colour cartography for Geology Digimap

From 10 June 2008 geological maps available through Geology Digimap will use a new method of displaying different rock types.

The coloured shading has been improved and made transparent in order to avoid the use of hatching, which previously obscured the underlying topographic map.

The new display colours should make it easier to identify different rock types and to see the context mapping beneath the geological information.

EM-Loader: Open Access deposits made easier

One of the most commonly heard complaints about institutional repositories is that it can be time-consuming to deposit content via the 'self-archiving' method. The EM-Loader project is investigating a possible solution using integrated personal publication list management tools.

We will show proof of concept at an early stage by building a web service module that connects two existing services: the Depot, the JISC repository for researchers who do not have other provision; and PublicationsList.org, a service for researchers to build a web page listing their publications. Instead of recreating interoperability standards from scratch, the project has adopted and expanded the SWORD Deposit API (<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue54/allinson-et-al/>).

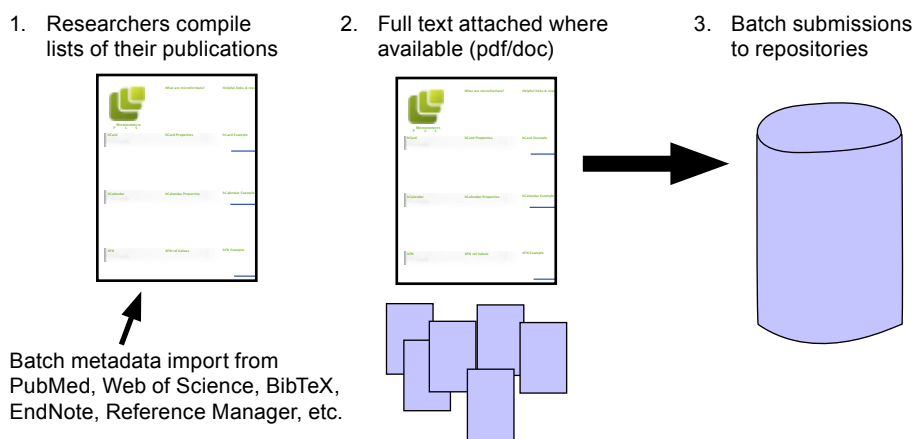
In our revised approach we suggest that depositing papers into repositories can be made easier and rewarding for researchers by concentrating initially on compiling a personal publications list with complete metadata and then performing a batch submission to the repository.

Traditionally stage 1 in the figure below – compiling a personal bibliography – is by manual entry, but this can be made much easier with batch search and select of items from citation databases such as Web of Science and PubMed, and import from personal bibliography tools such as BibTeX, EndNote and Reference Manager. Full text of papers can be uploaded and attached to metadata in stage 2 (typically in PDF or DOC formats).

Functionality for stages 1 and 2 already exists and is provided to this project through PublicationsList.org. The main focus of our project activity is to build the workflow to enable all the structured metadata to be forwarded to the appropriate repository, alongside the associated digital object (full text) where available.

We believe this complete approach to repository submission is easier for researchers than direct submission of individual papers. By adopting this workflow within the Depot service, we hope to help populate more open access repositories, by making it simpler and more rewarding for researchers to submit their papers.

- http://edina.ac.uk/projects/emloader_summary.html



SUNCAT does Web 2.0

Find journals in Facebook

SUNCAT has created a search application that anyone on Facebook can easily add to their profile, enabling them to search for journals held in over 60 UK research libraries. Keywords are entered into the simple search box and results are returned within the SUNCAT interface allowing users to refine or create more sophisticated searches.

- <http://apps.facebook.com/suncat-search/>

SUNCAT Blog

The SUNCAT team has set up a blog to disseminate both formal and informal news about SUNCAT, including service enhancements, meetings attended and promotional activity. It also includes regular posts on new libraries and updates added to the catalogue, and automatically generates an RSS feed.

- <http://www.suncatblog.blogspot.com>

Multimedia portal makes progress

The initial 12-month construction phase of the JISC-funded Visual and Sound Materials (VSM) Portal Demonstrator Project is complete.

The demonstrator enables cross-searching of 13 image, film and sound collections, by harvesting and standardising metadata from their respective schemas.

The diverse collections include the British Geological Survey collection of still images, EDINA's Film & Sound Online and the Education Image Gallery, the Open Video Project in the US, Teachers TV and the ARKive collection of videos and images of the world's endangered species.

A further 19 potential content-providers were approached to participate in future development of the portal.

One of the key outcomes of the project was an independent external evaluation of the portal demonstrator with a particular emphasis on examining potential models for future sustainability of the portal.

The project partners were The Spoken Word project at Glasgow Caledonian University, St Helens College on Merseyside and the e-Services Integration Group at the University of Hull.

- The various project deliverables and more details about the project are at <http://edina.ac.uk/projects/vsmportal/>
- The portal is at <http://vsm.edina.ac.uk/vsm/vsm.asp>

JISC schools pilot includes Education Image Gallery

JISC Collections has selected EDINA's Education Image Gallery (EIG) service to participate in a new initiative to test the level of interest from UK schools in JISC Collections' online resources.

'JISC Collections for Schools' was launched on 7 May. It aims to give UK schools access to millions of online images, newspaper archives, dictionary entries, and art, music, history and science resources for a fraction of the original cost.

Discounts of up to 75% have been offered to schools for 11 resources, including the Guardian and Observer Digital Archive, the Times Digital Archive, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, and EIG. The resources will be available to primary and secondary schools, including Academies.

- Full information about JISC Collections for Schools: <http://www.jcs.nen.gov.uk>
- Details of the Education Image Gallery for Schools proposition: <http://www.jcs.nen.gov.uk/catalogue/eig.html>
- JISC Collections announcement in full: http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/news_and_events/news_articles/schools_pr

Strategy Plan for EDINA

EDINA's Strategy Plan for 2008-2011 is now available online, along with a two-page summary.

As a university-based national academic data centre, EDINA has to look to the stated strategies of its two parent bodies: JISC and the University of Edinburgh.

As a service-provider, EDINA must understand and be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the researchers, teachers and students who are the consumers of our services; and of important decision-makers such as academic support staff, who ensure that their academic staff and students can succeed in what they do in cost-effective ways.

Priorities for the period 2008-2011 include:

- Improving engagement with our communities
- Services for Research Councils and schools in the UK

- Provision of more services on open access, including Jorum
- 'Adding the where' – that is, geographical location – to educational and other resources
- Contributing to the provision of a global Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)
- Services accessible to the e-Science community
- The provision of expert advice in the area of access management
- Appropriate use of 'Web 2.0' social media and collaboration tools
- Delivery of services to mobile devices
- Personalisation of services

We invite you to read and comment on our plan:

- Summary: <http://edina.ac.uk/about/strategy/edina-strategy-plan-summary.pdf>
- Full plan: <http://edina.ac.uk/about/strategy/edina-strategy-plan-2008-2011.pdf>

Workshop considers future of geospatial resources

Over the last ten years JISC have invested heavily in licensing geospatial content (Ordnance Survey, geological maps, marine data, satellite imagery, aerial photography) and innovative services for the delivery of that content in easy-to-use ways.

Recently EDINA organised a workshop to look at the future of geospatial resources use in tertiary education. Funded by the JISC e-Framework programme, 25 participants from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds met in Edinburgh for a one-day, hands-on gathering.

The catalysts for the workshop were numerous. Two key factors were the growth in use within academia of geospatial technologies provided by the likes of Google, Yahoo and Microsoft (e.g. Google maps, Yahoo Local, Microsoft Virtual Earth) and the imminent implementation of the European INSPIRE directive (<http://inspire.jrc.it>). The latter has the potential to ensure provision of access for students and researchers to large amounts of geospatial data relating to countries within Europe. These developments bring immense new learning and teaching opportunities and the possibility of new research and new research methods.

The aims of the workshop were to explore the possibilities and establish the future requirements of those who use

geospatial resources within UK tertiary education. The focus was very much on the 'what', 'who', 'where' and 'when' – what will users want to be doing in five years' time, what sorts of data, services and tools will they need, how will they want to access and use the data, who will they be working with, how do they want to exploit the new types of geospatial technologies, and so on.

The outputs from this very successful event are currently being analysed. Key areas identified were the expectation of expansion of the core geospatial datasets

Forthcoming events

CoFHE/UC&R Joint Study Conference
23-25 June 2008 at Liverpool Hope University

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/training/calendar/bydate/June08/CoFHEUCRJointStudyConference.htm>

RSC South West Librarians' Forum
24 June 2008 at Learning South West, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset

<http://www.learning-southwest.org.uk/web/Page3.aspx?PageID=140>

RSC East Midlands e-fair 2008
24 June 2008 at the Walkers Stadium, Leicester

<http://www.rsc-em.ac.uk/initiatives/efair2008.asp>

HE Academy Annual Conference

1-3 July at the Harrogate International Centre

<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/conference>

RSC North West Annual Conference 2008

4 July 2008 at Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool

http://www.rsc-northwest.ac.uk/component/option,com_events/task,view_detail/agid,57/year,2008/month,7/day,4/Itemid,256/

RSC Eastern e-fair 2008

4 July 2008 at Barnfield College, Luton

http://info.rsc-eastern.ac.uk/events/event_details.asp?eid=433

available to users and access to content and tools via mobile devices and web services. Challenges and barriers were also identified; specific worries expressed were IPR restrictions on the sharing of data, the need for greater interoperability between services and for more tools, and the lack of specialist support in institutions to help users fully exploit the opportunities available.

A report on the findings of the workshop will be submitted to the JISC and JISC Geospatial Working Group. A copy will also be published on the EDINA website.



Delegates at the workshop. Photo by Emma Sutton.