Digimap “Classic” becomes “Roam”

EDINA is pleased to announce a new mapping tool, called Roam (Rapid Online Access to Maps), for Digimap’s Ordnance Survey Collection. Currently available as a beta facility, the new Roam interface offers the same range of datasets as the Classic facility (plus a few new ones), improved map locating tools, and a wider variety of printed outputs as well as improved performance. This new version will be offered as a beta version alongside Classic until January 2010, when Classic will be withdrawn.

Since the launch of Classic, the availability of online mapping services, both free and paid-for, has increased dramatically. Consequently, end-users are much more familiar with online mapping, and some clear trends in common usage and standard tasks have emerged. Digimap’s new facility employs the now established ways of interacting with online maps but continues to offer additional value with features that are not found in freely available online services (e.g. highly detailed map data, the ability to customise maps, high-quality cartographic printouts).

What’s new?
Navigating around the map and between datasets is more straightforward, using alternative means of interaction. For example, you click and drag the map to a chosen location (“slippy maps”) rather than use a click to re-centre the map. You can also use a slider bar to pick any zoom level with a single click.

Search facilities remain easily accessible, with the ability to locate a map using place name, postcode and grid reference searches. In time, EDINA’s GeoCrossWalk service will be linked in to provide improved search methods, including the possibility of searching using other criteria such as parish or geographical feature.

Print options have been improved considerably. A new set of print templates means that an increased area of map will appear on the paper and the space taken by the marginalia has been reduced. Printing will also be possible in A4 and A3, both landscape and portrait. Initially all printable output will be PDF files, but other formats will be possible in future.

All mapping products available through the OS Collection will be visible within Roam. These range from the familiar OS MasterMap (at both 1:1250 and 1:2500), 1:10 000, 1:25 000 and 1:50 000 scale raster images, through to Strategi and Meridian. Roam also introduces two views of Ordnance Survey’s MiniScale® product, which provides a nominal 1:1million scale map showing larger areas of Great Britain.

New technology
Digimap has been re-engineered to use a new GIS platform. For more detail about this development, see the article on page 2 of this issue (“Better software, better Digimap”).

Improvements include cached map data to improve the speed of map display, faster map and print file generation to create a noticeably faster service, and a maximised map area in your browser window.

We have also noted the demand for some simple map annotation tools, which will be added to Roam in due course.

How to access it
Initially available to site representatives only, the beta version will be released to all users in early October 2009. Links to Classic and Roam will both be in the OS Collections area of Digimap after logging in to the service.

• Digimap: http://edina.ac.uk/digimap
New Digimap OS Collection licence

As of 1 August 2009, Digimap’s Ordnance Survey Collection has been available under a new Variation Licence Agreement covering the period August 2009 to July 2010. A new licence is being negotiated to cover the period August 2010 onwards.

Although the 2009-10 Sub-Licence Agreement itself remains unchanged, some of the clauses in it are superseded by the Variation Agreement. Those terms in the Sub-Licence Agreement which have not been altered by the Variation Agreement still apply so both documents must be read together.

Key changes relate to the definition of Authorised User and to the publication size restrictions. Two new data products have also been included in the new agreement: 1:250000 scale colour raster and MiniScale, another raster dataset nominally at a scale of 1:1 million. You can read more about these products on the Digimap website.

While the licences themselves are the only definitive source of what is and what is not permitted under the agreements, we have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions to aid understanding of the licensing arrangements.

Noting that subscription fees remain unchanged on last year (2008-09), institutions can renew their subscriptions under the Variation Agreement by completing the appropriate forms on the JISC Collections website.

- Digimap product descriptions: http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/description/products
- Digimap Licence FAQs: http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/support/faq_oslicence.html
- JISC Collections - How to Subscribe to Digimap: http://www.jisc-collections.ac.uk/catalogue/digimap_os/how_to_subscribe.aspx

Better software, better Digimap

The Digimap service is moving to a new feature-rich mapping engine, allowing greater flexibility and improved performance.

At the time of original procurement in 1999, Laser-Scan’s software (now 1Spatial) was renowned for the quality of mapping it could produce automatically, and innovative in its ability to deliver maps to a web browser. Eight years on, however, the software was increasingly causing problems, affecting both the quality of the service and our capacity to respond to the increasing levels of usage of Digimap.

In 2007 EDINA initiated a procurement for a replacement mapping system. The contract was won by a company called Cadcorp Ltd, and we have spent the last year re-engineering Digimap to use the new mapping engine.

EDINA will gain many benefits from this move, not least improved quality of service, easier data management, greater flexibility, better performance and, for the future, the ability to interoperate with other geo-services.

Improvements include:

- Superior data handling, which includes native support for more data formats and allows data to be accessed from spatially-enabled databases.
- Increased flexibility over how maps look and the ability to deploy these new cartographic styles more quickly.
- Higher quality maps generated for printing and the use of PDF as the file format, resulting in crisp, clear maps.

Users will be able to see some of these improvements in Digimap’s Ordnance Survey Collection from September. However, in the phase 1 project that has just been completed, we have focused on replicating what users have had access to in the past. The new mapping application gives some indication of the potential of the new Digimap architecture but it will be the phase 2 work, where the focus is on the other Digimap Collections and a new Digimap Carto, which will show the real differences.

There are now many online mapping services available. Digimap has differentiated itself from many of these because of the high quality and highly detailed mapping and data it provides.

The new mapping engine, along with the new architecture, now allows us to compete functionally too and by doing so continue to offer a valuable, usable and useful, value-for-money service.

- Digimap: http://edina.ac.uk/digimap

Do you need help with maps? New survey will identify user needs

EDINA is conducting a survey of support for geospatial data and resources.

The provision of support for geospatial data and resources has long been a bit of a “postcode lottery”. Available support varies hugely between institutions and between disciplines; often those who need most support are those in “non-geospatial” departments where little support is available.

To understand the extent of the problem, EDINA is conducting an online survey of all users of geospatial data and resources within the academic community.

The survey aims to identify what support is currently available, and what support is required and by what means it could be most appropriately delivered. We are aiming to reach beyond those who use EDINA resources to include users of services and data provided by other organisations (including Mimas, UK Data Archive and government or commercial organisations).

A link to the survey will be sent to support staff in due course. Completing the online survey takes only a few minutes. Please also pass the link to others you think may be interested.

Improvements in print quality are one advantage of the new software. © Crown Copyright
**SUNCAT links to journals’ tables of contents**

SUNCAT will shortly be introducing links to journals’ table of contents (TOCs) using information provided by the TOC service, Zetoc. This development results from work conducted on the Discovery to Delivery project by EDINA and Mimas.

The TOC links will appear on the SUNCAT search result screen and at the top of the full record display. Each link will lead to the most recent issue of the appropriate journal title. Initially there will be TOC links from around 20,000 journal titles, plus conference proceedings on SUNCAT, but this number will expand as new titles are added to Zetoc.

This is an important development for SUNCAT which will instantly give users more information about journals they find on the catalogue. Article details from TOCs will assist users in distinguishing journals of interest, before investigating access options, through the holdings information of the 70 libraries available on SUNCAT.

- SUNCAT: [http://www.suncat.ac.uk](http://www.suncat.ac.uk)
- Discover to Delivery project: [http://edina.ac.uk/projects/d2d/](http://edina.ac.uk/projects/d2d/)
- A list of journal TOCs available via Zetoc: [http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/jnllist.htm](http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk/jnllist.htm)

---

**Digital Images for Education**

EDINA is playing a key role in building a JISC Collections “archive” containing over 500 hours of film and 56,000 photos documenting modern history, all copyright-cleared for use in education.

The process began early this year, when, with £2.5m funding from JISC, an expert panel of e-learning advisors, librarians, academics and image specialists chose 11 collections from 10 suppliers to form an archive for students and academics, which is scheduled to be available from July 2010.

Between now and February 2010, batches of content should be delivered each month by the suppliers to a “holding bay” that EDINA is building as a tool for a team of evaluators.

Each still and moving image has to be checked for quality, and extensive metadata tagging is required for searching and browsing.

Lorraine Estelle, CEO of JISC Collections, said:

“The new images purchased as part of the Digital Images for Education initiative bring to life our history and capture, in particular, the key events of the past 25 years – from the death of Princess Diana to the election of Barack Obama. The images will complement our existing and highly popular collections – NewsFilm Online, Film & Sound Online and the Education Image Gallery [all hosted at EDINA] – to provide the UK education community with a world-class library of still and moving images covering the last 150 years.”

- NewsFilm Online: [http://www.nfo.ac.uk](http://www.nfo.ac.uk)
- Education Image Gallery: [http://edina.ac.uk/eig](http://edina.ac.uk/eig)
- Film & Sound Online: [http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk](http://www.filmandsound.ac.uk)

---

**Land Life Leisure improves links to full-text**

Users of Land Life Leisure – the weekly digest of rural press releases, reports and articles – now have instant access to more full-text.

Summary records have a new field which links to abstracts and full-text. Using the CrossRef service, we have installed links, where they are available, to supplement the existing ones to related websites. Many press releases and other reports are already indexed with direct links to the full-text on publication websites. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) have now been added to over 10% of peer-reviewed journal records in the database and will continue to be added on a weekly basis for new content.

The additional field appears with an explanatory bracket – “[Link to Abstract - full-text may be restricted]” – with the level of access being dependent on institutional subscriptions to the particular journal. All users will find at least some extra information on the article at the publisher’s website.

We welcome feedback on this and all other features of the database. Free trial access is available to non-subscribers.

- Land Life Leisure: [http://edina.ac.uk/landlifeleisure](http://edina.ac.uk/landlifeleisure)
OpenURL usage data – what are they good for?

The March 2009 issue of Newsline introduced the Shared OpenURL Data Infrastructure Investigation project which explored the potential for services based on aggregated usage data from OpenURL resolvers and the national OpenURL router service ("Gold from straw: usage log data – what are they good for?", Newsline 14.2). The project report, published last month, outlines the type of services explored, their perceived value, and the current limitations on such an initiative.

Following desk research, an online questionnaire and interviews with key stakeholders in the field, EDINA used a private blog to gather feedback on nine scenarios of use from invited participants. We also explored the technical feasibility of providing services based on those scenarios.

We found that while few OpenURL resolvers (with the exception of SFX from ExLibris) collect the type of data required to drive the services explored, the OpenURL router does collect them. Collecting and processing those data would be worthwhile if the services driven by them were efficient and useful.

Most of the participants in our evaluation exercise were interested in some of the nine scenarios. They were most interested in those describing a recommender service and two different applications for enhancing metadata for institutional services. Furthermore, it seems that some services, including the recommender service, would be more useful if based on a global aggregate of data.

EDINA is interested in exploring further the potential value of these data. The report makes the following recommendations:

- That the data be made freely available so that others can explore potential applications and mash-ups that were not considered during this project. These data could also be used as the UK contribution to a global aggregate.
- That vendors be consulted further to determine whether suitable data could be gathered from OpenURL resolvers.
- That a prototype be built to facilitate further exploration of scenarios, technical feasibility and potential applications of these data.

- Project report: [http://tinyurl.com/sharedOpenURL-pdf](http://tinyurl.com/sharedOpenURL-pdf)

More EDINA news on the web

http://edina.ac.uk/news_all.html

- COMPASS demonstrates knowledge-based discovery tool
- NewsFilm Online commenting facility added
- UKBORDERS single login
- UK LOCKSS Alliance Progress Report
- Jorum update - support for Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Repository Fringe 2009

Web-only Newsline content:
Higher Education Access to Geospatial Data in Europe:

A recently completed survey gives an overview of the state of Higher Education access to geospatial data across the countries of Europe. Follow the link for the current issue from [http://edina.ac.uk/news/newsline.html](http://edina.ac.uk/news/newsline.html)

New Staff

**Jo Walsh**

Jo's software career has involved media art, the semantic web, neogeography, community wireless networks, and all sorts of metadata. She was a founding director of the Open Source Geo-Spatial Foundation and helped set up the Open Knowledge Foundation. She writes on technology topics and was a co-author of O'Reilly's “Mapping Hacks”.

Jo joins EDINA as Service Manager for the GeoCrossWalk project as it transitions into a set of web services. Her role is to introduce new audiences to these tools for unlocking potential in their data, and help steer the service in new directions.

**Niall Munro**

Niall came to EDINA after finishing a six-month contract with Generation Scotland, a Scottish biobank located at the Medical Medicines Centre, Western General Hospital.

As a software engineer within the EDINA Bibliographic & Multimedia team, Niall is working on a reference-linking knowledge base project.

**Angela Papp**

Angela has taken on the role of Small Systems Support Officer, which covers all hardware and software support for EDINA staff members.

Her previous role was in education for Cardiff Law School, where she provided both software and hardware support to all their staff and students.

She has also provided system training, worked on IT projects, managed a department within a large conveyancing company and completed a commission to jointly design and decorate a nightclub in Cardiff.

**Dimitrios Sferopoulos**

Dimitrios started in September as a software engineer on the Bibliographic and Multimedia team. The projects he will be involved in initially are the Holding Bay for Digital Images for Education (DIE) and LOCKSS.

Before he came to EDINA Dimitrios was working for a small web development company in Edinburgh where he was involved in web development for various projects both e-commerce and simple content managed sites.

Forthcoming events:

http://edina.ac.uk/events

CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

Internet Librarian International 2009

Extreme Makeover: Transforming the face of your Library Service
JISC Regional Support Centre for Yorkshire and Humber event
http://infodb.rsc-yh.ac.uk/events/event_details.asp?eid=57
26 Oct 2009, Leeds